

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
Supervisor's Office

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For Immediate Release

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HORSESHOE 2 BAER TEAM FIRE ASESMENT

Willcox, AZ (June 27, 2011) – The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team assessing the Horseshoe Two Fire that is burning on the eastern portion of the Coronado National Forest in the Chiricahua Mountains and in the Chiricahua National Monument, has finalized the fire's Soil Burn Severity Map. The map is available to the public on the Horseshoe 2 Fire Inciweb site (<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2225/>).

The BAER assessment team has also completed field-work operations and is in the process of evaluating the values-at-risk.

"The task of evaluating the values-of-risk is a very time-consuming and methodical process," said BAER Team Leader, Marc Stamer. He added, "We are dealing with a fire that is over 222,000 acres in size with 27 different watersheds that were burned. Each watershed needs to be assessed and analyzed to ensure that any proposed stabilization treatments will be effective."

Treatments used on past fires to help slow the flow of water and mud slides include mulching, sandbags, concrete barriers commonly used as traffic barricades, diversion ditches, debris basins and silt fencing. Specialists working on the BAER team will evaluate the effectiveness of each type of proposed treatment.

Stamer concluded, "It is important that the treatments we plan to implement are appropriate and effective with regards to having the potential to minimize runoff and erosion. We don't want to propose a treatment that could exacerbate the runoff."

In addition to the East Coronado BAER Team, the Coronado National Forest has established another burned area rapid assessment team that is working on the wildfires in the western area of the Forest. Resource specialists on the West Coronado BAER team are assessing the Arlene, Bull, Pena, Duke, Duquesne, Greaterville, Murphy, North Tank, Wildcat, and Monument Fires. Questions concerning that work may be directed to BAER Public Information Officers Rebeca Franco or Bob Ramirez at (623) 670-9223.

For East Coronado BAER information, please call Mike Johnson at (402) 250-5017.