



Relief to Uttarakhand from Wildfires | Uttarakhand | 05 Jun 2024

Why in News?

Recently, **Rainfall has provided relief** from the continuous [forest fires](#) in areas such as **Pauri and Nainital of Uttarakhand**.

Key Points

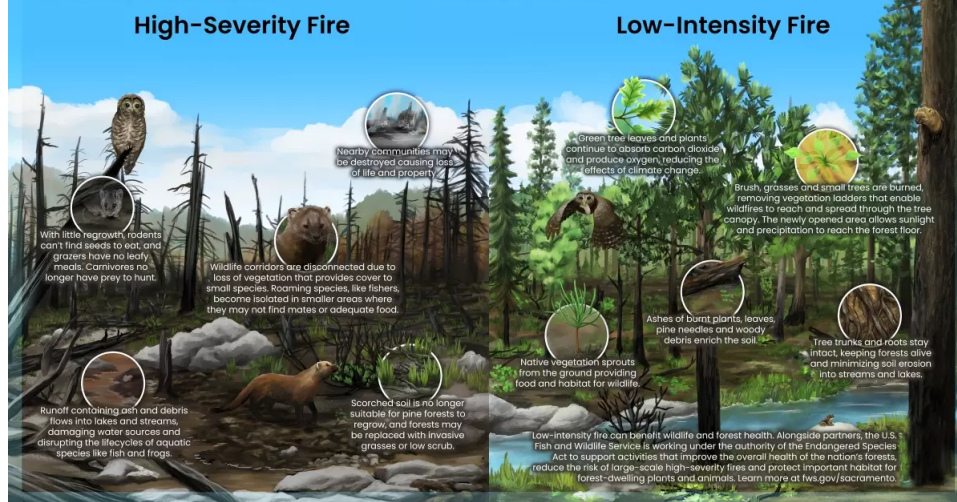
- Despite the current temperatures being lower by two to three degrees, the residents are advised to **remove dried shrubs** around their homes to **avoid fires from spreading**.
 - The unusually high temperatures this season have accelerated the spread of forest fires.
- Over the past six months, **Uttarakhand has witnessed more than 1,100 fire incidents, destroying over 1,500 hectares of forest land**.

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How does fire impact forests and wildlife?

Wildfires are inevitable, but not all fire is harmful to forests. Low-intensity fires can naturally "clean" and thin the forest by removing flammable and thick vegetation on the forest floor. The result is improved habitat for wildlife, healthier soil and new growth of native plants.

It also helps reduce the risk of large-scale high-severity fires that burn through the forest—from the floor to the canopy—with intense heat. High-severity fires across large landscapes can be devastating for wildlife, habitat and surrounding communities.



Government Initiatives on Forest Fire

- **National Action Plan for Forest Fires (NAPFF)**, was started in 2018 with the goal of reducing forest fires by informing, enabling, and empowering forest fringe communities and incentivising them to collaborate with state forest departments.
- **The Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM)** is the only government-sponsored programme dedicated to assisting states in dealing with forest fires.