Special Issue

Ecological Response to Wildfire

Message from the Guest Editor

In fire-dependent systems wildfire disturbance events are critical for maintaining ecosystem function, resetting successional pathways, and creating/maintaining suitable wildlife habitat. However, wildfires are becoming more severe, frequent, and larger in extent across many ecosystems then populations and communities have evolved to be adapted for. These novel disturbance regimes can have direct effects on wildlife populations, but also have the potential to significantly change habitat characteristics over both short and long-term time scales. Moreover, aftermath effects on wildlife, are exacerbated by climate change, habitat fragmentation, and forest management practices. In this issue we seek to explore the resilience and recovery of wildlife populations affected by wildfire. Particularly, this issue will focus on how changing disturbance regimes affect material legacies related to forage availability, predation-risk, and other habitat characteristics that affect the success, or failure, of wildlife populations. We encourage studies that explore linkages between changing disturbance regimes, environmental conditions, and land-use practices on species success or failure.

Guest Editor

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