



Forest Service

Region One

Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

File Code: 1500
Route To:

Date: October 26, 2017

Subject: Post Fire Response Briefing Invitation

To: Conservation Organizations, Cooperators & Other Stakeholders

We would like to invite you or a representative of your organization to attend a briefing on post-fire response efforts in the Northern Region. We have assembled a team to coordinate these efforts following the busy fire season we had in 2017. We would like to share with you information about our strategy and the technological tools we are using to assist us as we move forward with Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER), salvage harvest planning, and reforestation assessments.

We have scheduled three meetings which cover the same information:

- November 3 in Missoula at the Missoula Technology and Development Center from 2 to 4 p.m.
- November 7 in Missoula at the Fairbridge Inn from 4 to 6 p.m.
- November 9 in Kalispell at the Red Lion Inn from 2 to 4 p.m.

BAER teams are already in place and engaged with assessing and addressing the impacts to National Forest System lands from the 2017 fire season. BAER team surveys are rapid assessments of the burned areas that evaluate post-fire conditions of the burned watersheds and determine the potential for increased post-fire flooding, sediment flows, and rock slides. This data helps land managers prioritize emergency stabilization efforts which focus on the protection of human life and property, as well as critical cultural and natural resources.

Potential post-fire harvest areas have also been identified using cutting edge technology and on-the-ground assessments from resource professionals. Many areas have been excluded from further consideration for post-fire harvest, such as Wilderness, Roadless Areas, Wild and Scenic areas, Research Natural Areas (existing and proposed), municipal watersheds, historical and cultural landmarks, Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs), and land slide prone areas. Remaining areas will be further refined to minimize ecological impacts, consider community needs and public input, and prioritized to address the greatest needs.

This briefing is an opportunity to learn more about the approach and tools being used, and to provide input that can be utilized as we further refine our approach. We look forward to seeing you or a representative from your organization at one of these briefings. Please RSVP to Leona Rodreick, Public Information Officer at lmrodreick@fs.fed.us, or call (406) 329-3588, so we can make sure we have plenty of handouts for everyone.

MICHAEL T. ELSON
INCIDENT COMMANDER
POST FIRE RESPONSE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

Enclosures



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