

Pioneer Fire Recovery and Restoration Update



May 5, 2017



Spring runoff and increased precipitation generates heightened caution for Forest recreationists and motorists

Public Health and Safety

Warmer weather and precipitation have increased seasonal flows of local tributaries. The above average precipitation warrants increased caution while traveling on forest roads and rural highway corridors. Debris flows are expected (mud and flood) within areas of the Pioneer Fire due to the steepness of slopes and abundant spring runoff. Forest officials have combined efforts with local partners and other agencies in preparation, including two disaster response scenario events.

The Forest Service encourages people to be cautious around all streams and water sources especially within burned areas as soils are weakened and less stable. With the Boise Basin having more than 150 percent of snow pack (SNOTEL data), spring runoff and seasonal flows are extremely high, cold, and swift and are expected to continue. https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/gis/images/id_sweptnormal_update.png

We are asking forest visitors to be patient and cautious as we project additional closures within the affected areas and adjacent road systems. Visitors should look for posted warning signs and be aware of their surroundings. For all current closures within the Boise National Forest visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/boise/alerts-notice>



Timber marking crews work in inclement weather to complete assessments

Pioneer Fire Timber Cruising operations conclude this month

Timber crews have been working since mid-February to cruise timber and develop timber volume estimates for proposed **North** and **South** Pioneer Fire salvage sales. With the help of local staff, and visiting project foresters, field operations foresters and a Region 1 timber strike team they completed all the necessary data collection to start developing the individual sale packages. This was a challenging winter, “public health and safety along roadside corridors and personnel safety within the project areas remained the first priority,” said Implementation Team Lead Josh Newman.

Public Scoping Comments

North Pioneer Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project

During the scoping period, the **North** Pioneer Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project received 22 comments from diverse groups including: 5 Industry, 1 State Agency, 1 County, 7 Organizations and 8 individuals. To read submitted comments for the **North** Pioneer Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50789> and select the Public Comment/Objection Reading Room

South Pioneer Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project

The **South** Pioneer Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project received 24 comments from diverse groups including: 5 Industry, 1 State Agency, 1 County, 7 Organizations and 10 individuals. To read submitted comments for the **South** Pioneer Fire Salvage and Reforestation Project visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50694> and select the Public Comment/Objection Reading Room.



Pine Flats campground post roadside hazard removal

Work Continues on Awarded Pioneer Fire Roadside Hazard Salvage Sales

As site and weather conditions become favorable for roadside hazard salvage operations, operators are looking forward to resuming previously awarded categorical exclusion salvage sales within the Pioneer Fire. “Economically it is a great opportunity for us, more importantly it is a great opportunity to the industry and my heritage as a fifth generation logger,” stated one operator. A brief summary of categorical exclusion operations and projected remaining volumes include:

- Coulter Roadside Hazard Acres:119 Volume: 1,654 CCF MBF: 924 Boise Cascade
- Beaver CRK South Acres:37 Volume: 299 CCF MBF:152 Frank Barnes
- Beaver CRK North Acres: 266 Volume: 1,731 CCF MBF: 880 Woodgrain Mill
- Pine Flats Hazard Acres: 60 Volume: 573 CCF MBF: 380 Boise Cascade
 - The remaining work on the Pine Flats roadside hazard salvage sale consists of seeding areas identified as requiring seeding. No additional timber removal is permitted.

Next Steps:

EA Status

North EA

- Comment period started April 21 and ends May 22
- EA, Public Comment document, legal notice, notifications and received comments are posted on the project website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/boise/home/?cid=fseprd530485>
- To submit comments for the **North Pioneer Fire Salvage and Reforestation EA** visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50789> and select the Public Comment/Objection Reading Room.

South EA

- Comment period started April 28 and ends May 30
- EA, Public Comment document, legal notice, notifications and received comments are posted on the project website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/boise/home/?cid=fseprd530485>
- To submit comments for the **South Pioneer Fire Salvage and Reforestation EA** visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50694> and select the Public Comment/Objection Reading Room.

Mushroom Season - 2017



Morels growing up through forest litter

One benefit after fires are an influx of mushrooms, particularly morel mushrooms. Boise National Forest managers face challenges of balancing a mushroom picking season, while ensuring Pioneer Fire recovery and restoration efforts move forward. “We are looking to provide a reasonable opportunity for pickers, while first providing for public health and safety,” said Idaho City District Ranger Brant Petersen. Forest managers are anticipating a condensed picking season for both personal use and commercial permits; the season will begin June 1. A type three task force has been formed to manage the complexities of this event and are diligently working through all associated variables. Visitors should be aware that some roads are currently closed and snow is still on many of the upper elevation roads.

For the most current and additional information on 2017 mushroom picking on the Boise National Forest, please visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/boise/home/?cid=stelprdb504289>