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Comments: "Fungal networks underpin life on Earth. If trees are the 'lungs' of the planet, fungal networks are the 'circulatory systems'. Mark Tererck, former CEO of Nature Conservancy

The theory of prescribed burning requires setting the forest and its animals on fire repeatedly, actions which affect the soil at the fungal network level, yet the role of the fungal. The USFS prescribed burning is negatively and potentially permanently damaging healthy forest ecosystems.

The Critical Impacts of Prescribed Burning on Fungal Networks and Ecosystem Dependencies

Mushrooms are the most familiar part of a fungus, however their bodies are made up of a mass vast network of thin threads, known as a mycelium. These threads are an underground network that link the roots of different plants and are the underpinnings of established ecosystems.

Research has found that repeated prescribed burning resulted in long term damage to the mycelial network that supports forest ecology. By linking to the fungal network the mycelia support the local ecosystem by sharing nutrients and information - or sabotage unwelcome plants by spreading toxic chemicals through the network.

<https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/.../j.1469-8137.2006...>

"Prescribed burning is used widely as a forest management tool and, although it is used for purposes such as site preparation for planting, silvicultural improvements, increasing biodiversity and pest control, it is conducted largely to reduce the impact of wildfires on forests and/or adjacent urban fringes (Neary et al., 1999; Fernandes & Botelho, 2003). As these benefits last for only a few years, repeated prescribed burning is frequently required for effective forest management (Fernandes & Botelho, 2003). Such repeated burning can reduce soil organic matter content and alter nitrogen availability (Wright & Hart, 1997; Neary et al., 1999; Guinto et al., 2001). The effects of long-term repeated burning on soil fungal communities are largely unknown, but ECM root biomass can be reduced by repeated burning (Hart et al., 2005a). Comparison of ECM communities in pine-oak forests with different burning histories has also suggested that changes in ECM root-tip communities may be more pronounced with more frequent burning (Tuininga & Dighton, 2004)."