

Date of Report: September 18, 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 # _____
 ☐ 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:** Pony Complex**B. Fire Number:** ID-BOF-001047**C. State:** ID**D. County:** Elmore**E. Region:** Intermountain**F. Forest:** Boise National Forest**G. District:** Mountain Home**H. Fire Incident Job Code:** P4HUJ6**I. Date Fire Started:** August 8, 2013**J. Date Fire Contained:** August 19, 2013**K. Suppression Cost:** \$4,000,000**L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds**

1. Fireline waterbarred (miles):
2. Fireline seeded (miles):
3. Other (identify):

M. Watershed Number:

Watershed	Area (acres)
Willow	29,539
Indian	7,505
Bowns	4,391
Ditto (Upper Squaw)	9,728
WEST Dry (Mid Squaw), Soles Rest, Wood, Lockman	14,419
Syrup	18,926
Long Tom	20,227
SOUTH Upr Canyon, Rattlesnake, Bennett	15,463
EAST Arrowrock, SF Boise	33,513

N. Total Acres Burned:
NFS Acres(51,121) Other Federal (50,594) State (24,650) Private (27,346)

O. Vegetation Types: Shrub/ grassland that includes a mix of Wyoming and Mountain Big Sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush with perennial bunchgrasses that include bunchgrass as a minor component make up most of the burned area. While smaller portions in higher elevations include conifers and aspen.

P. Dominant Soils:

Soils on the Pony Fire are dominated by Idavada Volcanics and Idaho Batholith parent materials across the Danskin Mountain Range south of the South Fork Boise River corridor. Erosion and dissection of these geologic formations are ongoing as a result of continuous uplift. The soils that have formed on these erosional surfaces are quite variable. Landtype characteristics are generally moderately deep fluvial lands with long parallel ridges which are moderately steep to steep on non-timbered slopes that have been deeply incised by intermittent concentrations of overland flow cutting into weathered granite bedrock resulting in weakly developed soil profiles. Textures typically range from skeletal sandy clay loams to clay loams. Soils that have an argillic horizon are generally developed on less steep, more stable slopes at lower elevations with less precipitation.

Q. Geologic Types: See P. above

R. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:

S. Transportation System

Trails: 177 miles Roads: 101 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): 103,524 (low) 31,459 (moderate) 396 (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): slight change

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):
14,336 (10%) (low) 35,013 (24%) (moderate) 96,193 (66%) (high)

D. Erosion Potential: 1.8 tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: 1,440 cubic yards / square mile

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 3-5

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

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

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): 2

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches): 0.75

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): 10

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

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

Drainage	Basin Size (sq. mi.)	Q Pre (cfs)	Q Post (cfs)	Percent Change
Bowns Creek	5.5	177	238	34
Ditto Creek	8.8	56	93	65
Indian Creek	10.2	90	156	73
Syrup Creek	29.6	2,321	4,527	95
Willow Creek	46.1	103	170	66

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Critical Values/Resources and Threats:

This Report addresses effects resulting from the Pony Complex Fire that burned on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). This report was prepared in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office. Response actions for the BLM are included in this report and were prepared in accordance with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Departmental Manual, Part 620, Chapter 3 Wildland Fire Management. However, the cost of BLM treatments are being requested through the agency's Emergency Stabilization Response System.

Forest Service Response actions were prepared in accordance with the Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2500 Watershed and Air Management Chapter 2523 Emergency Stabilization-Burned Area Emergency Response and FSM Interim Directive No.: 2500-2013-1.

The objective of this BAER assessment was to identify imminent post-wildfire threats to human life and safety, property and critical natural or cultural resources and take immediate actions to manage unacceptable risks. This assessment used methodology within Forest Service directives, Exhibit 01 and 02 were used to guide the development of values important to the local agencies and the risk to those values. The team determined risk by assessing the probability for post-fire damage and the magnitude of consequences if damage occurred. The team assumed there will be risks with or without treatment and potential actions are to reduce risks to acceptable levels.

The identified values at risk and estimated levels of post fire risk to values are shown in the table below. This table represents all values found at risk and highlights FS Critical BAER Values.

