

Six Rivers National Forest  
**Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)**  
 Post-Fire BAER Assessment



BAER Information: (415) 881-1871

## BAER UPDATE – GASQUET COMPLEX

BAER specialists recently completed their data gathering and verification field work in the [Gasquet Complex](#) burn areas of the Bear, Coon, Feeder, and Peak Fires and finalized a **Soil Burn Severity** map. Soil Burn Severity codes are 1=Unburned/Very Low, 2=Low, 3=Moderate, and 4=High.

The map shows that approximately 74% of approximately 30,409 acres analyzed by the BAER team within the fire perimeter contained within the **Gasquet Complex** are either unburned or have a low soil burn severity, while 21% sustained a moderate soil burn severity and 5% burned at high severity.

The 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 and safety, and property from storm events and consider emergency stabilization options for those critical resources.

**BAER Team Leader Terry Hardy** stated, "The large majority of the combined burned areas within the Gasquet Complex are either unburned/very low or have a low soil burn severity. With average precipitation falling across the burned areas, erosion and water run-off is not expected to be measurably greater as a result of the wildfires. However, the BAER team is now analyzing its data to determine whether there are emergency threats or risks downstream for health and safety or forest infrastructure such as roads and trails from the high and moderate soil burn severity areas."

The soil burn severity **BAER** map can be downloaded at the "[2015 Six Rivers 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\\_qtr243.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_qtr243.pdf).

**SPECIAL NOTE:** *Everyone near and downstream from the **Gasquet Complex** fire 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, Eureka Office** (<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/eka/>) website.*

Six Rivers NF Post-Fire BAER Assessment information is available at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4600/>.

