

**BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
HAYDEN PASS FIRE JULY 27, 2016
CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT
BY: AMANDA C. SANCHEZ**

I. Resource Condition Assessment



Hayden Pass Road, Historic Toll Road

A. Introduction

On July 8, 2016 the Hayden Pass Fire started on the Salida Ranger District of the San Isabel National Forest. The fire is located in both Fremont and Custer County, Colorado. The fire began within the Hayden Pass area which is approximately 20 miles southeast of Salida, CO. Currently the fire is at 56% containment and is expected to be fully contained on October 1, 2016. The cause of the fire was determined to be lightning.

The Hayden Pass Fire burned in the Hayden Pass Area of the Sangre De Cristo Mountain range and progressed into the Sangre De Cristo Wilderness

Area. To date the fires has burned a total of 16,519 acres: 15,064 on National Forest System Lands, 911 on Bureau of Land Management Lands, 358 on State Lands, and 185 on Private.

Elevations in the fire area range from 7000 feet to over 11,000 feet in elevation. Forest cover types present across the burn area consist of spruce-fir, mixed conifer, aspen, lodgepole pine, pinon juniper and Gambel oak. Of the acres burned approximately 26% of the 16,520 acres analyzed by the BAER team is either unburned (10%) or low (16%) soil burn severity, while 56% sustained a moderate soil burn severity, and 18% burned at high soil burn severity.

B. Assessment Objective

Forest Service Manual (FSM 2523.02) provides for the treatment of heritage resources as part of BAER, stating "...implement emergency treatments ...to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to critical ...cultural resources." Consideration of potential effects of emergency stabilization measures on heritage sites is also an appropriate BAER activity (FSM 2523.02). "Where programmatic agreements have been developed for the purposes of National Historic Preservation Act compliance with BAER activities; those agreements will direct heritage resource considerations" (BAER Guidance Paper, 2004).

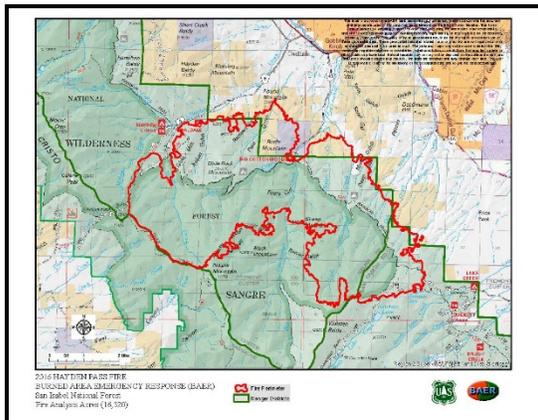
Specific objectives of this report are:

- identify the "Area of Potential Effect" (APE)
- identify heritage resources within the Hayden Pass Fire APE
- summarize field reconnaissance of at risk sites
- analyze direct and indirect effects of the fire to those sites

- recommend actions to protect known Class I and Class II Heritage Resources Sites from fire related effects

Class I Heritage Resource Sites are defined as those historic or prehistoric resources officially determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) per criteria 36 CFR 60.4. Also, Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2361 direction states that Class II sites, which are classified as heritage resource sites whose NRHP status is unknown or unevaluated, be afforded the same consideration and protection as Class I sites. Class III sites are those that have been evaluated and been officially found to be ineligible for listing in the NRHP.

C. Area of Potential Effect



In the selection of the “Area of Potential Effect” (APE) for the 2016 Hayden Pass Fire cultural resources impact analysis, the combined perimeter of the fire burn area, locations of treatment actions, and areas potentially impacted by indirect fire effects (i.e., flooding, debris flows, etc.) were reviewed by cultural resource staff with the aid of other resource specialists (i.e., hydrologist, soil scientist, etc.). After an in depth review of potential direct and indirect post-fire effects, the cultural resource impact analysis APE was restricted to the area within the fire burn perimeter and National

Forest lands. Although it was determined that areas downslope (areas not effected by direct burning) from major headwaters in the fire area on the Forest are expected to have an effect, some of these downslope areas of concern did not form part of the assessment, due to being outside of forest lands. The major headwaters that formed part of the BAER analysis are: Hayden Creek, Big Cottonwood Creek and Oak Creek.