Risk (Very High to Very Low)	Value At Risk	Description of Threat
Very High	Sage-Grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat	There is a very high risk to native and naturalized vegetative communities due to the lack of vegetative cover within the Pony Complex Fire. There is a very high risk to the normal fire return interval should invasive grasses become dominant, which in turn will threaten soil stabilization and the biotic integrity of the site.
	Responses: Aerial Seeding, EDRR, Motorized Vehicle Closure, Fence Construction	Specifically, this fire intensity may not have had a large-scale impact to healthy, perennial grasses within the burned area. However, the high intensity burn caused large-scale mortality to the shrub components important to the candidate species, Greater sage grouse. Sagebrush mortality has resulted in a loss of over 100,000 acres of the most important component of native and naturalized vegetative communities that is unlikely to recover naturally. This will result in creating a landscape unsuitable for sage-grouse occupancy resulting in a listing of a new species. Recent fire history has eliminated thousands of acres of adjacent habitats. In those areas of

		<p>moderate burn severity the native grass, forb, shrub response may be further threatened because of strong invasive species responses within the burned area.</p>
Very High	<p>Sage-Grouse Preliminary General Habitat</p> <p>Responses: Aerial Seeding, EDRR, Motorized Vehicle Closure, Fence Construction</p>	<p>There is a very high risk to native and naturalized vegetative communities due to the lack of vegetative cover within the Pony Complex Fire. There is a very high risk to the normal fire return interval should invasive grasses become dominant, which in turn will threaten soil stabilization and the biotic integrity of the site.</p> <p>Specifically, this fire may not have had a large-scale impact to the healthy, perennial grasses within the burned area due to the more extensive low severity. However, the fire burned at a high intensity causing large-scale mortality to the shrub components important to the candidate species, Greater sage grouse. The sage brush mortality will result in the loss of over 100,000 acres of the most important component of native and naturalized vegetative communities that is unlikely to recover naturally. This will result in creating a landscape unsuitable for sage-grouse occupancy resulting in a listing of a new species. Recent fire history has eliminated thousands of acres of adjacent habitats. In those areas of moderate burn severity the native grass, forb, shrub response may be further threatened because of strong invasive species responses within the burned area.</p>
Very High	<p>Mule Deer Winter Range</p> <p>Responses: Aerial Seeding, EDRR, Motorized Vehicle Closure, Fence Construction</p>	<p>There is a very high risk to native and naturalized vegetative communities due to the lack of vegetative cover within the Pony Complex Fire. There is a very high risk to the normal fire return interval should invasive grasses become dominant, which in turn will threaten soil stabilization and the biotic integrity of the site.</p> <p>Specifically, even though the fire had low proportions of moderate or high severity, the intensity levels resulted in extensive Bitterbrush and sagebrush mortality over large areas in winter habitat. This loss of thermal cover and forage will stress returning mule deer and increase pressure on adjacent habitat and private land. However, recent fire history over the last 5 – 10 years has greatly reduced mule deer winter range on the north side of Interstate 84. The next two years will likely push deer into the corridor between recent fire scars and the interstate putting pressure on habitat and increasing risk to travelers.</p>
Very High	<p>FS BAER Value - Native and Naturalized Vegetative Communities</p> <p>Responses: Aerial Seeding, EDRR, Motorized Vehicle Closure, Fence Construction</p>	<p>There is a very high risk to native and naturalized vegetative communities due to the lack of vegetative cover within the Pony Complex Fire.</p> <p>The quality of big sagebrush habitats has declined in the Planning Area, particularly in the southern portion where wildfires, historic livestock grazing and the subsequent spread of invasive exotic species have altered vegetation communities significantly (USDI BLM 2008). The communities most at risk of type conversion are the Wyoming big sagebrush and Wyoming big-mountain big sagebrush mix cover types. The rabbitbrush and bunchgrass communities with Sandberg's bluegrass and cheatgrass experienced mixed vegetation top-kill but were adjacent to communities are dominated by cheatgrass. All these areas could be at risk of type conversion unless they are treated—drill seeded, aerially seeded and planting live seedlings of bitterbrush and mountain big sagebrush. Furthermore, loss of sage-grouse habitat, altered fire return intervals, and threat of invasion by noxious weeds and non-native annual grasses could prevent vegetation recovery to occur within normal parameters.</p>

