Burned Area Emergency Response

with the US Forest Service

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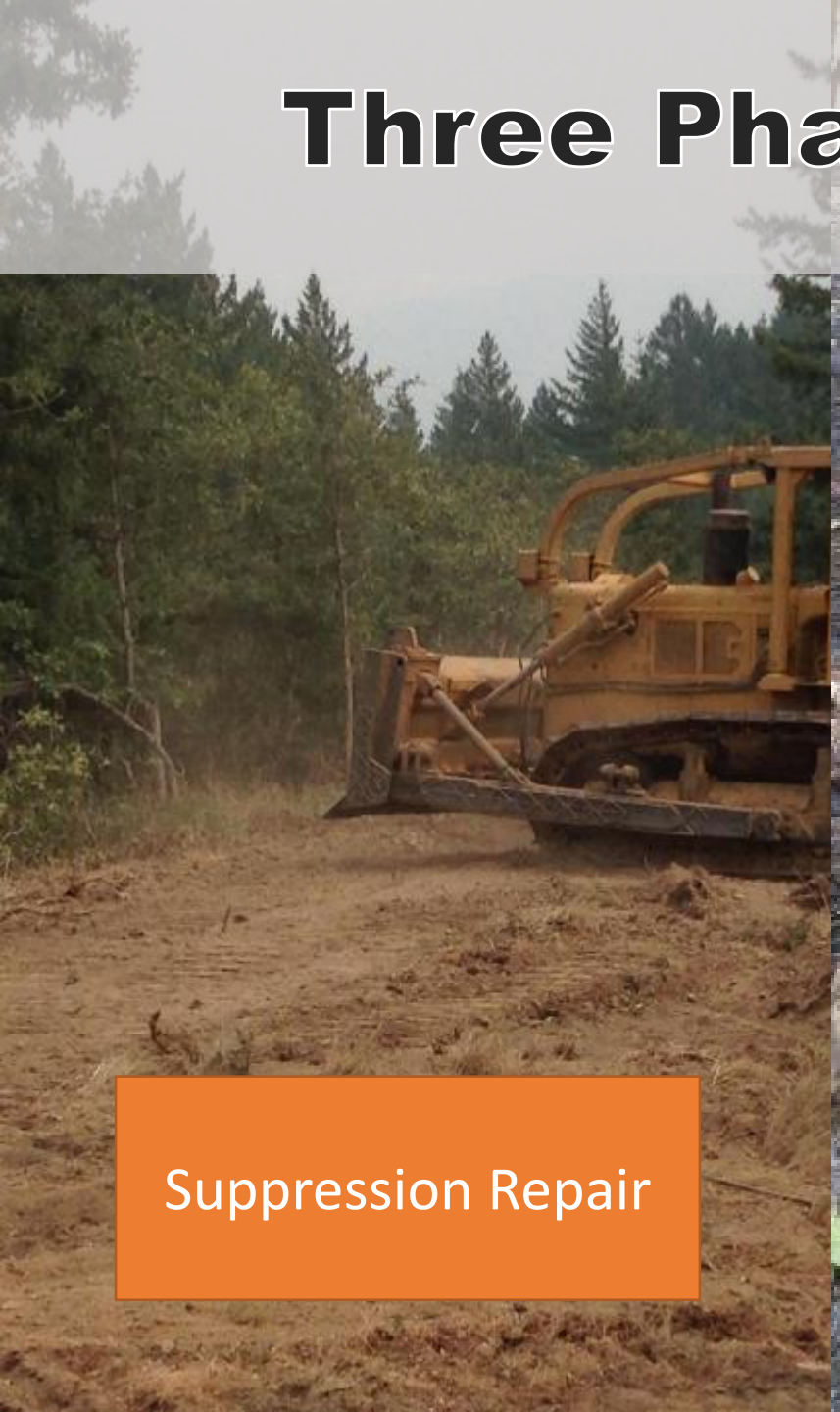
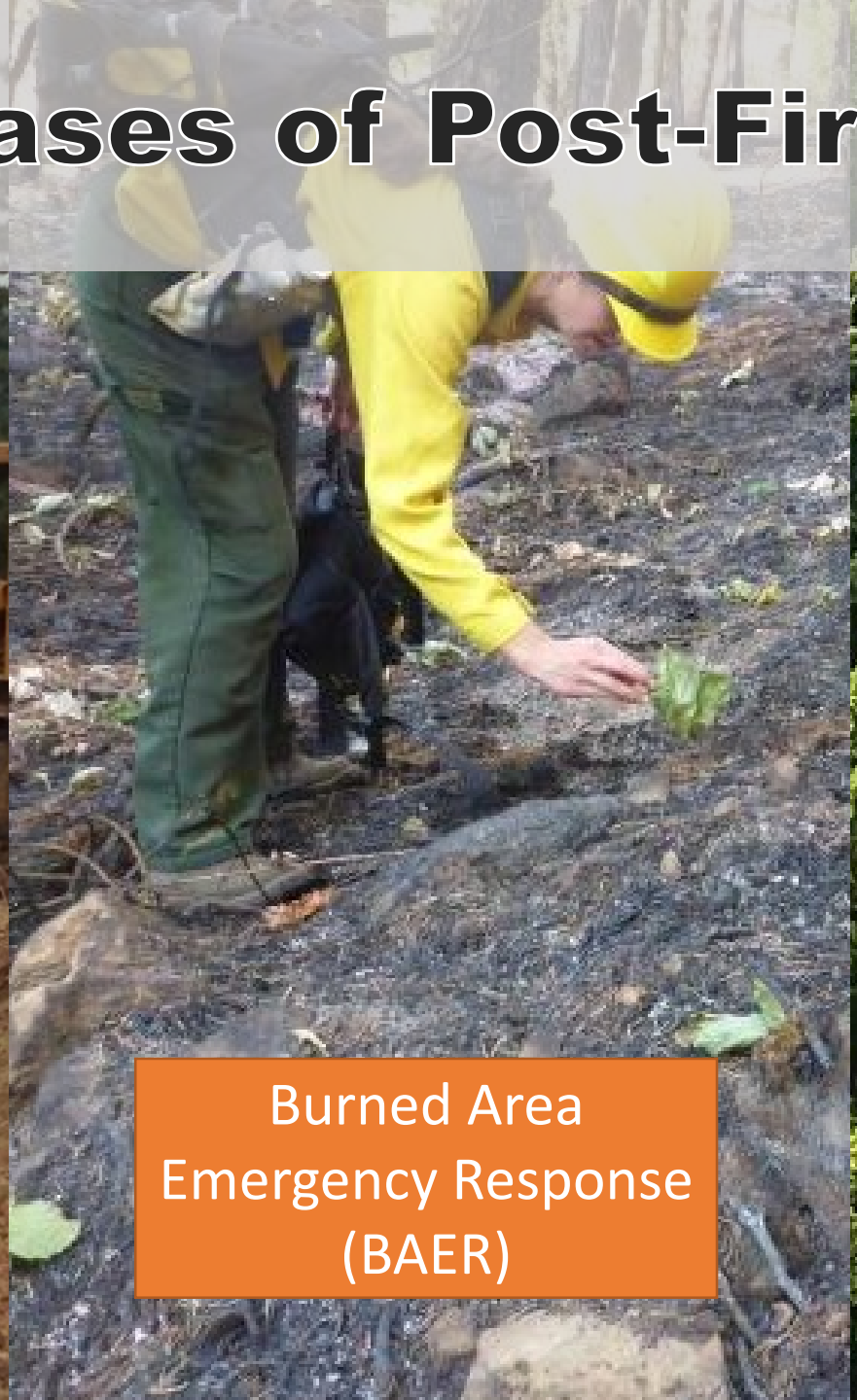
