

## Colville National Forest

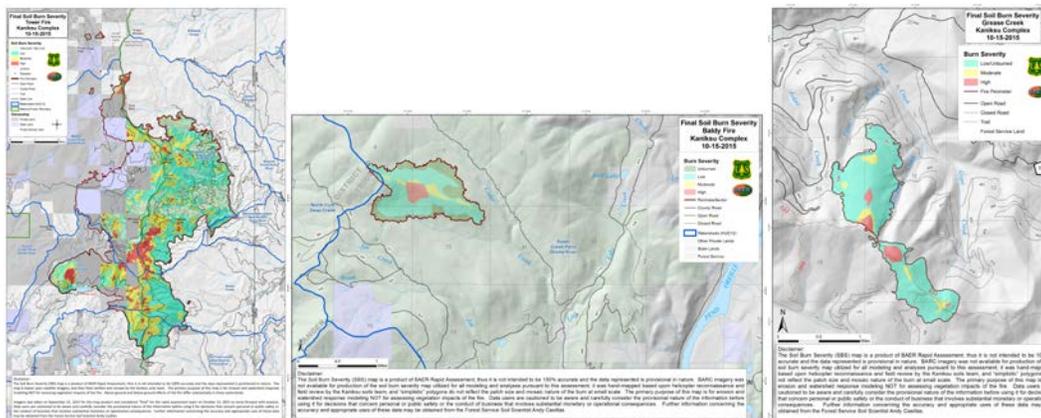
## Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)

## Post-Fire BAER Assessment &amp; Implementation



BAER Information: (415) 881-1871

## KANIKSU COMPLEX: TOWER, BALDY, & GREASE CREEK POST-FIRE BAER SOIL BURN SEVERITY MAPS RELEASED



**Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)** specialists recently completed their data gathering and verification field work for the 6,700 acres of the [Kaniksu Complex \(Tower, Baldy and Grease Creek Fires\)](#) that burned on the [Colville National Forest \(NF\)](#), 12,100 acres that burned on the [Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#), and finalized **Soil Burn Severity** maps for each of the three **Kaniksu Complex** fires. Also burned in the [Tower Fire](#) were approximately 4,900 acres of private and 2,200 acres of **Washington State** lands. **BAER** soil burn severity mapping levels are 1) Unburned/Very Low, 2) Low, 3) Moderate, and 4) High.

The maps show that approximately: 57% of the 24,700 acres analyzed by the **BAER** team within the fire perimeters of the **Tower Fire** are either unburned or have a low soil burn severity, while 34% sustained a moderate soil burn severity and 9% received a high soil burn severity; 86% of the 500 acres analyzed by the **BAER** team within the fire perimeters of the **Baldy Fire** are either unburned or have a low soil burn severity, while 7% sustained a moderate soil burn severity and 7% received a high soil burn severity; and 88% of the 700 acres analyzed by the **BAER** team within the fire perimeters of the **Grease Fire** are either unburned or have a low soil burn severity, while 32% sustained a moderate soil burn severity and 10% received a high soil burn severity.

The **BAER** assessment team used the map and field assessments to estimate potential impacts to human life, safety, property, natural and cultural resources from storm events and considered emergency stabilization options to **BAER** critical values-at-risk.

**BAER** assessment team leader **Mary Moore** stated, "The high and moderate soil burn severity watersheds in the **Kaniksu Complex** have the potential for increased runoff, erosion, and debris flows after intense rain storm events which can create a concern for public safety, homes near stream channels, roads, and trails downslope and downstream from the burned area. The public should stay alert to their surroundings this winter for rain-on-snow events and next summer if summer thunderstorms are predicted."

The soil burn severity **BAER** map showing the **Colville NF** and **Idaho Panhandle NF** burned acres can be downloaded at the "[2015 Colville NF 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\\_gtr243.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr243.pdf).

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Everyone near and downstream from the **Kaniksu Complex** burned 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, Spokane Office** (<http://www.wr.noaa.gov/otx/>) website.

Colville NF Post-Fire BAER Assessment & Implementation information is available at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4646/>.

