

# Class 13a: Fire ecology

# Wildfire

# Wildfire consequences: species

- Animals
- Plants

# Wildfire consequences: ecosystems

- Temporary disturbance

# To fight or not to fight?

- When fires are suppressed, material builds up

# Chaparral (S. CA)

# Prairie/steppe (Midwest)

# Needleleaf forest (Rocky Mts.)



# Yellowstone National Park

- The first National Park
- Ecosystem reliant on fire

# Yellowstone National Park

- 1988 summer unusually dry and hot
- 13 major fires (8 human-caused)

# Yellowstone National Park

- Media coverage largely negative
- But recovery was faster than expected