



## Clip Activity: Understanding Ecological Relationships

### Why do species invasions matter?

Look at the second slide Dr. Vitousek shows and answer the following questions, either in your science journal or through discussion with a friend.

1. Can you explain what each of the arrows represent and why they point the direction they do?
2. Print a copy or draw your own version of the diagram. On this diagram, add boxes and arrows of changes that would change the loop between fires and grasslands.
  - o Your arrows should represent an event or action that would break the cycle.
  - o Your box should show what new condition(s) might exist.

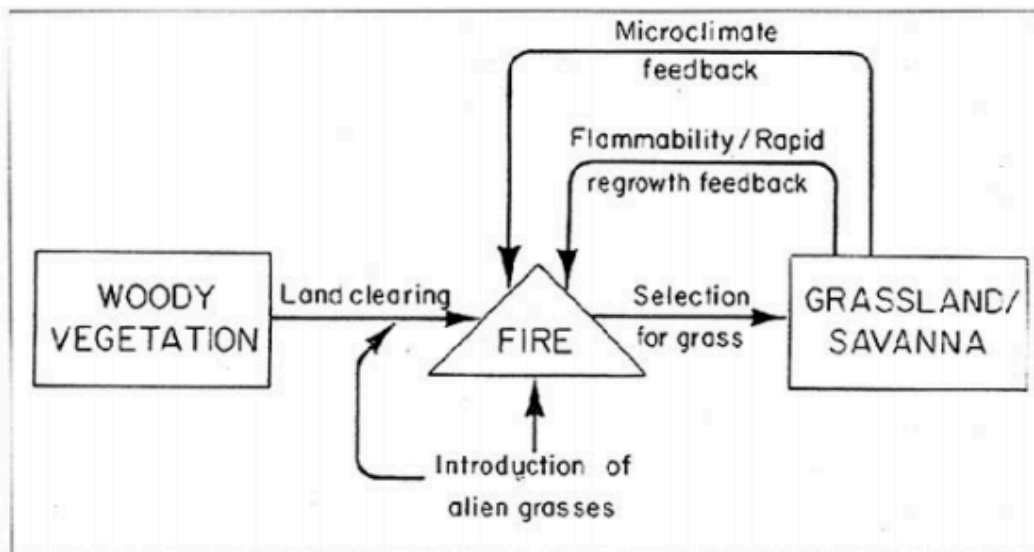


Figure 11.3. Grass invasion and the grass-fire feedback. Land clearing and grass introductions act synergistically to convert forest to grassland or savanna, once conversion has occurred, two feedbacks operate to maintain grass dominance. The hot, dry, windy microclimate of grasslands, and the inherent flammability of grasses favor fire, and the rapid regrowth of grasses following fire keeps communities fire-prone. From D'Antonio and Vitousek (1992).