

**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: Sublett Reservoir
- B. Fire Number: ID-STF-056
- C. State: 16 Idaho
- D. County: 031 Cassia
- E. Region: 04
- F. Forest: 14 Sawtooth
- G. District: 01 Burley-Twin Falls
- H. Date Fire Started: 8/12/2001
- I. Date Fire Contained: 8/15/2001  
Date Fire Controlled: 8/16/2001
- J. Suppression Cost: \$100,000 (est.)
- K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
  - 1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): No fireline on Forest.
  - 2. Fireline seeded (miles): 00
  - 3. Other (identify): 00
- L. Watershed Number: 1704021002 Sublett Creek (Raft River Subbasin)
- M. Total Acres Burned: 3784  
NFS Acres(2749)    Other Federal (1015)    State (0)    Private (20)

N. Vegetation Types: Sagebrush-grass, Aspen

O. Dominant Soils: Typic Argixerolls / coarse loam

P. Geologic Types: limestone

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: 1.5 miles of 3<sup>rd</sup> order stream (1 mile perennial), and 9.8 miles of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order ephemeral stream.

R. Transportation System

Trails: 2 miles      Roads: 6 miles

### **PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION**

A. Burn Severity (acres): 150 (low) 265 (moderate)     (high) 30 acres unburned

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): None

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres): estimated  
600 (low) 2149 (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): 3

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:**

This was a BLM-controlled fire that does not appear to have created any significant threats to human life or property on the Forest. Control on the Forest portion was largely by back-fire from existing roads and jeep trails, as this was ecologically far better than fireline construction. Significant erosion is expected to wash through the ephemeral drainages and gullies.

About half of the National Forest land drains to Van Camp Creek and on to Lake Fork, both providing fish spawning habitat, within ¼ mile of Sublett Reservoir which is managed for irrigation. The remaining National Forest land drains across BLM land, some private farmland, and to Sublett Creek downstream of the reservoir. Fall Creek, Sublett Reservoir, and Sublett Creek below the reservoir are on the 1998 303(d) list of water quality impaired water bodies.

There is also a need for immediate restoration of habitat for Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus*), a species on the Region 4 sensitive species list that often utilizes brushy draws and that has been observed using the Van Camp Creek drainage. Mountain shrub thickets (serviceberry/snowberry) are essential for overwintering of sharptails.

The main concern is to protect the burned area from grazing for a full three growing seasons, to limit erosion by providing adequate road drainage and by revegetation along Van Camp Creek to help stabilize expected sediment movement, to restore sensitive wildlife habitat, and to be sure that the burn will not allow more encroachment of noxious weeds. Weeds now in the area include Canadian thistle, whitetop, hounds tongue, and curly gumweed; the fire disturbance will encourage their spread. Monitoring for need for weed control and for success revegetation efforts is also important. The low standard roads also need waterbars and other drainage to prevent excessive rutting and cutting by increased flows from the burned area.

The burned area includes most of two grazing units, both of which will need to be rested for the 3 years, as there is not enough left in the units to justify a temporary fence.

### **B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:**

The goal of the burned area emergency rehabilitation is to:

- Protect site productivity.
- Limit erosion and sediment movement in order to protect water quality for downstream fisheries value and reservoir storage capacity.
- Protect fisheries values in the lower Lake Fork drainage.
- Protect the existing perennial plant communities from grazing for a minimum of three growing seasons.
- Prevent encroachment by noxious weeds into the plant communities.
- Establish native vegetation for sediment control and for sensitive wildlife habitat.
- Improve drainage on the roads to accommodate increased flow off the burned area.

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

Land 80 % Channel     % Roads 90 % Other     %

D. Probability of Treatment Success – 100% - control of grazing

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): \$150,000

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): \$50,000

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

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#### H. Treatment Narrative:

Land Treatments: Seed 65 acres of burned brush land with little or no grass alongside Van Camp Creek, previously mostly shrubs, with at least 3 native species, such as bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, slender wheatgrass, and western wheatgrass. Also seed approximately 25- 50 acres along Van Camp Creek and its side draws with Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) for sharptail grouse habitat. Several patches of this species were burned in these draws. Reseeding serviceberry as soon as possible after the burn would assure a seed source and possibly give an earlier start for this species.