		Livestock grazing and wildlife pressure may also impede quick recovery of vegetative resources that hold soils on-site.
High to Very High	<p>FS BAER Value - Soil Productivity</p> <p>Responses: Aerial Seeding, EDRR, Motorized Vehicle Closure, Fence Construction</p>	<p>Increased potential for the loss of soil surface from post fire runoff events. The fire directly impacted the soil through loss of structure, litter cover, roots, volatilization of organic matter, burning of microorganisms & mycorrhizae, etc.</p> <p>There is a very high risk to soil productivity due to the lack of vegetative cover within the Pony Complex Fire. Livestock grazing and wildlife pressure may also impede quick recovery of vegetative resources that hold soils on-site.</p>
High	<p>FS BAER Value - Human Life and Safety</p> <p>Responses: Road Drainage Reconstruction, Safety Signs, Storm Patrols</p>	Potential threats to human life and safety due to post fire runoff events, tree and rock fall. The roads that are downstream or downhill from burned slopes, especially those with a moderate severity are threatened by rock fall, tree fall, and increased runoff that could put forest users of the roads in danger during and immediately following post fire rain events.
Intermediate	<p>FS BAER Value – Property</p> <p>Responses: Road Drainage Reconstruction, Safety Signs, Storm Patrols</p>	<p>Risk to road and bridge infrastructure with moderate damage expected because flooding, debris flows, and erosion is imminent. The roads at risk within the Pony Complex Fire burned area are primarily located at the bottom of drainages. With the presence of several bridges in the South Fork Boise River drainage, there is potential for floating debris to cause damage to these expensive structures.</p> <p>The highest risk to road infrastructure is associated with Forest Service roads 134B2, 134C, and 167. It is nearly certain that damage will occur if measures aren't taken to stabilize the roads and drainage structures. The moderate risk for debris flows and increased runoff coming out of the Willow Creek, Syrup Creek, Ditto Creek, Bowns Creek, and Trail Creek drainages will potentially plug culverts, damage road infrastructure and government property (primarily road prism), and wash debris and sediment into the surrounding drainages.</p>
Intermediate	<p>Water Quality</p> <p>Responses: Road Drainage Reconstruction, Safety Signs, Storm Patrols</p>	There is an intermediate risk to water quality in perennial streams (SFK Boise River, Long Tom Creek, and Indian Creek) from increased sedimentation from hillslope and stream channel erosion. Long Tom reservoir serves as storage in a system that provides irrigation water to the Mountain Home area and is a direct input to Mountain Home reservoir. Sedimentation would reduce storage capacity and impact irrigation needs. South Fork Boise River is designated as critical habitat for bull trout, a listed species. Sediment and temperature changes threaten the habitat for species in the Boise River.
Intermediate	<p>FS BAER Value - Hydrologic Function</p> <p>Responses: Road Drainage Reconstruction, Safety Signs, Storm Patrols</p>	There is an intermediate risk to hydrologic function of watersheds from increased stream channel runoff, decreased infiltration, hillslope erosion and sediment delivery to stream channels, particularly in those areas that have moderate soil burn severity. There is an associated risk to riparian areas from increased stream flows, channel erosion and loss of grass, forb, and shrub components in those areas that experienced moderate soil burn severity.

Intermediate	<p>FS BAER Value - Cultural sites</p> <p>Responses: Gate Replacement</p>	<p>Damage to significant cultural resources may destroy or alter the context of surface and subsurface cultural remains that make them eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Also, wildfires may increase the accessibility and visibility of archaeological site locations making them more susceptible to vandalism/artifact looting and unauthorized recreational activity. One existing gate along NFS road 165C previously limited public motorized access across archeological sites to a private landowner with an adjacent inholding. Motorized access on the non-system two track road through at least one archeological site could lead to archeological looting.</p> <p>The cumulative effects of fire, rangeland improvements, and livestock grazing on site BS-1338 warrants management action.</p> <p>Damage to significant cultural resources important to potentially affected Indian tribes. Tribes may define "significance" using criteria other than that identified for the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with the 36 CFR 800 federal regulations implementing NHPA, "the passage of time, changing perceptions of significance, or incomplete evaluations may require the agency official to reevaluate properties previously determined eligible or ineligible." Potentially affected Indian tribes were not consulted on the original determinations of National Register eligibility for known Native American sites in the fire area. Two sites on FS lands that are not considered eligible or potentially eligible may still be significant sites to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.</p> <p>Damage to previously unknown significant cultural resources from wildland fire and associated BAER stabilization and rehabilitation projects. The FS will prepare a report documenting the proposed Responses for review and comment by the consulting parties to fulfill its NHPA Section 106 responsibilities.</p>
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B. Emergency Treatment Objectives: Reduce threats to personal injury and/or human life of visitors using select system roads or trails.

