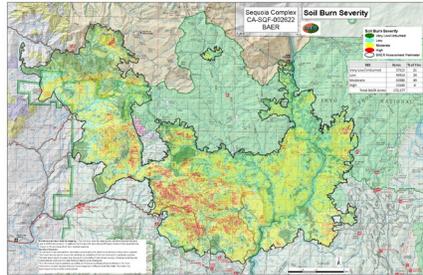




October 19, 2020

BAER Information: (707) 853-4243

### BAER SOIL BURN SEVERITY MAP RELEASED FOR SQF COMPLEX



Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) specialists recently completed their initial data gathering and verification field work of the SQF Complex burn area. The Soil Burn Severity map has been finalized. Soil Burn Severity levels are Unburned/Very Low, Low, Moderate, and High.

The map shows that in the SQF Complex fire area, approximately 45% of the 172,177 acres analyzed by the BAER team is either unburned/very low (21%) or low (24%) soil burn severity, while 49% sustained a moderate soil burn severity, and only 6% burned at high soil burn severity

The BAER post-fire assessment teams use 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 BAER team consists of Forest Service scientists and specialists that are considering emergency stabilization options where the potential post-fire threats create an unacceptable risk for those critical resources on National Forest System lands. The BAER teams share their analysis and findings with interagency cooperators who work with private land and business owners to help them prepare for upcoming rain events.

BAER Team Leader Chris Steward said that the team expects erosion and run-off within the SQF Complex fire area to moderately increase as a result of the fire because 55% of the burned area experienced moderate or high soil burn severity. In specific areas that experienced moderate to high soil burn severity, there is concern for increased post-fire run-off from steep hillslopes and resultant increases in post-fire soil erosion and debris flows.

The SQF Complex soil burn severity BAER map can be downloaded at the “SQF Complex Post-Fire BAER” InciWeb site (<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7240>) 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).

**SAFETY MESSAGE:** *Everyone near and downstream from the burned areas should remain alert and stay updated on weather conditions that may result in heavy rains over the burn areas. Flash flooding may occur quickly during heavy rain events—be prepared to take action! Current weather and emergency notifications can be found at the **National Weather Service** website: [www.weather.gov/hnx/](http://www.weather.gov/hnx/).*

**SQF Complex Post-Fire BAER Assessment information is available at**  
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7240/>.

