

Date of Report: May 28, 2013

**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**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>A. Fire Name:</b> Copco   | <b>B. Fire Number:</b> CA-ANF-4462        |
| <b>C. State:</b> CA  | <b>D. County:</b> Los Angeles             |
| <b>E. Region:</b> 05   | <b>F. Forest:</b> Angeles National Forest |
| <b>G. District:</b> 53   | <b>H. Fire Incident Job Code:</b> P5G6HF  |
| <b>I. Date Fire Started:</b> 08/18/2012  | <b>J. Date Fire Contained:</b> 08/20/2012 |
| <b>K. Suppression Cost:</b> \$ XXXX  |   |
| <b>L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds</b>   |   |
| 1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 2   |   |
| 2. Fireline seeded (miles): 0  |   |
| 3. Other (identify): 0   |   |
| <b>M. Watershed Number:</b>  |   |
| <b>N. Total Acres Burned:</b>  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFS Acres <input type="checkbox"/> Other Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Private |   |

O. **Vegetation Types:** Chamise Chaparral, Desert Transition Mixed Chaparral, Grey Pine Woodland, Cottonwood/Willow Riparian Forest

P. **Dominant Soils:** XXX

Q. **Geologic Types:** XXX

R. **Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:** XXX

S. **Transportation System**

Trails: XXX miles      Roads: XXX miles

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

A. **Burn Severity (acres):** 10 (low)      30 (moderate)      0 (high)      estimate

B. **Water-Repellent Soil (acres):** XXX

C. **Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):** XXX (low)      XXX (moderate)      XXX (high)

D. **Erosion Potential:** XXX tons/acre

E. **Sediment Potential:** XXX cubic yards / square mile

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

A. **Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years):**      XXX

B. **Design Chance of Success, (percent):**      XXX

C. **Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years):**      XXX

D. **Design Storm Duration, (hours):**      XXX

E. **Design Storm Magnitude, (inches):**      XXX

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

G. **Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent):**      XXX

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

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

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

#### **Threats to Vegetative Recovery-**

An emergency exists with respect to vegetative recovery as a result of the threat of post-fire and suppression activity weed introduction and spread. The unknowing introduction and dispersal of invasive weeds into areas disturbed by fire suppression and rehabilitation has the potential to establish large and persistent weed populations. Prior to the fire, the Copco burn area on Forest Service lands had relatively few non-native plants, only weedy grasses scattered along roadsides. The Copco fire area was also one of the few areas remaining in the local geographic area that had not burned in the last 10 years. As witnessed in the surrounding recently burned areas, new weed populations could affect the structure and habitat function of native plant communities within the burn area, possibly even leading to vegetation type conversion in some areas. It is expected that most native vegetation would recover if weed invasions are minimized. In addition, there is approximately one mile of recently bladed dozerline inside and on the perimeter of the burn area. The dozers that were brought onto the fire were previously operating in areas with known high concentrations of invasives and were not washed prior to coming onto ANF land. There is also a concern that these new dozerlines will facilitate unauthorized Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use in the burn area. Increased use of this area by horseback riders, mountain bikers, and unauthorized vehicles may facilitate the spread of invasive weeds. Additionally, the erosion and soil compaction caused by these types of uses may also inhibit the recovery of native plant populations. As a result, horseback and illegal vehicle use may contribute to increased density and distribution of invasive weeds. An increase in invasive weeds can contribute to type conversion and overall reduction in the density and distribution of native plants. Noxious weed detection surveys have been completed in all high priority survey areas (along riparian areas, dozerlines, staging areas, and roads). Surveys have detected several new high priority infestations of blessed thistle in valley bottoms and dozerline areas.

#### **Threats to Ecosystem Stability/Soil Productivity-**

With the combustion of the shrub overstory, there is little impediment to expanded OHV and equestrian use. Soil crusts can disintegrate under these disturbances and lose all protective properties; gully initiation and propagation through the disturbed soil surface can be expected.

Vegetative growth is expected after the first soil wetting rains. However, there is a concern that some of the green-up will be non-native grasses. Although these grasses offer short term erosion mitigation, they out compete establishing native shrubs, have less soil cover value than native shrubs, and are decadent when the first storms arrive. Therefore, if non-native grasses establish and displace the native shrub communities, long-term soil productivity is threatened with increased long-term erosion risk.

### **B. Emergency Treatment Objectives (narrative):**

Noxious Weeds - Reduce the potential for impaired vegetative recovery and introduction/spread of noxious weeds.

Unauthorized Off-Road Vehicles- Limit loss of soil productivity and vegetative recovery due to unmanaged OHV use.