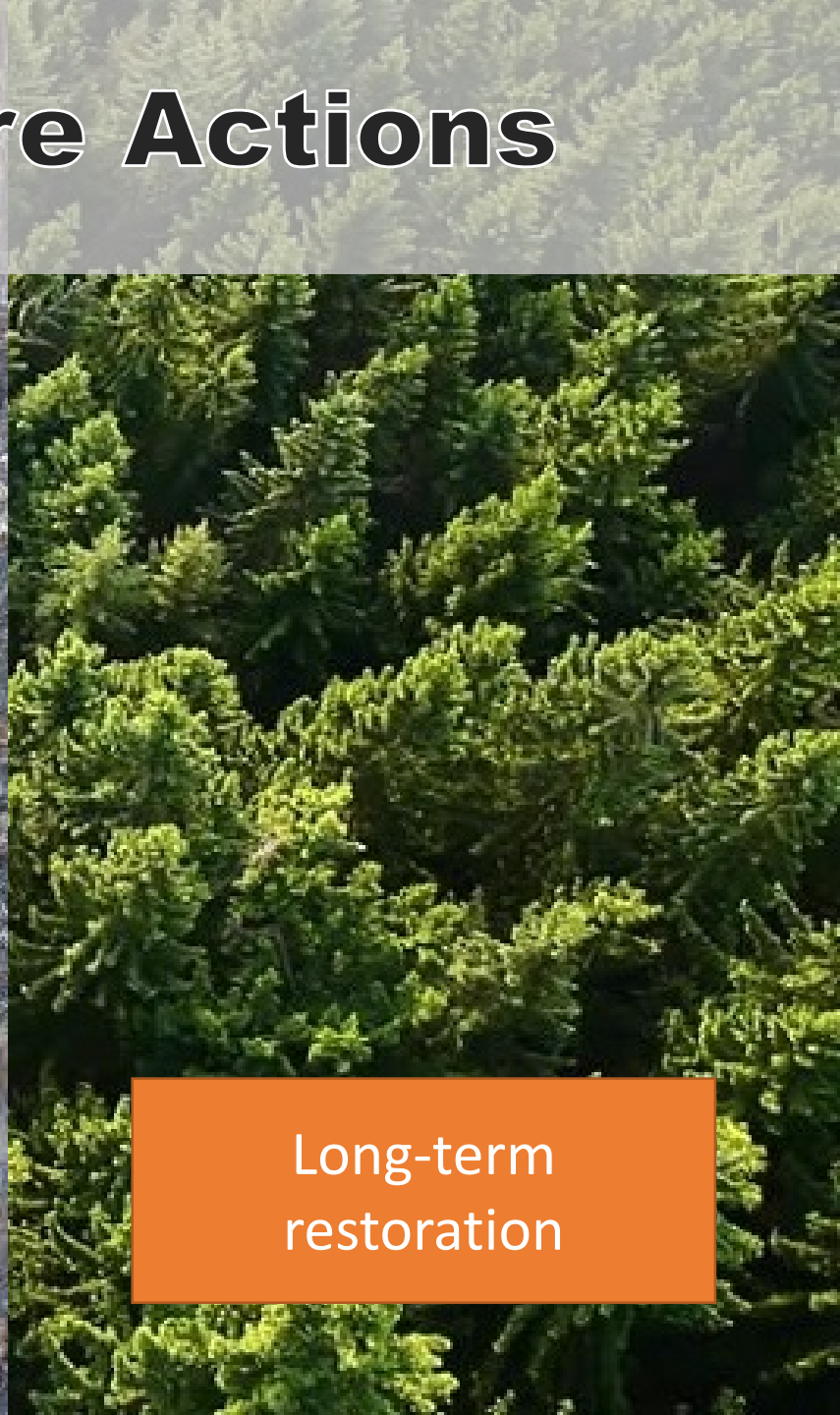
Three Phases of Post-Fire Actions



Suppression Repair



Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)



Long-term restoration

What is BAER?

