

Heritage Summary and BAER Assessment - Bagley Complex

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

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Objectives

- * Identify recorded heritage resource sites located within the area of potential effect (APE) of the Bagley Fire.
- * Analyze direct/indirect effects and potential future effects to heritage resources.
- * Propose specific BAER treatments and estimate monetary costs to prohibit future damage to Cultural Resources (historic and prehistoric resources determined as eligible or unevaluated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)).

Definition of Heritage Resources

Heritage resources include prehistoric resources, historic resources and Native American resources such as traditional gathering and ceremonial areas. Prehistoric sites are the remains from human activities that predate written records and include village sites, temporary camps, lithic (stone tool) scatters, milling features related to subsistence procurement, rock features and burials. Historic sites are typically physical properties or built items that remain from human activities that occurred after written records. Historic archaeological sites and structures may include town sites, homesteads, agricultural or ranching features, mining-related features, refuse concentrations, cabins, houses, churches, etc. Many areas have been used throughout time in prehistory and historic times and therefore contain both prehistoric and historic remains. These are referred to as multi-component sites.

Area of Potential Effect

In accordance with standards established for heritage resource investigations related to BAER projects in Region 5, California National Forest lands, the APE for the Bagley Fire is identified as encompassing: (1) all areas within the perimeter of the burned area; (2) all areas of ground disturbance created by fire suppression; (3) locations with potential for fire-related soil erosion, flooding, debris flows, etc; (4) locations where looting and vandalism will be increased due to increased visibility of sites because of the fire and (5) locations of proposed ground-disturbing watershed rehabilitation-related treatments.

Twenty (20) previously recorded cultural resources were identified within the Bagley Fire perimeter. All of these resources were assessed for whether their historic and research value would be at risk from post-fire processes such as erosion, OHV use, or vandalism and potential need for treatment in order to protect that value. Due to limited time frames for assessment, various fire intensity conditions (based on BARC maps), and limited research potential for some of the sites, a limited number of these sites were visited.

Table 1. Values Potentially at Risk

Location	Soil Burn Severity		
	Moderate/High	Low/Very Low	Unburned
Within Fire Perimeter	2	18	0
On Fire Perimeter (needs evaluation)	0	0	12
Within APE (outside burn area)	0	0	29

Within Fire Perimeter

Of the twenty previously recorded cultural sites within the fire perimeter, thirteen are prehistoric, two are historic and five are multi-component sites. Twelve of these sites were visited and assessed for BAER treatments. Of the eighteen prehistoric and multi-component sites within the fire perimeter, two prehistoric sites (Happy Hunting Ground scatter and Little Shoeinhorse) burned at high intensity. While the Happy Hunting Ground scatter site burned at high intensity, no new impacts occurred (dozer line stayed on Jeep Trail road prism). Little Shoeinhorse is located on exposed bedrock (see Geology Report) and is anticipated to experience little damage due to burn severity. The remaining fourteen prehistoric and five multi-component sites burned at low and very low intensity.

The two historic sites located within the burn area were visited and include structural remnants of a cabin and corral. The Gap Creek Corral burned at low intensity and showed signs of disturbance not related to the fire or suppression activities. The other site (Upper Bagley Cabin) was visited but the structural remnants could not be located. Further investigation is recommended.

Potential Impacts

Eight of these prehistoric (four sites) and multi-component (four sites) are located within the burn area on Squaw Creek. This drainage experienced a significant amount of moderate to high severity burning as a result of the Bagley Fire. Within the next 3-5 years, a heavy precipitation event or high rainfall year will likely result in increased flows, erosion, reeling and potential for debris flows (see Geologic and Hydrology Reports for further information). Monitoring of sites along Squaw Creek during spring flows is recommended.

In addition to the sites along Squaw Creek within the Bagley Fire area, twenty nine sites along Squaw Creek south of the Bagley Fire perimeter could be adversely affected by increased water/sediment flow as a result of the fire which burned with moderate to high intensity in the West Fork Squaw Creek, Jessie Creek, and Prospect Creek drainages upstream. Monitoring should occur in the spring to assess any impacts to these sites.

As sites are more visible due to the reduction in herbaceous vegetation, OHV use is a concern for sites at the south end of the fire (Wheeler Ranch, Modin Creek, etc.). However, these sites were accessible to OHV users prior to the Bagley Fire, and an increase in use is not expected due to the fire.

Treatments Needed Under BAER for Identified Values at Risk

While surveys and evaluation of pre-historic, historic and multi-component sites potentially impacted by the fire or suppression activities are ongoing, no treatments were determined to be necessary under BAER.

As sedimentation and erosion are the greatest concern to known cultural resources, slope stabilization treatments proposed for roads and trails, as well as treatments proposed by earth science resources will benefit existing heritage sites.

Monitoring of sites after spring rains should occur over the next few years to assess impacts due to increased flows, sedimentation and erosion.

Any treatments proposed under BAER will require Section 106 compliance prior to implementation.