

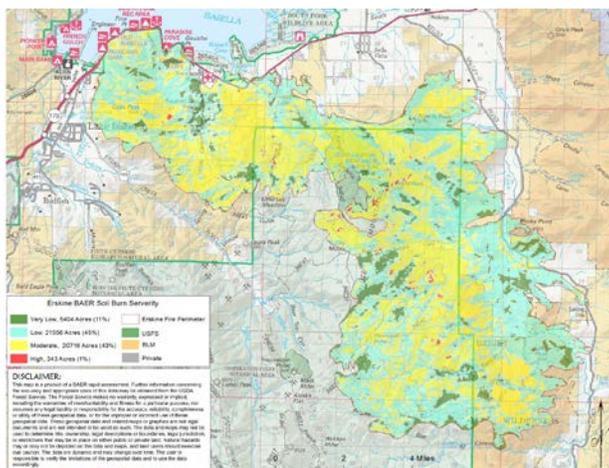
Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

## Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Post-Fire BAER Assessment



BAER Information: (415) 881-1871

### BAER UPDATE – ERSKINE FIRE SOIL BURN SEVERITY MAP RELEASED



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

The map shows that in the fire area, approximately over one-half (56%) of the **Erskine Fire** is either **very low/unburned to low** soil burn severity, while 43% sustained a **moderate** soil burn severity and 1% 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 and property from storm events. The interagency **BAER** team consists of **Forest Service** and **Bureau of Land Management** scientists and specialists that are considering emergency stabilization options for those critical resources.

**BAER Team Leader Brad Rust** stated, "Erosion and run-off throughout most of the **Erskine Fire** will not be measurably greater as a result of the fire. This is because a little over one-half of the fire experienced very low to low soil burn severity. In specific areas that experienced moderate to high soil burn severity (approximately less than one-half of the fire), there could be concern for run-off from steep hillslopes and resultant increases in post-fire soil erosion and debris flows."

The **Erskine Fire** soil burn severity **BAER** map can be downloaded at the interagency "**Erskine 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](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr243.pdf).

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Everyone near and downstream from the **Erskine Fire** burned areas 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 Joaquin Valley/Hanford Office** ([www.wrh.noaa.gov/hnx/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/hnx/)) website.

*Erskine Post-Fire BAER Assessment information is available at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4852/>.*

