



CITY OF HIGHLAND

PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

Special Meeting
October 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM
City Hall Upright Conference Room
27215 Base Line, Highland CA 92346

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Larry McCallon, Member
District 5

John P. Timmer, Member
District 4

STAFF

Carlos Zamano, City Manager
Lawrence Mainez, Community Development Director
Leticia Nava-Cruz, Director of Administrative Services/City Treasurer
Lissette Nock, Deputy City Clerk
Michelle Gomez, Assistant Director of Administrative Services
Octavio Duran Jr., Public Works Director/City Engineer

MISSION STATEMENT

Highland is dedicated to the betterment of the individual, the family, the neighborhood and the community. The City Council and the staff of Highland are dedicated to providing the quality of public facilities and services that its citizens are willing to fund and will do so as efficiently as possible.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance, please contact the City Clerk’s office at (909) 864-6861, ext. 226, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting for any requests for reasonable accommodations, including interpreters.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item provided to the majority of the Subcommittee after posting of this agenda are available for public inspection at Highland City Hall, 27215 Base Line, Highland, during normal business hours and available online at www.cityofhighland.org.

PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
October 30, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT

Submission of Public Comments for ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ONLY: For those wishing to make public comments by email, please submit your comments by email to be read aloud at the meeting. Email comments must be submitted by 9:00 a.m. on October 30, 2024, to publiccomment@cityofhighland.org. If you are submitting a public comment pertaining to an item on the October 30, 2024 agenda, please identify the agenda item number in the subject line. Members of the public will be permitted to make public comments in person.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Minutes - June 19, 2024 Meeting
RECOMMENDATION: Approve the Minutes as submitted.

2. Update on Line Fire Response
RECOMMENDATION: That the Subcommittee receive and provide input on Line Fire response efforts.

ADJOURN

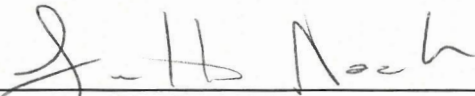
I, Lissette Nock, Deputy City Clerk, of the City of Highland, California, certify that I caused to be posted this Agenda on or before the 28th day of October, 2024, by 5:30 p.m. on our website at www.cityofhighland.org and in the following designated areas:

Highland Branch Library
 7863 Central Avenue

Fire Station No. 1
 26974 Base Line

City Hall
 27215 Base Line

Date: October 28, 2024



 Lissette Nock
 Deputy City Clerk



Business Item No.
1

STAFF REPORT

TO THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: October 30, 2024

FROM: Lissette Nock, Deputy City Clerk

SUBJECT: Minutes - June 19, 2024 Special Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the minutes as submitted.

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Works Subcommittee special meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. in the Upright Conference Room, 27215 Base Line, Highland, California.

ROLL CALL

Present: McCallon, Timmer
Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Minutes - February 13, 2024 Meeting
Approved the Minutes as submitted.

2. Greenspot Road and Blossom Way Median Improvements
The Subcommittee:
 - 1) Reviewed the findings of Willdan Engineering’s (Willdan) Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis and Left Turn Access Analysis Report for the intersection of Greenspot Road and Blossom Way;
 - 2) Approved Greenspot Road and Blossom Way Concept 1 southbound left-turn restriction improvements for Blossom Way recommended by Willdan; and
 - 3) Directed staff to seek professional services and construction bids to construct Concept 1 left-turn restriction improvements.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Lissette Nock, City Clerk

Subcommittee Member



STAFF REPORT

Business Item No.

2

TO THE PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: October 30, 2024

FROM: Carlos Zamano, City Manager *CZ*

PREPARED BY: Octavio Duran Jr., Public Works Director/City Engineer *OD*

SUBJECT: Update on Line Fire Response

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and provide input on Line Fire Response Efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

PUBLIC NOTICE: The agenda for this item was posted at the three locations per Resolution No. 2011-047 and on the City's website.

BACKGROUND

On September 5, 2024, the Line Fire broke out in Highland near the intersection of Base Line and Alpin Street impacting many of our east Highland residents. The fire is currently at 98% containment and has burned 43,978 acres. City Council directed staff to provide updates to the Public Works Subcommittee related to post-fire response and storm preparedness efforts.

