

Colville National Forest
Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)
 Post-Fire BAER Implementation



BAER Information: (415) 881-1871

**BAER TREATMENT IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS
 ON KANIKSU COMPLEX FOR TOWER, BALDY, & GREASE CREEK BURNED
 AREAS**



A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) implementation team has begun work to install the BAER assessment team's recommended emergency stabilization treatments and measures within the 6,700 acres of the [Kaniksu Complex](#) (Tower, Baldy, and Grease Creek Fires) that burned on the [Colville National Forest](#) (NF), and the 12,100 acres that burned on the [Idaho Panhandle National Forests](#).

BAER crews working on the Kaniksu Complex reported that heavy rain and snow recently fell over portions of the burned areas. Crews continue to work clearing debris and rock from culverts, allowing run-off to move through those systems without causing additional damage.

Some road culverts are cleaned using heavy machinery while crews will hand-clear around some other culverts and to ensure that they are ready for the next rain event.

Several imminent hazardous trees were removed from work areas along Forest Service (FS) roads to provide a safe work area for crews working along the roads and trails. Trees damaged by the fires had the potential to injure or kill and were taken down as a precaution.

Meanwhile, other BAER crews are installing warning signs along FS trails, road intersections and recreation areas. "Because of the need to protect the traveling public during potential flood events, or from the danger of hazard trees and rocks falling from burned slopes, the

Forests will continue to keep roads and trails closed in key locations,” said BAER Team Leader Mary Moore.

Additionally, the BAER team completed its survey of all the fire affected trails, and removed dozens of hazard trees along trails and trailheads where BAER crews are working in the burned areas. Moore also stated that due to weather conditions, the BAER implementation team plans to complete the trail stabilization project next spring.

The BAER implementation team continues to coordinate their emergency stabilization treatments with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Washington and Idaho Departments of Transportation, Pend Oreille and Bonner Counties, other state agencies and private timber landowners.

Residents downstream of burned areas are encouraged to contact the [NRCS-Pend Oreille County](#), [NRCS-Bonner County](#), [Pend Oreille County Department of Emergency Management](#), or [Bonner County Department of Emergency Management](#) for assistance with preparing for the upcoming winter storm season and next year’s summer rains.

For safety concerns and to aid natural recovery efforts of the burned areas, please remember parts of the Colville and Idaho Panhandle National Forests are still closed to the public.

Please check with local Forest Service ranger districts for more information, or go online for Idaho Panhandle National Forests closure information at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ipnf/learning/safety-ethics/?cid=stelprd3850265, and Colville National Forest closure information at www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/colville/alerts-notice.

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.wrh.noaa.gov/otx/>) website.*

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

