



File Code: 2520-3

Date: July 29, 2004

Route To: 2520-3

Subject: Cabin Creek Fire BAER Report

To: Regional Forester

To: Regional Forester, R4  
Attn: Jeff Bruggink, Regional Soil Scientist

The Cabin Creek Fire was a lightning caused fire, which started on July 15, 2004 approximately eight miles west of North Fork, Idaho. An over-flight and an on-site survey of the Cabin Creek Fire on July 24, 2004 indicate that **no watershed emergency exists and no treatment is necessary.**

Gary Jackson, Salmon-Challis Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team Leader (Forest Soil Scientist), discussed the burned area and issues with Terry Hershey, Acting North Fork District Ranger, Gene Sundberg, Forester, Dan Garcia, Fishery Biologist, and Cindy Haggas, Ecologist, from the North Fork Ranger District, and Betsy Rieffenberger, Forest Hydrologist. The fire burned 795 acres and is located approximately 2 miles north of the Salmon River, behind the Indianola helibase. This fire was at an elevation between 3,700 and 7,000 feet on a west hillside aspect. Slopes vary from 20 to 70 percent. The dominant soils are gravelly sandy loams and loam occurring over granite and quartzite bedrock.

Terry Hershey, Gene Sundberg, Dan Garcia, Cindy Haggas, Betsy Rieffenberger, and Gary Jackson are all in agreement that there is no potential for major resource damage from this fire. The burned area already experienced on-site soil erosion due to a high intensity rainfall event of 0.8 inches on the evening of Monday, July 19, 2004. This event caused major debris flow within and outside the fire area. The high intensity storm pattern started near the mouth of Spring Creek, a few miles to the west of the Cabin Creek fire base camp and traveled northeast approximately 13 miles, through the fire area and over the mountain into Hull Creek. The Hull Creek road was closed due to debris flow. Major debris flows impacted three house structures between the fire area and base camp that were located on the Salmon River Ranches. The two drainages involved have not burned, but consist of hot, dry south aspects on shallow granite soils. At the fire area, off-site debris flow impacts also occurred to the Indian Creek Road up behind the Indianola Station. The Indian Creek Guest Ranch was impacted by debris flows from non-burned area on the west side of the creek. Approximately four to five small to medium size drainages on the steep granite soil hillsides blew out closing the road and impacting the private property along Indian Creek. The flows started at the top of the granite ridge and showed a soil sheet erosion loss of between ½ to 1½ inches of topsoil (charts show that's approximately 80-240 tons per acre). Indian Creek is still muddy below the debris flow areas. The main Cabin Creek drainage within the burn area blew out creating debris material that blocked the Indian Creek road and impacted four crew carriers and two pickups. The Cabin Creek flow started up at the head of the burned area on quartzite. One area under some burned trees was on a 20-30 percent slope with the surface covered with about 10 percent rocks. This small impacted area



produced sheet erosion that exposed the surface fiber roots. The flows then caused rills on-site that merged together to create a 2-4 foot deep gully down a 60 percent slope, which was covered on the surface with 100 percent talus rocks. This flow then combined with the main Cabin Creek flow and ended up at Indian Creek.

Forested vegetation on the burned area consists of Douglas-fir/ponderosa pine, generally ranging from 4 inches to 35 inches in diameter and containing an estimated 250 mbf of widely scattered sawtimber. Nearly all of the sawtimber is inaccessible with ground based harvest systems. Understory species include bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue at the lower elevations, and ninebark, snowberry and pinegrass at the mid elevations. Elk sedge and beargrass is present on the upper most reaches of the burned area. Species present on the non forested slopes include bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue and arrowleaf balsamroot. There are high densities of noxious knapweed present along all of the old timber roads. The main Salmon River Road also is infested with dense knapweed. Of the 795 acres that burned, the fire severity was approximately 38 percent low (300 acres), 38 percent moderate (300 acres) and 24 percent high (200 acres). Approximately 35 percent (278 acres) of the burned area is of granite and 65 percent (517 acres) quartzite bedrock.

