



**Press Release**



**Date: June 24, 2013**



**Time: 07:00 AM**

## **Carstens Fire Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Assessment**

The Carstens Fire started June 16, 2013 at approximately 2 p.m. at the bottom of Plumber Creek in Mariposa County. The fire was determined to be caused by an abandoned campfire that was not fully extinguished. The total acreage to date is approximately 1,700 acres and is currently 90% contained. No structures have been lost. Extensive mop-up operations and patrol of the fire lines continue. The fire was transferred from the South Central Sierra Incident Management Team, Type 2, to a Type 3 organization on the Sierra National Forest on Sunday, June 23, 2013. The Type 3 organization is overseeing the incident operations and coordinating with the Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team.

A BAER team has been called to conduct a BAER assessment of the Carstens Fire. The BAER assessment will evaluate the Carstens Fire area to determine the potential for high erosion, flooding, mud flows and debris flows. The BAER assessment will focus on the values at risk including life and property and natural resource values that could be at risk when rain occurs. Alan Gallegos, the BAER Team Leader, conducted a helicopter reconnaissance on Saturday, June 22, 2013 and identified high burn severity areas throughout the fire area. These areas will be reviewed by the BAER team to determine soil burn severity and values at risk that could be threatened. The BAER team will start their assessment by evaluating a Burn Area Reflectance Classification (BARC) map, which was constructed from satellite imagery. The BARC map will be evaluated by the BAER team to produce a Soil Burn Severity Map that will show areas of high, moderate, and low burn severity. Upon completion of the assessment, the BAER team will identify and implement the most effective treatments based on the risk assessments and burned area land management objectives. The BAER team hopes to have their assessment completed by the end of the week.

**The Natural Resources Conservation Service is available to assist private landowners with rehabilitating property affected by the fire. Call 209-966-3431 or go to [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov)**

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