



FIRE ECOLOGY ACTIVITY

"The Ozark-St. Francis National Forest (OSFNF) supports economies of smaller rural communities. Restoring Resiliency of the Interior Highlands and Coastal Plain of Arkansas, which rely largely on forestry-related jobs and the sustainable production of forest products.

Management to improve the resiliency and ecological integrity of our forest and woodland ecosystems is necessary to ensure the benefits provided can be sustained into the future, but it does change scenery and can affect the user experience for some. Failing to address forest health issues now will lead to changes in composition over the long term, affecting the economies of urban and rural populations.

OSFNFs fit mostly in the low to moderate fire intensity scale with a few scattered areas in the high category. If we can focus treatments and fall into the natural fire regime we can move significantly closer to our desired condition. Without active fire management, our fire danger increases over time adding to our national epidemic potentially creating increases in smoke emissions from wildfires and increased threats to public health. If restored areas are left un-maintained, the historic vegetation composition would shift to a less diverse, less resilient, shade tolerant species composition with increased fuel loading. Vegetation within the proposal area is primarily within the shortleaf pine-oak forest and the woodland group consisting of species such as shortleaf pine, oaks, and hickories." (Restoring Resiliency of the Interior Highlands and Coastal Plain of Arkansas, OSFNF)

1. Click on Link <https://www.southernwildfirerisk.com/>
2. Choose Public Viewer
3. List the 13 States pithing the Southern Forests of the United States
4. What is the Wildfire Mitigation Recommendation for the majority of Northwest Arkansas?
5. Download the Wildfire Safety Checklist
6. Assess your home for Wildfire Safety and submit to your teacher whether your home meets safety guidelines, making any notes on your checklist.
7. Download the Focus on Forests - Fire Ecology PDF
8. In your own words what is the Role of Fire, Fire as a Renewal Agent, when is Fire Season in the Southeastern United States, and what is the main role of how the OSFNF would be expected to Manage Forest Fires as a component for a healthy ecosystem?