**The Salmon-Challis National Forest is not requesting any funds through the BAER program.**

Questions on this report should be directed to Gary Jackson, BAER Team Leader, at 208/756-5110.

/s/ Bill Woods  
BILL WOODS  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

USDA-FOREST SERVICE

FS-2500-8 (7/00)

Date of Report:: July 28, 2004

**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
- ☒ 3. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

- ☐ 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: Cabin Creek
- B. Fire Number: P4A783
- C. State: ID
- D. County: Lemhi
- E. Region: 4
- F. Forest: Salmon-Challis
- G. District: North Fork
- H. Date Fire Started: July 15, 2004
- I. Date Fire Controlled: July 21, 2004
- J. Suppression Cost: est \$1,325,000
- K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 4.5
  2. Fireline seeded (miles): 0
  3. Other (identify):
- L. **Watershed Number:**
- M. Total Acres Burned:
- NFS Acres (795)    Other Federal ( )    State ( )    Private ( )
- N. Vegetation Types: Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, ninebark, snowberry, pinegrass, Idaho fescue and bluebunch wheatgrass, elk sedge, beargrass and arrowleaf balsamroot.
- O. Dominant Soils: Fine sandy loam and loam
- P. Geologic Types: Granite, Quartzite
- Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: Order 1= 1.75; Order 2= 0.75; Order 3= 1.0
- R. Transportation System
- Trails: 0 miles            Roads: 0.5 miles

## PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

- A. Burn Severity (acres): 300 (low) 300 (moderate) 200 (high)
- B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 125
- C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):  
395 (low) 250 (moderate) 150 (high)
- D. Erosion Potential: 3.5- 6.7 tons/acre
- E. Sediment Potential: 2,100 - 3,700 cubic yards / square mile

#### **PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS**

- A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 2-25
- B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): NA
- C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years): NA
- D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): NA
- E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches): NA
- F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): NA
- G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): NA
- H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): NA

#### **PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

- A. Describe Watershed Emergency: : NONE
- B. Emergency Treatment Objectives: NONE
- C. Probability of Completing Treatment Prior to First Major Damage-Producing Storm: NA
- 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):\_ NA

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss):\_ NA

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology	<input type="checkbox"/> Range	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Mgmt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Contracting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Botany	<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Arch	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	

Team Leader: Gary Jackson

Email: gljackson@fs.fed.us  
5110

Phone: 208-756-5110

FAX: 208-756-

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: NONE

Channel Treatments: NONE

Roads and Trail Treatments: NONE--An 0.8 inch high intensity local rainfall event occurred on the fire July 19, 2004 (late Monday evening) that closed the Indain Creek road and stuck some of the fire crew carriers and a pickups. Approximately 5 side drainages that produced flood debris material that covered the road were from the fire area. This same storm flooded some private property a few miles down the Salmon River (west) from the fire and closed the main Salmon River Road. This is a natural event that occurs often along the Salmon River. All roads were opened Tuesday.

Structures: NONE

**H. 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.)

NOXIOUS WEED MONITORING: NONE- All side roads, main Salmon River Road, helicopter sites and spike camps already contain noxious knapweed. Since this does not meet the BAER criteria, no funds are requested.

**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
Subtotal Land Treatments				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
B. Channel Treatments											
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
C. Road and Trails											
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
D. Structures											
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Structures				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
E. BAER Evaluation											
Assessment	Hours		33	\$1,529				\$0		\$0	\$1,529
Travel	Miles		78	\$20				\$0		\$0	\$20
TOTAL BAER COST				\$1,549							
G. Monitoring Cost				\$0				\$0		\$0	\$0
H. Totals				\$1,549				\$0		\$0	\$1,549

## PART VII - APPROVALS

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Forest Supervisor (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Forester (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cc: Jeff Bruggink