

Statement of participation

Tara Esmail

has completed the free course including any mandatory tests for:

Fire ecology

This free 4-hour course explored the role of fire as a natural disturbance in ecosystems

Issue date: 30 May 2023



www.open.edu/openlearn

This statement does not imply the award of credit points nor the conferment of a University Qualification.
This statement confirms that this free course and all mandatory tests were passed by the learner.

Please go to the course on OpenLearn for full details:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/fire-ecology/content-section-0>

COURSE CODE: s397_1

Fire ecology

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Course summary

This course explores the role of fire as a natural disturbance in ecosystems. It introduces the concept of a fire regime and its influence on the type and distribution of organisms that occur in fire prone ecosystems. It also looks at some of the adaptations of plants that have evolved in these ecosystems and how animals either avoid or exploit the consequences of fire as a natural disturbance. Finally it examines how fire can increase biodiversity by generating a mosaic of habitats within an ecosystem and briefly addresses some of the consequences of climate change and global warming on the intensity and frequency of fires.

Learning outcomes

By completing this course, the learner should be able to:

- explain why fire is an important component of healthy ecosystems
- explain what is meant by a 'fire regime' and how changes in fire regimes can lead to changes in ecosystems
- describe some adaptive features of plants that have evolved in response to fire
- describe how some animals avoid fires and/or benefit from the aftermath of natural fire
- explain how global warming may result in an increase in both the frequency and intensity of fires.

Completed study

The learner has completed the following:

Section 1

Fire as a natural disturbance

Section 2

Adaptation of plants in fire-prone ecosystems

Section 3

The response of animals to fire

Section 4

Fire, habitat complexity and biodiversity

Section 5

Climate change and fire ecology

Section 6

Conclusion