



United States Department of Agriculture

Northern Region Post-Fire Response External Update – November 6, 2017

This update highlights Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Assessments and Implementation, post-fire harvest, and reforestation efforts throughout the [U.S. Forest Service - Northern Region](#) following the 2017 fire season.

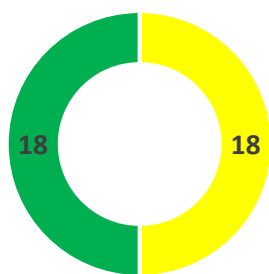
**Feature: Northern Region Post-Fire Response [Story Map](#)*

BAER Status Update

BAER Assessments are rapid evaluations conducted to determine if critical values are at risk due to imminent post-fire threats and to develop appropriate actions to manage unacceptable risks.

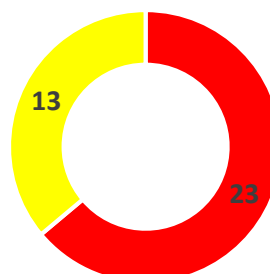
- North Fork Hughes BAER Assessment kickoff scheduled–11/8/17
- Nez Perce-Clearwater Wilderness Fires BAER Assessment kickoff scheduled-11/6/17
- Blacktail, Green Ridge, Crucifixion, Strawberry, Scalp, Liberty BAER Assessments in progress
- Alice Creek BAER Assessment Completed and Treatments Approved on 10/31/2017
- Highway 200 Complex
 - BAER Assessment in Progress for the Lolo
 - Initial BAER Treatments Approved for the Kootenai on 10/24/2017
- Meyers
 - Initial BAER Treatments Approved for the Bitterroot on 10/23/2017
 - Initial BAER Treatments Approved for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge on 10/25/2017
- West Fork BAER Treatments Approved for the Kootenai on 11/3/17
- Caribou and Gibraltar Ridge Initial BAER Treatments Approved on 10/26/2017
- Rice Ridge Initial BAER Treatments Approved on 10/13/17
- Sartin Draw BAER Treatments Approved on 10/6/17
- Lolo Peak BAER Assessment Completed on 9/29/17
 - BAER Treatments Approved for Lolo NF on 10/5/17 and 10/13/17
 - BAER Treatments Approved for Bitterroot NF on 10/12/17
- Sapphire Complex
 - Goat/Slide Rock BAER Treatments Approved for Lolo NF on 10/2/17
 - Little Hogback BAER Treatments Approved for Lolo NF on 10/2/17
 - Little Hogback BAER Treatments Approved for Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF on 10/12/201
- Sunrise BAER Treatments Approved on 9/27/17
- Park Creek-Arrastra Creek BAER Treatments Approved on 9/14/17

BAER Assessment Progress



- Number of Assessments Completed & Funded
- Number of Assessments in Progress

BAER Implementation Progress



- Number of BAER assessments with implementation in progress
- Number of BAER Assessments that have not started Implementation

**4 Assessments were completed but did not require funding. *4 Assessments do not require implementation.*



Forest Service

Post-Fire Harvest Status Update

Even though the snow has started to fall, Forest Service field crews continue their data collection in order to verify and refine the post-fire harvest areas that were initially identified using satellite and aerial reconnaissance.

Given the scale of the planned restoration work, it is clear there aren't enough Forest Service personnel to accomplish the work within the condensed timeline. Local contractors and state employees under Forest Service agreements may be utilized to boost critical needs on Interdisciplinary Teams and keep these projects on track through winter. The list below shows the updated status of potential post-fire harvest projects:

- The following fires have areas under consideration for post-fire harvest under Environmental Assessments:
 - Cub Creek, Moose Peak, Sheep Gap, Sunrise, Rice Ridge, West Fork, Caribou
 - Sheep Gap and Sunrise scoping letters were issued October 31
- The following fires have no planned post-fire harvest operations other than roadside hazard tree removal under Categorical Exclusion authority:
 - Gibraltar Ridge, Little Hogback, Meyers, Liberty
- The following fires have no planned post-fire harvest operations:
 - Lolo Peak, Goat Creek, Deep Creek, Park Creek

***Please note, this list is provided to show post-fire response progress; it is subject to change.*

Reforestation Update

Initial assessments on the need for reforestation are ongoing in fire-impacted areas, and field work in 2018 will validate these assessments to determine long-term reforestation needs. Anticipating a large reforestation workload, National Forests across the Northern Region are working with the Coeur d' Alene Forest Service Nursery to sow seeds for future planting.

This is a multi-year effort, as most seedlings grow in the nursery for two years prior to being planted. Proposals to work with non-profit organizations such as American Forests, National Forest Foundation and Arbor Day Foundation have recently been submitted to assist with Northern Region reforestation efforts.

Outreach

Northern Region employees have already met with representatives of the timber industry and members of conservation and stakeholder groups to share information about this post-fire approach. Information provided at these meetings was well received and led to further discussions about managing the post-fire landscape. Two additional meetings have been scheduled:

- November 7 in Missoula at the Fairbridge Inn from 4-6 PM
- November 9 in Kalispell at the Red Lion Inn from 2-4 PM

Links/Tools

[Northern Region BAER Inciweb site](#)
R1 Post-Fire Response [Story Map](#)

