TOPIC 2.5
Natural Disruptions to Ecosystems

Required Course Content

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING
ERT-2
Ecosystems have structure and diversity that change over time.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE
ERT-2.G
Explain how natural disruptions, both short- and long-term, impact an ecosystem.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE
ERT-2.G.1
Natural disruptions to ecosystems have environmental consequences that may, for a given occurrence, be as great as, or greater than, many human-made disruptions.

ERT-2.G.2
Earth system processes operate on a range of scales in terms of time. Processes can be periodic, episodic, or random.

ERT-2.G.3
Earth’s climate has changed over geological time for many reasons.

ERT-2.G.4
Sea level has varied significantly as a result of changes in the amount of glacial ice on Earth over geological time.

ERT-2.G.5
Major environmental change or upheaval commonly results in large swaths of habitat changes.

ERT-2.G.6
Wildlife engages in both short- and long-term migration for a variety of reasons, including natural disruptions.