Discussion #1: Sierra Nevada

Habitat Quality:

Continuous, Clast size, Elevation range (crest to basin);

→ Orogeny; Glacial history (periglacial process); Substrates (clast size); Climate Mediterranean/ Pacific influence (winter snowpack); Orography/lapse

→ Elevation ≠ Thermal Condition at micro-scale

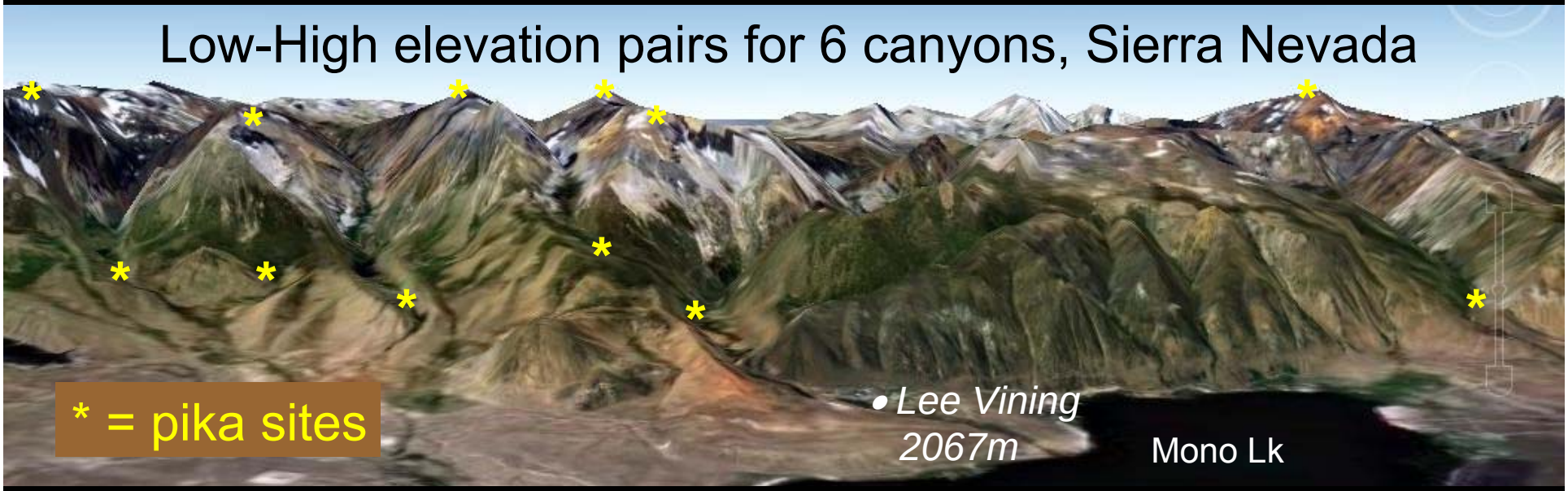
Pika Status:

Habitats appear to be saturated

Millar & Westfall 2010; 329 sites in SN

Millar, unpub 2011; N = 532 sites in SN

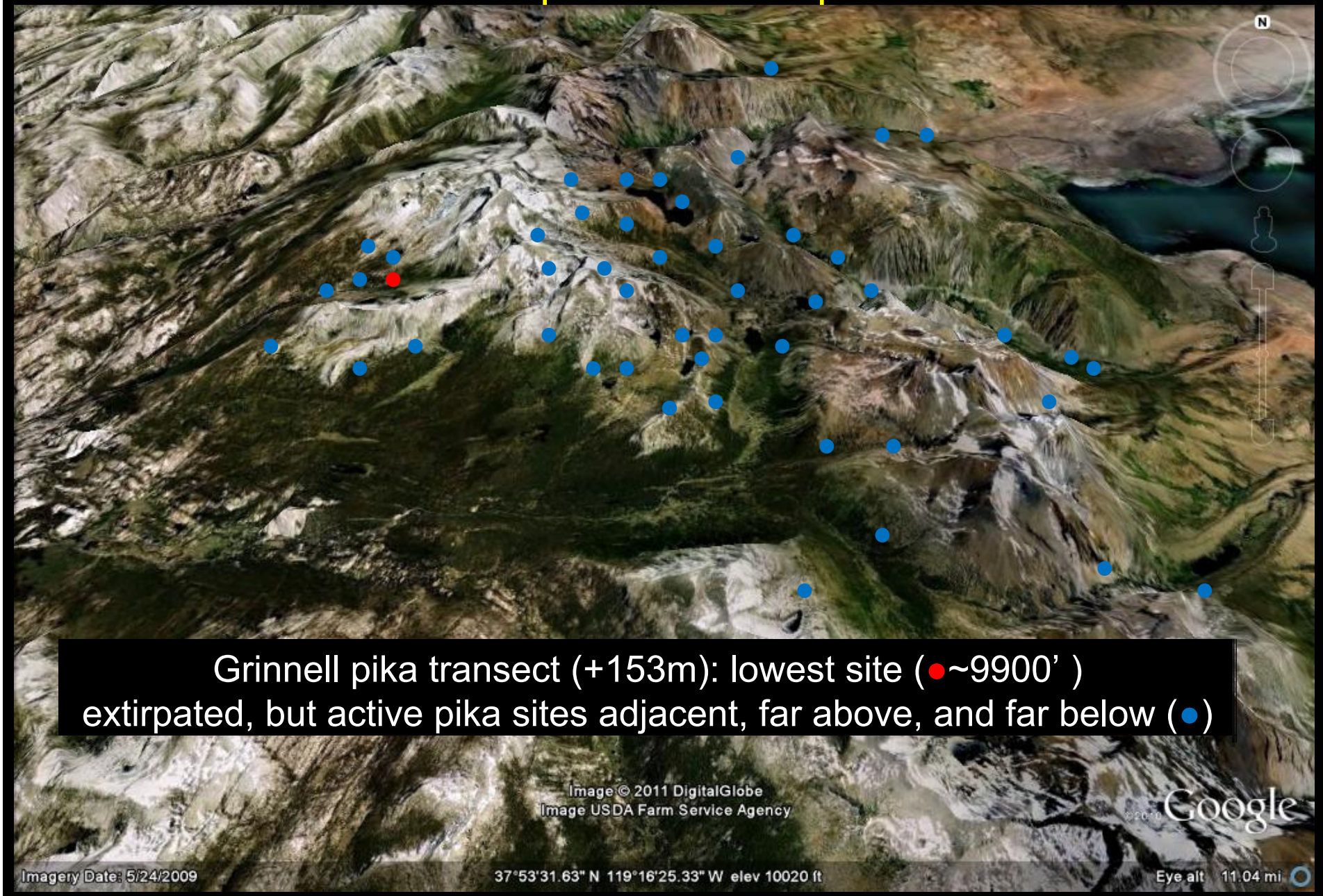
Even locally, pika have very wide elevation ranges



…occupying available habitat from lowest to highest elevations

Mono Basin pika range: 2191m - 3981m
=1790m (5872ft) elevation span

How do we interpret active sites that surround extirpated historic pika sites?



Grinnell pika transect (+153m): lowest site (●~9900')
extirpated, but active pika sites adjacent, far above, and far below (●)