DISCUSSION

Major wildfires result in a loss of vegetation which could lead to an increased risk of flooding, landslides, and mudflows in areas affected by a fire. The resulting shift of soil, rocks, mud, and water is called a post-fire debris flow which is commonly triggered by intense rainfall. Even areas that are not traditionally flood-prone are at risk, due to changes to the landscape caused by fire. Risks remain significantly higher until vegetation is restored which is estimated to take 2-5 years after a wildfire. The City is preparing to address potential impacts from debris flow and flooding in our City and is working closely with Federal, State, and County agencies to assess and implement mitigation measures.

Below is a summary of actions in response to the Line Fire and in preparation for potential debris flow and flooding:

1. On September 12, City Council adopted Resolution No 2024-44, ratifying the Proclamation of a Local Emergency in the City of Highland Issued By the City's Director of Emergency Services on September 11, 2024 as a result of the Line Fire
 - a. This action assists the City in the recovery of costs incurred responding to the event and addressing damages to public property.
2. The City provided a list of damages and claims to the California Department of Emergency Services for consideration under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) and Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG) programs and performed a field walk on September 25, 2024. Emergency protective measures are not reimbursable through this program.

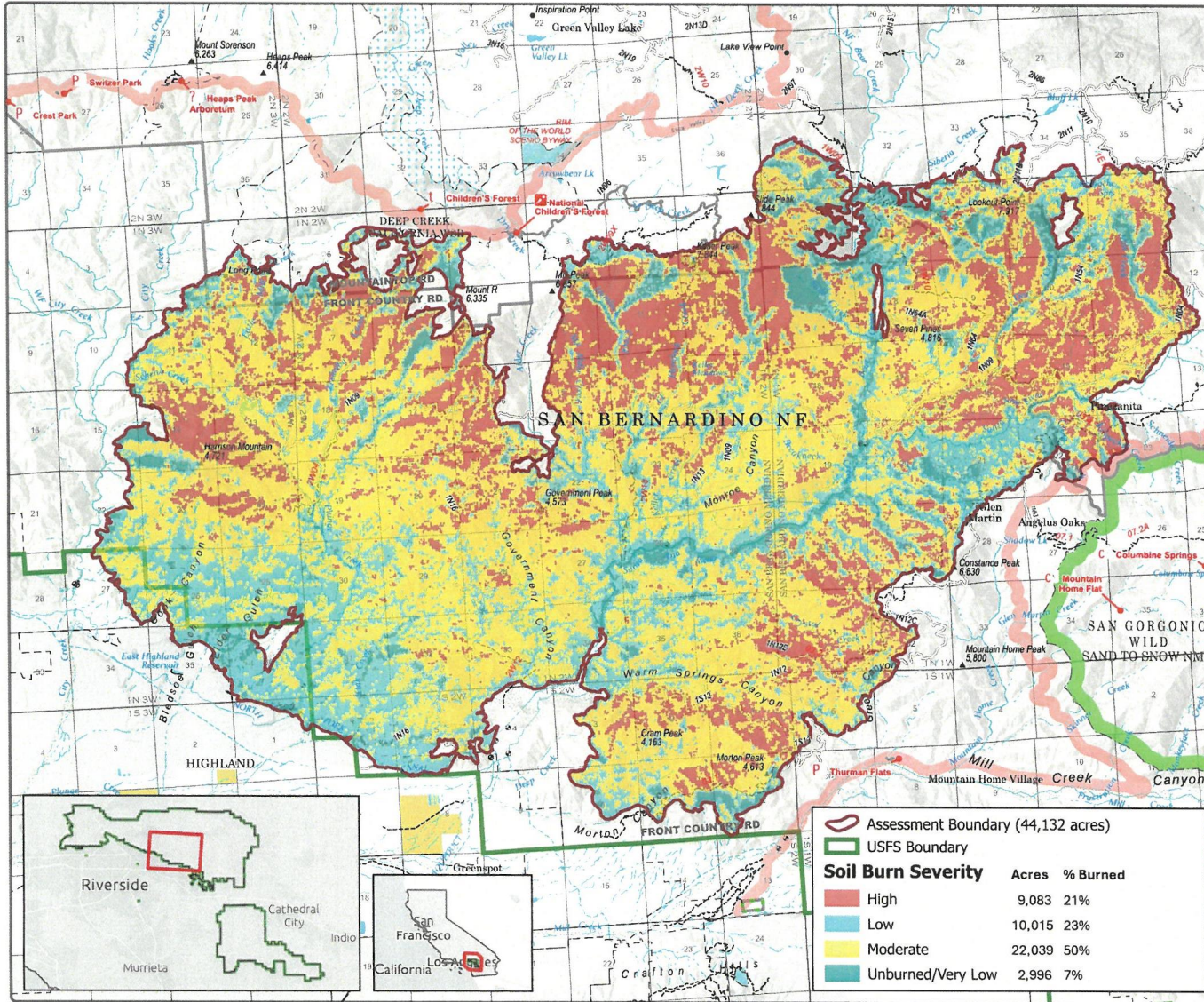
3. The U.S. Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team and CAL FIRE/California Geological Survey Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT) teams were formed and are assessing damages from the fire. City coordination efforts kicked off on September 24, 2024
 - a. The teams are made up of geologists, foresters, civil engineers, hydrologists, soil scientists, and GIS specialists who specialize in post-fire evaluations and will be providing a report identifying post-fire debris flow risks based on scientific data.
 - b. City staff have been working closely with the BAER/WERT teams to provide input and help identify areas of concerns within our City for further evaluation.
 - c. To plan for future rain driven events, the City is using information gathered by the BAER and WERT teams, historical data, FEMA flood data, USGS models, and documentation from the December 2010 flood event. See attached USGS map showing potential debris-flow.
