



NATURAL RECOVERY IS PREFERABLE

BAER efforts aim to minimize threats to life or property. They work to prevent further degradation to critical natural and cultural resources resulting from the effects of a wildfire.

Policy, Direction, and Program

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation activities are an integral part of wildfire incidents. Unlike wildfires; however, the activities are planned, programmed, and funded through two different programs.

Objective and Priority

BAER efforts aim to minimize threats by prescribing and implementing emergency treatments to minimize threats to life or property or to stabilize and prevent further unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources resulting from the effects of a fire.



BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

New Mexico Homeland Security & Emergency Management 505-476-0626

Santa Fe National Forest 505-438-5321

BIA Northern Pueblo Agency 505-753-1452

BIA Southern Pueblo Agency 505-563-3601

Valles Caldera Trust 505-428-7728

BAER

BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE



New Mexico Locust

After the fire, there may be a necessity to determine if emergency stabilization measures are needed. A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team is comprised of technical specialists who work to identify significant post fire effects, to help Federal land management agencies develop an emergency response plan.



WHAT BAER CAN DO

SEED FOR EROSION CONTROL OR SOIL STABILITY

INSTALL EROSION CONTROL TO STABILIZE CRITICAL CULTURAL SITES

INSTALL TEMPORARY BARRIERS TO PROTECT TREATED OR RECOVERING AREAS

INSTALL WARNING SIGNS

REPLACE MINOR SAFETY RELATED FACILITIES

INSTALL APPROPRIATE-SIZED DRAINAGE FEATURES ON ROADS AND TRAILS

PREVENT PERMANENT LOSS OF THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

PLANT STERILE GRASSES TO SUPPRESS NOXIOUS WEEDS

MONITOR BAER TREATMENTS

WHAT BAER CANNOT DO

REPLANT COMMERCIAL FORESTS OR GRASS FOR FORAGE

EXCAVATE OR INTERPRET CULTURAL SITES

REPLACE BURNED FENCES ON PRIVATE LAND

INSTALL INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

REPLACE BURNED BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, CORRALS AND OTHER BUILDINGS

REPAIR ROADS DAMAGED BY FLOODS AFTER THE FIRE

REPLACE BURNED HABITAT

TREAT PRE-EXISTING NOXIOUS WEEDS

MONITOR FIRE EFFECTS

Tell me more

WHAT BAER TEAMS DO

1. Determine if emergency, human health, and or safety issues exist.
2. Mitigate significant threats to health, safety, life, property, and downstream values at risk.
3. Minimize emergency conditions to stabilize soil, control water, sediment and debris movement, and prevent impairment of ecosystems.



IN THE SHORT-TERM

Rehab Suppression Actions: While firefighters try to minimize the impacts to the landscape sometimes damage occurs. Restoration of dozer lines and hand lines, seeding and berm removal, and hazard tree removal along road ways are some of the first actions and first steps towards rehabilitation taken by the suppression forces.

Damage assessment: In order to understand how the landscape may respond to a burned area, scientists measure the damage and make recommendations that will attempt to stabilize the landscape prior to damaging storms.

about BAER

Make a Plan: Based on field work and assessments, an Emergency Stabilization Plan is written and given to the agencies involved to review, fund and implement emergency treatments.

Action: Some treatments may begin immediately such as sandbagging and the placing of concrete barriers for flood protection. After the fire has been contained, plants will grow back and soils will begin to stabilize. Further treatments can include such things as seeding, mulching, culvert cleaning and removing debris from water systems.

LOOKING AHEAD

Emergency treatments installed during the first year following the fire will be monitored and maintained up to three years. It will take many years in some locations for the vegetation to recover to pre-fire conditions.

