

WEST BAER NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
Supervisor's Office
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



For Immediate Release

Contact: Rebeca Franco (623) 670-9223
E-mail: coronado.west.baer@gmail.com



EMERGENCY BAER TREATMENTS BEGIN ON THE MURPHY FIRE COMPLEX

Nogales, AZ (July 10, 2011) – As soon as the final review and approval for West Coronado Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessment team's recommended treatments was received, work immediately began on the 85,847-acre Murphy Complex which includes the Bull, Pena, and Murphy wildfires.

“We are diligently implementing the various aspects of the BAER team's emergency treatment prescription before monsoonal flows really kick into gear,” said Paul Guarnaccia, Murphy Complex implementation team leader. “Fire crews from the Forest Service Nogales Ranger District have been working hard with the implementation team, especially with installing the wattles.”

Straw Wattles, also called straw worms or bio-logs, are cylinders with weed-free straw encased in jute or nylon. They are designed to reduce erosion and slow the flow of water. They will be installed in various locations in the Murphy Complex. They have already been installed on the hillsides below the Atascosa Lookout.

Other emergency improvements planned include mulching and seeding in the Pena Blanca Lake area, installing a filter sock around Ronquillo Pond, reducing erosion potential near Peck Canyon Well, and constructing features such as waterbars to disperse water on the Atascosa Trail.

For West Coronado BAER information, contact Rebeca Franco at (623) 670-9223 or at coronado.west.baer@gmail.com. Additional fire information is available at www.inciweb.org.