

# COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE [BAER] PLAN

## RENNER FIRE RECREATION RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

### I. OBJECTIVES

- Assess effects of the fire to the health and safety of recreationists.
- Evaluate recreation facilities for potential damage as a result of changed watershed conditions and fire damaged vegetation.
- Evaluate threat to critical resources from potential erosion from trails.
- Prescribe emergency stabilization measures and/or monitoring.

### II. ISSUES

- The Colville National Forest lands within and adjacent to the Renner Fire are very important to the local community.
- Renner Lake and dispersed recreation sites are located within the fire perimeter. Davis Lake Campground is just outside the fire perimeter.
- The moderately used Thompson Ridge ATV Trail is within the fire perimeter.
- The area within the Renner Fire on the Colville National Forest is popular for hunting, primarily for big game.

### III. OBSERVATIONS

#### Background

Davis Lake Campground and Renner lake dispersed campsites are moderately used recreational areas mostly used by local people to fish and camp. Davis Lake Campground is located just outside the fire perimeter, and is not threatened by post-fire erosion/debris flows. Renner Lake appears to be unaffected by fire, when observed from an aerial reconnaissance.

Northeast Washington is very popular for big game hunting. This area of the Colville National Forest attracts many hunters.

Thompson Ridge ATV Trail travels along the ridge and bisects most of the Renner Fire, passing through a range of burn intensity zones.

### IV. FINDINGS

#### Reconnaissance Methodology and Results

Field assessments of the recreation sites and trails were conducted on September 25 & 27, 2015. An aerial reconnaissance was made of the fire on September 24. After completing the field assessment, reconnaissance

was made by reviewing post-fire burn intensity maps and severity maps. The purpose of the reconnaissance was to determine and assess potential negative effects on recreation sites and trails attributable to the wildfire.

### Trails

Thompson Ridge ATV Trail is the only formal trail within the fire area. It is mostly on a ridgetop as it travels north from Davis Lake, until it descends towards South Fork Boulder Creek. There is a steeper section approximately 2 miles long at the north end of the trail that burned in low, moderate, and high fire areas.



### Trailheads

There does not appear to be any formal trailheads with amenities associated with either end of the Thompson Ridge ATV trail, supporting the assumption that the trail is mostly used by locals, who are very familiar with the area. No BAER treatment is proposed.

### Renner Lake Dispersed Campsites

From an aerial observation Renner Lake appears to be unaffected by fire. However, there may be some amount of low intensity fire on the ground. No on-site inspection was made of Renner Lake due to time constraints. Even though this is not a developed campground, it has a known history of use and a thorough inspection of the site should be completed prior to allowing the public into the area to ensure hazards are mitigated.



Aerial view of Renner Lake and slope above lake



#### IV. EMERGENCY STABILIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Trail and Recreation Area Hazard Warning Signs**

Description: Purchase and install signs at Renner Lake dispersed site and at both termini of the Thompson Ridge ATV Trail. The signs will warn of increased hazards due to post fire conditions, including falling snags, rolling debris, and flooding.

Monitoring: Regularly patrol recreation areas and trailheads to ensure signs are posted. Replace signs when necessary.

- **Clean Existing Trail Drainage Structures**

Description: Clean existing trail drainage structures and remove slough and berm from tread on northern 2 miles of the Thompson Ridge ATV trail. Work should be performed prior to snowfall in order to be functional for spring snowmelt or a seasonal rain-on-snow event could prove catastrophic.

Monitoring: Inspect trails after major precipitation events and after spring runoff to assess effectiveness of erosion control structures at diverting water from trail surface.

#### V. CONSULTATIONS

Name, title, and agency

Carmen Nielsen, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Colville National Forest

Lucy Reeves, Civil Engineer, Colville National Forest

#### VI. REFERENCES

Forest Service Handbook 2309.18

Prepared by:

Dave Lent, USDA Forest Service, Colville National Forest, 509-684-7203