



Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest
Supervisor's Office

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File Code: 2520
Route To:

Date: January 28, 2020

Subject: Bautista Fire BAER report 2500-8

To: Randy Moore

Attached is the initial request for Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) funding for the Bautista Fire on the San Bernardino National Forest. The fire burned 166 total acres of which 160 acres were on National Forest lands. The fire began on September 15, 2019 and was fully contained On September 23, 2019.

The District Ranger, Julie Hall, requested a BAER assessment due to the high recreational use, potential for weed spread, and critical habitat for the federally endangered quino checkerspot butterfly. The area was closed to the public due to the damage to the road from the earlier February 2019 storms, but the County of Riverside was able to re-open the road in November. The delay in the request is a culmination of factors including higher priority work, the holidays, and the primary treatment being associated with the prevention of invasive weed spread.

The attached Initial 2500-8 BAER Report requests authorization to spend \$8,670 in emergency BAER funds, of which \$600 was for the BAER assessment, and the remaining \$8,070 is for prevention of OHV incursion, and to detect and respond to noxious weeds per the June 2018 guidance paper provided by the WO.

Approval is requested for treatments as follows:

| Treatment | Request |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Land Treatments | \$ 5000 |
| Protection and Safety | \$ 3070 |
| Total | \$ 8070 |

This request is made with the understanding that BAER funds are emergency funds which may be spent only in accordance with the treatments proposed and approved in the 2500-8, that BAER projects are emergency work, and implementation should be completed as soon as possible and before damaging storms, and in all cases initial implementation must be completed before the earlier of one year after fire containment or funding authorization.

Please contact Robert Taylor, Forest BAER Coordinator, at (909) 382-2660 and robert.taylor2@usda.gov if you have any questions.

KAY WIAND
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc: Dave Young



Date of Report: November 13, 2019**BURNED-AREA REPORT****PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST****A. Type of Report**

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

B. Type of Action

- ☒ 1. Initial Request (Best estimate of funds needed to complete eligible stabilization measures)
☐ 2. Interim Request # _____
☐ Updating the initial funding request based on more accurate site data or design analysis

PART II - BURNED-AREA DESCRIPTION**A. Fire Name: Bautista****B. Fire Number: 2019-CADF-014540****C. State: California****D. County: Riverside****E. Region: 05****F. Forest: San Bernardino****G. District: San Jacinto RD****H. Fire Incident Job Code: P5MS1U****I. Date Fire Started: 09/15/2019****J. Date Fire Contained: 09/23/2019****K. Suppression Cost: \$500,000****L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds (estimates):** Click here to enter text.

1. **Fireline repaired (miles):** Click here to enter text.
2. **Other (identify):** Click here to enter text.

M. Watershed Numbers:*Table 1: Acres Burned by Watershed*

| HUC # | Watershed Name | Total Acres | Acres Burned | % of Watershed Burned |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 180702020106 | Bautista Creek | 32,693 | 166 | 0.51 % |

N. Total Acres Burned:*Table 2: Total Acres Burned by Ownership*

| OWNERSHIP | ACRES |
|-----------|-------|
| NFS | 160 |
| STATE | 6 |
| TOTAL | 166 |

- O. Vegetation Types:** The vast majority of the fire area was composed of lower montane chaparral. Dominant species include chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), Eastwood's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *glandulosa*), big-berry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*), sharp-pointed manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*), birch-leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides* var. *betuloides*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), yerba buena (*Eriodictyon crassifolium* var. *crassifolium*), and sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*).
- P. Dominant Soils:** ChDE – Ramona Family – Typic Xerothents, warm association, 2 to 30 percent slopes; plus G – Badlands (30 to 100 percent slope)
- Q. Geologic Types:** Click here to enter text.
- R. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:**

Table 3: Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class

| STREAM TYPE | MILES OF STREAM |
|--------------|-----------------|
| PERENNIAL | 0 |
| INTERMITTENT | 0.56 |
| EPHEMERAL | 0 |

S. Transportation System:

Trails: National Forest (miles): 0.06

Other (miles):

Roads: National Forest (miles): 0.68

Other (miles):

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION**A. Burn Severity (acres):**

Table 4: Burn Severity Acres by Ownership

| Soil Burn Severity | NFS | Other Federal (List Agency) | State | Private | Total | % within the Fire Perimeter |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Unburned | 0 | | | | 0 | |
| Low | 20 | | 6 | | 26 | |
| Moderate | 140 | | | | 140 | |
| High | 0 | | | | 0 | |
| Total | 160 | | 6 | | 166 | |

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): None detected**C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating:** Highly erosive**D. Erosion Potential:** Click here to enter text. **Sediment Potential:** Click here to enter text.

F. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period (years): Chaparral vegetation is adapted to normal fire regimes and will regenerate quickly (within 5 years) in the burn by either re-sprouting from underground burls or establishing from seed. Vegetation is expected to recover more slowly (approximately 5 to 7 years or more) in areas especially those areas that have experienced repeated short fire return intervals.

G. Estimated Hydrologic Response (brief description): The slope of the land is low and undulating in the fire area. Runoff channels lead to three points along Bautista Canyon Road, two low water crossings and one culvert. With a soil burn severity of Low on the edges and a mixture of Low to Moderate internally, there is not a high response predicted for sediment movement or debris flow.

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Introduction/Background

The fire is wholly within designated Critical Habitat for the federally-endangered quino checkerspot butterfly. No presence/absence surveys for either the butterflies or their host plants have been conducted within the fire area but it is presumed to have been suitable prior to the fire. Quino checkerspot butterflies and their host plants have been documented within 0.25 miles of the fire. The most commonly used primary host plant (adults deposit eggs on it) is *Plantago erecta*, but other documented primary host plants include *P. patagonica*, *Antirrhinum coulterianum*, and *Cordylanthus rigidus*. Other species of *Plantago* may be used as primary host plants. Secondary host plants (adults don't deposit eggs on it, but larvae eat it) include *Castilleja exserta* and perhaps other species belonging or related to the figwort family (Scrophulariaceae). Soil disturbance, particularly degradation of cryptobiotic crusts, can substantially hamper the ability of *Plantago* and other native annuals to persist at a site. Consequently, ground-disturbing activities such as intensive OHV traffic can contribute to the decline of quino checkerspot food plants or cause larval mortality. In addition, invasion of non-native plants pose a significant threat as they can out-compete the native annual host plants.

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

Table 5: Critical Value Matrix

| Probability of Damage or Loss | Magnitude of Consequences | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------|
| | Major | Moderate | Minor |
| | RISK | | |
| Very Likely | Very High | Very High | Low |
| Likely | Very High | High | Low |
| Possible | High | Intermediate | Low |
| Unlikely | Intermediate | Low | Very Low |

1. Human Life and Safety (HLS):

- a. Public use of Bautista Canyon Road for through travel and access to the Alessandro Trail (2E44) could put the public at Intermediate risk during a storm event. The probability of damage or loss is estimated to be possible due to the limited (3) locations where sediment movement could cause road damage. The magnitude of consequences is deemed to be moderate (damage and injury) for the modeled storm. The Forest Service is currently in contact with the County of Riverside, which maintains Bautista Canyon Road, regarding other area of damage associated with the February 2019 storm. The three crossings in question will be communicated to the County for assessment and possible fixes.

2. Property (P): Bautista County Road has three water crossing locations at risk from the Bautista Fire. 2 are low water crossings that have existing head cuts forming on the downgradient side. The third has a culvert in place that is half filled with sediment. The probability of damage or loss is Possible and the Magnitude of Consequence is Moderate to Low. The Risk is Intermediate to Low. Communication with the County of Riverside on this location of concern should be sufficient treatment.

3. Natural Resources (NR): The number of existing invasive plants in the area, coupled with the now open area following the Bautista Fire indicates that the Probability of damage or loss to this endangered species habitat is Likely. The magnitude of consequence to the host plants in the area is moderate, leading to an assessment of Very High Risk. Early Detection and Rapid Response surveys and treatment of invasives is warranted.

b. Off-highway vehicle use in the area is moderate and the open land could be a temptation for travel off the designated routes and into the fire area. This misuse of the land would exacerbate the threat of invasive weeds, as well as increase damage to the vegetative recovery. The Probability of damage is Likely and the magnitude of consequences is moderate. This indicates a high risk and a justification for signage to inform the public of the vegetative recovery and the need for remaining on the designated routes.

4. Cultural and Heritage Resources: N/A

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives: The primary objective is to promote vegetative recovery for the benefit of the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly.

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

Land 90

Channel N/A

Roads/Trails 100

Protection/Safety N/A

D. Probability of Treatment Success

Table 6: Probability of Treatment Success

| | 1 year after treatment | 3 years after treatment | 5 years after treatment |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Land | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Channel | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Roads/Trails | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Protection/Safety | N/A | N/A | N/A |

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): 50,000

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): 5,000 Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

- ☐ Soils ☒ Hydrology ☐ Engineering ☐ GIS ☐ Archaeology
☒ Weeds ☒ Recreation ☐ Fisheries ☒ Wildlife
☐ Other:

Team Leader:

Email: robert.taylor2@usda.gov

Phone(s): 909-382-2660

Forest BAER Coordinator:

Email: robert.taylor2@usda.gov

Phone(s): 909-382-2660

Team Members: Table 7: BAER Team Members by Skill

| Skill | Team Member Name |
|--------------|------------------|
| Team Lead(s) | Robert G Taylor |
| Soils | |
| Hydrology | Robert G Taylor |
| Engineering | |
| GIS | Tracy Tennant |
| Archaeology | |
| Weeds | Lance Wooley |
| Recreation | Andrew Smith |
| Wildlife | Kim Boss |

H. Treatment Narrative: Land Treatments: Forest Service policy mandates the Forest to minimize the establishment of non-native invasive species to prevent unacceptable degradation of the burned area. Several invasive plants are known from the surrounding area and include; ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), totalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), stinknet (*Oncosiphon piluliferum*), tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*). These invasive species have a high likelihood of being dispersed into new areas from suppression activities. Dispersal of weeds from fire equipment movement poses a significant risk to native plant post-fire regeneration. Many annual and biennial weed species germinate and are detectable in the early spring. Control if it is warranted, must occur prior to seed set in early spring to be effective at preventing seed production and further infestation the following year. It is likely that both the early survey work and the later survey work will have to be conducted by a Permanent GS 9 botanist and contracted botanist. Weed surveys will begin in early spring 2020 during or prior to, the flowering/seed-set periods of early non-native

invasive annual and biennial plant species such as mustards, thistles, and invasive non-native grasses. Surveys will be conducted again later in the season to detect the later sprouting perennial invasive plants. Priority will be given to surveys on dozer lines, areas of road brushing/chipping, areas of roadside mastication, staging areas, handlines within and adjacent to known invasive plant populations in that order.

Estimates for time and resources needed to complete this treatment are: 2 person team (GS-9 and contractor) working for 4 days in the early spring and a second entry for 3 days = 14 person days + mileage. Estimated treatment cost is \$5,000.

Monitoring for success of carsonite signage at preventing OHV incursion will be accomplished by visual surveys of potential damage. Botanical surveyors will look for issues, document via pictures, and inform the recreation group if further assessment is needed.

Channel Treatments: N/A Roads and Trail Treatments: N/A Protection/Safety Treatments: [Click here to enter text.](#) Prevention of OHV incursion into the fire area will be accomplished by public education and signage.

| Item | Unit Price Estimate | Quantity | Total Cost | Vendor |
|---|----------------------|----------|------------|---------------|
| 4'X4'X8' wood posts | \$13.25 | 20 | 265.00 | Forest Lumber |
| Carsonite signs: Dual Sided Marker – Brown (50 needed) | \$320.00 / box of 20 | 3 | 960.00 | Carsonite |
| Carsonite stickers: "Closure Area" | \$2.55 ea. | 50 | \$127.50 | Rock Art |
| Carsonite stickers: "Sensitive/ Restoration Area" | \$2.55 ea. | 50 | \$127.50 | Rock Art |
| Carsonite installing tool: Standard Marker Post Driver with Foam Rubber Grips (for markers 62"+ tall) 08-103 | \$190.00 | 1 | \$190.00 | Rock Art |
| Installation – 2 person crew | \$350/day | 4 | \$1400 | |

Estimated treatment cost = \$3070

I. Monitoring Narrative:

PART VI – EMERGENCY STABILIZATION TREATMENTS AND SOURCE OF FUNDS

| Line Items | Units | Unit Cost | NFS Lands | | Other \$ | Other Lands | | | All Total \$ |
|--|--------|-----------|------------|---------|----------|-------------|--------|--------------------|--------------|
| | | | # of Units | BAER \$ | | # of units | Fed \$ | # of Units Non Fed | |
| A. Land Treatments | | | | | | | | | |
| Rapid Response- weeds | 2 | 2,500 | 2 | \$5,000 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$5,000 |
| | | | | | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Insert new items above this line!</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Subtotal Land Treatments</i> | | | | \$5,000 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$5,000 |
| B. Channel Treatments | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Insert new items above this line!</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Subtotal Channel Treatments</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| C. Road and Trails | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Insert new items above this line!</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Subtotal Road and Trails</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| D. Protection/Safety | | | | | | | | | |
| Carsonite signage | 2 | 1,535 | 2 | \$3,070 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$3,070 |
| | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Insert new items above this line!</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Subtotal Protection/Safety</i> | | | | \$3,070 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$3,070 |
| E. BAER Evaluation | | | | | | | | | |
| Initial Assessment | Report | \$600 | 1 | --- | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Insert new items above this line!</i> | | | | --- | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Subtotal Evaluation</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| F. Monitoring | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Insert new items above this line!</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| <i>Subtotal Monitoring</i> | | | | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| G. Totals | | | | \$8,070 | \$0 | | \$0 | | \$8,070 |
| Previously approved | | | | | | | | | |
| Total for this request | | | | \$8,070 | | | | | |

PART VII - APPROVALS

1.

Forest Supervisor

Kay Wiand

1/28/2020

Date