

Fig. 5.12. The contribution of spatial dimensions to state and transition models for a sagebrush system with 2 alternate endpoints. A sagebrush community containing a natural grass understory represents one stable community. Similarly, a cheatgrass-dominated grassland without sagebrush is a stable endpoint because recurrent fires prevent recolonization by sagebrush. The intermediate mosaic represents an unstable habitat from which slight increases in either disturbance space (a function of frequency and intensity) or the spatial extent dominated by cheatgrass flips the system from returning to sagebrush and sends the dominant habitat into cheatgrass from which a return to sagebrush is unlikely. (Conceptual development of spatial components to state and transition models [Fig. 5.7, 7.32] by authors).

