



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Gila
National Forest

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Reply To: 2520

Date: June 24, 1996

Subject: Langstroth Fire Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation

To: Regional Forester

This memorandum will serve to document the Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) analysis for the Langstroth Fire which started on June 9, 1996. The fire burned east of Mogollon Baldy Peak and was entirely in the Gila Wilderness. The fire is one of the two fires being managed in the L&L Complex. It has burned approximately 5800 acres and is presently near containment. Enclosed is a map showing the approximate location of the fires within the L&L Complex.

On June 18, 1995, Charles Souders, BAER Team Leader; Assistant BAER Team Leader Pete Steward; and Wildlife Biologist Jerry Monzingo flew the fire in a helicopter and inspected the fire on the ground in several locations. The hot burn areas within the fire looked to be less than 10% of the fire. The remainder of the burn was moderate to low intensity burns scattered across the fire. The soils in the inspection areas were formed from basalt and there was a high amount of cobble size rock on the surface and in the subsoils. In the hot burn areas the soils were moderately water repellent. The area of the fire has several long mesa tops running west to east. Between the mesas are steep side slopes and narrow canyon bottoms. The vegetation ranges from ponderosa pine at the low elevations to spruce fir forest at the high elevations and in the canyons.

Also consulted were Forest Wildlife Biologist Paul Boucher, Acting Wilderness District Ranger John Merino, Wilderness District Range/Wildlife/Watershed Staff Russell Ward, and Wilderness Resource Staff John Kramer.

The team's recommendation was No Action from a BAER standpoint. The fire was in the wilderness and very little of the fire had burned hot. It burned hot mainly in small pockets across the area. Seeding of the fire would have a risk of introducing new species. The fire suppression efforts had used Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) and land treatment of the fire would not be compatible with the tactics of the fire. It was agreed that the fire should be allowed to naturally recover.


Rehabilitation of the suppression damage was discussed with the district resource advisors on the fire; this involved Wilderness, Glenwood and Reserve Districts. Roads, camps, and heliports would be treated using fire money. It was agreed that the roads would not be treated until some summer monsoon moisture was received. Blading of the roads in their present dry condition would not be very beneficial.



Regional Forester

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The other fire in the L&L Complex which is called the Lookout Fire is still actively burning and is not near containment. When it is near containment a BAER inspection will be done.

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ABEL M. CAMARENA
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure .

CC:

Wilderness RD

Glenwood RD

Reserve RD

Penny Luehring, RO ✓

