



United States Department of Agriculture

## U.S. Forest Service - Northern Region Post-Fire Response October 17, 2017

As the smoke continues to clear from the 2017 fire season, the [U.S. Forest Service - Northern Region](#) has made it a priority to assess and mitigate imminent post-fire threats to human life and property, assess damage to cultural and infrastructure resources, identify post-fire harvest opportunities, and coordinate reforestation projects.

Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams are already in place and engaged with assessing the impacts to Forest Service lands from the 2017 fire season. BAER team surveys are rapid assessments of the burned areas that evaluate post-fire conditions of the burned watersheds and determine the potential for increased post-fire flooding, sediment flows, and rock slides. This data helps land managers prioritize emergency stabilization efforts which focus on the protection of human life and property, as well as critical cultural and natural resources. The following fires are at varying phases of the BAER process.

- Crucifixion and Strawberry BAER Assessments tentatively set to begin on October 24
- Alice Creek and Liberty BAER Assessments began on October 16
- Highway 200, Meyers, Caribou, Gibraltar Ridge and West Fork BAER Assessments are in progress. BAER Treatment recommendations to follow
- Rice Ridge and Lolo Peak BAER Assessments completed. BAER Treatments approved on October 13
- Sartin Draw BAER Assessment completed. BAER Treatments approved on October 6
- Sapphire Complex BAER Assessments completed. BAER Treatments approved on October 2
- Sunrise BAER Assessment completed. BAER Treatments approved on September 27
- Park Creek and Arrastra Creek BAER Assessments completed. BAER Treatments approved on September 14

Post-fire harvest areas have also been identified using cutting edge technology and on-the-ground assessments from resource professionals. It's important to note that areas have been excluded from post-fire harvest, such as Wilderness, Roadless Areas, Wild and Scenic areas, Research Natural Areas (existing and proposed), municipal watersheds, historical and cultural landmarks, Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs), and land slide prone areas. Remaining areas will be assessed and prioritized to minimize ecological impacts and ensure the post-fire timber yield is sufficient to support harvest operations. Additional proposed actions will include hazardous fuel reduction and tree planting.

BAER updates will be posted to the R1 BAER Inciweb site: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5627/>



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