 - d. The reports take several weeks to complete following a fire, however, staff is in constant communication with the teams and has obtained preliminary data to help fast-track City mitigation efforts.
4. Public Works is evaluating preliminary data from the BAER/WERT teams and has brought in a flood control expert through an on-call contract to help determine what measures are needed to protect residents from potential debris flow associated with the Line Fire.
 - a. Protection measures may include the installation of k-rails and gabion walls to help divert possible debris flows, in areas impacted by the fire.
 - b. As more information is available, staff will be working closely with private property owners (including HOAs) to provide flood preparation assistance should they be in a high-risk area during evaluations. This will include recommended measures to mitigate potential damage from these debris flows.
5. Coordination with partner/neighborhood agencies including East Valley Water District, San Bernardino County Flood Control District, San Bernardino Municipal Water District is ongoing.
6. The City requested support through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The EWP is a cost-share program that offers 75% of the costs to cities to install protection measures following a natural disaster. This support is intended to help protect both public and private property.
 - a. A list of areas of concern was provided and a field meeting was held on October 2, 2024.
 - b. The process requires an agreement and could take 2-3 months to establish. Staff is working closely with the NRCS team to identify protective measures and expedite the timeline.
7. On-going City coordination with County Department of Public Works and Department of Emergency Services (Line Fire Debris Flow Mitigation Task Force)
 - a. The goal is to understand impacts and identify available resources for impacted communities, outreach planning, and ensure mitigation efforts are coordinated
8. Coordination between City staff, Police and Fire Departments (City Line Fire Response & Storm Preparation Task Force)
 - a. Task force will review impacts and mitigations from the Fire to inform emergency response
 - b. Review and update the City's storm/flood response protocols and emergency operations plan based on the recent event
9. Public Works began cleaning storm drain infrastructure in anticipation of the storm

