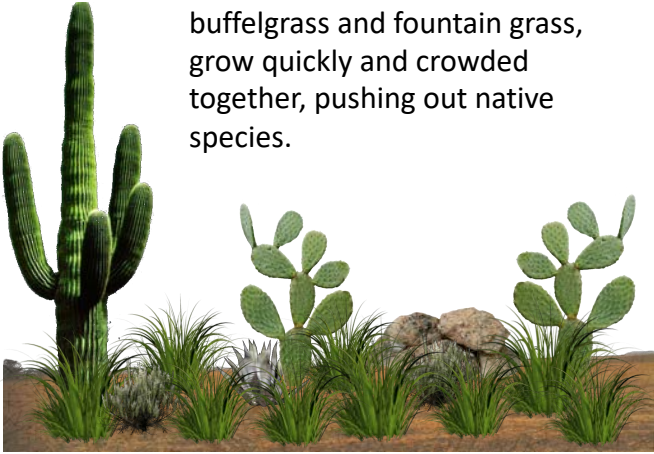
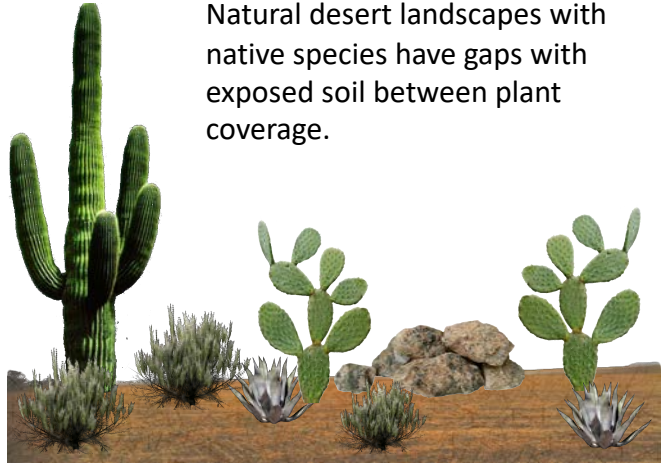


How do invasive grasses affect desert fires?

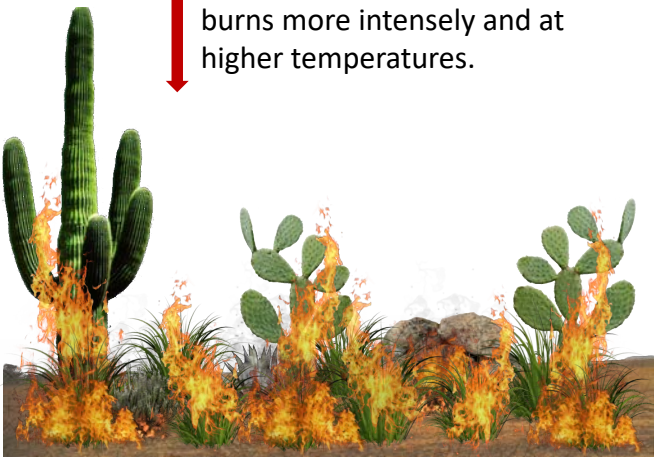
Invasive grasses, such as buffelgrass and fountain grass, grow quickly and crowded together, pushing out native species.



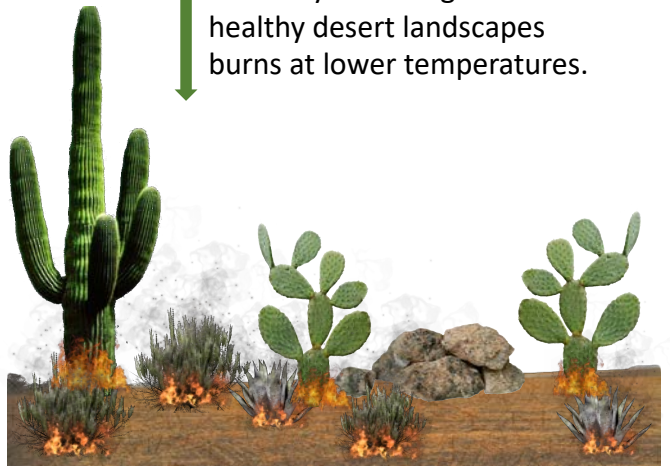
Natural desert landscapes with native species have gaps with exposed soil between plant coverage.



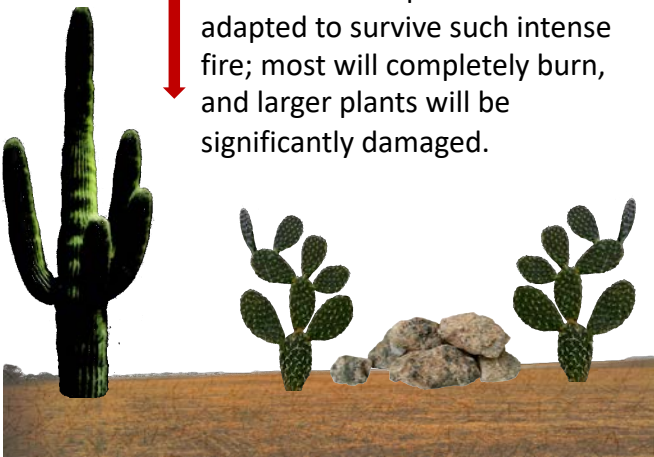
Fire fueled by invasive grasses burns more intensely and at higher temperatures.



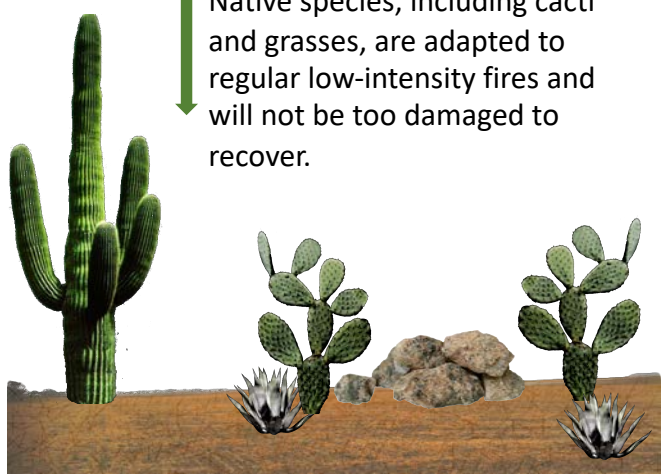
Naturally occurring fire in healthy desert landscapes burns at lower temperatures.



Sonoran desert plants are not adapted to survive such intense fire; most will completely burn, and larger plants will be significantly damaged.

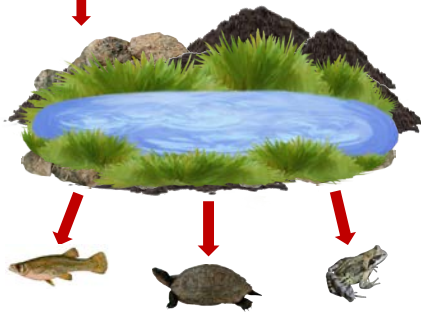


Native species, including cacti and grasses, are adapted to regular low-intensity fires and will not be too damaged to recover.



Invasive grasses will regrow even more in the empty space.

Loose soil will wash downstream and accumulate in pools, displacing aquatic species.



Grasses and other plants cleared after healthy fire will open new niches for more native species to move in, increasing biodiversity of the ecosystem. Saguaros and other large plants will sustain minimal fire damage.

With rain, native plants will retain moisture and increase soil health.

