United States Department of Agriculture **Forest Service** **Nez Perce National Forest** **Route 2, Box 475 Grangeville, ID 83530 208 983-1950**

File Code: 2520-3 **Date:** August 15, 2001
Route To:

Subject: Burned Area Report - Taco Fire

To: Regional Forester

Enclosed is the Taco Fire Burned Area Report Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds.

Please contact Pat Green, Forest Ecologist, at 208-983-1950 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter. She will gladly assist you.

/s/ Bruce E. Bernhardt
BRUCE E. BERNHARDT
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

Cc:
Bruce Sims, Northern Regional Office
Pat Green, Nez Perce National Forest

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

Date of Report: Aug 15, 2001

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: Taco

B. Fire Number: ID-NPF-30

C. State: Idaho

D. County: Idaho

E. Region: Northern (01)

F. Forest: Nez Perce

G. District: Salmon River

H. Date Fire Started: August 4, 2001

I. Date Fire Controlled: estimated 15 Aug, 2001

J. Suppression Cost: $1,600,000 estimated current

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 2.8 dozer; 8.4 hand line (adjusted for slope)
2. Fireline seeded (miles): 11.2 to be seeded and obliterated
3. Other (identify): 4.5 acres camp areas and drop points to be rehabilitated

L. Watershed Number: 17060209-03-04, 11, 99

M. Total Acres Burned: 3300 estimated
NFS Acres (3160) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private (140)

N. Vegetation Types: Annual grasses and weeds, native grasses, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir

O. Dominant Soils: Ultic haploxerolls, with mixed volcanic as surface layers

P. Geologic Types: schist

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: 10.6 1st order, 3.9 2nd order adjusted for slope

R. Transportation System

Trails: 5.1 miles Roads: 1.0 miles spotted across, 5.9 miles used as fireline or contingency line

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): 2640 (80%) (low or unburned) 495 (15%) (moderate) 165 (5%) (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 1000 acres with moderate or high water repellency. Unburned areas showed much more consistently high water repellency than burned areas.

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):
0 (low) 2475 (moderate) 825 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: .08 tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: .03 tons / acre

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 40

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): 90

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

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): 24

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches): 10

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): 8.3 1st yr, 2.3 2nd yr

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): 0-10

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): 9.1 1st yr, 2.5 2nd yr

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency:

1.Threats to long-term soil productivity and ecosystem integrity:

The burned area includes extensive infestations of Idaho noxious weeds including Scotch thistle, rush skeleton weed, spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, sulfur cinquefoi, and Japanese

knotweed. These species result in decreased soil stability, higher erosion risk, degraded wildlife habitat, and loss of native species and community integrity. An estimated 50 percent of the burned area is habitat highly susceptible to invasion by one or more of these species. The burned areas provide seedbeds, and the trails, roads, firelines and fire camps provide vectors for spread. This request may be revised upward based on better information.

2. Threats to water quality,TES aquatic species, and heritage resources:

The burned area is in very steep canyons with high potential for debris torrents under both natural and burned conditions. The resources at risk include listed fish species in the Salmon River, and developed campsites and archeological sites at the mouths of Spring Creek and Van Creek. Two draws were identified where high fire severity may increase the risk for debris torrents beyond natural. One of these draws will receive drainage runoff from the adjacent road 221G. We may submit an amended request for rehabilitation funds to add contour felled logs to slopes to dissipate overland flow energy in the headwall area, when we can more safely assess this situation.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

1. Control spread of noxious weeds within the fire perimeter, and along roads, trails, and campsites that border the fire perimeter.

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

Land ___ % Channel ___ % Roads ___ % Other **70** %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land			
Channel			
Roads			
Other			
(weeds)	70	80	80

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): $60,000 to control expanded weed populations

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): $33,000 includes cost of treatment and cost to treat weeds in areas not proposed for treatment.

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: Pat Green

Email: pgreen@fs.fed.us Phone: 208 983-1950 FAX: 208 983-4099

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.)

Land Treatments: Spot herbicide treatments of 33 acres along leading edge of current infestations, new infestations, Salmon River Road, camp sites, and lower 221 road in fall of 2001 and spring of 2002, a total of 61 acres would be treated over the two years. Weed management strategy for the Salmon River Weed Management Area is currently in place. Concurrence with a BA for noxious weed control has been received from Fish and Wildlife Service and is pending fron National Marine Fisheries Service. An approved EA for weed control is in place.

Channel Treatments: None at this time

Roads and Trail Treatments: None at this time

Structures: None at this time

H. **Monitoring Narrative:**

(Describe the monitoring needs, what treatments will be monitored, how they will be monitored, and when monitoring will occur. A detailed monitoring plan must be submitted as a separate document to the Regional BAER coordinator.)

10-15 monitoring transects with replicated microplots will be established immediately after the fire and in the two years following the fire, in burned areas as well as controls. This follows the protocols established for the Three Bears and Pinchot fires, so that replication occurs across fires and across burn severities and pre-fire conditions. Monitoring will determine densities of weeds by species present before and following the fire, and relate this to pre burn weed populations, site characteristics, and burn severity. This information can be used to predict risk and rates of spread in similar settings.

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

			NFS Lands				Other Lands			All
		Unit	# of	WFSU	Other	# of	Fed	# of	Non Fed	Total
Line Items	Units	Cost	Units	SULT $	$	units	$	Units	$	$
A. Land Treatments										
weeds	acres	$261	61	$15,921			$0		$0	$15,921
				$0			$0			
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$15,921			$0		$0	$15,921
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										
Salary	days	$230	5	$1,150			$0		$0	$1,150
				$0			$0		$0	$0
G. Monitoring Cost	years	$1,500	3	$4,500			$0		$0	$4,500
weeds										
H. Totals				**$21,571**			**$0**		**$0**	**$21,571**

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. *_/s/ Bruce E. Bernhardt_* 08/15/2001
   Forest Supervisor (signature) Date

2. _____ _____
   Regional Forester (signature) Date