- Protect or minimize damage to National Forest System investments within the burned area. Minimize damage to key system travel routes within the fire boundary.
- Protect or mitigate potential post-fire impacts to critical natural resources and significant cultural resources within or downstream from the burned area.
- Control expected invasion of noxious weeds within and adjacent to the area where soils/vegetation was disturbed as a result of suppression activities.
- Warn users of Forest roads and trails of hazards present in the burned area. Consider temporary closure to protect public users of NF lands.

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

Land 20 % Channel % Roads/Trails 50 % Protection/Safety 90 %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

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

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): **\$2,270,000 (see VAR)**

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): **1,475,500 (see VAR)**

Response actions are proposed to minimize the risk to human life and safety, property, native or naturalized plant communities, and soil productivity. While the Pony Complex Fire will affect market items, it's main impact has been to non-market items. The Pony Complex Fire burned quickly through hundreds of thousands of acres, much of this land is considered very important habitat for Greater sage grouse (as identified by PPH), which also overlaps with critical Mule deer winter range. Neither species is Federally-listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive. However, recent fires in the area have consumed most of the habitat available to these two species. This has created a very real competition for the remaining resources that serve as habitat and food. While this fire did not kill much of the perennial grass component, it caused substantial mortality to the shrub component. The competition for resources is expected to impair perennial grass and forb recovery. The proposed treatments are intended to accelerate the natural recovery of perennial grasses that will in turn stabilize the burned hillsides. The treatment will also add the shrub component back into the system and alleviate the loss to important wildlife habitat.

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Range	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Mgmt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Contracting	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Botany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Arch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	

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H. Treatment Narrative:

A wide array of response actions were considered to attain the objective of emergency stabilization, however, only 15 were considered feasible and effective at reducing risks to values. Assessments and response actions identified in this Plan apply to Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM Boise District-Four Rivers Field Office and USFS Boise National Forest-Mountain Home Ranger District

Land Treatments:

Aerial Seeding

General Description: Note: *BLM and State agencies are seeking funding and approval to seed areas that lost the shrub component within sage grouse priority (PPH) and general (PGH). Treatment on state and BLM lands within the burned perimeter total over 50,000 acres (~46,000 BLM).*

This aerial seeding treatment will be applied over roughly 10,400 acres of the burned area to replace ground cover consumed by the fire on NFS lands to reduce threats to native and naturalized vegetative communities and soil productivity from invasive or noxious species and soil erosion. The grass seed is intended to supplement existing stabilizing grasses by providing stabilization to areas burned at moderate severity. The burnet and alfalfa has been added to promote native recovery of existing stabilizing grasses. If these species were not added, the native recovery would be prevented or significantly suppressed by wintering wildlife. In other words, the seeding mix includes species (alfalfa and burnet) intended to reduce the post-fire risk to native vegetative communities by overgrazing, wintering mule deer that prevent or significantly suppress native recovery and seeding efforts.

The seed mix is also intended to promote recovery of Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) for sage-grouse, protect native plant communities within mule deer winter range by providing preferred forage species (alfalfa and burnet) that will accelerate the recovery of native forbs/grasses even under expected increases of browse pressure.

Location/(Suitable) Sites: The proposed treatment is designed to cover all the PPH habitat on NFS lands. Most of the PPH treatment area is within moderate soil burn severity. The treatment for PPH is proposed for application on about 2,300 acres on NFS lands. Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) within the Pony Complex Fire would be treated only on lands determined to be of moderate soil burn severity and totals about 8,100 acres.

Design/Construction Specifications: Seek cost share opportunities for all seed purchases that are outside of BAER authority. Seed will be aerially applied on identified lands. Seeding should occur in late fall or early winter which will allow seed to naturally stratify. Seed should be broadcast directly onto snow. Seed must conform to Idaho or State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Certified Noxious Weed Free Standards. The following list will be utilized to stabilize hillslopes burned at moderate to high severity. Additional native shrub and forb species may be added by cooperators. The following seed mix is proposed, however, adjustments may be made depending on supply, contribution from cooperators, and application efforts by other agencies.

