

R-1 Regional Forester Update – October 17, 2017

We are busy with a lot of work concentrating on post fire response. As you are aware, there is still much to be done once the smoke clears and the flames go out. Often times we get busy addressing the needs, but forget to share what is occurring---leaving a lot of folks wondering what is really happening. Hopefully this will help answer some of the questions that may be out there at this time.

Due to the large geographical area that had fires in 2017, and the acreage burned, we have initiated a Northern Region Incident Management Team for Post Fire Response. The team is now in place with the Incident Commander (IC) being Mike Elson. Mike is a District Ranger in the Southwestern Region (R3) and has detailed up here for the next several months to help us out. Mike has tremendous experience in responding to large incidents. His experience and wealth of knowledge is greatly appreciated! In addition, we have several team members from around the Region that have worked with large post fire response situations and bring experiences and lessons learned to the efforts.

Our purpose is to have a Regional approach as we respond to the needs resulting from the 2017 fires, versus each unit having to figure it out on their own. This enables us to have close coordination across the forests, assist individual forests on resource needs and priorities, adjust other Regional work and priorities as needed, work collectively with our partners, other Agencies, Tribes and volunteers and most importantly to help ensure that we have our time and resources focused. We know we have multiple needs in Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) and salvage work but we still have a lot of other work that continues to march forward. With only so much time and resources, it is imperative that we prioritize and work together across boundaries and landscapes.

Updates like the attached will continue on a regular basis and I am more than happy to share if you find it of value. In addition, we are in the process of meeting with our partners, cooperators, other Agencies, Tribes and community members across the Region to visit on our efforts, share information and see how we can work together to meet needs. These relationships are a continuation of the wonderful joint efforts we experienced throughout the active fire season.

At this time weather is our limiting factor so our focus is really working hard to capture the window we have for important data collection and field work before winter settles.

Thanks for sharing and please let me know if these types of updates are of use and if so I will continue to share.

Leanne