

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)

Post-Fire BAER Assessment



October 6, 2018

BAER Information: (415) 881-1871

BAER UPDATE

The Forest Service's Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team has completed its field surveys and gathering post-fire data that will be documented in a BAER post-fire assessment report for the Bald Mountain and Pole Creek fires. Fire causes the loss of vegetation which exposes soil to increased erosion and water run-off – which may cause flooding and debris flows. BAER emergency stabilization efforts address immediate post-fire situation with the goal of protecting life and safety, property and infrastructure, and critical natural and cultural resources on National Forest System (NFS) lands.

The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and the Manti-La Sal National Forest are working with the Forest Service Regional Office to finalize the BAER assessment and recommended emergency response measures for funding and approval. The BAER team anticipates finalizing its report by the end of next week.

When the final report is approved and funded, implementation of authorized emergency stabilization treatments on NFS lands will be coordinated with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Utah Department of Transportation, and Utah County, along with other state and local agencies responsible for flood control, emergency response, and assistance to landowners downstream of burned area federal lands.

For the past few days, the Bald Mountain and Pole Creek burn scars have experienced some rain events. While out in the burned areas, BAER specialists report seeing minor debris, sediment, and ash flows in the various creeks and drainages within and downstream of the fires. BAER team photos of some of these events can be found at this InciWeb link: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/photographs/6236/>.

With additional fall rain and storms being called for in the current weather forecast for the Wasatch Front, the BAER team reminds forest visitors and residents adjacent to or downstream from the Bald Mountain and Pole Creek burn scars to pay attention to National Weather Service weather watches and warnings.

SPECIAL NOTE: *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 scars. 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/slc/.*

Bald Mtn-Pole Creek Post-Fire BAER Assessment information is available at
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6236/>.

