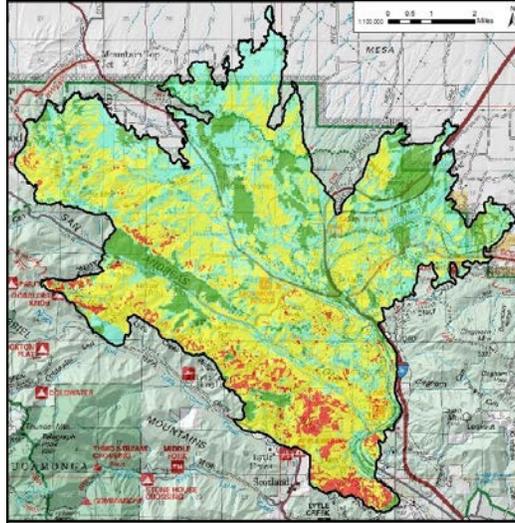


San Bernardino National Forest
Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)
 Post-Fire BAER Assessment



BAER Information: (415) 881-1871

BAER UPDATE – BLUE CUT SOIL BURN SEVERITY MAP RELEASED



Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) specialists recently completed their data gathering and verification field work of the **Blue Cut Fire** burn area. The **Soil Burn Severity** map has been finalized. Soil Burn Severity levels are **Unburned**, **Low**, **Moderate**, and **High**.

The map shows that in the fire area, approximately 52% of the 36,240 acres analyzed by the **BAER** team within the **Blue Cut Fire** is either unburned (17%) or low (35%) soil burn severity, while 43% sustained a moderate soil burn severity, and 5% burned at high soil burn severity.

The **BAER** post-fire assessment team uses the soil burn severity data to identify if there are areas of concern where increased soil erosion, accelerated surface water run-off, and debris flows have the potential to impact human life/safety, property, and critical natural and cultural resources from storm events. The interagency **BAER** team consists of **Forest Service** scientists and specialists that are considering emergency stabilization options for those critical resources.

BAER specialists expect erosion and run-off within the **Blue Cut Fire** area to increase as a result of the fire because 48% of the burned area experienced moderate or high soil burn severity. In specific areas that experienced moderate to high soil burn severity, there could be concern for run-off from steep hillslopes and resultant increases in post-fire soil erosion and debris flows.

The **Blue Cut Fire** soil burn severity **BAER** map can be downloaded at the interagency “**Blue Cut Post-Fire BAER**” InciWeb site as a JPEG or PDF version under the “maps” tab.

A “**Field Guide for Mapping Post-Fire Soil Burn Severity**” can help with interpreting the map and can be found online at http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr243.pdf.

SPECIAL NOTE: *Everyone near and downstream from the **Blue Cut Fire** burned area should remain alert and stay updated on weather conditions that may result in heavy rains over the burn scar. Flash flooding may occur quickly during heavy rain events. Current weather and emergency notifications can be found at the **National Weather Service, San Diego (SW California)** (<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sqx/>) website.*

Blue Cut Post-Fire BAER Assessment information is available at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4988/>.

