



RIM BAER UPDATE

September 10, 2013

Status Update of Rim Post-Fire BAER Assessment Efforts

The Rim post-fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team, composed of soil scientists, hydrologists, engineers, geologists, archaeologists, biologists, range specialists, geographic information specialists, botanists, recreation specialists, and others were assembled and met on Monday, September 9. The team met with representatives from the Stanislaus National Forest, and received a briefing on the current fire status, outlook for the fire, and a presentation on safety for working within the burn area.

BAER team members also met with Rim Fire Incident Management Team, Yosemite National Park, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and other federal, state and local agencies.

Today, BAER specialists began their field work in the Rim Fire burn area to ground truth and finalize a Soil Burn Severity map. The team will be using the map to model potential impacts from storm events and consider emergency stabilization options for critical resources.

The BAER team will continue to meet with Stanislaus National Forest staff, interagency cooperators, and interested stakeholders to identify potential Values-at-Risk (VAR) within and downstream of the burn area and will further refine the VAR through its field work.

Additional BAER team updates will be provided as the team's burned area assessment progresses and can be found at "Rim Post-Fire BAER" InciWeb page at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3726/>.

Key BAER Messages

- **Forest Service** and **National Park Service BAER** teams are working together across boundary jurisdictions to assess the burned area of the **Rim Fire**.
- The **Forest Service BAER** team recently produced an initial **BARC** (Burned Area Reflectance Classification) map using pre-fire and post-fire satellite imagery of the **Rim Fire** burned area.
- Both **BAER** teams are validating the initial **BARC** map to produce a final **Soil Burn Severity** map that will be used for post-fire hydrologic response modeling during their burned area assessment of the **Rim Fire**.
- Multiple agencies, including the **Forest Service**, **National Park Service**, and **NRCS**, are working together and coordinating with state and local agencies and cooperators who assist affected landowners prepare for rain events.

Rim Post-Fire BAER Assessment information is available at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3726/>.

