

CHAPTER 12: FIRE: A PERVASIVE AND POWERFUL ENVIRONMENTAL TOOL

Read: All Sections.

1. The term “forest fire” often conjures up a single image. Describe the 3 major types of fires and why their ecological implications vary dramatically from place to place.
2. Briefly describe the major impacts of fire on soil (physical, chemical, and biological).
3. List 10 ways that plants have evolved to survive, and even flourish in the face of fire. Give one example of each.
4. Briefly describe how fires affect animal communities in the forest.
5. Briefly describe how fires affect energy flow and nutrient cycling in forested ecosystems.
6. List and describe 5 ways that humans use fire to manipulate forested ecosystems, and 3 problems associated with excluding fires from forested systems.