

Date of Report: August 30, 2012

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 # _____
☐ 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: Ramsey B. Fire Number: CA-STF-002954
C. State: California D. County: Calaveras
E. Region: Pacific Southwest (R5) F. Forest: Stanislaus
G. District: Calaveras H. Fire Incident Job Code: P5G5WX
I. Date Fire Started: August 11, 2012 J. Date Fire Contained: August 27, 2012
K. Suppression Cost: \$4,744,251 as of 8/24/2012
L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 6.5 miles
2. Fireline seeded (miles): None to date.
3. Other (identify): None
M. Watershed Number: HUC6 180400100303 (Middle North Fork Stanislaus River)
N. Total Acres Burned: NFS (1082) Other Federal (0) State (0) Private (56)
O. Vegetation Types: Vegetation types in the burned area typical of Sierra Nevada sites above 5000 feet elevation and are dominated by Mixed Sierran Conifer, Red fir, Montane Chaparral Montane Hardwood and Montane Hardwood Chaparral vegetation types. Upper slopes and drainage bottoms support continuous stands of coniferous dominated vegetation, while chaparral dominates low elevation and rocky upper elevation portions of the burned area. Small inclusions (less than 0.5 acre) of annual grasslands, Jeffery pine, lodgepole pine, montane riparian and white fir vegetation types are also within the burned area.
P. Dominant Soils: Rock Outcrop, Lithic Xeropsaments, Gerle Family
Q. Geologic Types: Granite to Quartz Diorite; Main Sierran Batholith

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Critical Values/Resources and Threats:

The Ramsey Fire burned approximately 1,137 acres within the North Fork Stanislaus River canyon on the Stanislaus National Forest and the community of Ganns Meadow. The fire burned on the north side of the North Fork Stanislaus River in vegetation consisting of mixed conifer with significant areas of bedrock on the lower slopes. Soil burn severity was mixed, and consisted primarily of moderate (50% of fire area) and low (32%), with small pockets of high (4%), and unburned (14%). Elevations within the fire perimeter range from 4,800 feet at the North Fork Stanislaus River to 6,700 feet at Highway 4 where the fire was stopped. The Ramsey Fire occurred within an area that does not have any recorded fire history since the Stanislaus National Forest fire records began in 1908.

A total of 1,082 (95%) acres burned on National Forest System (NFS) lands and 56 (5%) acres burned on private lands. Inventoried roadless area occurs on 579 acres. The team assessed only National Forest System (NFS) lands burned by the fire. High tree mortality occurred in the NE corner of the Ramsey Fire, where a spotted owl PAC and a concentration of heritage resources are located. See Soil Burn Severity Map, Appendix A.

Critical Values at Risk:

Life: There is a substantial risk to Forest visitors and home owners in the burned area. Fire weakened trees are found along the private/FS boundary of Ganns Meadow and other areas. Level two NFS roads and a hiking trail that is accessed from Highway 4 and the Ganns Meadow area are used for hiking, hunting and woodcutting. A high frequency of large green and fire killed trees falling, pose a serious threat to human life in the burned area.

Property: There are approximately 2 miles of National Forest System Road (NFSR) and 1 mile of National Forest System trail within the Ramsey Fire perimeter. Forest roads are now susceptible to storm damage to roads

Threats to Cultural Resource: A concentration of prehistoric sites is found in the Ramsey Fire. Sites include bedrock mortars and lithic manufacturing remains. Sites are exposed and susceptible to looting.

Native Vegetation Recovery: Invasive weed introduction and spread is possible on the Ramsey Fire. No cleaning stations were established during suppression activities. Areas of ground disturbance (i.e. dozer lines) and regular equipment or crew presence (i.e. staging areas, safety zones, drop points) are at risk. Expansion of weed populations could affect the structure and function of native plant communities within the burn area, as well as threaten native wildlife habitat. Prior to the burn this area had a very low exposure to noxious weeds with the exception of a populations of bull thistle on adjacent SPI timber lands.

Critical Values NOT at Risk:

Threats to Soil Productivity: Soil loss is expected to be within the natural range of variability. Erosion is expected on slopes below rock outcrop where runoff will be concentrated.

Threats to Water Quality and Beneficial Uses: Based on field investigations and modeling of expected post-fire peak flows, there is a low risk to critical values (water quality and aquatic habitat) and, therefore, an emergency does not exist. Reach-scale water quality and aquatic habitat in the North Fork Stanislaus River could likely be adversely affected by increased nutrients, suspended sediment and debris, increased turbidity, and increased fine sediment in pools; however, the North Fork Stanislaus River is a large stream that has adequate flow and transport capacity to dilute and move downstream increased debris and fine sediment loads transmitted from the fire area. and, These effects are expected to be minor and short-term in duration and occur during storms or snow melt in the first 1 -2 years after the fire.

