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Boreal Forest Wildfires | Droughts and Wildfires | Prescribed Burns

# **CLEAN STEM Flash**

A Timely Climate and Energy E-Learning Series to Use and Share

# Topic: Natural wildfires versus climate-driven wildfires

Wildfires are a natural and healthy part of a forest ecosystem. They burn away sickly and dead forest components in order to support new biodiversity. However, as climate change becomes more prevalent, forest fires are becoming more common and more severe.

#### **CLEAN Resource Feature**

#### Video: The Ecology of Climate Change

The boreal forest in Alaska has complex feedback loops among plants, fires, and climate. As the boreal forest warms due to climate change, fire severity increases, causing a ripple effect in climate feedback and plant life.

Video length: 8:07 minutes Audience: Middle School, High School, College

#### Browse CLEAN for more videos related to wildfires.

In the ten years before this video was made (2010), the boreal forest has a seen an increase in fire severity and



to the forest in the past, climate change has caused an increase in burn severity. The changes in fire behavior have caused a major decrease in conifer trees and an increase in deciduous trees. The 1:47 timestamp of this video is where wildfires are discussed.

### **CLEAN Resource Feature**

Visualization: <u>National Integrated Drought Information System: Data, Maps</u> and Tools

Use this collection of maps, data, and tools to help students to research climate change influenced droughts and wildfires.

Audience: Middle School, High School, College

Take a look at some more CLEAN resources focused on droughts.

These visualizations provide a collection of images, maps, and data sets that pertain to drought impacts. The sixth set down is specific to fires. Use this set to learn more about the current impacts climate change has on natural wildfires. This visualization set has current data on wildfires that portrays an increase in burn severity over the past several years.



## In the News: <u>California Lagging Way Behind Southeast in Prescribed Burns to Curb</u> Wildfire

Prescribed burns are important in combating the risk of wildfires in western states especially with the increase of burn severity due to climate change. This news

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