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

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

**D. Probability of Treatment Success**

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land	XXX	XXX	XXX
Channel	XXX	XXX	XXX
Roads/Trails	XXX	XXX	XXX
Protection/Safety	XXX	XXX	XXX

**E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): XXX**

**F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): XXX**

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

☐ Hydrology    ☐ Soils    ☐ Geology    ☒ Recreation  
☐ Forestry    ☐ Wildlife    ☐ Fire Mgmt.    ☐ Engineering  
☐ Contracting    ☐ Ecology    ☒ Botany    ☒ Archaeology  
☐ Fisheries    ☐ Research    ☐ Landscape Arch    ☐ GIS

**Team Leader:** Katie VinZant

**Email:** kvinzant@fs.fed.us **Phone:** 626-383-1626

**FAX:** XXX

**H. Treatment Narrative:**

(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.)

*Implementation Team*

To provide for logistics and tracking of treatment implementation.

Estimated Cost:

Implementation Team Leader (\$350/day x 3 days) \$1050

TOTAL

\$1050

**Land Treatments:**

*Noxious Weed Detection Surveys*

Surveys will begin in 2013 during the flowering periods of most high priority weed species. The survey priorities will be along dozerlines, handlines, and staging areas associated with the fire.

Weed detection surveys to determine whether ground disturbing activities related to the Copco Incident and the fire itself have resulted in the expansion of noxious weeds is requested for the first year. Estimated costs are based on the assumption that three visits would be necessary because of the unpredictability of flowering times. If timing is such that the target species is detectable in one visit, the actual costs would be lower than displayed below.

Noxious weed detection surveys completed during May of 2013 have identified approximately ten infestations of newly established weed populations within the Copco Fire. These infestations are of blessed thistle, considered to be of high priority for early eradication due to it's rapid proliferation and low abundance across the ANF. Funding for this treatment will be utilized for weed eradication of newly established, high priority invasive plant species populations.

Estimated Cost:

1 GS-11 botanist (\$400/day x 1 day)	\$ 400.00
2 GS-5 botanists (\$150/day x 3 days)	\$ 900.00
Vehicle mileage (550 miles @0.55/mile)	\$ 302.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1602.50</b>

Eradication Estimated Cost:

1 GS-11 botanists (\$400/day x 1 day)	\$ 400
2 GS-7 weed technicians (\$220/day x 5 days)	\$ 2200
Vehicle mileage (1000 miles @0.55/mile)	\$ 550
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3150</b>

**Channel Treatments:** none

**Roads and Trail Treatments:** none

**Protection/Safety Treatments:**

*Fences and Barriers for Unauthorized Off Road Vehicle Use*

Unauthorized recreational activity, including operation of off-highway vehicles, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, and other ground disturbing activities are a threat to National Forest System land. Erosion, spread of invasive species, damage to cultural sites, disturbance to wildlife, destruction of wildlife habitat, impaired water quality, and risks to public safety can result from unauthorized access. Due to the accessibility of the

fire perimeter from nearby private land, the current existing signs of off-highway vehicle use in the area, and the LMP focus to protect native vegetation from type conversion, it has been decided that the following treatments are needed: install a gate at the northern entrance road to the fire that has a very high potential for unauthorized OHV use, install boulders and slash at the southern fire access boundary, and ensure these barriers are properly maintained.

**Estimated Cost for OHV Barriers**

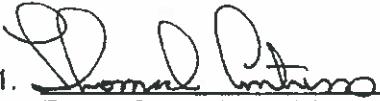
<i>Line Items</i>	<i>UOM</i>	<i>Cost per UOM (\$)</i>	<i># Units</i>	<i>BAER \$</i>
Boulders	Loads	1500	3	\$4,500
Backhoe / Equipment operators (2)	Days	350	3	\$1,500
Gate at 8N01 Road entrance (materials and installation included)	Each	10,000	1	\$10,000
Archeological/Biological/Lands Clearance	Days	400	2	\$800
Engineering/COR oversight	Days	300	1	\$300
Patrol/Maintenance of Barriers	Days	275	24	\$6,600
Vehicle mileage	Miles	.55	6000	\$3,300
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$27,000</b>

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

**Interim # 1**

Line Items	Units	Cost	Units	BAER \$	\$	units	\$	Units	\$	\$
<b>A. Land Treatments</b>										
Implementation	ea	1050	1	\$1,050						
Noxious Weed Detection Survey	ea	1602.5	1	\$1,603	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,603
Noxious Weed Detection Survey	ea	3150		\$3,150	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$3,150
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal Land Treatments</b>				\$1,603	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$4,753
<b>B. Channel Treatments</b>										
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal Channel Treat.</b>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>C. Road and Trails</b>										
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal Road &amp; Trails</b>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>D. Protection/Safety</b>										
OHV Barriers	ea	27,000	1	\$27,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$27,000
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal Structures</b>				\$27,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$27,000
<b>E. BAER Evaluation</b>										
BAER Assessment	hours	40	10	\$400			\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				---	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal Evaluation</b>				\$400	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>F. Monitoring</b>										
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal Monitoring</b>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>G. Totals</b>				\$29,653	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$31,753
Previously approved				-\$29,653						
<b>Total for this request</b>				\$3,150						\$3,150

**PART VII - APPROVALS**

1.   
Forest Supervisor (signature)

6/24/2013  
Date

2.   
for Regional Forester (signature)

7/2/13  
Date