Threats to Wildlife: The area affected by the Ramsey Fire supports no habitat or occurrences of federally threatened or endangered wildlife species. One Forest Service Region 5 Sensitive Species (California Spotted Owl) was known to occur in the Ramsey Fire. The occupied nest tree used by a California Spotted Owl pair was felled during fire suppression activities to improve firefighter safety. Habitat of this pair experienced high tree mortality..

Rare Plants: The area affected by the Ramsey Fire supports no habitat or occurrences of federally threatened or endangered plant species. One population of Forest Service Region 5 Sensitive plant species (*Lewisia kelloggii* ssp. *kelloggii*) was known to

(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.)

Treatments are proposed in the Ramsey Fire to protect life, property and resources. See Treatment Map, Appendix C.

Protection/Safety Treatments:

Two treatments are proposed to provide for public safety: 1) identify and drop hazard trees close to the private/FS boundary and homes at Ganns Meadow; 2) area closure; and 3) communicate threat to private property owners close to the fire area.

Both dead and green trees have contributed to higher than average tree hazard within the Ramsey Fire. Ground fuels (often ten inches of red fir duff) have been largely consumed even in areas of lower burn severity. When the material burned it left pockets of hot ash that baked the shallow roots of trees growing in bouldery soils. Root disease may also be contributing to the hazard.

Suppression efforts are continuing to sweep and fall hazard trees within critical areas (roads and close to private property). The threat of falling trees is expected to continue through the first year or until the area is salvage logged. A BAER treatment is proposed to monitor for and drop dangerous trees within two tree lengths of the private/FS boundary at Ganns Meadow. This threat to will be communicated to private property owners in the Ganns area by mailing a press release directly to property owners.

Hazard Trees Close to Private/FS Boundary and Homes: Proposed is to have a fire crew of 10 sweep the area twice and fall trees within their capability. A contract faller would be called in where necessary. Cost for the fire crew is \$5,000 and a contract faller is \$2,000.

In addition to this sweep effort, the local residents (cabin owners) will be warned of the threat and approximately one mile of boundary will be signed.

Area Closure: A temporary area closure is proposed to keep people safe from falling trees. The cost of gates and signing is \$11,113.

GATES and SIGNING				
Road 6N59Y		(150' from old Hwy 4 intersection)		
	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Powder River Gate and Sign Installation	LS	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
Powder River Gate Materials (18' gate)	EA	1	\$750	\$750
RR Tie Adjacent to Road (block access)	EA	1	\$50	\$50
BAER Information Sign	EA	1	\$400	\$400
Quarry Road				
Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Powder River Gate and Sign Installation	LS	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
Powder River Gate Materials	EA	1	\$700	\$700
BAER Information Sign	EA	1	\$400	\$400
Road 6N79				
Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Powder River Gate and Sign Installation	LS	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
Powder River Gate Materials	EA	1	\$750	\$750
RR Tie Adjacent to Road (block access)	EA	1	\$50	\$50
BAER Information Sign	EA	1	\$400	\$400

Land Treatments

Invasive Plants: Next spring and summer visit all locations utilized by suppression (firelines, staging areas, helispots, drop points, safety zones) to evaluate for invasive non-native plant population expansion and establishment. A couple of surveys may be required in each area to catch weeds that may sprout at different times. Survey early enough to catch the early weeds and rosettes of the later weeds. If the rosettes cannot be identified, collect a sample and waypoint the location for a revisit. Hand pull or dig all noxious weeds found. Bag and properly dispose of seed heads. Document the crew's findings and the locations of the invasive weeds detected and removed on a map.

Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Notes
Monitor fireline and other areas used by suppression for noxious weed population spread & establishment. Grub out small populations while monitoring.	ACRES	48	\$200	\$9,600	spring/summer 201
				TOTAL COST \$9,600	

Channel Treatments: None recommended

Roads and Trail Treatments:

Approximately 2 miles of Forest Service roads are within the burned. The roads have had only limited maintainance in the past. Storm-proofing is necessary to avoid damage from winter storms and increased post'fire runoff. A portion of the fire area (where the roads are) is within the elevation band where low intensity, long duration rain falling on a shallow snow pack (i.e., rain-on-snow events) can produce high peak flows and flooding. Storm-proofing includes restoring function to plugged culverts, cleaning inside ditches and installing dips and waterbars. See below for per road treatment costs. Forest Service engineering costs for contract preparation and administration is \$6,800. This would be contracted services estimated at 100 hours at the rate of 68 dollars/hour. Total cost for roads is \$25,150.