Channel Treatments: Plant willow cuttings from nearby sites, along about 1500 feet (1 acre) of Van Camp Creek with perennial water or sufficiently wet conditions, now without willows. This will help to stabilize much of the channel from increased flows resulting from the burned area, at much less cost and greater long-term stability without maintenance, than artificial structures.

Roads and Trail Treatments: Five miles of low standard roads alongside the burn need water bars and other drainage to accommodate increased flows from the burn. This needs to be done soon to limit erosion associated with the roads.

Structures: None are contemplated at this time.

Noxious Weed Treatments: The spread of existing noxious weeds (Canadian thistle, whitetop, hounds tongue, and curly gumweed) can be expected as a result of the fire. Any invasion of noxious weeds as identified by the [State of Idaho](#), the "[All States Noxious Weeds List](#)", or the [Federal Noxious Weeds List](#) will be targeted for immediate eradication using appropriate herbicides and application techniques. This treatment will take place under the direction of the Burley/Twin Falls District Ranger in accordance with the Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan and Environmental Analysis. These actions will be coordinated with local State and County agencies. The amount of treatment will be based on monitoring the burned area and access routes for weed invasion and spread. It is reasonable to expect the spread over about 150 acres as a result of this fire. This project

provides for eradication treatments for up to 50 acres annually for the period following the fire through the year 2004 at a total cost of \$100 per acre (\$500 annually).

## **I. Monitoring Narrative:**

### **Weed Monitoring and Treatment Plan**

Monitoring is critical to the ecological recovery of this area and protection from weeds. The following methods will be followed during this phase of the monitoring plan:

- Evaluate the weed infestations in the area using existing information. This evaluation will include known locations and management activities to treat the noxious weeds prior to the wildfire. (Fire suppression was not a significant factor in this fire)
- Evaluate the potential for spread of existing non-native invasive species or introduction of new species through the burned area, suppression sites or adjacent areas as a result of the wildfire event or suppression actions. Any treatment needed as a result of suppression will be paid for by suppression funds, when available.
- Monitor the roads used for access, and the remainder of the burn area for a period of three growing seasons (2002, 2003, and 2004) and a minimum of 5 days per year during each of these years. Three seasons are necessary in order for sufficient growth to occur to provide staff with positive identification of any noxious weed. Monitoring will be conducted per Region 4 Range Monitoring standards using existing transects. Percent ground cover, grass and forb diversity, and vigor will be measured. Stands of pure native grass species will also be monitored, using a belt transect method to detect any species change or noxious weed infestation. If any new noxious weed infestations occur along the dozer lines, within the burn area, or within pure native grass stands, local Forest Service staff will request additional dollars to purchase herbicide and seed. Establish photo points within each native grass stand monitored, to measure the above parameters.

Additional funding for noxious weed monitoring and control will be requested in the next two years, based on the amount of weed spread and invasion is found during the first year.

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

Line Items	Units	Unit Cost	# of Units	WFSU SULT \$	Other \$	# of units	Fed \$	# of Units	Non Fed \$	Total \$
<b>A. Land Treatments</b>										
Noxious Weed Control	acres	\$100	50	\$5,000			\$0		\$0	\$5,000
Native Grass Seeding	acres	\$62	65	\$4,030			\$0		\$0	\$4,030
Native Brush Seeding	acres	\$62	25	\$1,550			\$0		\$0	\$1,550
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Land Treatments</i>				<b>\$10,580</b>			<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,580</b>
<b>B. Channel Treatments</b>										
Willow planting	acre	1500	1	\$1,500			\$0		\$0	\$1,500
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Channel Treat.</i>				<b>\$1,500</b>			<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>C. Road and Trails</b>										
Road Drainage	miles	1200	5	\$6,000			\$0		\$0	\$6,000
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Road &amp; Trails</i>				<b>\$6,000</b>			<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>D. Structures</b>										
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Structures</i>				<b>\$0</b>			<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>E. BAER Evaluation</b>										
Salary				\$3,500			\$0		\$0	\$3,500
Travel				\$500			\$0		\$0	\$500
<b>G. Monitoring Cost</b>	days	280	5	\$1,400			\$0		\$0	\$1,400
<b>H. Totals</b>				<b>\$23,480</b>			<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$23,480</b>

**PART VII - APPROVALS**

1. /s/ William P. Levere  
Forest Supervisor (signature)

8/27/01  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