II. Summary of Findings

A. Reconnaissance Methodology

Research has shown that wildfires clearly have the potential to damage or destroy heritage resources through: (1) direct effects of the fire; (2) ground disturbing suppression or rehabilitation activities; and/or (3) erosive soil movement caused by subsequent storm precipitation. These impacts may completely destroy historic and archaeological resources or alter the context of surface and subsurface cultural remains vital to any scientific analysis or interpretation. Also, wildfires may have an indirect effect, such as increase the accessibility and visibility of archaeological site locations, making them more susceptible to vandalism/artifact looting and unauthorized recreational activity. The Hayden Pass Fire has the potential to directly or indirectly impact cultural resources located in the area.

The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program is designed to rapidly respond to changed conditions on cultural resources sites that may require protective measures from post-fire effects. The required timeframes for completing these assessments (within 7 days of total containment) generally preclude the completion of standard site documentation.

B. Background Research Findings

The preliminary archival research in response to the immediate need for cultural resource field work to support the BAER analysis initially consisted of a review of the Pike San Isabel National Forest, Cimarron Comanche National Grassland's (PSICC) database, as well as the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office heritage database known as "COMPASS"

The archival research has determined that the APE may contain potentially undiscovered cultural resources. Although much of the APE is very rugged with very steep slopes, given the history of mining in this area, the likelihood of finding new cultural resources is expected to be high.

NFS Lands: Of the NFS lands, about 274 acres have been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Four (4) sites have been previously recorded on NFS lands in the Hayden Pass Fire. All four (4) are historic sites.

The cultural sites and isolated finds previously recorded in the APE are listed below by Class category:

Class I: None

Class II: 5FN765

Class III: 5FN1518, 5FN1519, 5FN1520

BLM Lands: Of the BLM lands, it is estimated that approximately 15 acres have been previously surveyed for cultural resources.

No sites have been previously recorded on BLM lands in the Hayden Pass Fire.

C. On-the-Ground Findings

FSM direction states that all known Class II sites (not yet evaluated for eligibility for the NRHP) be afforded consideration and protection as Class I sites (which have been evaluated as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP) (FSM 2361).



Historic structure burned by The Hayden Pass Fire.

While visiting heritage resources within the burn area to determine possible emergency stabilization/protection measures two new cultural resource Isolated Finds (IFs), both historic Class III sites, were discovered. Also, one newly discovered Class II site, remnants of a historic cabin most likely associated with the historic Hayden Pass Road and three structures located on state lands were also encountered in the APE.

The following cultural resources were inspected for post fire concerns:

5FN.765- The Historic Hayden Pass Road-The Hayden Pass Road is a historic road used for freighting and passenger travel after 1880. Previously though it was likely a route used by the Ute Indians for passage into the San Luis Valley from the Arkansas River. The road

was recorded in the late 1960s and carries an 'undermined' eligibility. No post fire issues were observed.

Site #1- During suppression activities the Jackson Hotshot crew encountered historic cabin remnants just off of the Hayden Pass Road. Cabin remnants and associated historic artifacts were encountered on the site. The fire burned at a very low intensity, but did burn the remnants of the structure. Due to the site's location the likelihood of erosion causing more damage to the site is very minimal. No post fire issues were observed.

State Cabins- Three structures located on state managed lands were encountered. Although the cabins are not within the immediate burn area, the potential for a flood off of the burn could cause damage to the structures.

III. Treatments and Recommendations

A. Emergency Stabilization

Among the qualifying sites that were monitored only one of the following was found to have values at risk:

State Cabins- As stated earlier, three cabins located on state managed lands are at risk of being adversely affected by run off and flooding off of the Hayden Creek Fire. It is recommended that the Colorado State Land Board Trust be contacted and informed of this potential hazard.

IV. Consultations

Proposed BAER treatments range from ground disturbing activities with the potential to adversely affect significant cultural resources to activities such as patrols, signage, and closure that have little to no potential for effects. Activities of particular concern are road treatments, culvert removals and replacements, hazard tree removals, drill seeding treatments, and mine adit closures. These activities are undertakings that will require NHPA Section 106 consultation with the Colorado SHPO and affected Indian tribes prior to their implementation.

Forest Service and BLM archeologists will work with the BAER Team Implementation Leader and individual resource specialists to identify site specific treatments and their potential to affect significant cultural resources. Each Agency will prepare a report documenting the proposed treatments for review and comment by the consulting parties to fulfill its NHPA Section 106 responsibilities.

V. BAER Team Members

Forest Service:

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