USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mt. Hood National Forest | October 2026

GRASSHOPPER FIRE: RECOVERY & REPAIR

WILDFIRE

post-fire work

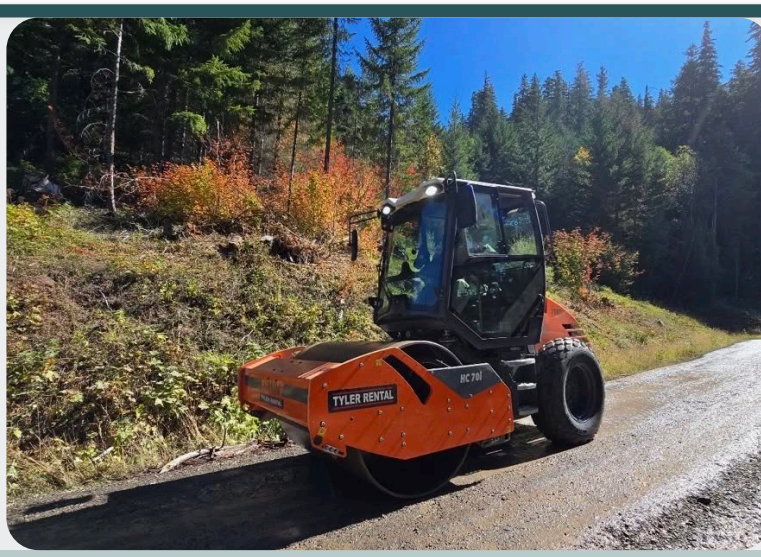
Even before a wildfire is fully contained, the work begins to assess the damage and start making recovery plans. This work includes roadside hazard tree removal, road, bridge and trail repairs, rebuilding of the Flag Point communication site, reforestation, campground and recreation site repairs, and non-commercial fuels reduction work. Costs of individual items will be estimated once on-the-ground assessments can occur.

SUPPRESSION REPAIR

Work doesn't end when the flames subside. The necessary work of suppressing a fire leaves its mark on the landscape. Suppression repair is an important part of wildfire response.

Once areas within and outside of the Grasshopper Fire footprint were secure enough for suppression repair to begin, crews got to work. Examples of activities include repairing dozer and handlines, improving water drainage and addressing other repair needs on roads.

Repairs help to reduce erosion, protect resources, support wildlife habitat, and more.





BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE (BAER)

A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team of trained scientists and specialists is already in place to help assess damage to soils, streams, and plants and make plans for areas that need emergency repairs to prevent further fire-related damage, such as erosion and slides.

The BAER team will provide the Forest with a report that prioritizes those emergency repairs and helps the Forest make a funding request to carry out those repairs within one year.

POST-FIRE RECOVERY

Beyond immediate fire suppression repair and priorities identified by the BAER process, there is more work to be done across the Grasshopper Fire footprint. The Mt. Hood National Forest looks forward to working with partners on a number of fronts to address priority impacts of the fire.

POST-FIRE RESTORATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

With support from the National Forest Foundation and staff from the Forest Service regional and Washington offices, the Mt. Hood National Forest will be utilizing a new national approach to post-fire NEPA analysis, implementing a national template EA for post-fire restoration. The Forest will focus on hazard tree removal, roads and potential areas for salvage in its EA.

Removing dead and dying trees near roads reduces wildfire risk to adjacent communities and makes it safer for recreating public and for firefighters responding to future wildfires. Repairing damaged roads is key for public access as well as the ability to manage natural resources and enable future fuels and commercial timber projects. And area salvage where appropriate can reduce wildfire hazards, prevent insect and disease infestations, recover economic value from damaged timber and create conditions for successful reforestation.



TRAIL & RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIR, WATERSHED RESTORATION, AND REFORESTATION

In addition to the post-fire restoration EA, there are needs across the fire footprint to restore trails, rebuild recreation infrastructure, and address watershed restoration and reforestation needs. These will follow appropriate evaluation processes to determine where it is appropriate to rebuild infrastructure, and where reforestation needs exist.



NEPA CHANGED CONDITION ANALYSIS

For existing projects that have completed NEPA within the fire footprint, staff may consider NEPA reviews to determine where changed conditions exist. A change in condition might result in changes to the purpose and need for the identified project. Where applicable, staff will use information from the BAER report as well as field verification to determine whether the conditions on the ground warrant a change in the NEPA analysis.

PRIORITIZATION

Across all of these areas, staff will work with partners to prioritize those needs that are the most critical to be prepared for funding that may become available, and to prioritize staff and partner time on the top priorities for recovery.