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

Date of Report: **8/22/06**

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

[X] 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)

[X] 2. Interim Report
[**X]** 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:Foster Gulch Complex

B. Fire Number:PDC0Z6

C. State:Oregon

D. County:Baker and Wallowa

E. Region:6

F. Forest: 16

G. District: Pine and Hells Canyon NRA

H. Date Fire Started: July 23, 2006

I. Date Fire Contained: August 16,2006

J. Suppression Cost: approx. $5,900,000

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression(Funds Total Fire Acres)
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles):18 miles; $3,400
2. Fireline seeded (miles): 17 acres: $4,046
3. Other (identify): Road Rehab – 24.22 mi; $21,396

L. Watershed Number:

M. Total Acres Burned: **53,561**
NFS Acres(**2924**) Other Federal (**31,670**) State (**6**) Private (**18,891**) County (**70**)

N. Vegetation Types: Idaho Fescue, Bluebunch wheatgrass, bitter brush, headwaters on north end of fire consist of fir on north ridges and ponderosa pine and larch.

O. Dominant Soils: Cobbly silt loams with rock outcrops, soil depth is 20 to 40 inches

P. Geologic Types: largely basalt with some granitics

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: Class for entire fire

Stream Class I - 14 miles II - n/a III **58** miles IV – **247** miles

R. Transportation System

Trails: n/a miles Roads: over 75 miles on the entire fire with a majority of that paved, Homestead Road(county jurisdiction), FS 39 Road, State HWY 86, the Idaho Power road that goes from Oxbow Village to Brownlee.

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): **22,945** (low) **18,091** (moderate) **1,675** (high) **11,056** unburned

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 10,000

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):
10,000 (low) 13,617 (moderate) 29,944 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: ____ tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: ____ cubic yards / square mile

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 5

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): 60

C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years): 10

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): 1

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches): 1.0

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): 50

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): 20

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): 35

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency: The Foster Gulch Fire Burned from north to south along Sheep Mountain (BLM and PVT) and also north along the drainages that flow into the Snake River, Hells Canyon Reservior. The terrain is comprised of long steep drainages with grass and sagebrush/bitterbrush vegetation consumed. There is little timbered landscape and the majority of that is in the upper headwaters and some stringers in the drainages. Fire severity and intensity is generally low to moderate except in the stringer timber types in the headwaters of the draws and in the canyons of the drainages. The draws are steep with shallow soils and will contribute to runout of the drainages with an intense rainstorm. There are houses and structures at **5** of the drainages on pvt land. Pine

Creek is designated critical habitat for federally listed Bull Trout. The Forest Service land that was burned intensely is in the headwaters of McCarty Creek and McClain Gulch and Hermann Creek. These drainages have structures near the mouth of the drainage and McCarty Creek and McClain Gulch flows into Pine Creek. The fire has also opened suitable seedbed for rapid advancement of noxious weeds in these three drainages.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:Forest Service ONLY

Seeding is recommended primarily for control and containment of noxious weeds and other undesirable non native grass and forb species, with secondary erosion control benefits. Seeding is recommended for moderate and high intensity zones in the burned area of Upper McCarty Creek and McClain Gulch and Hermann Creek.

Aerial muching with wood straw is recommended for the headwaters of McClain Gulch to reduce erosion and subsequent sediment delilvery to Pine Creek, designated critical habitat for federally listed Bull Trout.

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

Land **75%** % Channel **n/a** % Roads **n/a** % Other **n/a** %

This success is based on the Forest Service implementing independently of the BLM. It is anticipated the the BLM will be the lead for implementation on ES&R work and that the Forest Service will provide funding for FS treatments to be implemented under a unified rehab and response contract.

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land			
Erosion Seeding	70%	30%	10%
Heli-Mulch	80%	60%	10%

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): est $ 550,000 (includes downstream losses of structures)

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): $121,200

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team: Forest Service and BLM integrated team

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

Team Leader: Paul Boehne

Email: pboehne@fs.fed.us Phone:541-962-8521 FAX: 541-962-8580

H. **Treatment Narrative: Forest Service ONLY**

(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:

Seed with a mix of persistant natives in the headwaters of Hermann Creek and McCarty Creek and McClain Gulch on moderate and high severity acres. Aerial application is the only practible method given the steep topography of the fire area. This is intended to reduce erosion and compete for space with noxious weeds with a secondary benefit of added and improved erosion control. Application would occur as soon as feasible within the fall seeding window. The mix will be a combination of locally grown native seed including but not limited to Idaho fescue, blue bunch wheatgrass and similar appropriate seed for the site.

Aerial mulching with wood straw will take place in the headwaters of McClain Gulch in the high intensity burn areas. This will improve seed germination and reduce soil erosion. Soil erosion and subsequent sediment delivery are concerns for downstream designated critical habitat for Bull Trout, a value at risk.

Channel Treatments:n/a

Roads and Trail Treatments:n/a

Structures:n/a

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.)

Monitoring will consist of site survey to determine germination and response to noxious weed species competition. Monitoring to determine efficacy of seeding for erosion control will also be done

Monitoring the efficacy of the wood mulch will be completed to determine its role in slowing surface erosion in the high intensity burn areas.

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										
Native Seed	acres	$75	600	$45,000			$0		$0	$45,000
Aerial Application	hour	750	5	$3,750			$0			$3,750
Wood Straw/Applic.	acres	700	100	$70,000			$0		$0	$70,000
Aerial Seed/Mulch pvt	acres	750				2000				$1,500,000
Aerial Weed Treat.	acres	70				115				$8,050
Weed Treatment	acres	133.33				225				$30,000
Drill/Weed Treat.	acres	70				210				$14,700
Aerial Seed Conver.	acres	70				5000				$350,000
Aerial Seed/Mulch	acres	$750		$0		1,600	######		$0	$1,200,000
Subtotal Land Treatments				$118,750			######		$0	$3,221,500
B. Channel Treatments										
Directional Felling	total	10,000		$0		1	######		$0	$10,000
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				$0			######		$0	$10,000
C. Road and Trails										
Outslope Hess Rd	total	15,000		$0		1	######		$0	$15,000
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				$0			######		$0	$15,000
D. Structures										
Early Warning system	each	25,000		$0		2	######		$0	$50,000
Jersey Barriers	each	333.33		$0		30	######		$0	$10,000
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Structures				$0			######		$0	$60,000
E. BAER Evaluation										
Personnel	days	350	2	$700			$0		$0	$700
				$0			$0		$0	$0

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. _____ _____
Forest Supervisor (signature) Date

2. _____ _____
Regional Forester (signature) Date