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

Dateof Report: 08012005

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
[x] 3. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

[x] 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:Berry Meadows

B. Fire Number: MT-BDF-000068

C. State:MT

D. County: Beaverhead

E. Region: 01

F. Forest:Beaverhead-Deerlodge

G. District: Wisdom

H. Date Fire Started: July 20, 2005

I. Date Fire Contained: July 29, 2003

J. Suppression Cost: estimated at $1.8 million.

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 5.7
2. Fireline seeded (miles): 0
3. Other (identify): Four helispots, spike camp, base camp, vehicle washing site

L. Watershed Number: 100200040302

M. Total Acres Burned: 433 (using perimeter of 07/28/2005)
NFS Acres(433) Other Federal ( ) State () Private ( )

N. Vegetation Types

Vegetation is primarily lodgepole pine forest with ABLA/VASC habitat types. Litter layers are shallow (less than 2 cm).

O. Dominant Soils: Soils in the burned area are primarily developed in glacial till and colluvium from granitic rocks. They are extremely rocky and are moderately-coarse textured. Though soil erodibility is high, soil erosion potential is low in the area because of gentle slopes (less than 15%). There are a few areas of higher slope (up to 35%) near intermittent drainages.

P. Geologic Types: granite and other coarse-grained igneous rocks.

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: 2630 feet of first order ; 300 feet 3rd order.

R. Transportation System

Trails: 0 miles Roads: 0 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Effects on Vegetation (Burn Intensity) (acres): 228 (low) 205 (high)

Burn Effects on Soils (acres): 433 (low)

Burn Severity is a term describing the interpretive implications of the wildfire for resources. In this case, Burn Severity is "low" for hydrologic effects because of gentle slopes and lack of perennial streams, even though 50 percent of the soil (102 acres) in the intensely-burned area is bare of vegetation and cover. Debris flows and increased stream sediment are unlikely. However, Burn Severity for weed infestation is higher because of the bare soil, proximity of existing populations, and ease of spread through the area.

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 325

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):
433 (low) 0 (moderate) 0 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: 0 tons/acre (estimated)

E. Sediment Potential: 0 cubic yards / square mile (estimated)

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

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

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): 95

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

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): 24

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches): 2.5

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): 4.6

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): 2

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): 4.6

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency:

The Berry Meadows Fire burned approximately 433 acres in the Berry Creek drainage of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Values at risk include structures on a private inholding, trails (#7325) crossed by Berry Creek and an intermittent tributary, and site productivity and roadless character of the burned area. Based on analysis, no emergency conditions were identified. There is a potential for noxious weed increase for which monitoring is specified.

Vegetation and Noxious Weeds - There is a moderate to high risk for noxious weed establishment in the burned area for the following reasons:

- Not all fire suppression vehicles and other equipment were inspected and washed prior to entering the Forest or burned area. A number of these vehicles came from out-of-state.
- There are currently established weed infestations on the Skinner Meadows road (#181), Berry Creek trail/road, and at Van Houten Campground.
- Most roads and trails used for fire suppression activities will remain open to motorized use by the public following the close of suppression and rehabilitation operations.
- Windborne seeds from weed species such as spotted knapweed, musk thistle, and Canada thistle will have a competitive advantage in establishment of invasive populations on bare soil.

The establishment of invasive species will result in impacts to the roadless character of the area. Specifically, there would be a reduction in the apparent naturalness of the area resulting from a loss of native vegetation and site productivity.

Watershed/Soil and Fisheries - The primary watershed features within the Berry Meadows fire perimeter are unchanneled ephemeral draws. Soils have high rock content and low erosion potential. There are no known perennial reaches within the fire area. None of the streams within the fire perimeter support known recreational fisheries. Berry Creek, in the vicinity of the fire has not been identified as containing sensitive fish species and probably only has "limited" sport fisheries value. No threatened or endangered species is known to occur in these streams.

Given the minor extent of the 6th code watershed affected by the Berry Meadows fire, and the ephemeral nature of the watershed features in the fire perimeter, there is a low threat to the values at risk and off site movement of soil is likely to be marginal or undetectable. No sediment control or runoff treatments were deemed necessary for this fire.

Stream crossings for road/trail 7325 are not likely to be impacted. The first is crossed only by intermittent stream channels and the second is by Berry Creek, for which no significant increase in flow is expected.

Downstream Private Lands and Threats to Human Health and Safety - Though there is a private inholding about two miles downstream near Berry Creek, hydrologic analysis indicates there is no significant threat to this area. No other human health and safety threats were identified.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives No treatments were identified.

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

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

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land			
Channel			
Roads			
Other			

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): 0 no treatments recc.

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): 0 no treatments recc.

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: Henry Shovic

Email: hshovic@fs.fed.us Phone: 406 587 6714 FAX:

H. **Treatment Narrative:**

Land Treatments:
None recommended

Channel Treatments:
None recommended

Roads and Trail Treatments:
None recommended

Structures:
None recommended

I. **Monitoring Narrative:**

Monitoring and treatment of noxious weeds during the recovery period for the native vegetation is recommended. The area is currently not heavily infested with noxious weeds. Most infestations consist of widely scattered plants along travel routes. Prevention of the establishment of new populations in areas not already infested is a priority objective of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest noxious weed control strategy. The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest has a noxious weed management plan in effect per the May, 2002 FEIS and ROD. Treatment of noxious weeds that invade the burn area can be suppressed under this EIS.

Monitoring Strategy and Estimated Costs

Monitoring will involve survey, inventory, and treatment during the physical year of August 2, 2005 to August 2, 2006. Monitoring will occur along the fireline, and within the high severity burn areas within the fire perimeter. The estimated acreage to be monitored is 207 acres. Any populations of noxious weeds discovered will be mapped and treated.

Estimated Weed Monitoring Costs

2005	1 GS-11 Permanent – 1 day	$249/day	$249.00
	1 GS-5 Permanent – 3 days	$140/day	$420.00
	1 GS-4 Temporary – 3 days	$102/day	$306.00
	1 GS-3 Temporary – 3 days	$91/day	$273.00
2006	1 GS-11 Permanent – 1 day	$249/day	$249.00
	1 GS-5 Permanent – 3 days	$140/day	$420.00
	1 GS-4 Temporary – 3 days	$102/day	$306.00
	1 GS-3 Temporary – 3 days	$91/day	$273.00
		TOTAL COST	**$2,496.00**

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

				$0			$0			
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$0			$0		$0	$0
B. Channel Treatments										
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				$0			$0		$0	$0
C. Road and Trails										
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				$0			$0		$0	$0
D. Structures										
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Structures				$0			$0		$0	$0
E. BAER Evaluation										
direct costs	pd	8	655	$5,240			$0		$0	$5,240
				$0			$0		$0	$0
F. Monitoring				$0			$0		$0	$0
near fireline										
and burned area										
weed monitoring	acres	207	12	$2,484						$2,484
G. Totals				**$7,724**			**$0**		**$0**	**$7,724**

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. /s/ Thomas K Reilly _____
Forest Supervisor (signature) Date

2. _____ _____
Regional Forester (signature) Date