

## FIRE REHAB: Extensive work slated to rehab forest

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some experienced low or moderate-intensity fire; and some portions of the fire area didn't burn at all.

The BAER Team on the Milli Fire was comprised of Forest Service employees with a range of resource specialties who work together to assess time-critical rehabilitation or recovery activities to be completed within a fire area. According to the Forest Service, overall objectives for BAER Teams include:

- Determine whether imminent post-wildfire threats to human life and safety, property, and critical natural or cultural resources on National Forest System lands exist and take immediate actions, as appropriate, to manage the unacceptable risks.

- If emergency conditions are identified, mitigate significant threats to health, safety, human life, property and values-at-risk.

- Prescribe emergency response actions to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effects of a fire, or to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources.

- Implement emergency response actions to help stabilize soil; control water, sediment and debris movement

and potentially reduce threats to the BAER values identified above when an analysis shows that planned actions are likely to reduce risks substantially within the first year following containment of the fire.

- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of emergency treatments that were applied on National Forest System lands.

The BAER Team for the Milli Fire used field surveys and science-based models to evaluate and assess the burned area. The BAER Team's focus was on minimizing potential post-fire effects to life, property, and critical natural or cultural resources. The team completed its final report for the Deschutes National Forest on September 21, and made the following recommendations:

- Invasive weed detection and treatment along several Forest Service roads and Highway 242 that were of high to moderate burn severity. It is expected that the detection will occur across 205 acres and will require 20 acres of treatment within those 205 acres.

- Storm-proofing of roads in areas with high and moderate burn severity. This will include cleaning culverts and installing additional water bars to handle short-term sediment and debris flows. This activity will occur on 3.4 miles of road.

- Installing drainage features on roads downslope or within the high and moderate burn severity areas. This work will occur on 2.2 miles of road.

- Trailhead hazard tree

mitigation will continue to mitigate hazard trees adjacent to trailheads as additional tree mortality is expected from the fire in the next few months. Areas of particular concern are Scott Pass and Lava Camp Lake trailheads.

- Trail stabilization that includes installing drainage, waterbars and removing snags as necessary. Primary areas of concern are the Pacific Crest, North Matthieu Lake, Millican Crater, Scott Pass, Green Lakes, Trout Creek Tie and Black Crater trails.

- Install trail and road hazard signs to inform the public about the dangers associated with recreating within the burn area.

- Temporarily closing access roads with boulders accessing four campsites within Lava Camp Lake Campground (seven sites to remain open) and the Black Crater trailhead access. These areas will be reevaluated and may be reopened when hazards are no longer a threat to public safety.

The total request for funds for Milli Fire rehabilitation and recovery work based on the BAER Team's recommendation was \$131,212.

In addition to the work



PHOTO BY CEILI CORNELIUS

Some areas of the Milli Fire burned at high intensity.

that will be completed under the BAER Team assessment, suppression crews and contractors are continuing repair of suppression lines associated with the Milli Fire to mitigate adverse effects to resources resulting from fire suppression activities. This includes:

- Rehabilitation and recovery of constructed suppression lines including dozer lines (11.4 miles), hand lines (1.3 miles), safety zones and helispots.

- Repair to roads and trails used as suppression lines. Roads (50.9 miles) and trails (0.75 miles) may need to be graded/reconstructed or have drainage repaired. Danger trees are being mitigated this fall along approximately 18.1 miles of open roads including

6.9 miles of Highway 242. In areas where felled danger trees are not necessary to meet resource goals and would create an unsafe accumulation of fuels or would be a roadside hazard, trees have been decked and will be sold commercially or as personal use firewood.

Over the next year the Sisters Ranger District will assess the need to complete additional resource protection or repair roads, trails, or other infrastructure in the Milli Fire area that cannot be addressed through BAER or suppression repair authorities. The District is also beginning to assess the need to conduct salvage logging projects along roads or areas affected by the fire.

## DRONES: Tech offers tool for vineyard management

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Garms were surveying a field where the grapevines had been infected with red blotch disease, a viral infection that hampers fruit production. Wing said the flight was the fourth in a series of five monthly flyovers at the field where he and Garms were using an infrared camera to look for the disease. Wing said that they are testing whether the infrared camera can detect the disease earlier, because the cameras can see shades of red on the grapevine leaves that the human eye cannot see.

Wing said he and his team will need to confirm the presence of the red blotch virus with genetic testing and have

months of data analysis to do, but early signs are that the method is promising.

"Hopefully, this would allow (vineyard owners) to know there is a problem earlier," he said. "Potentially, this could be a really valuable tool."

Wing added that there aren't any treatments for red blotch disease except containment, so an early detection method could help vineyard owners keep healthy plants from getting infected.

Garms, a doctoral student, said he thinks someday there likely will be companies that travel around hiring out drone surveying services for vineyard owners. He said he's thought of doing that kind of work himself when he finishes his studies.

"In the future, this could be as common as having your soil tested," Garms said.

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