





## Slide Fire BAER Burn Severity Reflectance Classification Map Talking Points

These talking points explain the Burn Severity Reflectance Classification map published by the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team on Friday (6/6/2014).

- The Forest Service BAER team began on-the-ground assessment operations on Saturday (5/31). The Slide Fire was declared 100% contained on Wednesday (6/4/2014).
- The Burn Severity Reflectance Classification product, posted on Friday (6/6/2014), is a representation of post-fire burn severity and reflects the potential risk based on watershed response.
- Increased watershed response is reflective in the moderate and high severity classes. It is not just the rain that has the greatest concern in this watershed; it is the debris and material that will come with it.
- Typically, one thunderstorm may cover ½ to 5 square miles of land. We do not foresee a thunderstorm over the entire area of the burn at any one time however we could see multiple thunderstorms in the same time period. There could be very dramatic responses from a thunderstorm to include water, rock, debris, and material.
- Almost all of the areas detecting moderate and high severity classification contain soil with water repellent characteristics which increase the potential for localized flooding and debris flow.
- After the Brins Fire of 2006 we experienced debris flow and rock fall on and across Highway 89A. In comparison, the Slide Fire has more acres of moderate and high severity and we can expect the potential for a larger event. Even during the current evaluation, we are hearing rock fall.
- Driving Oak Creek Canyon, it appears the vegetation was not affected by the fire. That is not representative of the area above the rim where moderate and high burn severity conditions exist.
- The BAER team evaluates the burned area with associated risk for potential treatment.
- Multiple agencies, including the US Forest Service, are working together and coordinating with local cooperators who assist affected landowners to prepare for rain events.

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