A program to identify imminent post-wildfire threats to

human life and safety

property

natural or cultural resources

on NFS lands

and take immediate actions to manage unacceptable risks

What BAER is <u>not</u>

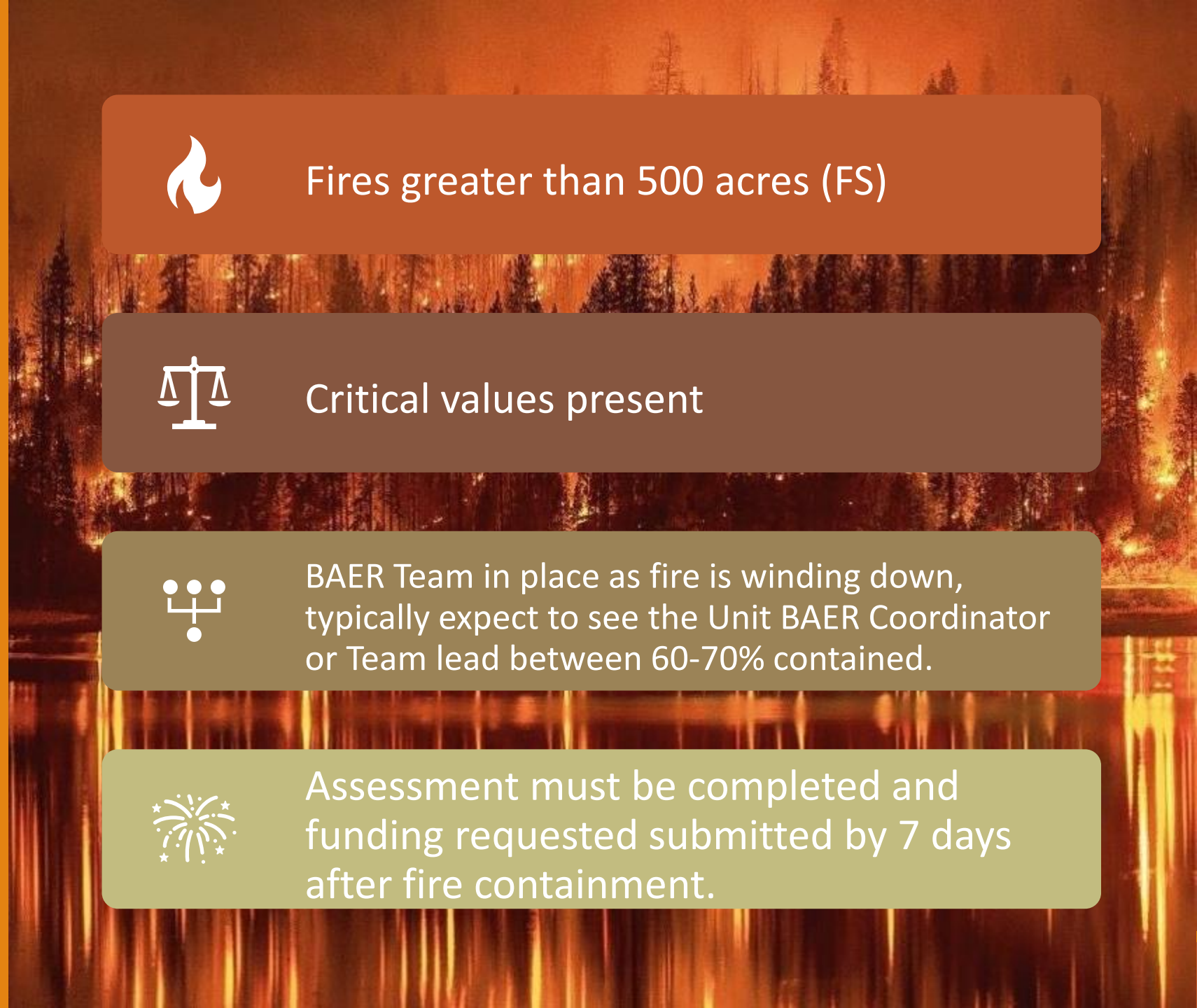
Fire suppression damage repair

Restoration of fire damages

Repair of post-fire flood damages

Long-term fire rehab & restoration

When does BAER happen?



- Fires greater than 500 acres (FS)
- Critical values present
- BAER Team in place as fire is winding down, typically expect to see the Unit BAER Coordinator or Team lead between 60-70% contained.
- Assessment must be completed and funding requested submitted by 7 days after fire containment.

The BAER Process

Step 1. Identify critical values

Step 2. Assess for threats

Step 3. Evaluate risk

Step 4. Develop response strategy

Step 5. Implement the strategy

1. Identify critical values on National Forest Lands potentially affected by the burned area.

Life and Safety
Property
Natural Resources
Cultural Resources

2. Assess for Threats and Evaluate Risk

Soil Burn Severity

Geologic Hazards

Erosion and Flooding

Hazard Trees

Non-native species

3. BAER Risk Assessment

Each BAER critical value and threat combination is evaluated for risk

1 – Magnitude of consequence

2 – Probability of damage or loss

Probability of Damage or Loss	Magnitude of Consequences		
	Major (Life loss, substantial/ irreversible damage)	Moderate (Injury of life, long term resource effects)	Minor (no injury, recoverable loss)
	RISK		
Very Likely (>90%)	**Very High**	**Very High**	**Low**
Likely (50-90%)	**Very High**	**High**	**Low**
Possible (10-50%)	**High**	**Intermediate**	**Low**
Unlikely (<10%)	**Intermediate**	**Low**	**Very Low**

4. Develop Response Strategy

1. Natural Recovery
2. Closures/warnings
3. Treatments
   - Proven effectiveness
   - Substantially reduce risk in first year
   - Minimal action
   - Cost is economically justified
   - Can be completed before damage is expected

Typical Treatments

Land

- Mulching
- ED/RR (invasive plants)

Channel

- Check dams

Road/Trail

- Drainage improvements

Protection and Safety

- Warning signs
- Hazard removal

Step 5. Implement

Timing is Critical!