- season and increased risk of potential flooding and debris flows.
10. City procured or is in the process of procuring materials including sandbags, K-rail, a new trailer pump, warning signs and a changeable message sign
 11. Public Works team is establishing a list of on-call contractors and in addition to an already established mutual aid emergency contact list to ensure 24/7 response during emergencies
 12. City outreach is in the process of preparing materials to help residents prepare for future events
 - a. This includes safety tips, sandbag locations, alert notifications, and other resources
 13. The City is coordinating with the National Weather Service to receive Highland specific weather warnings and allow staff to better respond to each event
 14. The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is prepared to be activated at the Highland Police Station if and when needed.

While the Fire is still active, staff has taken a proactive approach to ensure we're as prepared possible as we are quickly approaching the storm season. It must also be acknowledged that when dealing with events such as a fire or flooding, one can never completely predict how that occurrence will evolve, though this uncertainty is being built into the City's planning and preparedness efforts. Staff may need to request funding approvals to support preparation efforts and will bring an item forward to the Finance Subcommittee or the City Council for approval as equipment, material, and contract support needs are further defined. The City is committed to protecting its residents and will continue to provide additional updates to the PW Subcommittee throughout the winter season.

Attachments:
BAER Soil Burn Severity Map
USGS Debris-flow Likelihood Map

Soil Burn Severity: Line Fire Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)



Soil Burn Severity

Soil Burn Severity is a measure of the fire's effects on the ground surface and soil condition. This map identifies the fire-induced changes in soil and ground surface properties that may affect infiltration, runoff, and erosion potential. The BAER Team uses this map to identify areas of unacceptable risk to a critical value and where mitigating treatments may be most effective. This product is appropriate for wildland landscapes and does not represent fire effects in developed areas.

Severity Indicators:

High soil burn severity: Most or all of the pre-fire ground cover and surface organic matter (litter, duff, and fine roots) is generally consumed, and charring may be visible on larger roots. Soil is often gray, orange, or reddish at the ground surface where large or dense fuels were concentrated and consumed. Soil structure is often altered and less stable at the surface.

Moderate soil burn severity: Up to 80 percent of the pre-fire ground cover may be consumed but generally not all of it. In burned forests, there may be potential for recruitment of effective ground cover from scorched leaves that will soon fall to the ground. In burned shrublands, there is low potential for additional cover recruitment. Soil structure is generally unchanged.

Low soil burn severity: The ground surface, including any exposed mineral soil, may appear brown or black (lightly charred), and surface organic layers are not completely consumed. The canopy and understory vegetation will likely appear "green."

Very Low soil burn severity or Unburned: Little to no burn expected within these areas except in small patches, or where fuels were sparse. Canopy and ground litter almost completely intact. Little to no vegetation mortality expected.

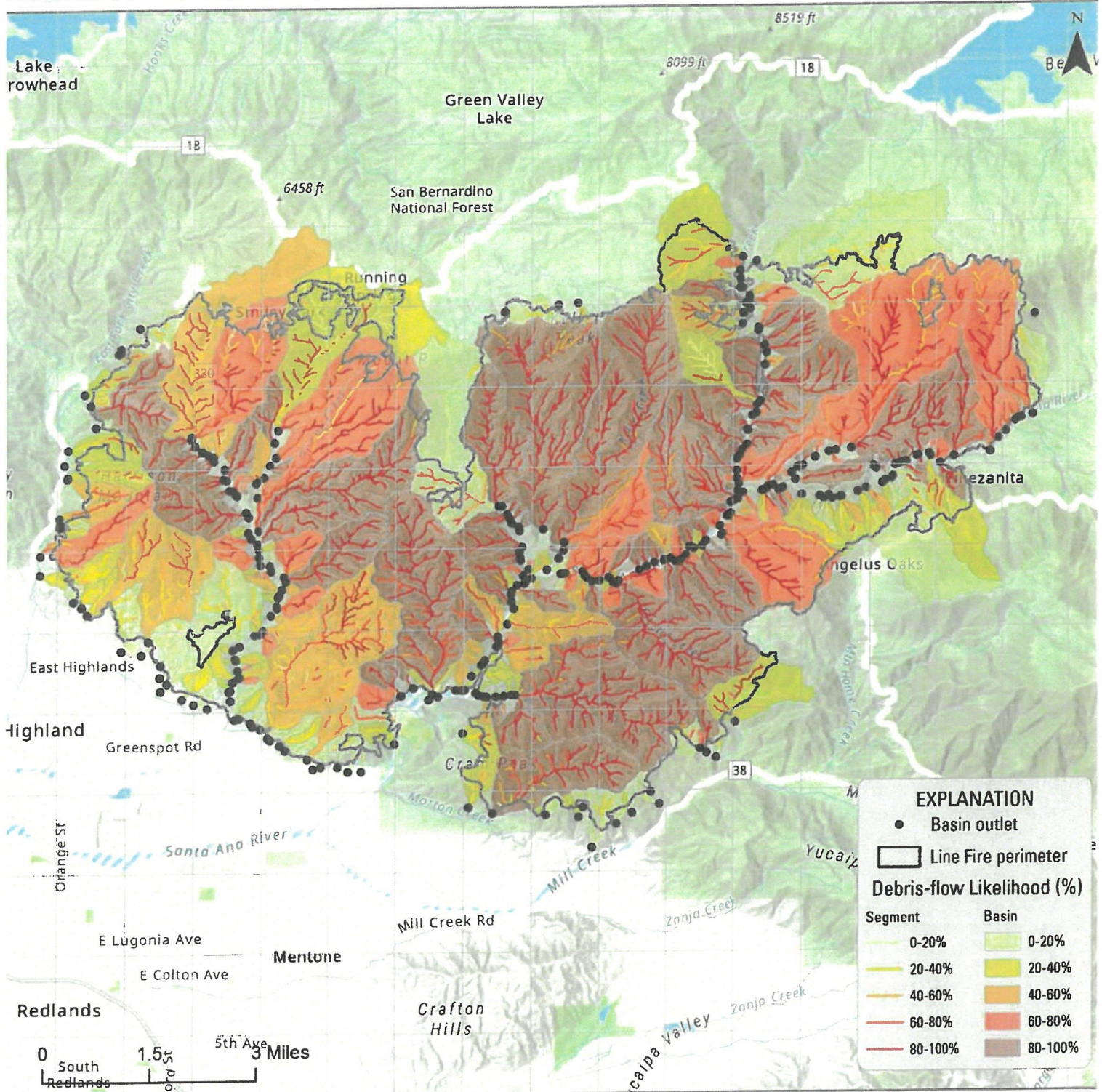
For additional information including photo examples of soil burn severity see the Field Guide for Mapping Post-Fire Soil Burn Severity at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr243.pdf

