

**BURNED-AREA REPORT**

(Reference FSH 2509.13)

**PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST****A. Type of Report**

- ☒ 1. Funding request for estimated emergency stabilization funds  
☐ 2. Accomplishment Report  
☐ 3. No Treatment Recommendation

**B. Type of Action**

- ☒ 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: **Conner Creek**                      B. Fire Number: **ID-STF-000441**  
C. State: **Idaho**                                  D. County: **Cassia**  
E. Region: **04 - Intermountain**                      F. Forest: **14 - Sawtooth**  
G. District: **01 Minidoka – Albion Division**                      H. Fire Incident Job Code: **P4G7AQ**  
I. Date Fire Started: **August 30, 2012**                      J. Date Fire Contained: **September 1, 2012**  
K. Suppression Cost: **\$1,000,000 (est.)**  
L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds  
    1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): **4.5 miles total and 3.0 miles**  
    2. Fireline seeded (miles): **4.5 miles total and 3.0 miles**  
    3. Other (identify):

M. Watershed Number(s): (6<sup>th</sup> level hydrologic units, percent of watershed acres within fire perimeter):

Subwatershed Name	Total Acres	HUC6 Acres in Fire Perimeter
Middle Cassia Creek (170402100604)	20,120	1,994 (9.9%)

N. Total Acres Burned: **1,994**

NFS Acres (**1,065**)    Other Federal (**590**)    State (**224**)    Private (**115**)

O. Vegetation Types: **The dominant vegetation include mid to late seral mountain big (*Artemisia tridentata* var. *vaseyana*), big basin (*Artemisia tridentata* var. *tridentata*), and low sagebrush (*Artemisia***

*arbuscula*) communities with deep rooted bunch grass species such as Great Basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Thurber needlegrass (*Achnatherum thurberianum*), needle-and-thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), and Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*). Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stands below ridgelines and in side canyons, lower elevation slopes and benches are Utah juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*).

P. Dominant Soils: Soils within the burned area are derived primarily from the volcanic Snake River basalts and underlying sedimentary limestones. These two parent materials result in fine textured soils which generally have distinct horizonation and loamy or silt loam textures. The dominant soils consist of Fulventic Haploxerolls, Typic Argiborolls, and Typic Argixerolls.

Q. Geologic Types: Late Paleozoic rocks, primarily silicified limestones and orthoquartzites that have been overlain by lava flows of the Snake River Formation.

R. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: Perennial: 1.0 mile Intermittent: 3.5 miles

S. Transportation System: Trails: 0 miles Roads: 0 miles

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

A. Burn Severity on National Forest Lands (acres): 1,000 (low) 60 (moderate) 5 (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 65

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres): NA

D. Erosion Potential: NA

E. Sediment Potential: NA

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

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 2-3

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): NA

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

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs): NA

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

**Background:** The Connor Creek Fire located east of Elba, Idaho was reported at 1,994 acres. The source of ignition is still unknown at this time but is being investigated as a potential human caused fire start. Resources on the fire include 8 engines, 1 water tender, 2 dozers, and 2 helicopters. The fire has burned 590 acres BLM,

1,065 acres Forest Service, 224 acres Idaho Department of Lands, and 115 acres private ground. The fireline to protect residences in the area has been secured. Containment occurred on September 1<sup>st</sup> at 1800.

#### **A. Describe Critical Values/Resources and Threats:**

##### **Summary of Issues:**

**Human Life and Safety** **None**

**Property** **None**

##### **Critical Natural Resources**

**Native or Naturalized Plant Communities** - Field reviews indicate that there is a substantial risk of noxious weed invasion along roads and dozer and handlines used during fire suppression activities, and high intensity burn areas. This threat is due to the existence of noxious weed in and adjacent to the burn area, and a high likelihood that noxious weed seeds were brought into the area by fire equipment that has been used on other wildfires and suppression activity within known noxious weed locations within the burn.

Known noxious weed populations (Medusa head, scotch, Canada, and Hounds tongue) exist within and immediately adjacent to the burned area. Populations are isolated areas along roadways, and drainage bottoms within or adjacent to the burned area. The burned area, now lacking desired native perennial vegetation that can normally out-compete noxious weeds, supports favorable conditions for initial expansion of nearby populations of noxious weeds and other invasive species. The spread of existing or new invasive species would lead to a reduction of desirable native vegetation. Once invasives establish, the long-term impacts would be the loss of soil productivity due to increased solar radiation and runoff, increased fire frequency, loss of suitable wildlife habitat and decreased forage production. Prevention and treatment of invasive species prior to populations becoming established and expanding is a key point in restoring desired native vegetation within the burn area and reducing long-term cost of containment, control and eradication.

**Possible Probability of Damage or Loss/Major Consequences – Risk Very High**

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

The goal of the burned area emergency rehabilitation is to:

- Control expected invasion of noxious weeds within the area, especially along and adjacent to Forest roads and dozer lines used by fire equipment and in existing populations within the fire boundary.