Measures must be completed before the first damaging events and no later than one year from fire containment!

BAER Timelines

Assessment:

Typically 7-10 days

Authorization:

RO/WO have 3 days to review and respond

Implementation:

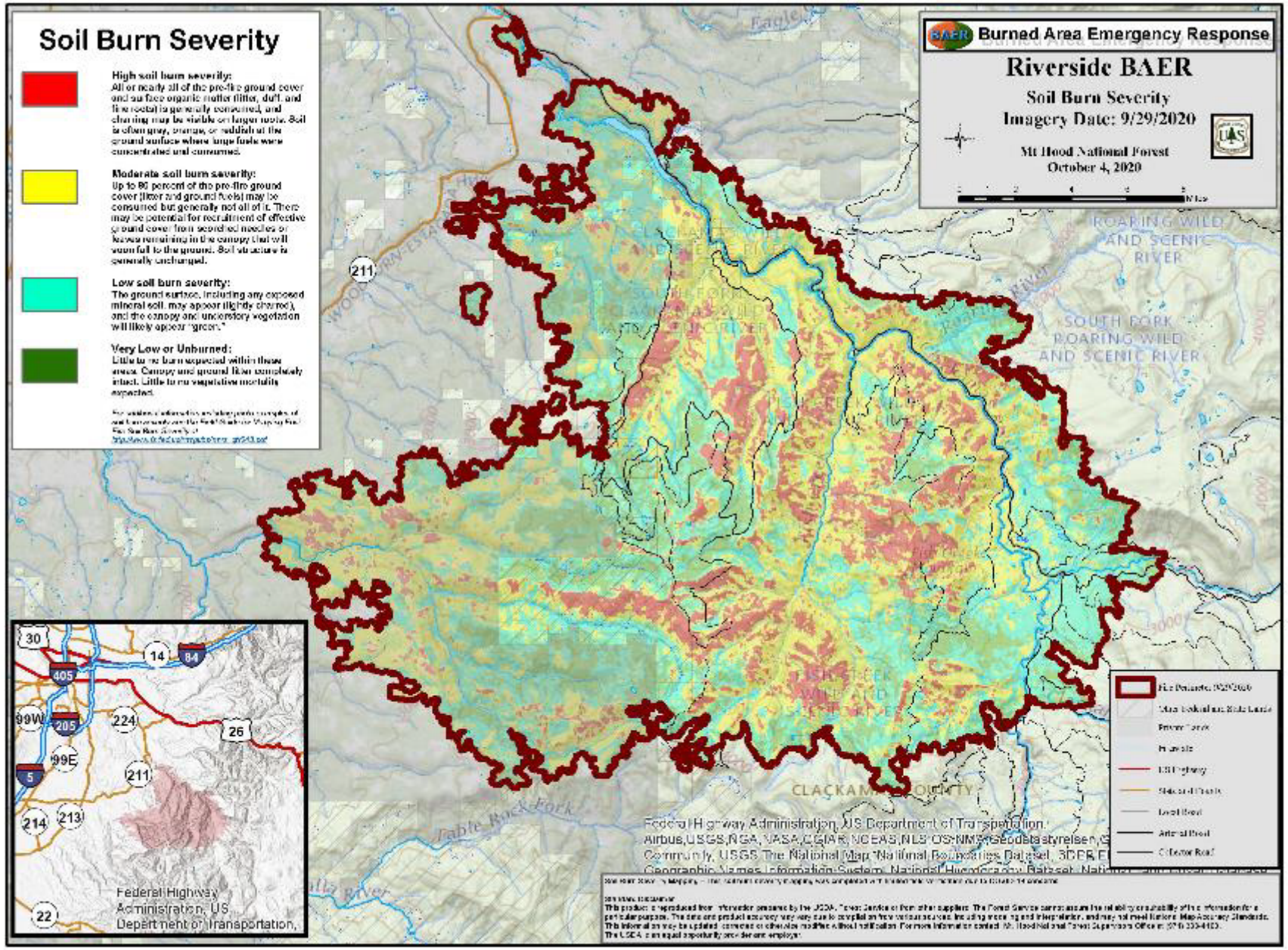
ASAP and no longer than 1 year from containment

Accomplishment reporting:

Date found in authorization letter

What about risks to values outside of USFS responsibility?

