USDA-FOREST SERVICE FS-2500-8 (6/06)

Date of Report: 6-28-07

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

[**X**] 1. Funding request for estimated emergency stabilization funds
[ ] 2. Accomplishment Report
[ ] 3. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

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

[ ] 2. Interim Report #1
[ ] 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: **Trail Creek Fire**

B. Fire Number: **ID-SIX-0001874**

C. State: **Idaho**

D. County: **Blaine**

E. Region: **04 - Intermountain**

F. Forest: **14 - Sawtooth**

G. District: **03-Ketchum**

H. Fire Incident Job Code: **PNDJ7Y (FS)**

I. Date Fire Started: **June 22, 2007**

J. Date Fire Contained: **June 25, 2007**

K. Suppression Cost: **$680, 000 (est.)**

L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): **1**
2. Fireline seeded (miles): **0**
3. Other (identify):

M. Watershed Number: **170402190906**

N. Total Acres Burned: **290**
NFS Acres(**285**) Other Federal () State ( ) Private (**5**)

O. Vegetation Types: **Mountain Big Sagebrush/Grassland, Deciduous Tree and Shrub Riparian Area, Aspen Community, and Douglas-fir Forest**

P. Dominant Soils: **Loamy sketetal mixed Typic Argiberelle**

Q. Geologic Types: **Wood River Sandstone**

R. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:

First Order: 0 miles Second Order: 0 miles Third Order: 0 miles Fourth Order: 1 mile

S. Transportation System

Trails: 2 miles Roads: 0 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): ___ (low) ___ (moderate) ___ (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): ____

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

Background: The Trail Creek Fire is located approximately 3 miles Northeast of Ketchum, Idaho. The fire started on private lands adjacet to the Sawtooth National Forest lands and its origin was human cause. Strong winds on the afternoon of Friday, June 22 expanded the fire through the Trail Creek riparian area, moved the fire quickly across a sagebrush bench and up into the douglas fir canopy onto a slope. By that evening the fire was 250 acres in size. The fire was contained on June 25, burning 288 acres primarily burning National Forest lands.

A. Describe Critical Values/Resources and Threats:

Threats to Human Life

Field reviews by Forest personnel of The Trail Creek Fire indicate that the fires has not created any significant threats to human life or property. The large majority of the burn on Forest Service lands was determined to be of low to moderate fire intensity. This was due to the rapid movement of the wind swept fire, rocky soils, and type of fuels present.

Threats to Long-term Ecosystem Integrity

The main concern is to protect the burned area from the encroachment of existing or new invasive species which could lead to a reduced native plant community, and loss of productivity that would affect both wildlife habitat and livestock production in the area. While long term effects maybe an increased fire frequency in the area.

Noixous Weeds - Field reviews by Forest Service BAER team specialists indicate that there is a substantial risk of noxious weed invasion. These threats include a high likelihood that noxious weed seeds were brought into the area by fire suppression equipment that came to the Trail Creek Fire directly from another wildfire without proper equipment cleaning, suppression activity within known noxious weed occurrences, and a known noxious weed seed source within the burn.

Known noxious weed populations (Spotted Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Yellow Toadflax, Canada Thistle, and Cheatgrass) exist within and immediately adjacent to the burned area. Most populations to date occur along existing road system, decomissioned roadways, trails or in the Trail Creek drainage bottom. Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed, and Yellow toadflax were scattered along the decommisioned road ways used by engines to access the fire. Canada Thistle, Spotted and Diffuse Knapweed are located within riparian areas that burned. Cheatgrass exists in small patches along roads, trails, parking areas, and on private property within and adjacent to the fire.

The burned area, now lacking desired vegetation that can normally compete with noxious weeds, is vulnerable to the expansion of existing noxious weed sources and other invasive species (Cheatgrass). Even in the low intensity burned areas, it will take at least one growing season (Summer 07) until native vegetation can reestablish and compete with noxious weeds.

The burned area is within a sheep grazing allotment. The section of the allotment which burned would be rested for a minimum of 2 grazing seasons. Grazing may resume if conditions warrant in the 2009 season. This would allow for the reestablishment of the native plant communities with no detrimental impacts from grazing activities.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

The goal of the burned area emergency rehabilitation is to:

- Re-establish native plant communities in a timely fashion in order to protect the ecological integrity of the ecosystem and reduce the potential for establishment of noxious weeds.

Treatment objectives to achieve this goal are:

- Control invasion of noxious weeds within the area, this includes along and adjacent to Forest system roads and decomissioned roads used as access by fire equipment, trails within the burn, and known noxious weed occurrences within the and adjacent to the burn (138 acres).

