3.1 Succession, Recovery, and Renewal in Natural Communities

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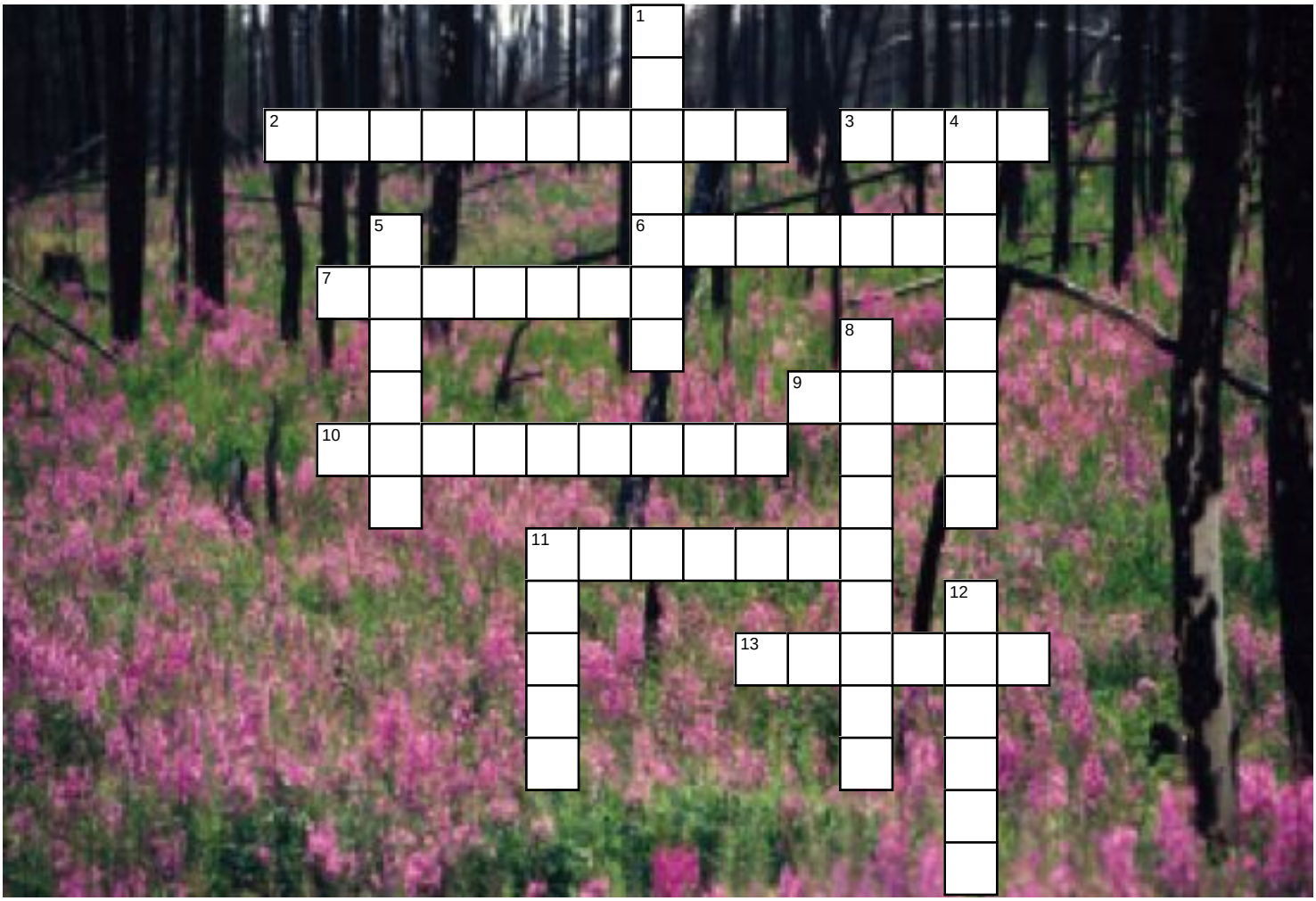

Across

2. Ecosystems change in predictable ways known as _____.
3. Grassland ecosystems that _____ regularly have a rich supply of young herb and grass plants. They are less likely to be taken over by shrubs and trees.
6. An ecosystem that has suffered a catastrophic event such as fire, flood, avalanche or landslide, can recover. Succession will take place as long as the essential _____ elements remain to support living things.
7. Plants and plant-like species that are part of primary succession are often called _____ species.
9. _____ quickly turns organic material into ash that is rich in minerals and can be returned to the soil.
10. _____ succession occurs when a community has been destroyed or disturbed by natural occurrences or human activities.
11. Forests that have burned have openings that allow sunlight to reach the ground. New growth on the forest floor provides _____ for small animals, as well as food in the form of berries and leaves.
13. Natural communities will change in this way until a fairly stable community forms. This community is called a _____ community.

Down

1. _____ succession is the formation of a new ecosystem where no ecosystem has existed.
4. The fireweed in this background photograph of a newly burned area is an example of a _____ process.
5. A pioneer species made of algae and fungi that can cling to rock surfaces and absorb enough nutrients to survive.
8. _____ has caused fires in forests and grasslands for thousands of years.
11. Catastrophic events caused by _____ activity may be difficult for ecosystems to recover from because they often damage the abiotic elements.
12. _____ forests are dense, with tall trees that shut out the light. Little else grows in them. This means that there is not much habitat for insects, animals, or birds.