Disclaimer This product is a product of BAER rapid assessment. Further information concerning the accuracy and appropriate uses of this data may be obtained from the USDA Forest Service. The Forest Service makes no warranty, expressed or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, nor assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, reliability, completeness or utility of these geospatial data, or for the improper or incorrect use of these geospatial data. These geospatial data and related maps or graphics are not legal documents and are not intended to be used as such. The data and maps may not be used to determine title, ownership, legal descriptions, boundaries, legal jurisdiction, or restrictions that may be in place on either public or private land. Natural hazards may or may not be depicted on the data and maps, and land users should exercise due caution. The data is dynamic and may change over time. The user is responsible to verify the limitations of the geospatial data and to use the data accordingly.

Date: 10/16/2024

Incident Date: 9/5/2024 Data Creation Date: 10/14/2024

Line Fire, San Bernardino National Forest, California
 Debris-Flow Likelihood
 Design storm: Peak 15-minute rainfall intensity 28 mm/h



Disclaimer - Limitations of Hazard Assessment
 Hazard assessments use a design rainstorm with a given peak 15-minute rainfall intensity to predict the probability, volume, and combined relative hazard of debris flows in basins burned by the fire. Differences in model predictions and actual debris-flow occurrence will arise with differences in actual storm duration and intensity. The occurrence of higher rainfall intensities or longer storm durations may increase the probability or volume of potential debris flows.

The models were developed, calibrated, and tested using data from the western United States. The models have not yet been tested in burn areas in the eastern United States, western Oregon, or Washington (west of the Cascade Range). Currently, efforts are being made to validate model predictions in the eastern United States, western Oregon, and Washington.

In addition, this hazard assessment relies upon readily available geospatial data, the accuracy and precision of which may influence the estimated likelihood and magnitude of post-fire debris flows. However, local conditions (such as debris supply) certainly influence both the probability and volume of debris flows. Unfortunately, locally specific data are not presently available at the spatial scale of the post-fire debris-flow hazard assessment. As such, local conditions that are not constrained by the model may serve to dramatically increase or decrease the probability and/or volume of a debris flow at a basin outlet. The input geospatial data are also subject to error based upon mapping resolution, elevation interpolation techniques, and mapping and/or classification methods. Finally, this assessment is specific to debris-flow hazards; hazards from flash-flooding are not described in this study and may be significant.

This assessment also characterizes potential debris-flow hazards at a static point in time immediately following wildfire. Studies of post-fire debris flow in the western United States have indicated that debris-flow activity in recently burned areas typically occurs within 2 yr of wildfire. As vegetation cover and soil properties return to pre-fire conditions, the threat of debris-flow activity decreases with time elapsed since wildfire. Conversely, the hazards from flash-flooding may persist for several years after the wildfire.

Finally, this work is preliminary and is subject to revision. It is being provided due to the need for timely "best science" information. The assessment is provided on the condition that neither the U.S. Geological Survey nor the United States Government may be held liable for any damages resulting from the authorized or unauthorized use of the assessment.

San Bernardino National Forest, CA

