

# Post Fire Rapid Assessment Protocol

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## For each dominant species present:

Record the % of canopy leaf scorch. That is leaves that are dead/ or discolored due to exposure to heat, but remain attached.

Note with a Y/N if any individuals under 1m in height within the plot are living. This does not include basal resprouts from trees, this is meant to capture living saplings or juveniles present.

Note with a Y/N if any trees of each dominant species have been killed by the fire

Note with a Y/N if any trees of each dominant species have incurred new wounds during the fire, these are areas where bark damage was excessive enough to exposed areas of cambial tissue or have burned through areas of the trunk entirely.

Note with a Y/N if any trees of each dominant species have dropped seeds in response to the fire. For acorns on the ground, check for presence of char marks that would indicate that seeds were already on the ground pre fire.

Indicate whether each species has basal resprouts by circling all of the following types present  
S=scorched A= alive D= dead G=green NA=none present\*

A basal resprout can be both alive and slightly scorched or dead and fully scorched or alive and fully green, or dead and burned with no scorched leaves remaining, this helps to distinguish between those categories.

## At the plot level:

Estimate the % of ground charred by fire out of 100, then indicate the overall level of char (1-5) using the associated NPS guideline sheet.

Note the overall direction of leaf freeze. This indicates the direction the wind was blowing when the leaves were scorched, resulting in the leaves remaining in that orientation.

Indicate the average char height in meters for all hardwood species combined. Exclude any excessive heights caused by fire potentially running up moss. This can be estimated visually, exact measurements not necessary.

Indicate the average char height in meters for all douglas fir/conifer species combined. Exclude any excessive heights caused by fire potentially running up moss. This can be estimated visually, exact measurements not necessary.

Indicate the average height of scorched douglas fir/ conifer needles present

**\*NPS Post Fire Substrate Assessment:**

5: Unburned

4: Scorched: Litter partially blackened, duff nearly unchanged, wood/leaf structures unchanged

3: Lightly Burned: Litter charred to partially consumed, upper duff layer may be charred but the duff layer is not altered over the entire depth, surface appears black, woody debris is partially burned

2: Moderately Burned: Litter mostly to entirely consumed leaving coarse light colored ash, duff deeply charred but underlying mineral soil is not visibly altered, woody debris is mostly consumed, logs are deeply charred.

1: Heavily Burned: Litter and duff completely consumed, leaving fine white ash, mineral soil visibly altered often reddish, sound logs are deeply charred, and rotten logs are completely consumed.