

Special Issue

Soil and Plant Restoration after Wildfire

Message from the Guest Editors

Dear colleagues, Wildfires are a natural disturbance factor in Mediterranean forest ecosystems, where climate change and fire suppression have altered natural fire patterns. High-intensity fires modify the hydrologic response of soil and enhance its degradation, removing vegetation and altering chemical, physical, and biological soil properties. Therefore, mitigation of post-fire effects is compulsory in order to reduce soil exposure to hydrological and quality degradation. Post-fire treatments may be divided into three categories: (i) emergency stabilization; (ii) rehabilitation; and (iii) restoration. Many experiments developed in the USA and Europe have shown that long-term rehabilitation and restoration actions are often focused on the biotic components of the ecosystem. For these activities, recovery of native plant communities and habitats, maintenance of plant biodiversity, re-establishment of timber or grazing species, and control of invasive weeds are the most important targets. The objectives of this session are to bring together experiences from different parts of the world on plant and soil recovery after wildfires.

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