USDA-FOREST SERVICE FS-2500-8 (7/00)

Date of Report: September 6, 2005

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

[ ] 1. Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds
[ ] 2. Accomplishment Report
[X] 3. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

[X] 1. Initial Request (Best estimate of funds needed to complete eligible rehabilitation measures)

[ ] 2. Interim Report
[ ] Updating the initial funding request based on more accurate site data or design analysis
[ ] Status of accomplishments to date

[ ] 3. Final Report (Following completion of work)

PART II - BURNED-AREA DESCRIPTION

A. Fire Name: Blaisdell Fire

B. Fire Number: CA-BDF-8919

C. State: California

D. County: Riverside

E. Region: 05

F. Forest: 12

G. District: 55

H. Date Fire Started: 08/26/2005

I. Date Fire Contained: 09/01/2005

J. Suppression Cost: $2,573,000

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles):
2. Fireline seeded (miles):
3. Other (identify):

L. Watershed Number: 181002000105, 181002000201, 181002000203

M. Total Acres Burned: 5487
NFS Acres(2595) Other Federal (2022) State (41) Private (829)

N. Vegetation Types: Barren/Rock, Creosote, Encilia Scrub, Mixed Conifer – Pine, Mixed Desert Shrub, Northern Mixed Chaparral, Semi Desert Chaparral, Singleleaf Pinyon Pine, Willow

O. Dominant Soils: Rock outcrop, Riverwash, and Soboba

P. Geologic Types: Tonalite and granodiorite, undifferentiated; Quartz diorite, Tonalite of San Jacinto pluton of Hill (1988), Unit 2; Palm Springs Series of Erskine (1985), mylonitic marble, Metasedimentary rocks, Old landslide deposits, Very old landslide deposits, Young alluvial valley deposits, Young alluvial fan deposits

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:

R. Transportation System

Trails: _ miles Roads: _ miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): 2356 (very low/unburned), 2967 (low), 162 (moderate), 2 (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres):

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):
___ (low) ___ (moderate) ___ (high)

D. Erosion Potential: ____ tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: ____ cubic yards / square mile

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 1-2(slightly longer at higher elev.)

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): ____

C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years): ____

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): ____

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches):

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): ____

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): ____

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): ____

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency: The Blaisdell Fire burned 5,487 acres on the north facing mountain slopes northeast of San Jacinto Peak above the community of West Village, located southwest of State Highway 111. Based on the prefield assessment, and helicopter reconnaisance the BAER team determined potential threats to the following values at risk:

1. Community of West Village – potential increased risk of flooding, erosion, sediment.
2. Lazy C Ranch Trailer Park – potential increased risk of flooding, erosion, sediment.
3. Two Desert Water District water tanks and access road located soutwest of West Village – risk of impaired access and impaired water quality.

4. Peninsular Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsonii*), a federally-listed endangered species- adverse impacts to habitat from the wildfire.
5. R5 Forest Sensitive Wildlife Species: (San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*), rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata rosafusca*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), San Diego cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus bruneicapillus sandiegoense*), black-tailed gnatcatcher (*Polioptila melanura*), LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), Palid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) and mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) - Risk of impacts to habitat from wildfire.
6. Heritage Resource Properties and loss of potential information (Appendix A).- Risk of increased erosion and or looting as a result of the fire.

Burn Severity: Satalite imagry indicated that 54.07% of the burn area was low severity, 42.94% of the burn area was very low/unburned, 2.94% of the burn area was moderate, and .04% of the burn area was high severity . Due to the low burn severity and the inherent watershed characteristics (very steep and rocky) the area should respond as it has in the past.

Hydrologic Response: The fire burned portions of the following three watersheds: Lower San Gorgonio River – 6.62% burned, South Fork Whitewater River - .11% burned, and Whitewater River/Chino Canyon – 8.52% burned. Most of the potential values at risk are located within the Whitewater River/Chino Canyon watershed. Field review focused on this area to determine if the fire had created an emergency. Post fire annual sediment yield for the Whitewater River/Chino Canyon watershed are not expected to increase as a result of the fire. The burned portion of the watershed should respond quickly due to both the low burn severity and burn mosiac. There are many islands of unburned vegetation throughout the area. The soil hydrologic group is an A for the Soboda family. The loamy sand is very cobbly with very rapid permeability. There are no indications of a reduction in permeability from hydrophobic conditions. The geology of the area indicates that the landslides and debris flows are old and associated with tectonic activity. Current movement of sediment occurs during thunderstorms over the area. The level of sediment movement due to the reduction of grasses from the Blaisdell fire is not significant.

Erosion Response: The fire did not consume all the litter throughout most of the low burn severity. Surface rock dominates approximately 40% of the area reviewed. Remaining brush and skeletons will continue to reduce raindrop impact. Vegetative response is anticipated to be rapid with precipitation. Water repellency was tested and no reduction in infiltration was detected. Erosion is anticipated to continue to occur within the watershed but the fire has not significantly increased the existing risk and hazard associated with this area. If there are high intensity storms the potential for flooding is similar to pre-fire conditions. Review of rainfall data averaged for the area (FSWEPP) is 5.82 inches per year with December, January and February having the highest number of wet days(ranges from 2.7-3.2 days). Rainfall starting in September and October should increase vegetative cover throughout the burned area.

