

Rattlesnake Fire Wilderness Rehab Plan

The National Forest portion of the Rattlesnake Fire, which began on May 5, 2008 on the Blue Ridge Ranger District, is entirely within the Brasstown Wilderness.

The fireline in the Wilderness is a handline. This handline was cleared to mineral soil in some locations, with some cup trenching and waterbarring of steep slopes.

Snag felling and bucking was employed, primarily on the western flank and fire head.

There are no established trails in the fire area, and user access is limited.

The following steps are sufficient to restore the fire area to acceptable wilderness characteristics.

- Remove all flagging, trash, implements, and other items brought in to the fire area by firefighters.
- Once the fire perimeter is determined to be safe by the Incident Commander, pull leaves and debris back into the handline with leaf rakes and council tools and restore cup trenching and waterbars to a natural contour.
- Flush cut all felled snag stumps 2” and greater in diameter, within 200 feet of the Wilderness boundary. Dispose of cut stumps in a “camouflaged” manner.
- Re-align bucked logs within 200” of the Wilderness boundary into a natural appearance.
- Bury all human waste and toilet paper.

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District FMO