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Sommario/riassunto

The ravaging fires in Yellowstone National Park in 1988 caused grave concern among scientists about the possible short- and long term repercussions. This book provides the first comprehensive scientific summary of the actual response of the Yellowstone ecosystem to the fires. Written by experts in wildlife biology, ecosystem science, landscape ecology, and forest science, the book shows not only that many things changed after the fires (for ecological components of the system are interactive) but also that some things did not change. The largest effects of the fires were felt at the smallest scales, and the long-term devastation predicted did not come to pass. The resilience of this naturally functioning ecosystem to these huge fires has important lessons for heavily managed regions.