

Researchers from Jaén use maths to speed up the recovery of the forest after a fire

LOCATION: Jaén

DURATION: 1:56

SUMMARY: Scientists of the University of Jaén have created a mathematic tool that determines if a forest will be able to recover by itself after a fire or if it would require support measures. This instrument permits reducing up to the half the necessary time for the recovery of vegetation, as it is able to predict its development from a hundred to two hundred years in advance.

VTR:

Summer of 2012, Coín, a town of the province of Málaga, suffers one of the most devastating fires of the season. 8.000 hectares were burned, losing vegetation that will take years to recover. That's why researchers of the University of Jaén have created a mathematic tool to determine how much time it will take.

JULIO ALCÁNTARA
Researcher of the University
of Jaén

"It allows predicting what developing trend will vegetation have along a specific time period, we use to work with a hundred or two hundred years."

Mixing more than a decade of vegetal's study with mathematics, these researchers have managed to anticipate with accuracy if the forest will be able to regenerate by itself or if it would need some support. Using this tool...

JULIO ALCÁNTARA
Researcher of the University
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"It will allow concentrating the vegetation recovery efforts in the areas that need it more."

PEDRO REY
Researcher of the University
of Jaén

"It will make us recovering natural communities more efficiently."

As efficient as reducing from one century to fifty years the recovery of a place with a high ecological value as El Puerto de las Palomas, in the Natural Park of Cazorla's Sierra, that ended up in this condition after a fire in 2001. Four years later, the Andalusian Government started to apply this tool...

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"In the areas where the restoration was made they used highly localized drip systems to facilitate the fast growth of this repopulated species."

Mathematics to help us in the recovery of a centenary legacy that fire can take away from us in a few minutes.

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