2020 Oregon Wildfires



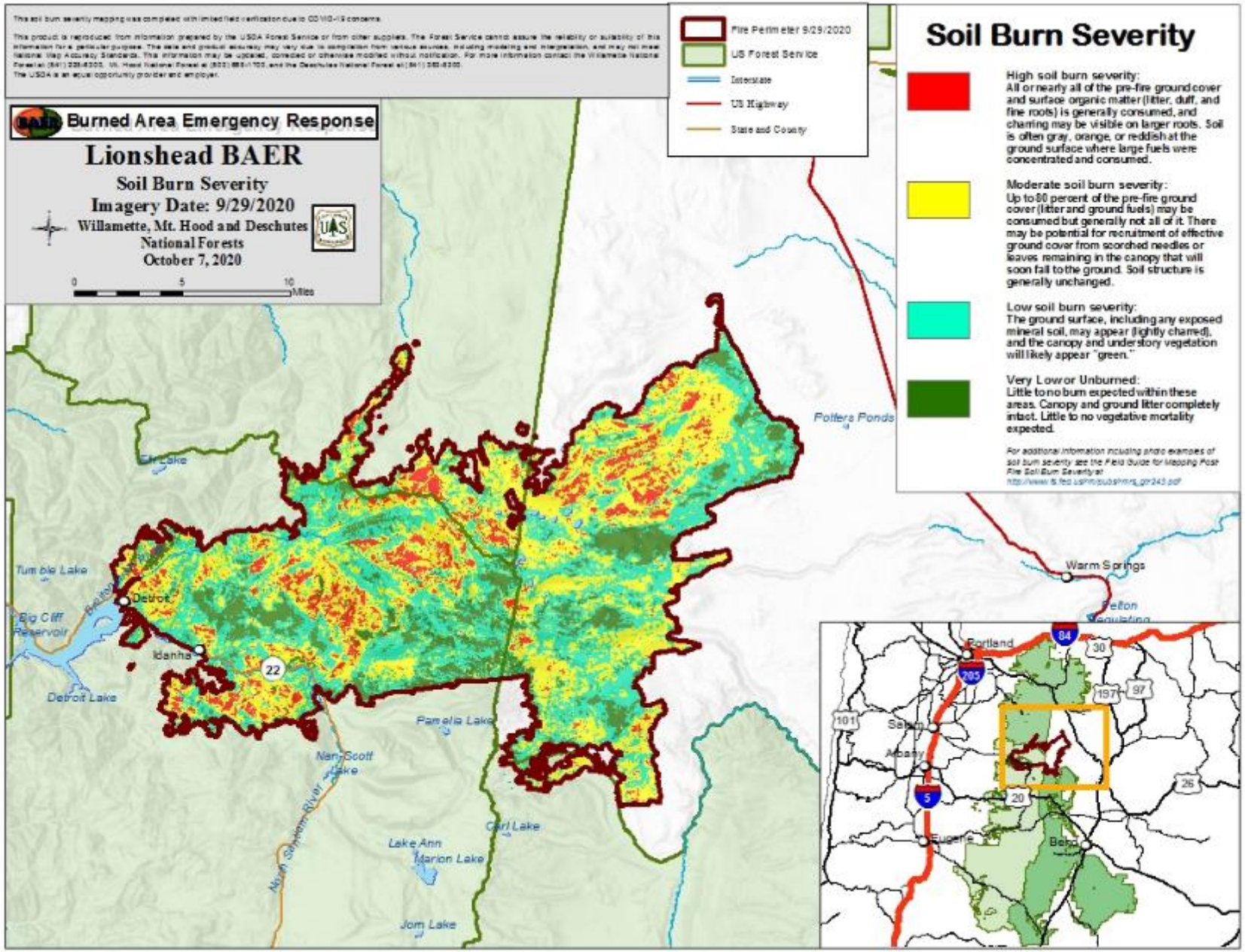
Riverside

Mt Hood National Forest

138,000 acres

NFS	62%
BLM	8%
State	1%
Private	29%

Unburned	13%
Low	35%
Moderate	40%
High	12%



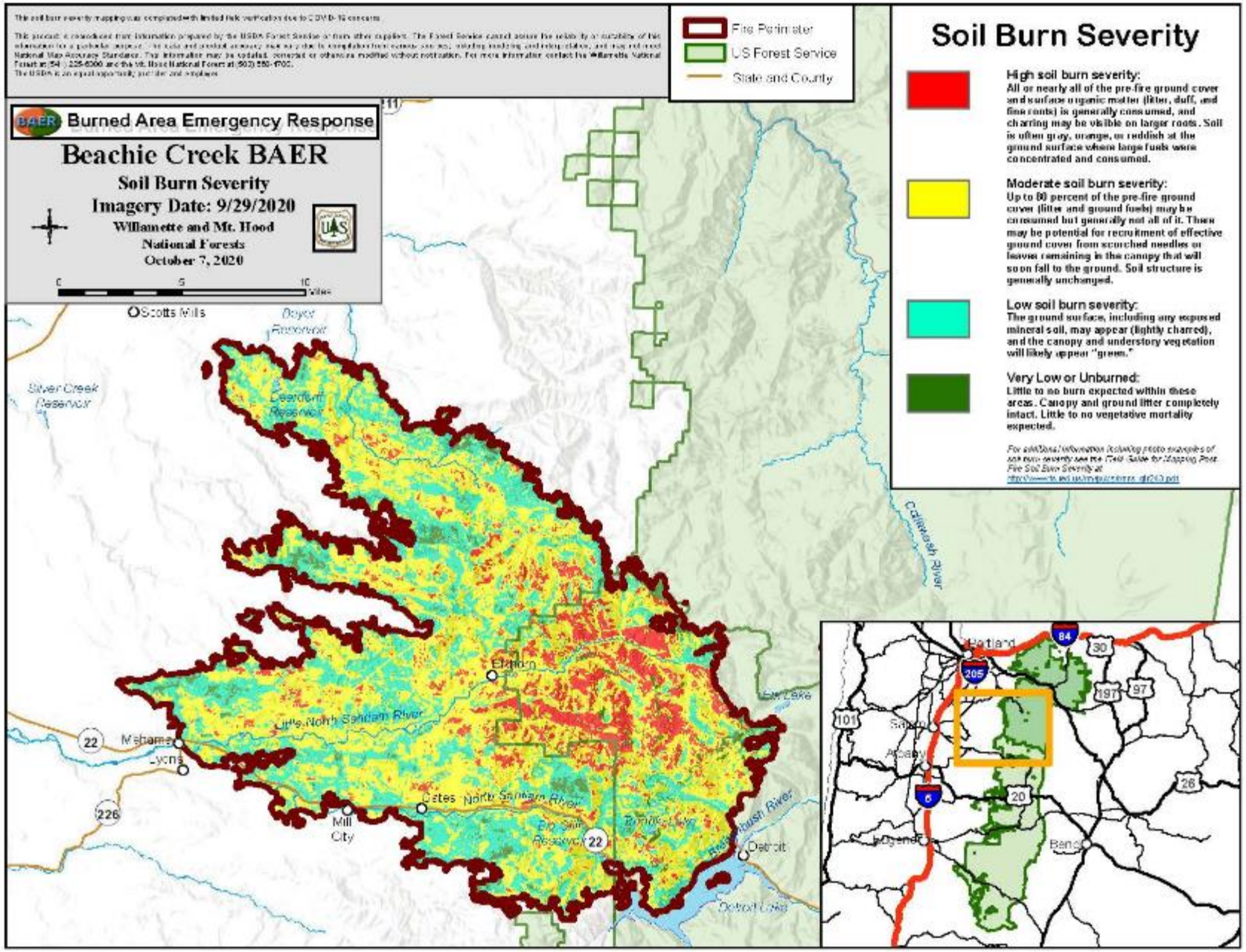
Lionshead

Willamette , Mt Hood, Deschutes National Forests

204,000 acres