C. Probability of Completing Treatment Prior to Damaging Storm or Event: **NA**

Land __ % Channel ___ % Roads/Trails ___ % Protection/Safety ___ %

D. Probability of Treatment Success **NA**

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land			
Channel			
Roads/Trails			
Protection/Safety			

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

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

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: **John Chatel, Forest Fisheries Biologist**

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Team Members:
John Chatel, Forest Fisheries Biologist, SO
Bill Whittakert, Range Management Specialist, Ketchum Ranger District
Deb Taylor, North Zone Botanist, Ketchum Ranger District

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:

Purpose of Treatment: Reduce the potential for expansion of known noxious weed infestations (Spotted Knapweed, Diffuse Knapweed, Yellow Toadflax, Canada Thistle, and Cheatgrass) in susceptible burned areas due to fire related disturbance and prevent increase in weed density in existing infestations. The potential that these activities, or the resulting removal of the surrounding native vegetation from the fire, will cause an increase in the noxious/invasive plant species populations is high.

General Description: The district will treat 40 acres of existing previously documented noxious weeds that have resprouted in the burned area and new infestations resulting from fire suppression activities in the burned area. Any invasion of noxious weeds as a result of the fire will be targeted for immediate eradication using fire suppression funds and appropriate application techniques. Treatment of new infestations will be based upon what is found during monitoring one year after the fire. Two to three

surveys and treatment cycles may be needed to effectively treat, given the variable life cycle phenology of the known noxious weeds in the burned area. This ensures immediate treatment (i.e. herbicide application) of known infestations at the appropriate phenological stage to be most effective at eradication. Treatment will take place under the direction of the Ketchum District Ranger in accordance with the Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan and Environmental Analysis.

Location (Suitable) Sites: Existing and new weed infestations as a result of wildfire and suppression activities within the Trail Creek Fire on National Forest land.

Design/Construction Specifications: Select herbicide, application rate, and application timing based on specific weed being treated, and access to the location of the infestation.

Channel Treatments: None

Roads and Trail Treatments: Trails and roads used for fire access and within burn area would be surveyed for noxious weeds. Noxious weeds would be treated with herbicide.

Protection/Safety Treatments: None

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.)

Noxious Weed Monitoring

The purpose of the monitoring is to identify and eliminate the spread of existing non-native invasive species or introduction of new species through the burned area and suppression sites as a result of wildfire or suppression activity. Early detection of noxious weed infestations and rapid treatment response will minimize their spread. Noxious weed species and invasives found during the monitoring will be treated at the time they are located.

Authorized individuals will conduct all monitoring to insure compliance with specific, detailed requirements such as monitoring intensity, frequency, locations, and funding appropriation. Monitoring will be conducted following established R4 Monitoring methods.

Monitoring will be done at an intensity and frequency to identify occurrence and spread of noxious weed infestations after the fire and throughout vegetation recovery. Monitoring will begin late Summer/Fall of 2007 and continue until snowfall. It will resume spring 2008 after the onset of the growing season. Additional monitoring may be requested depending upon the species and density of invasive plants found within the burned area.

Monitoring will focus on:

Handlines (1 mile)
Forest System Roads (1 mile)
Decomissioned Roads (1 mile)
Trail (2 miles)
Burned Riparian Areas (15 acres)

Part VI – Emergency Stabilization Treatments and Source of Funds **Interim # 1**

			NFS Lands				Other Lands			All
		Unit	# of		Other	# of	Fed	# of	Non Fed	Total
Line Items	Units	Cost	Units	BAER $	$	units	$	Units	$	$
A. Land Treatments										
Noxious Weed Treatment	Acres	40	138	$5,520	$0		$0		$0	$5,520
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$5,520	$0		$0		$0	$5,520
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. Protection/Safety										
Cost Share Range Fence				$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										
Assessment Team	Report	1,600	1	---			$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				---	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Evaluation				---	$0		$0		$0	$0
F. Monitoring										
Noxious Weeds	Acres	20	138	$2,760	$0		$0		$0	$2,760
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Monitoring				$2,760	$0		$0		$0	$2,760
G. Totals				$8,280	$0		**$0**		**$0**	**$8,280**
Previously approved										
Total for this request				**$8,280**						

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. /s/Terence Clark for
JANE P. KOLLMEYER 07/02/2007
Forest Supervisor (signature) Date

2. /s/ Cathy Beaty for 07/24/2007
Regional Forester (signature) Date