

# Instructions for Archiving the Soil Burn Severity Data

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The Soil Burn Severity (SBS) dataset should be submitted to GTAC where it will be archived and made available to the public. These datasets are also used to assess the accuracy of the BARC products and to maintain high quality standards. **It is therefore critical that they are submitted.**

Upon completion of an SBS map, the BAER Team Leader should approve the map and authorize the BAER GIS specialist to transmit a copy of the SBS data to GTAC for archiving and distribution. The SBS data should follow the guidelines below. **If you need help with converting or submitting data, please contact Mark Nigrelli ([mark.nigrelli@usda.gov](mailto:mark.nigrelli@usda.gov)) or Robert Chastain ([robert.chastain@usda.gov](mailto:robert.chastain@usda.gov)).**

## 1) SBS dataset format

- A. GeoTIFF raster format (.tif extension), classified into four categories: Unburned / Undetectable, Low, Moderate, and High.

## 2) Metadata

- A. Open the metadata text file included in the SBS data bundle and complete the empty section found at the bottom of the document. The original BARC256 threshold values can be found in this section as a reference.
- B. Document the steps taken to convert the BARC256 to the SBS dataset. For example:
  - Step 1 - Adjusted the threshold between High and Moderate severity from 200 to 210 based on 10 field observations in those classes*
  - Step 2 – Used a vegetation cover map to reclassify grasslands to Low burn severity,*
  - Step 3 – Used a vegetation cover map to reclassify chaparral from High to Moderate burn severity.*

**Note:** If you investigated the fire and found the BARC to be accurate, thus requiring no changes, please state that clearly.

## 3) Additional datasets

- A. If you have additional datasets such as geotagged photos, ground points or polygons that were drawn to help delineate the burned areas, please include those along with your SBS data. These data are very useful for interpretation and for understanding how the BARC was validated and the SBS created.

## 4) Delivery of SBS data

- A. Zip the SBS data, metadata and additional datasets together, name it with the format: *Firename\_Region.zip*
- B. Post the zip file to this location:  
**T:\FS\NFS\WOEngineering\GMO-RSAC\RDAS\BAER\_FINAL\_SoilBurnSeverity**
- C. Send an email to [sm.fs.baerimagery@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.baerimagery@usda.gov) to alert GTAC that new SBS data is available for posting to the BAER Imagery Support website.

## 5) Archive Site

- A. SBS maps will be posted to <https://burnseverity.cr.usgs.gov/baer/baer-imagery-supportdata-download>, a link to the data will be included in the “Soil Burn Severity” column.