

***** SINO- ECOLOGISTS CLUB OVERSEAS *****
***** (SINO- ECO) *****

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* A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year To You *
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=== Are You Interested In Analysis Of Landscape Patterns? ===
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Natural environments are mosaics of patches. Ecologists may try to determine how this patchiness influences individuals, populations, communities, and ecosystems. Documenting the degree of such patchiness, its pattern, and the way the patterns vary as a function of scale requires special forms of analysis. The focus will be on detailed examinations of various ways of analyzing spatial patterns of ecological systems. These may include:

- * hierarchies of patch structure
- * trend surface analysis
- * spectral analysis
- * spatial autocorrelation
- * nested quadrat (block) analyses
- * kriging
- * sampling spatial patterns
- * GIS (geographic information systems) analyses
- * fractal geometry of landscapes

- * diffusion models and distance-decay functions
- * percolation theory
- * lattice analysis
- * measurement of connectivity
- * optimal foraging and random walks

Other quantitative determinations of patchiness are probably required. Any comments and discussions are welcome. References can be sent by E-mail. Please write to [YEGANG@UWYO].

--- From Dr. Wiens

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 ===== Books * Reviews * Ecologists =====
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- * Holism or Reductionism???

"I have a simple faith that ... semantic difficulties inspire 90% of any argument and that, when these are sorted out, both sides are doing something right."

-----Stephen Jay Gould

Douglas R. Hofstadter 1979. Godel, Escher and Bach: An eternal golden braid. Basic Books, NY. 777pp.

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* A novel by James P. Hogan 1983. Code of Life Maker. Ballantine Books, NY. 405pp.

This scenario is interesting from several viewpoints. First, hierarchical development is evident. Second, this is evolution but not creation; the aliens had to provide the "starter". Third, can this palatable example of evolution of "machines" be a way of selling evolution in the classroom and across the bar??

---From Dr. Reiners

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* A Hierarchical Concept of Ecosystems. R. V. O'Neill, R. L. DeAngelis, J. B. Waide and T. F. H. Allen. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1986. 253pp.

- Ecosystems as nonequilibrium dissipative systems.
- Hierarchy theory as a means of dealing with the complexity of ecosystems.
- Ecosystems as Dual hierarchies.

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 ===== Let It Burn??? =====
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-----Yellowstone's Fire

In the summer of 1988, more than 9,000 firefighters and soldiers were actively working to contain or suppress the different fires burning in the Yellowstone National Park. Though more than \$100 million was spent battling the blazes, in the end, it was the weather that stalled the flames. Some interesting data were estimated on October 1, 1988 as follow,

Fire perimeter	1,100,000 acres (50% of Park)
Actual burning	440,000 acres (20% of Park)
Canopy fires	220,000 acres (10% of Park)
Very hot fires	22,000 acres (1% of Park)

The largest fire in the Park's written history prior to 1988 was 18,000 acres. Together with the fires in adjoining national forests, the fires blacken 1.5 million acres, an area larger than Delaware.

Precipitation in April and May was about normal (155% and 181%, respectively), but that in June was 20% of the average, in July 79% of the average, and in August 10% of the average.

---From Dr. Knight

I am NOT answering the question?!

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 This is a tough problem. That's for sure. I don't know the exact answer, frankly. However, I believe that fire is a natural factor only when it plays a role in NATURAL ecosystems. I would say that there are hardly any areas NATURAL in the whole world, much less those national forests or parks. It might be right ecologically to let it burn, but at a what scale? Is it also ecologically reasonable that whether an environmental factor is natural or not should be considered scale-dependent and ecosystem-specific??
 Am I wrong? (Jianguo Wu)

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===== New Members And Information About Our Members =====
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RI - Research Interests, CS - Current Status.

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* Hi, guys. All the Snow-birds are flying to Florida.
* How about you? Are you going with us? See You.