One trail exists in the Ramsey Fire. No treatments are recommended other than signing the trail closed for safety to avoid hazard trees.

Part VI – Emergency Stabilization Treatments and Source of Funds

Interim #

Line Items	Units	Unit Cost	# of Units	BAER \$	Other \$	# of units	Fed \$	# of Units	Non Fed \$	Total \$
A. Land Treatments										
Invasive weeds treat.	ac	\$ 200.00	48	\$9,600	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$9,600
Subtotal Land Treatments				\$9,600	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$9,600
B. Channel Treatments										
None				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
C. Road and Trails										
Restore culverts	ea	\$ 300.00	6	\$1,800	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,800
Install metal end sect.	ea	\$ 1,100.00	2	\$2,200	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,200
Const/restore ditch	lf	\$ 3.00	650	\$1,950	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,950
Rolling dips	ea	\$ 330.00	10	\$3,300	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$3,300
Drivable waterbars	ea	\$ 250.00	6	\$1,500	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,500
Rock dip	ea	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$2,500	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,500
Type2 spillway	ea	\$ 2,000.00	1	\$2,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,000
Mach. placed riprap	cy	\$ 350.00	2	\$700	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$700
Replace culvert	lf	\$ 60.00	40	\$2,400	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,400
Engr. plan&adm.	ea	\$ 6,800.00	1	\$6,800			\$0		\$0	\$6,800
Subtotal Road & Trails				\$25,150	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$25,150
D. Protection/Safety										
Gates with signs	ea	\$ 3,233.00	3	\$9,699	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$9,699
Highway signs	ea	\$ 291.00	2	\$582	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$582
Boundary haz signs	ea	\$ 10.17	50	\$509	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$509
Sign posting, msc.	ea	\$ 522.00	1	\$522	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$522
Implem't'n coord.	days	\$ 340.00	14	\$4,760	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$4,760
Subtotal Structures				\$16,072	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$16,072
E. BAER Evaluation				\$0						
Assessment Team	ea	\$ 28,660.00	1	\$28,660	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$28,660
Subtotal Evaluation				\$28,660	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$28,660
F. Monitoring				\$0						
Closure effectiveness	days	\$ 261.00	10	\$2,610	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,610
Heritage resource	days	\$ 420.00	5	\$2,100			\$0		\$0	\$2,100
Subtotal Monitoring				\$4,710	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$4,710
G. Totals				\$84,192	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$84,192
Previously approved										
Total for this request				\$84,192						

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. /s/ Susan Skalski
Forest Supervisor (signature)

8/30/12
Date

2. *Dennis T. Bryant*
for Regional Forester (signature)

9/13/12
Date

Correspondence Document Summary

USDA Forest Service

01-RO Informal (Single)
Signature
Template

Awaiting Finalization

Signed

(expected date)

R5
Regional Office

*	File Codes : 2520-Emergency Burn Area Rehabilitation /6520-General
	Route To:
	Control Number :
*	To: Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest
	cc: Sheri A Elliott/R5/USDAFS, Leila Devine/R5/USDAFS, Aurora Schmidt/R5/USDAFS, Penny A Luehring/WO/USDAFS, Jeff D TenPas/R5/USDAFS, Alex Janicki/R5/USDAFS
*	Subject: Ramsey Fire, Burned Area Emergency Response, Initial 2500-8 A
	Reply Due : <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the Reply Due is optional
*	Categories: R5-RO-EM
*	Signature Block (s): Randy Moore
* These fields must be entered before the letter can be finalized	

Co-authors:



Document



RAMSEY_BAER_initial2500_STF083020121.docx

Review Information

Simultaneous Review

Reviewers' instructions:

Sequential Review

Current Reviewer	Still To Review	Reviewers Concurring	Reviewers Not Concurring
		Maud Williamson/R5/USDAFS Teresa M McClung/R5/USDAFS Monique M Brown/R5/USDAFS Dianne Morgado/R5/USDAFS Maud Williamson/R5/USDAFS Leyna Irwin/R5/USDAFS	

Review Comments

Maud Williamson/R5/USDAFS concurs, 09/04/2012 09:42:37 AM PDT

Teresa M McClung/R5/USDAFS concurs, 09/04/2012 10:32:35 AM PDT

Monique M Brown/R5/USDAFS concurs, 09/10/2012 09:20:25 AM PDT

Dianne Morgado/R5/USDAFS concurs, 09/10/2012 10:33:29 AM PDT

All reviews completed

Review cancelled by Maud Williamson at 09/13/2012 12:15:48 PM PDT.

Review cancelled by Maud Williamson at 09/13/2012 12:16:49 PM PDT.