

# EFFECTS OF FIRE ON THE BOREAL FOREST

## Game Cards

Cut each game card.

Fire removes vegetation and blackens soil, so the soil can be warmed by the sun for better plant growth (ST)	Recent burn areas are good hunting grounds for birds of prey (ST).
Fire returns nutrients of plants and animals to the soil (ST).	The shrub stage of a burn area provides abundant cover for small mammals such as mice, which are food for larger mammals such as fox (LT)
Bare, burned soil erodes easily (ST & LT)	There is little, if any, food and cover for most wildlife immediately after a fire (ST)
Some plants, like black spruce, depend on fire to reproduce (LT)	Fires provide fire suppression jobs (ST & LT)
Fire sometimes helps to prevent insect attacks since it often encourages plant diversity in an area (LT)	Trapping and hunting are better in recently burned areas (within 5-10 years after burn) (LT).
Food for wildlife and humans is destroyed by fire (ST)	Fires burn cabins and trap lines (ST)
Smoke from fires makes your eyes and throat burn (ST) Burn areas have dead trees (snags) for cavity-nesting birds, including woodpeckers and some ducks such as goldeneye and bufflehead (ST & LT).	Ash from both prescribed burns and fires adds to the greenhouse effect (LT).