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

Date of Report: 9/15/2000

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

[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: Coal Banks

B. Fire Number: 077 (BLM G212)

C. State: 16 Idaho

D. County: 031 Burley

E. Region: 04

F. Forest: 14 Sawtooth

G. District: 01 Burley-Twin Falls

H. Date Fire Started: 8/18/2000

I. Date Fire Contained: 8/23/2000
Date Fire Controlled: 8/27/2000

J. Suppression Cost: $1,000,000 (est.)

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 8.5 miles (estimated)
2. Fireline seeded (miles): will be done by BLM
3. Other (identify): Dry Gulch exclosure fence – about ¼ mile

L. Watershed Number: 170402110305 Coal Banks-Devine (Goose Creek subbasin)

M. Total Acres Burned: 8480
NFS Acres(1965) Other Federal (5134) State (1357) Private (25)

N. Vegetation Types: Grass-Sagebrush, Juniper, Mountain Mahogany

O. Dominant Soils: Typic Vitrandepts coarse loamy mixed frigid; Lithic Haplochrepts coarse loamy /loamy skeletal mixed frigid

P. Geologic Types: welded volcanic ash and basalt

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:
3 miles of 1st order stream only.

R. Transportation System

Trails: 0 miles Roads: 1 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): 1765 (low) 100 (moderate) ___ (high) 100 acres unburned

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): None

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres): estimated
1000 (low) 200 (moderate) 765 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: ____ tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: ____ cubic yards / square mile

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 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 / second/ square mile): NA

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

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

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency:

This is a BLM-controlled fire that does not appear to have created any significant threats to human life or property. Much of the soil is a highly erosive volcanic ash but is generally protected by perennial grass that is expected to recover naturally, as the crowns of the plants appear to have generally survived the fire. Rock fragments and talus also protect much of the soil, though erosion is expected to wash through the ephemeral drainages and gullies to Goose Creek, which is on the 1998 303(d) list of water quality impaired streams.

The main concern is to protect the burned area from grazing for a full three growing seasons and to be sure that neither the burn nor the suppression efforts will allow more encroachment of noxious weeds. Weeds now in the area are Whitetop and Leafy Spurge; others may have been brought in by suppression equipment.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

The goal of the burned area emergency rehabilitation is to:

- Protect the existing perennial plant communities from grazing for a minimum of three growing seasons.
- Prevent encroachment by noxious weeds into the plant communities.

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

Land __ % Channel __ % Roads __ % Other __ %

D. Probability of Treatment Success – 100% - control of grazing

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

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): $10,900

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

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H. **Treatment Narrative:**

Land Treatments: None

Channel Treatments: None

Roads and Trail Treatments: Dozer lines constructed on the Forest Service lands have been stabilized and are being seeded with native grasses as part of the suppression damage control.

Structures: Four miles of temporary fence will be installed to protect the burned area from grazing for three growing seasons. The area is part of a large pasture that will be necessary for continued grazing; the adjacent BLM land will also be rested. The fence will cost about $4500 per mile in order to last 3 years; a much cheaper fence could be installed for one year, but it would have to be re-installed each of the following two years at a greater total cost. After 3 years, the fence would be removed, but the value of salvageable materials should cover the cost of removal.

Noxious Weed Treatments: The threat of spread of existing noxious weeds (whitetop and spurge) can be expected as a result of the fire. In addition, fire suppression actions were conducted by crews and equipment brought into the fire from many areas across the United States including BLM areas in Utah, Idaho and Nevada where there are infestations of various species of noxious or non-native invasive plants. No preventative measures were taken to prevent the introduction of non-native invasive weed seeds or plant into the burned area or vicinity. It is very probable that additional non-native invasive plant seeds were introduced into the area by suppression actions. Any invasion of noxious weeds as identified by the State of Idaho, the "All States Noxious Weeds List", or the Federal Noxious Weeds List will be targeted for immediate irradication using appropriate herbicides and application techniques. This

treatment will take place under the direction of the Burley/Twin Falls District Ranger in accordance with the Forest Noxious Weed Management Plan and Environmental Analysis. These actions will be coordinated with local State and County agencies. The amount of treatment will be based on monitoring the burned area and access routes for weed invasion and spread. It is reasonable to expect the spread over about 10 acres as a result of this fire. This project provides for erradication treatments for up to 10 acres annually for the period following the fire through the year 2003 at an application cost of $100 per acre ($1000 annually).

I. **Monitoring Narrative:**

Weed Monitoring and Treatment Plan

The following methods will be followed during this phase of the monitoring plan:

- Evaluate the weed infestations in the area using existing information. This evaluation will include known locations and management activities to treat the noxious weeds prior to the wildfire.
- Briefly describe any of the fire suppression-related activities that were aimed at preventing the spread of non-native invasive plants to or from the fire. Consider:
    - Contract requirements for cleaning equipment before bringing it to the fire.
    - Contract requirements for use of weed free seed and mulches used on fire line and camp restoration actions.
    - Establishment of equipment cleaning areas used during suppression activities or at demobilization.
- Provide a description or map quantifying disturbed areas including fire lines, fire camp, spot camps, helispots, access roads, or other sites disturbed by suppression and support activities. Map will be prepared prior to initiation of treatment.
- Evaluate the potential for spread of existing non-native invasive species or introduction of new species through the burned area, suppression sites or adjacent areas as a result of the wildfire event or suppression actions. Cheatgrass is known to occur on Nevada BLM lands to the south and east.
- Monitor the dozer lines, Forest Roads used for access, and the remainder of the burn area for a period of three growing seasons (2001, 2002, and 2003) and a minimum of 4 days per year (two days in the spring and two days in the fall) during each of these years. Three seasons are necessary in order for sufficient growth to occur to provide staff with positive identification of any noxious weed. Monitoring will be conducted per Region 4 Range Monitoring standards using existing transects. Percent ground cover, grass and forb diversity, and vigor will be measured. Stands of pure native grass species will also be monitored, using a belt transect method to detect any species change or noxious weed infestation. If any new noxious weed infestations occur along the dozer lines, within the burn area, or within pure native grass stands, local Forest Service staff will request additional dollars to purchase herbicide and seed. Establish photo points within each native grass stand monitored, to measure the above parameters

Additional funding for noxious weed monitoring and control will be requested in the next two years, based on the amount of weed spread and invasion is found during the first year.

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

Line Items	Units	Unit Cost	# of Units	WFSU SULT $	Other $	# of units	Fed $	# of Units	Non Fed $	Total $
A. Land Treatments										
Noxious Weed Control	acres	$100	10	$1,000			$0		$0	$1,000
				$0			$0			
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$1,000			$0		$0	$1,000
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										
Temporary Fence	miles	4500	4	$18,000			$0		$0	$18,000
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Structures				$18,000			$0		$0	$18,000
E. BAER Evaluation										
Salary				$3,500			$0		$0	$3,500
Travel				$500			$0		$0	$500
G. Monitoring Cost	days	275	4	$1,100			$0		$0	$1,100
H. Totals				**$24,100**			**$0**		**$0**	**$24,100**

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. /s/ William P. Levere — 9/11/00
   Forest Supervisor (signature) — Date

2. _____ _____
   Regional Forester (signature) — Date