Common Name	Scientific Name	PLS Pounds Per Acre	PLS # Seed / Sq. ft.	Price Per pound
Perennial				
Bluebunch wheatgrass (PSSPS)	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata ssp spicata</i>	5	16	\$10-11
Canbyi bluegrass	<i>Poa secunda var canbyi</i>	1	21.5	\$7
Alfalfa, Ladak	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	0.8	4.3	\$3.48
Small Burnet, Delar	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	1.5	1.7	\$2.25
Big Sagebrush, Mountain (Partner Funded)	<i>Artemisia tridentata vaseyana</i>	0.1	6.6	\$17.80

Purpose of Treatment: The BAER Team considered this treatment necessary to reduce the Very High risk to the accumulated critical values of **Native and Naturalized Vegetative Communities** and **Soil**

Productivity. The primary objective of seeding is to provide root systems and vegetative ground cover to stabilize slopes that burned at moderate and high severity. This seeding will also minimize the spread of existing populations and deter establishment of new noxious weed infestations and invasive plants, further reducing the threats to native plant communities and degraded soil productivity.

In addition to mitigating the threats to critical BAER values, seeding will provide direct benefits to high value resources, specifically **Sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat, Sage-grouse Preliminary General Habitat, and mule deer winter range**. Multiple fires that have burned close to 500,000 acres in 2012 and 2013 have negatively impacted high percentages of these important habitats. It is expected that habitats consisting of native vegetation not extensively damaged by wildfire will experience increased pressure from the wildlife populations as they seek forage and cover. Some of these habitats exist in close proximity to ranches, communities, and major travel routes, where vehicle-wildlife conflicts can increase the risk to human safety, animal mortality, and property damage. Sage-grouse are a sagebrush-obligate bird that depends on sagebrush throughout the year, for both cover and food. This aerial seeding will re-establish habitat in areas of high shrub mortality within greater sage-grouse PPH and PGH. For mule deer, putting shrubs onto the landscape will accelerate the ability of the burned area to provide the thermal cover that is critical to mule deer during the winter. Expediting the return of sagebrush and bitterbrush will more rapidly recover fully functioning habitat for sage-grouse and mule deer than would occur without treatments, and lessen the time where sage-grouse productivity and survival will be depressed given the consumption of shrubs due to recent fire history.

Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring

The site will be monitored annually for three consecutive years following fire containment. An evaluation of monitoring data and qualitative assessments by monitoring staff will be completed annually. Aerially seeded shrub density will be collected utilizing a 10 m² plot (1.73 meter radius circle) in areas considered suitable for shrub establishment. Data collection will occur between April and July of each year.

Noxious/Invasive Species Treatment

General Description: Monitor and treat (Early Detection & Early Response, EDRR) noxious and invasive weed infestations on NFS lands associated with suppression activities and BAER treatments. Scotch thistle, skeleton weed, diffuse knapweed and leafy spurge are the primary species of concern to invade the burn; cheatgrass and medusahead are already a concern due to their presence prior to the wildfire near and within the burn area, especially in the lower elevations, off-forest.

Location/(Suitable) Sites: Assess areas that have a high potential for weed/invasive species establishment. Critical areas include roads, dozer lines, pit reservoirs, ephemeral drainages and burned areas where suppression vehicles and equipment traveled through known noxious weed/non-native invasive plant species populations. Disturbed areas within and along the fire perimeter, such as dozer lines, hand lines, staging areas and safety zones will also be prioritized for EDRR. There are approximately 60 acres of point data of existing noxious weeds. Acres and miles of roads and dozer lines within the burn perimeter include:

- Roads and trails (acres; miles): 2,525; 194
- Dozer lines (acres; miles): FS – 194; 8

Design/Construction Specifications:

1. Monitor in FY2014, using EDRR assessment/monitoring of noxious weed/non-native invasive plant species infestations within the burned area.
2. If spread of noxious and invasive weeds is identified, then plan and design treatment.
3. Inventory/assessment, photograph, and map new noxious weed infestations within burned area using GPS technology and upload into the Mountain Home Ranger District GIS Noxious Weeds database.
4. Chemical treatments using pickups, UTVs and backpack spray units will be used on any noxious weeds located within the fire on public lands. Coordination with County Departments of Agriculture and/or the private land owner will be conducted on noxious weeds found on private lands inside and outside of the burn perimeter.
5. Consider sensitive habitat when selecting appropriate herbicide.

Purpose of Treatment Specifications: This treatment is necessary to prevent the establishment and to control the spread of new noxious weeds and non-native invasive species into the burned area and ensure that natural recovery of the native perennial grasses and forbs is not affected by noxious weeds.

Soil Quality, Hydrologic Function, Sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat, Sage-grouse Preliminary General Habitat, Mule Deer Winter Range, and Native and Naturalized Vegetation Communities (maintenance of normal fire return intervals) are the identified values this treatment will address.

Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring: Treatment sites will be evaluated annually for the next three years to ensure control methods are meeting resource objectives; follow-up treatments will be initiated if additional non-native species or new infestations are discovered.

Channel Treatments:

None

Roads and Trail Treatments:

Road Drainage Reconstruction

General Description: Roughly 18.5 miles of roads were found to be at risk from post fire events. due to expected increase in flows. The minimal treatments required to maintain road drainage in preparation for increased runoff include outsloping, drain dips, waterbars, overflow structures, culvert installation, debris racks, culvert cleaning, ditch cleaning, roadside streambank stabilization, corrugated inlet guard, and road template reshaping. Refer to the BAER Treatments catalog for more detailed descriptions of each of these treatments.

Location/Suitable Sites: FS road systems 134B2, 134C, and 167 were found to be at highest risk of damage due to post fire runoff and at a minimum will require all or part of the treatments listed above. Specifically:

- #134B2 (1.3 miles to be treated)
Drain Dip: 16 Each
Road Template Reshaping: 1.3 Miles
- #134C (1.1 miles to be treated)
Road Template Reshaping: 1.1 Miles
- #167 (16 miles to be treated)
Culvert Installation: 3 Installations
Culvert Cleaning: 10 Each
Ditch Cleaning: 6 Miles (road template is a mix of outslope and inslope with ditch)
Road Template Reshaping: 16 Miles

Design/Construction Specifications: This treatment will include a “system” of design/construction methods depending on the prisms current condition. The details of this treatment are provided in the engineering assessment report and associated specifications and will be completed per Forest Service standards. Details for the following actions are described in the BAER Treatments catalog or FHWA Standard Specifications for Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects (FP-03) with Forest Service supplemental specifications:

1. Outsloping
2. Drain Dips (with or without armor)
3. Waterbars
4. Overflow Structures
5. Culvert Installation
6. Debris Racks
7. Culvert Cleaning
8. Ditch Cleaning
9. Roadside Streambank Stabilization
10. Corrugated Inlet Guard

Generally, reshape the road surface to provide positive drainage to ditches and culverts. Remove berm where water will flow off roadbed and repair large ruts in the middle of the roadbed that channel water downgrade.

Purpose of Treatment Specifications: This treatment protects the critical value of **Property**, specifically the road infrastructure, critical value of **Human Life and Safety** related to egress and ingress, and **Riparian Areas** due to potential impacts from increased sediment flow and stream channel erosion.

Additionally, protection of the road infrastructure will minimize sediment delivery into the watersheds that run into the South Fork Boise River which contain listed fish species (bull trout).

Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring: Monitor roads and culverts after storm events for possible obstructions and damage and initiate maintenance.

Protection/Safety Treatments:

Safety Signs

General Description: This treatment will design and install burned area warning signs, highway warning signs, and directional signs to warn and guide traffic through roads and trails within the burned area. The treatment is consistent with the language provided in the BAER Treatments Catalog.

Applicable Locations or Sites:

Locations for "Entering Burned Area" warning signs:

- Junction of Forest Road 134 and Forest Road 134C (Dixie-Anderson Ranch Dam Road).
- Forest Road 189 (Blacks Creek Road) at Bender Creek.
- Trailheads for any trails on NFS lands that enter the burned area.
- Junctions of trails or roads that provide an access point into the burned area.

Design/Construction Specifications:

- "Entering Burned Area" warning signs along the roads shall measure, at a minimum, 4 feet by 4 feet and consist of 0.08" aluminum, sheeted in high intensity orange with black letters. The "ENTERING BURNED AREA" lettering shall be a minimum of 5 inches in height and all remaining lettering shall be a minimum of 3.5 inches in height.
- Traffic Warning and Road Closure Signs shall conform to the M.U.T.C.D. standards and shall be installed per Federal Highway Safety Standards.

Purpose of Treatment: The overall purpose of this treatment is to reduce risks to the value of **Human Life and Safety** by warning motorists of existing threats while traveling the authorized road and trail routes within and downstream of the burned area. Warning signs will advise travelers of threats to humans that include increased risks of falling trees and limbs, rolling rocks, and flash floods due to moderate and severe soil burn severity. Directional signs and trail route marker signs will safely direct motorists to their destination without taking a wrong turn, especially during emergency or severe weather conditions.

Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring: Monitoring consists of observations to identify repair/maintenance and replacement needs to ensure objectives of the treatment are being met.

Storm Patrols

General Description: Roads within the Pony Complex Fire are located in watersheds with moderate burn severity that have drainage structures predominantly crossing intermittent streams. Increased runoff off of burned slopes is likely to cause damage to adjacent roadway surfaces, drainage structures, or block roads with debris slides. Storm patrols are used to identify road problems such as plugged culverts and washed out roads and to clear, clean, and/or block those roads that have received damage.

Applicable Locations or Sites: The patrols will focus on roads that receive the most traffic and are of more value to the transportation system. These roads (not in priority order) include Forest Roads 131, 134, 164, and 167.

Design/Construction Specifications: Forest Service personnel will direct the work.

- Immediately upon receiving heavy rain and after spring snowmelt the Forest Service will initiate patrols to identify road hazard conditions or obstructions such as rocks, sediment, washouts, and plugged culverts so the problems can be corrected before they jeopardize motor vehicle users.
- The road patrols will utilize heavy equipment (backhoe and dump truck at a minimum) to mechanically remove any obstructions from the roads and culvert inlets and catch basins.
- All excess material and debris removed from the drainage system shall be placed outside of bank-full channel where it cannot re-enter stream channels.
- Due to the presence of several bridges in the South Fork Boise River drainage and the potential for floating debris to cause damage to those structures, the patrols will also monitor the movement of large woody debris and make a determination of whether or not the material should be removed before it contacts bridge piers or abutments.

Purpose of Treatment: The purpose of this treatment is to evaluate the condition of roads and bridges (**Property**) to identify and implement repairs needed to maintain and/or repair damage to road surfaces and flow conveyance structures (culverts, bridges) across roads. The early detection of storm-caused road damage and rapid repair is needed: 1) to reduce threats to human life and safety for those traveling the routes; and 2) to maintain integrity of NFS roads and minimize greater monetary loss that could be incurred should minor impacts to roads go untreated.

Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring: Monitor the storm-patrol response time to ensure objectives are being met. Identify the type of storm event that mobilizes material.

Motorized Vehicle Closure

General Description: This treatment will protect vegetation recovery and protect stressed mule deer herds. **The seeding treatment includes species (alfalfa and burnet) intended to reduce the post-fire risk to native vegetative communities by overgrazing, wintering mule deer that prevent or significantly suppress native recovery and seeding efforts.** A maximum of a three-year closure for motorized vehicles on all federal lands is proposed to keep vehicles out of the burn area and from moving across the treatment area until vegetation has re-established. If vegetation recovery objectives are met prior to three years, then motorized use can be allowed after 2 years of closure. The closure is also to keep motorized vehicles out of the area during peak use periods of hunting and antler collecting. This burn, along with several other burns in the area, has drastically reduced the winter feeding areas for big game. Animals will be weakened by loss of browse and will need additional protection from disturbance and vulnerability created by motorized vehicles.

Location/(Suitable) Sites: The proposed vehicle closure would include all roads and trails within the Pony Complex Fire that access federal lands. Road and trails would be closed at points closest inward from the fire perimeter where they intersect Forest Service land.

Design/Construction Specifications: Sites will be visited by FS personnel during the hunting seasons to ensure that law enforcement operations are successful in keeping vehicle traffic out of the burned area. Follow IM #2013-035, Requirements for Processing and Approving Temporary Public Land Closure and Restriction Orders.

Purpose of Treatment Specifications: The BAER Team considered this treatment to be the minimum necessary to protect the public from post fire hazards, allow natural vegetation recovery, protect treated areas, and to provide protection for wintering **Mule Deer**. There were over 144,000 acres of big game winter range within the fire perimeter, 115,000 acres of which are classified as mule deer winter range. Mule deer are a species of interest for BLM and the USFS due to their economic and ecological importance. An area closure would limit disturbance to the herd and reduce the amount of energy expended by animals, especially during the winter, until after vegetation has had an opportunity to return following the fire and once again provide much needed nutrition to get animals through to the spring growing season. This treatment also minimizes or eliminates the need to protect **human life and safety** by mitigating hazards along the trail system and primitive roads such as falling trees, falling rock, burned bridges, and tread repair from fire damage.

Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring: Effectiveness will be measured by site visits and the lack of evidence of recreational vehicle traffic on federal lands within the fire perimeter. The vehicle closure will be monitored through reporting summaries made and provided by law enforcement patrols.