Values at Risk: Based on burn severity, vegetative cover, percent of watersheds burned, predicted sediment yields, and preexisting conditions the BAER assessment team determined that there is **no emergency** as a result of the effect of the fire. Review of the hydrologic and vegetative response of the 2004 Verbenia Fire, immmediately adjacent to the Blaisdell fire, indicated stabilization within less than one year. Higher than normal precipitation events during the winter 2004 and spring 2005 did not result in flooding downstream of the fire. (Personal communication, Poopatanapong). Given the simalarities in vegetation, soil, and slope characteristics between the two fires and the field review conducted, the determination is no values are at risk as a result of the fire and there is not an emergency created by the fire. The BAER assessment team determined that there is no increased risk of flooding, erosion, or sedimentation as a result of the Blaisdell Fire to the communities of West Village, Lazy Ranch Trailer Park, the two Desert Water District water tanks, and associated access road, The BAER assessment team also determined that there would be no significant impacts to Peninsular Bighorn Sheep or R5 Forest Sensitive Widlife Species habitat as a result of the Blaisdell Fire. Similarily the BAER team assessed that there is no increased risk to heritage properties due to erosion or looting as a result of the fire and associated vegetation loss.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives: Maintain communication with community and adjacent land owners regarding the inherent watershed response. Because of the low burn severity, soil types, steep slope, and

vegetative cover, the watershed conditions were not changed by the fire, therefore no treatments are needed as a result of the Blaisdell Fire.

C. Probability of Completing Treatment Prior to First Major Damage-Producing Storm:

Land __ % Channel ___ % Roads ___ % Other ___ %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land			
Channel			
Roads			
Other			

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss):

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss):

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

[**X**] Hydrology [**X**] Soils [ ] Geology [ ] Range [ ]
[ ] Forestry [**X**] Wildlife [ ] Fire Mgmt. [ ] Engineering [ ]
[ ] Contracting [ ] Ecology [**X**] Botany [**X**] Archaeology [ ]
[ ] Fisheries [ ] Research [ ] Landscape Arch [**X**] GIS

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H. **Treatment Narrative:**

(Describe the emergency treatments, where and how they will be applied, and what they are intended to do. This information helps to determine qualifying treatments for the appropriate funding authorities. For seeding treatments, include species, application rates and species selection rationale.)

Land Treatments:

Channel Treatments:

Roads and Trail Treatments:

Structures:

I. **Monitoring Narrative:**

(Describe the monitoring needs, what treatments will be monitored, how they will be monitored, and when monitoring will occur. A detailed monitoring plan must be submitted as a separate document to the Regional BAER coordinator.) No monitoring needs are anticipated.

Part VI – Emergency Rehabilitation Treatments and Source of Funds by Land Ownership

			NFS Lands				Other Lands				All
		Unit	# of	WFSU	Other	# of	Fed	# of	Non Fed	Total
Line Items	Units	Cost	Units	SULT $	$	units	$	Units	$	$
A. Land Treatments										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
B. Channel Treatments										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
C. Road and Trails										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
D. Structures										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Structures				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
E. BAER Evaluation										
Team Members	10	1000	10	$10,000	$0		$0		$0	$10,000
Helicopter Flight	2	270	2	$540						
Vehicle Rental	1	350	1	$350						
Photo Development	1	35	1	$35	$0		$0		$0	$35
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Evaluation				$10,925	$0		$0		$0	$10,035
F. Monitoring										
??????				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Monitoring				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. /s/ Max J. Copenhagen — 9/6/05
   Forest Supervisor (signature) — Date

2. _____ _____
   Regional Forester (signature) — Date

Appendix A:

Table 1: Previously-recorded and reported but unrecorded sites in the Verbenia Fire area.

Site No.	Site Type	Land Owner	Site Relocated?	Threatened by Erosion or Other Natural Events?	Burned Over?
CA-RIV-198	Cahuilla Village known through ethnography, exact location and extent unknown, pictograph site, location known but not recorded	BLM	No	There is a very slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event.	Possibly
CA-RIV-4165	Clark's Ranch	Private ownership and BLM	Yes	There is a slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event	No
P-33-001381 (CA-RIV-1384)	Rockshelter with fire blackening	Private ownership/or BLM	No, due to security risks	There is a slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event	Possibly
P33-002973 (CA-RIV-2973)	Milling feature	Private ownership/or BLM	No, due to security risks	There is a slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event	Possibly
P-33-0012209	Milling features	Private ownership/or BLM	**No, due to security risks**	**There is a slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event**	Possibly
New site	Pre-1945 limestone extraction adits and concrete pad	Private ownership	-	There is a slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event	No
Unrecorded site	Pipeline Ancillary water transmission line and contributing element of potentially eligible Southern Pacific railroad (1876)	Forest Service and private ownership	No*	There is a slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event	No
CA-RIV-69 and other important sites (recorded and unrecorded)	Significant sites: Cahuilla village with rock art sites.	Agua Caliente and private	No	There is a slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event	No
Yahchic	Area mentioned in creation story, where Cahuilla women gathered plums	Forest Service	No	There is a slim chance that the site could be affected by increased run-off or a flood event	Yes