



U.S. Forest Service
Klamath National Forest
1711 South Main Street
Yreka CA 96097
Voice: 530-842-6131
Email: klamathinfo@fs.fed.us
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/klamath

News Release

Media Contact: Kerry Greene
530-841-4485
kggreene@fs.fed.us

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Burned Area Emergency Response

Yreka, CA — Before the last embers of Little Deer, Beaver, July Complex and Happy Camp Complex wildfires cooled, teams of natural resource specialists began assessing the damage caused by recent wildfire in order to recommend ways to restore the land. The specialists, organized into a Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER), include hydrologists, soil scientists, wildlife and fishery biologists, geologists, foresters and archeologists.

The Klamath National Forest has scheduled five public meetings for presenting BAER plans for the Little Deer Fire, Logs Fire, Whites Fire, Beaver Fire and Happy Camp Complex.

Presentations are planned in the following communities:

- **Thursday, Oct. 2** in Klamath River at the Community Hall at 5 p.m.
- **Friday, Oct. 3** in Ft. Jones at the Community Hall at 6 p.m.
- **Monday, Oct. 6** in Sawyers Bar at the Salmon River Restoration Council building at 5 p.m.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 7**, in Happy Camp at the Karuk Senior Nutrition Center at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 8** in Seiad Valley at the Fire Station at 6 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 9** in Etna at the Etna High School Multi-Purpose Room at 6 p.m.
- **Thursday, Oct. 16** in Scott Bar at the Community Hall at 7 p.m.
- **Friday, Oct. 17** in Macdoel at the Gooseneck Ranger Station at 5 p.m.

Finalized BAER reports for the Little Deer, Logs, Whites and Beaver fires are now available in the "Features" section of the Klamath National Forest homepage at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath/>. The Happy Camp Complex BAER report will be posted here as well as soon as it is complete.

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The BAER Team’s initial task was to complete a soils burn severity map. To collect this information surveys are conducted by satellite, aircraft and on the ground. Recently completed mapping shows the following:

| Soil Burn Severity | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Unburned/Low Intensity | Moderate Intensity | High Intensity |
| Little Deer (5,503 acres) | 31% | 51% | 14% |
| Beaver Fire (32,307 acres) | 66% | 28% | 6% |
| July Complex (50,042 acres) | 66% | 29% | 5% |
| Happy Camp Complex (132,733) | 77% | 22% | 1 % |

“Although some areas did burn very hot, overall, there is relatively limited damage evident from the fires,” said Klamath National Forest Soil Scientist and BAER Team Leader, Joe Blanchard. “The majority of the areas appear to have had low to moderate soil burn severity—with only isolated areas where fire burned extra hot.”

Soil burn severity mapping provides important information for the next major task – determining what kinds of rehabilitation actions are needed. The resulting BAER Plan addresses concerns for community water supplies, water quality, fisheries and wildlife habitat, erosion potential, and threats to life and property. And the plan recommends actions to stabilize soil and control water, sediment and debris movement, and prevent damage to downstream resources. Proposed actions are prioritized to provide protection to the soil and water before winter rains begin.

The plan is developed in close coordination with representatives of local, state and Federal agencies responsible for dealing with potential effects outside of the Klamath National Forest. The BAER Plans for the Little Deer, Beaver Fire and Whites Fire have been approved and funded and are now in the process of contract preparation for implementation. Preparation of the Happy Camp Complex BAER Plan is currently underway.

“The BAER Plans for these four fires are vitally important for the current and future management of watersheds within the Klamath National Forest,” said Forest Supervisor, Patricia Grantham. “We are fortunate to have a highly capable group of specialists staffing the BAER Team. And we are equally fortunate to have the involvement of a wide cross section of representatives from local, state and Federal agencies to help insure the final BAER Plan addresses as many key issues as possible.”

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