Fence Construction

General Description: The Pony Complex will require the construction of approximately 5 miles of temporary fence to exclude livestock from areas rested for grazing to protect both natural recovery and BAER treatments for vegetation.

Location/(Suitable) Sites: There is one fence construction segment on the Forest, near Cow Creek

Design/Construction Specifications: Five miles of new temporary fence, using Easy Fence panels (H-braces), would be constructed near Cow Creek to specifications relevant for mule deer, pronghorn, and sage-grouse:

- a. Bottom wire smooth, at least 18" high
- b. Top wire no higher than 40" high
- c. Alternating black and white markers on the top wire, every 3 feet

Purpose of Treatment Specifications: The BAER Team considered this treatment to be the minimum necessary to achieve a reduction in risk to the accumulated values of:

- **Soil Quality** – the exclusion of livestock will allow vegetation to re-establish on site and reduce soil loss due to wind and water erosion.
- **Sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat, Sage-grouse Preliminary General Habitat, and Mule Deer Winter Range** habitat – the exclusion of livestock will allow for the recovery of sage-grouse PGH and PPH habitat and crucial habitat utilized as big game winter range.

The protective fencing would restrict livestock use while burned areas recover, or seeded species establish, but allow livestock to still access unburned portions of the allotments or pastures.

Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring: Implementation is monitored through contract administration. Any changes from the planned implementation would be noted in the project file “as built” discussion.

Gate Replacement

General Description: The FS gate on National Forest System Road 165C is currently inoperable after being burnt during the Pony Fire. The metal gate is reusable but posts need to be replaced in order to make the gate functional. This gate provides critical protection for sensitive cultural sites in the area.

Location/Suitable Sites: The proposed treatment unit is located at the end of NFSR 165C. The USGS map reference location is Cathedral Rocks, T. 1N, R. 7E, Section 25.

Design/Construction Specifications: Two standard FS gate posts should be purchased and installed with concrete footers.

Purpose of Treatment Specifications: This treatment will provide protection for **Cultural Sites** (archeological sites determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and that are of importance to the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes). The existing gate previously limited public motorized access across archeological sites to a private landowner with an adjacent inholding. Without the gate, motorized access on the non-system two track road (an extension or spur of NFSR 165C) through at least one archeological site could lead to archeological looting.

Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring: No monitoring is required. This site is monitored as part of the Boise National Forest’s National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 monitoring program associated with rangeland management.

I. Monitoring Narrative:

Re-Vegetation Recovery Monitoring

General Description: This treatment is to be developed further and included in an interim request.

Part VI – Emergency Stabilization Treatments and Source of Funds

Interim # _____

		NFS Lands				Other Lands				All
		Unit	# of		Other	# of	Fed	# of	Non Fed	Total
Line Items	Units	Cost	Units	BAER \$	\$	units	\$	Units	\$	\$
A. Land Treatments										
Aerial Seeding	acres	104.14	10400	\$1,083,056	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,083,056
Noxious/Invasive Treat	acres	1.9	21418	\$40,694	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$40,694
Insert new items above this line!				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				\$1,123,750	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,123,750
B. Channel Treatments										
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Insert new items above this line!				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
C. Road and Trails										
Road Drainage Recon	miles	1778.9	18.4	\$32,732	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$32,732
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Insert new items above this line!				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				\$32,732	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$32,732
D. Protection/Safety										
Safety Signs	sign	135.4	90	\$12,186	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$12,186
Storm Patrols	day	1202.8	4	\$4,811	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$4,811
Motorized Vehicle Clos	acre	0.517	47898	\$24,763	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$24,763
Fence Construction	miles	8671.4	5	\$43,357	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$43,357
Gate Replacement	gate	1500	1	\$1,500	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,500
Insert new items above this line!				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Structures				\$86,617	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$86,617
E. BAER Evaluation										
				---			\$0		\$0	\$0
Insert new items above this line!				---	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Evaluation				---	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
F. Monitoring										
Re-vegetation Recover	acres	1.27	0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Insert new items above this line!				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Monitoring				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
G. Totals				\$1,243,099	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,243,099
Previously approved										
Total for this request				\$1,243,099						

PART VII - APPROVALS

 1. /s/ Cecilia R. Seesholtz
 Forest Supervisor (signature)

9-13-2013
 Date

 2. /s/ Marlene Finley (for)
 Regional Forester (signature)

9/18/13
 Date