



BAER Tracks - Wallow Fire

Hazard tree removal along main forest roads on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests is about 70% complete. Dead, standing trees that are likely to fall across roads are being removed on about 204 miles. Work is being accomplished using local contractors using “feller-buncher” machinery and saw crews. The objective is to try to make the roads usable and as safe as possible. In addition, contract crews are installing grade dips to better drain the roads from increased runoff.



Mulching and seeding of burned areas is intended to keep as much soil on the mountain as possible. Aerial application of straw mulch has been completed on over half of the contracted acres on the northern portion of the Wallow Fire. Mulch is being applied on the severely and moderately burned portions. Over 25,000 acres will be mulched using three different contractors. Large trucks hauling straw from as far away as Nebraska have been supplying the crews in various staging areas in locations near Alpine, Nutrioso, and Eagar.



The nearly 30,000 acre aerial seeding contract for the northern portion of the fire is almost complete. The contractor, Aero Tech, has also been awarded the seeding contract for the southern portion of the Wallow Fire which encompasses over 46,000 acres.



As the seasonal rainy season progresses, mudflows and rockslides across roads are a common sight. Many areas of the Forest are still hazardous to travelers but the hope is that some public access will be restored as soon as possible.