NFS	51%
BIA	45%
State	<1%
Private	3%

Unburned	14%
Low	38%
Moderate	39%
High	9%



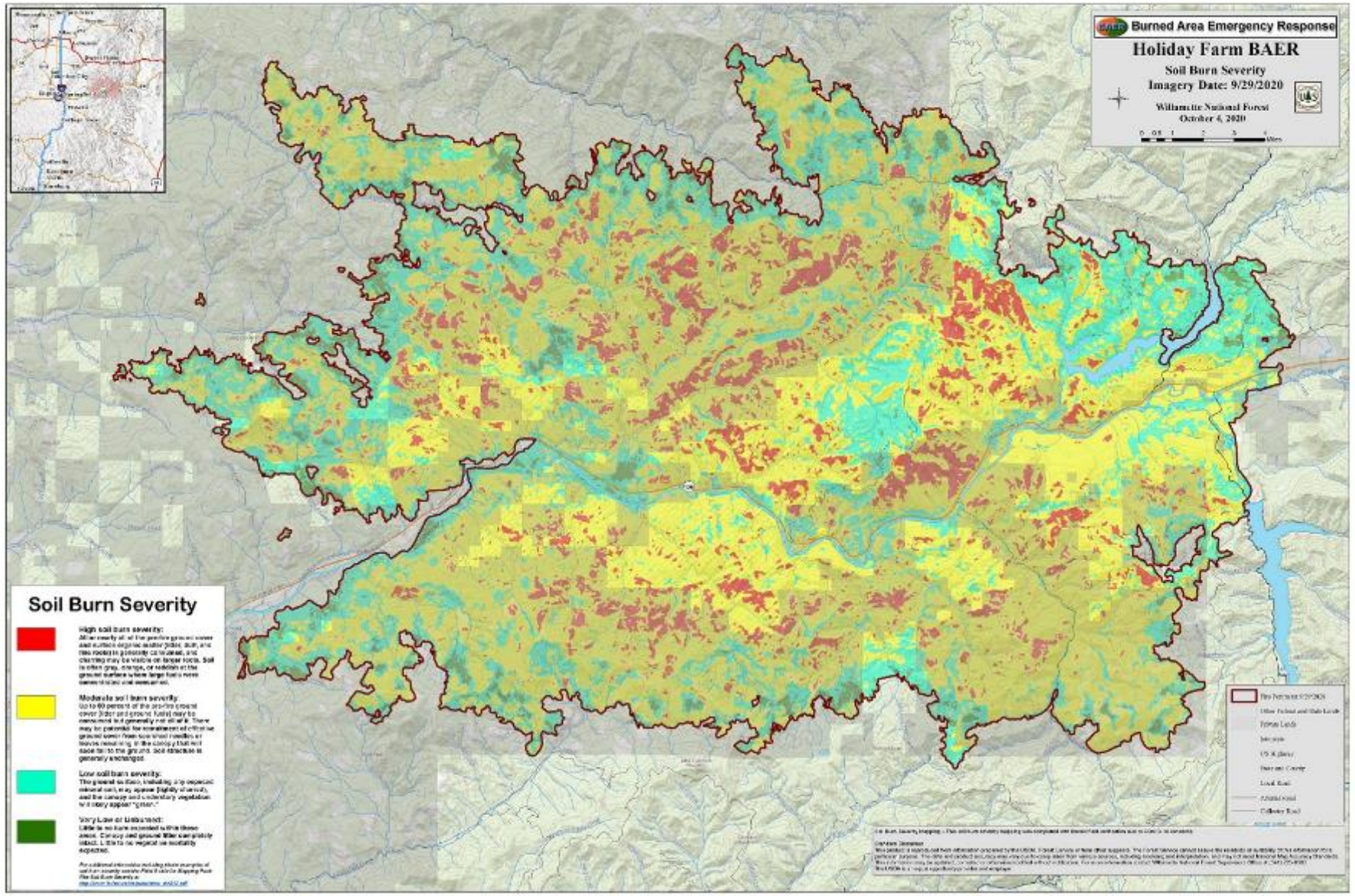
Beachie Creek

Willamette and Mt Hood National Forests

193,000 acres

NFS	26%
BLM	20%
State	12%
Private	41%

Unburned	4%
Low	33%
Moderate	52%
High	11%



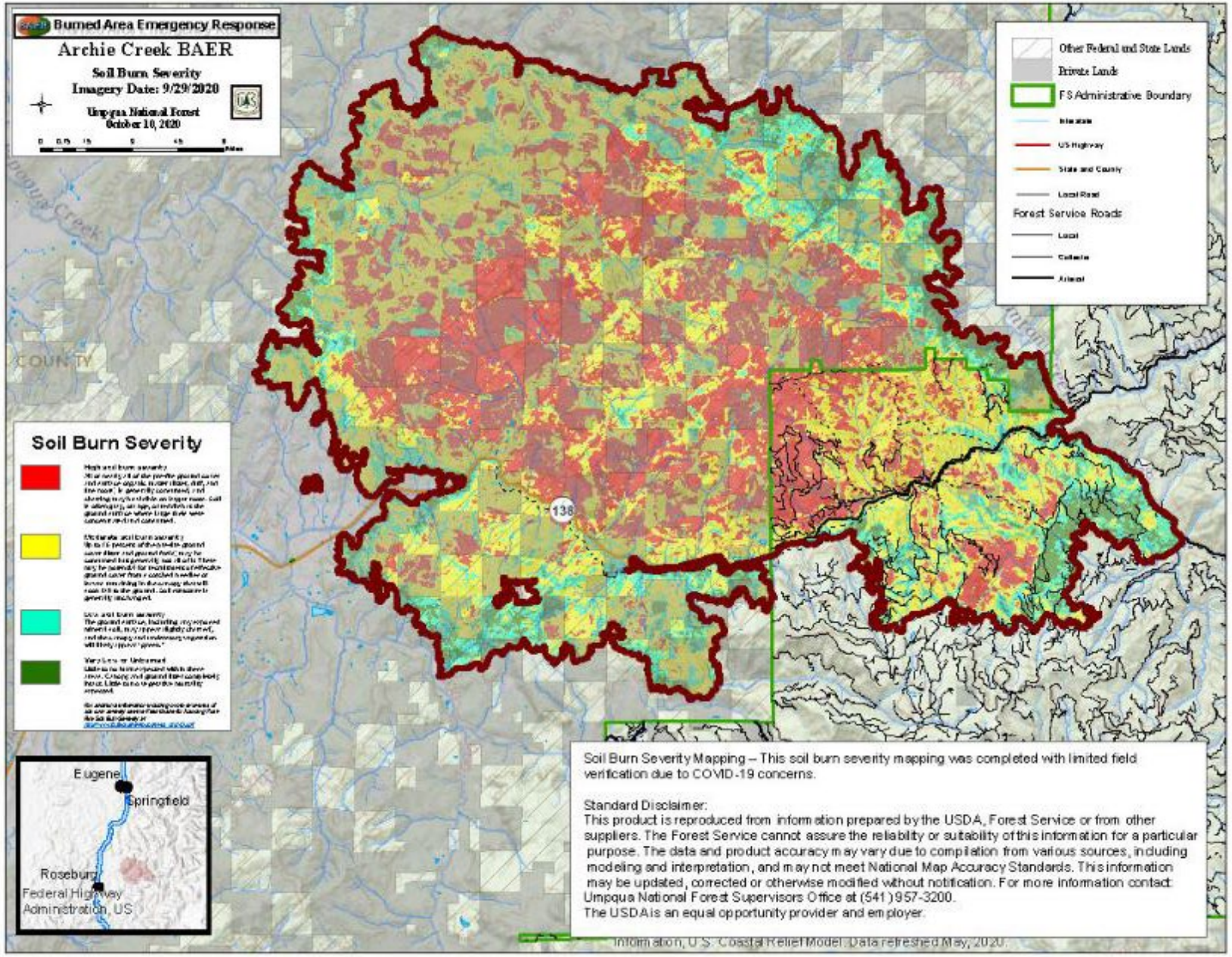
