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Benefits of Fire

There has been much talk of the Medio Fire in these pages, some hysteric. It's hard not to be distraught with smoke billowing above our city and homes threatened. But the truth is not all wildfire is bad; in fact, wildfire is essential to Western vegetation. One might even say, like rain to a rainforest. The National Fire Plan notes an average of 145 million acres burned annually in the preindustrial, conterminous U.S. That's 14 times more than in the worst years of the last decade. Of course, we can't have that much fire in the modern U.S. But to put things into local perspective, just 16 percent of the area inside the Medio Fire perimeter burned at high severity; the remaining 84 percent burned moderately or not at all. The Medio Fire is a good example of how wildfires work for us, controlling fuels inexpensively and at scale.

Bryan Bird

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/reality-of-teaching-in-pandemic-is-an-inspiration/article_1547e75a-0cb3-11eb-aaa7-c37f1228bb2b.html