From Leismeister et al 2021 in review:

“Older forests in late-successional reserves (i.e., suitable nesting forest) burned at lower severity despite having higher fuel loading than other forest types within the fire perimeters (Lesmeister et al. 2019).”

“Compared to other vegetation types, late-successional forests have a higher likelihood of burning at lower fire severities (Meigs et al. 2020), even during high-fire weather conditions during drought years (Lesmeister et al. 2019).”

“Mature forests have higher resiliency to fire effects and climate variability, especially when not subject to fragmentation in a matrix of young flammable patches that can shift mature forests to an alternative steady state more prone to repeat high-severity fire (Kitzberger et al. 2012).”