Holiday Farm

Willamette National Forest

173,000 acres

NFS	23%
BLM	12%
State	0%
Private	65%

Unburned	3%
Low	34%
Moderate	54%
High	8%



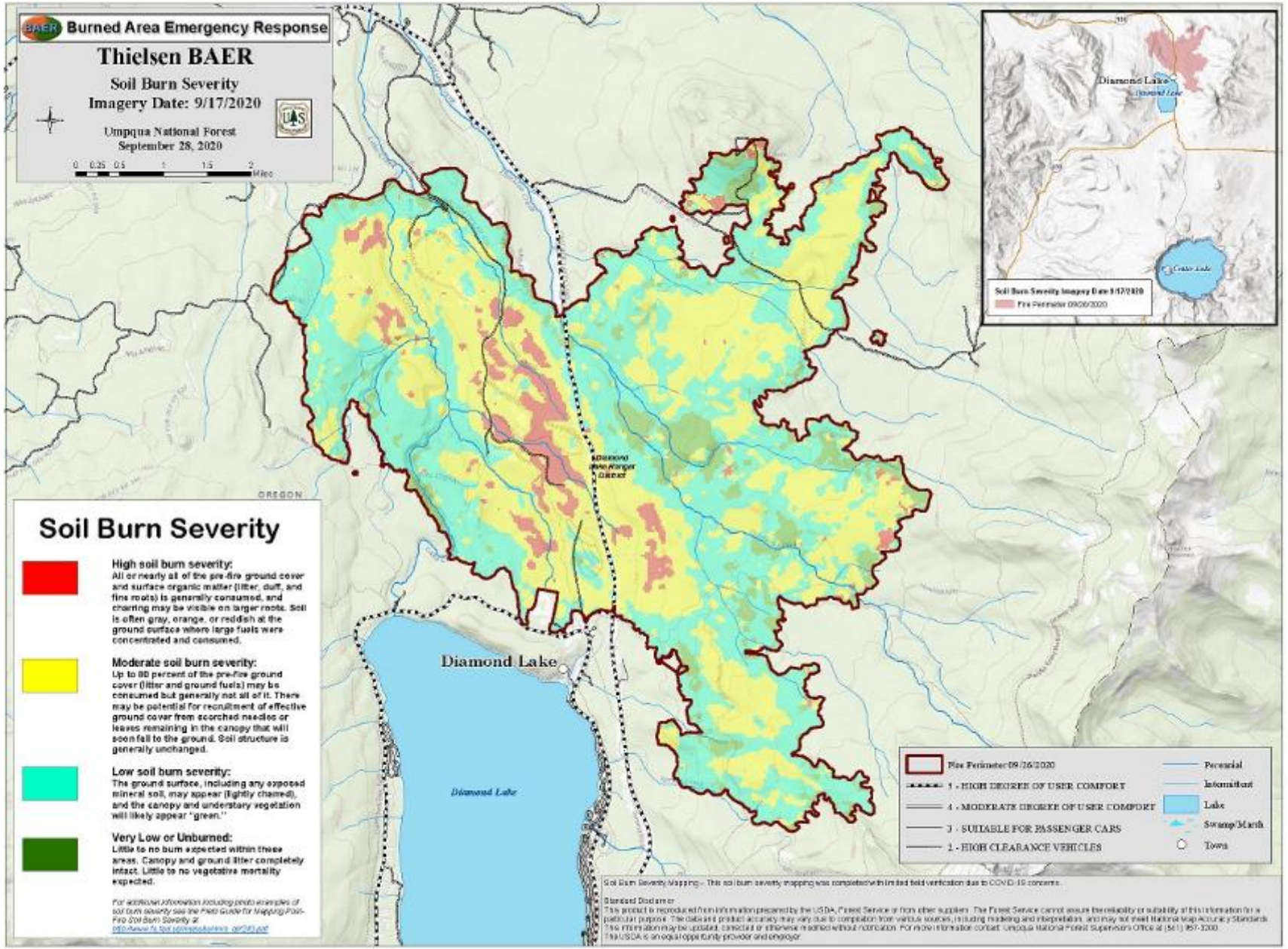
Archie Creek

Umpqua National Forest

132,000 acres

NFS	20%
BLM	31%
State	<1%
Private	49%

Unburned	9%
Low	14%
Moderate	44%