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

Land **NA** %   Channel **NA** %   Roads/Trails **NA** %   Protection/Safety **NA** %

#### **D. Probability of Treatment Success: - Refer to Values at Risk (VAR) Spreadsheet**

#### **E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): – Refer to Values at Risk (VAR) Spreadsheet**

#### **F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): – Refer to Values at Risk (VAR) Spreadsheet**

#### **G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:**

☒ Hydrology   ☐ Soils   ☐ Geology   ☒ Range

☐ Forestry      ☐ Wildlife      ☐ Fire Mgmt.      ☐ Engineering  
☐ Contracting      ☐ Ecology      ☐ Botany      ☐ Archaeology  
☐ Fisheries      ☐ Research      ☐ Landscape Arch      ☐ GIS

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

Email: **jchatel@fs.fed.us**

Phone: **208-737-3218**

FAX: **208-737-3236**

**Team Members:**

John Chatel, Team Leader, Sawtooth National Forest

Gilbert Jackson, Range Management Specialist, Minidoka Ranger District

Mark Dallan, Hydrologist, Minidoka Ranger District

**H. Treatment Narrative:**

**Protection/Safety Treatments:** **None**

**Land Treatments:**

**Noxious Weeds Treatment Early Detection Rapid Response**

**Purpose of Treatment:** Known noxious weed populations (Medusa head, scotch, Canada, and Hounds tongue) exist within and immediately adjacent to the burned area. Populations are isolated areas along roadways, and drainage bottoms within or adjacent to the burned area. Prevent establishment of new infestations, prevent spread of existing infestations, and prevent increase in weed density in existing infestations. There is reported to be about 100 acres of Medusa head on the National Forest within the fire perimeter, with several hundred more acres on the BLM, Private and State Land bordering the National Forest also with in the fire perimeter. To prevent known infestations from spreading and/or increasing in density, to detect and respond rapidly to new infestations associated with fire suppression/fire effects of the Conner Creek Fire. In the proposed herbicide spraying treatment areas, if treatment was not implemented the probability of irretrievable loss of the native plant community due to the invasion of noxious and non-native species is 1.0 nearly certain that noxious and non-native species would out-compete native plant species. The spraying treatment's probability of success minimizing the spread of noxious/invasive plant species is based on the seeding treatments success in the Black Pine 2, when there was an outbreak of Halogeton and minimizing the spread of other weeds on the Minidoka Ranger District. Previous weed spraying treatments in burn areas with noxious/invasive plant species populations have 75% success of native community recovery without noxious/invasive species spread (personal comm. Minidoka Ranger district personnel).

**General Description:** When actions are initiated, Forest or CWMA personnel will be equipped to immediately treat infestations of noxious weeds. This allows for the immediate treatment and eradication (i.e. hand pulling, herbicide application). BAER funding authorization will be used for the first year (FY 2013) to meet the above objectives. Existing infestations will also be treated as prescribed by CWMA plans at the same time. As appropriate, these actions may be carried out under a combination of BAER and other management authorities. Treatment and monitoring activities occurring after the first year following the fire will be carried out under non-BAER authorizations. The CWMA will be utilized to survey for noxious weeds and/or provide treatments on private lands adjacent to the Forest under the Wyden Authority. A participating agreement with the CWMA and private landowners will be prepared prior to work completed on private lands.

**Location (Suitable) Sites:** Dozerlines disturbed by suppression actions within the burned area and areas with existing noxious weed infestations, adjacent areas, and disturbed areas.

**Design/Construction Specifications:** Select herbicide, application rate, and application timing based on specific weed being treated, and access to the location of the infestation. Thorough reconnaissance will be conducted in and around all sites identified in the Noxious Weed Assessment. These sites will be

monitored by crews on foot or by vehicle as appropriate. If noxious weed infestations are identified an appropriate treatment will be implemented to eradicate or control the infestation (i.e. hand pulling, herbicide application, biological agent control, seeding of native species).

**Channel Treatments:** None

**Roads and Trail Treatments:** None

I. **Monitoring Narrative:** None

## Part VI – Emergency Stabilization Treatments and Source of Funds

Interim #

			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	acre	16	100	\$1,599	\$0			\$0		\$0	\$1,599
					\$0						
					\$0						
Subtotal Land Treatments				\$1,599	\$0						\$1,599
B. Channel Treatments											
				\$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
Insert new items above this line!				\$0	\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				\$0	\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
D. Protection/Safety											
					\$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	1,310	1	---	\$1,310			\$0		\$0	\$1,310
Insert new items above this line!				---	\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Evaluation				---	\$1,310			\$0		\$0	\$1,310
F. Monitoring											
Noxious Weeds					\$0						
Road Storm Patrols					\$0						
Subtotal Monitoring				\$0	\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
G. Totals				\$1,599	\$1,310			\$0		\$0	\$2,909
Previously approved				\$0							
Total for this request				\$1,599							

**PART VII - APPROVALS**

1. /s/Rebecca S Nourse  
Forest Supervisor (signature)

09/06/2012\_\_\_\_  
Date

2. /s/  
Regional Forester (signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date