



Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest
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News Release

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October 29, 2015

CORRECTED- Progress Continues on Canyon Creek Complex Fire Rehabilitation

John Day, Ore. – Rehabilitation work is moving forward according to plans following the Canyon Creek Fire Complex of this season.

Helicopter drops have been placing mulch in the area of Vance Creek south of Canyon City. More than 140 burned acres have already been treated in that area, and that work is expected to be completed in the next few days. The mulch will aid in erosion control and help stabilize burned soil.

The BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response) implementation team is in its second week of activity, working diligently to complete rehabilitation efforts before inclement weather arrives.

In addition to mulching, logs will be placed in several locations in Vance Creek, as well as in the Strawberry Wilderness. Airbase personnel continue to work with private companies and agency personnel in order to complete log placement in critical streams. A Type 1 helicopter will be utilized to place large logs with root wads in streams inaccessible to ground personnel and equipment. This work will help with runoff control.

Work will also begin in the next few weeks on trails damaged by fire. More than six miles of trail are scheduled to be improved.

The implementation process has been rapid in its development. Initiated in mid-September, the BAER team arrived to assess burn severity of soils and recommended rehabilitation efforts. The proposal included adding and replacing burned signage on the forest, removing hazard trees, mulching, and placing logs in watersheds. After the proposal was approved by both the Regional Office of the Forest Service and in Washington, D.C., the implementation team began work.

The process has been a great partnership with local and state agencies, and private companies. Eric Bush, John Day Airbase Manager and Malheur Unit Aviation Officer, has stated that he is very pleased with the professionalism and work safety demonstrated by all involved in the outcome of this project.

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