High	33%



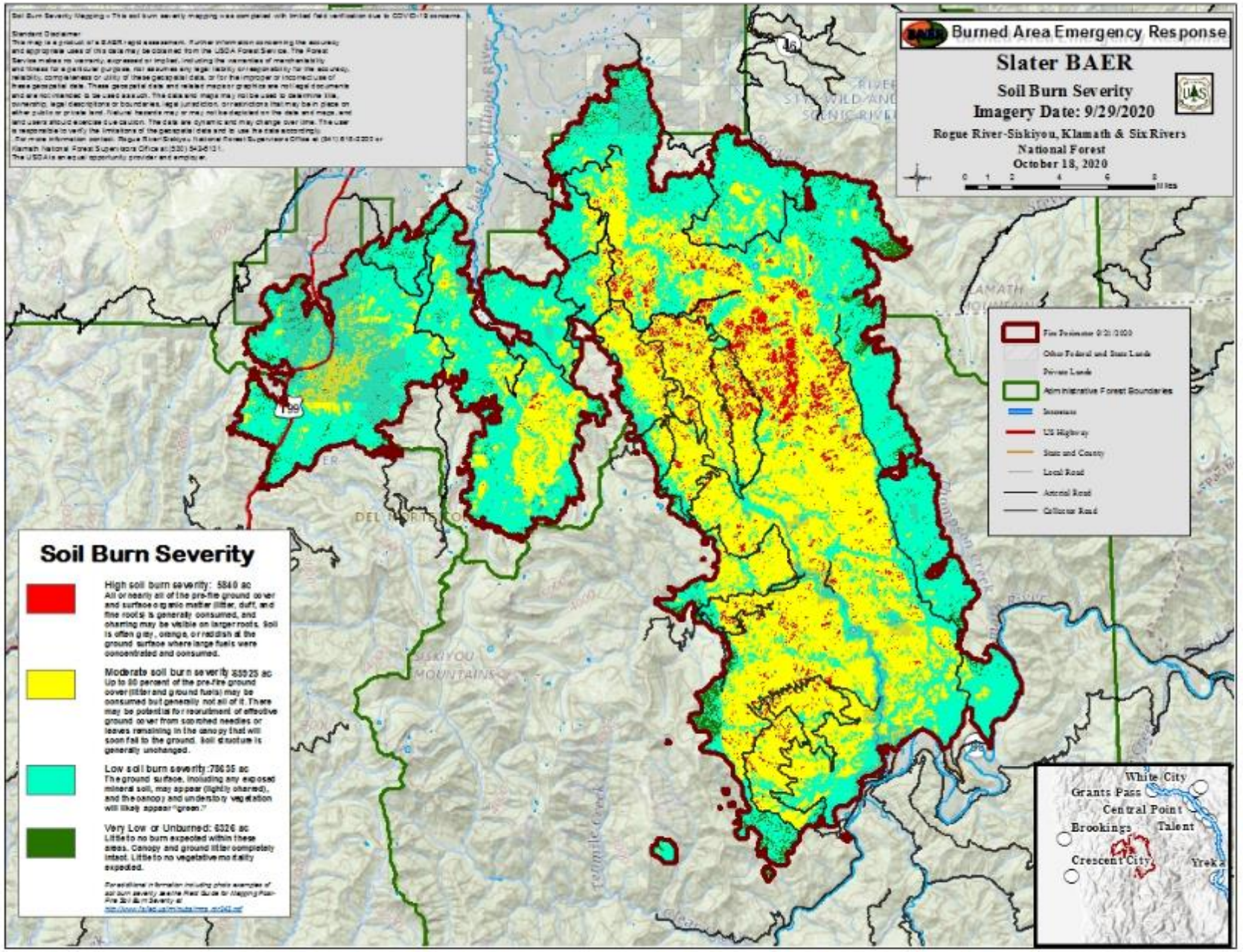
Thielsen

Umpqua National Forest

10,000 acres

NFS	100%
BLM	0%
State	0%
Private	0%

Unburned	9%
Low	42%
Moderate	43%
High	5%



Slater

Rogue River Siskiyou
National Forest
71,000 acres

NFS	83%
BLM	4%
State	0%
Private	13%

Unburned	4%
Low	67%
Moderate	27%
High	2%