USDA-FOREST SERVICE Date of Report: 8-7-92

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13, Report FS-2500-8)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

[x] 1. Funding request for estimated FFFS-FW22 funds
[ ] 2. Accomplishment Report

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 and design analysis
  [ ] Status of accomplishments to-date

[ ] 3. Final report - following completion of work

PART II - BURNED-AREA DESCRIPTION

A. Fire Name: Seco B. Fire Number: LPF 252

C. State: California D. County: Monterey
E. Region: R5, Pacific Southwest F. Forest: Los Padres
G. District: Monterey

H. Date Fire Started: 8-1-92 I. Date Fire Controlled: 8-7-92
J. Suppression Cost: $ 1,600,000

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with FFFS-PF12 Funds:
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles) 0.0 see narrative, PART V (H).
2. Fireline seeded (miles) 9.5 see narrative, PART V (H).
3. Other (identify) _____

L. Watershed Number. 1806000501

M. NFS Acres Burned: 2250 Total Acres Burned: 2625
Ownership type:
( )State ( )BLM (375)PVT ( )_____

N. Vegetation Types: Grass, Oak Woodland, Chaparral

O. Dominant Soils: loams, gravelly coarse sandy loams

P. Geologic Types: schist, granitic, gneiss, sandstone, shale,

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: Class
I 2.5 III 1.5 IV 3.0 _____

R. Transportation System:
Trails: 0.0 (miles) Roads: 0.0 (miles)

PART VI - EMERGENCY REHABILITATION TREATMENTS AND SOURCE OF FUNDS BY LAND OWNERSHIP

NOTE: Emergency rehabilitation is work done promptly following a wildfire and i not to solve watershed problems that existed prior to the wildfire.

			NFS Lands			Other Lands			Al
Line Items	Units	Unit Cost $	Number of Units	FFFS-FW22 $	Other $ ident.	Number of Units	Fed $ ident.	Non-Fed $ ident.	Tot $
A. LAND TREATMENTS									
B. CHANNEL TREATMENTS									
C. ROADS AND TRAILS									
D. STRUCTURES									
E. BAER EVALUATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT									
Rehab Team	rpt.	$3200	1	$3200					
F. TOTALS		$3200	1	$3200					

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. /s/ KATHLEEN A. JORDAN, District Ranger — 8/12/92
   FOR Forest Supervisor (Signature) — Date

2. /s/ Jack N. Bosworth — 8/20/92
   Regional Forester (Signature) — Date

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Fire Intensity (Acres): 790 (low) 1125 (moderate) 335 (high)

B. Water Repellant Soil (Acres): 560

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (Acres):
340 (low) 790 (moderate) 1125 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: N/A tons/acre
E. Sediment Potential: N/A cu. yds/sq. mile

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period: _____ years.
B. Design Chance of Success: _____ percent.
C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval: _____ years.
D. Design Storm Duration: _____ hours.
E. Design Storm Magnitude: _____ inches.
F. Design Flow: _____ cfsm.
G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration: _____ percent.
H. Adjusted Design Flow: _____ cfsm.

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Emergency:

The fire burned in a portion of a new wilderness addition (June 19, 1992) to the Ventana Wilderness. The fire burned primarily in 3 small watersheds that drain directly into the Arroyo Seco River. The beneficial uses of the river are: recreation, wildlife and water for domestic and irrigation use. The majority of the drainages have their riparian zones unburned. Approximately 85% of the burn has a light to moderate burn intensity, 25% of the area has water repellent soil and the soil erosion hazard rating is low to moderate for 50% of the area. There should be a adequate seed source still remaining for the areas to be reseeded with the residual native plant seeds. It is not expected that sediment and or runoff from the fire area will have a long term impact on the beneficial uses. The possibility exists that sediment production will increase from the fire area and a minimal amount of sediment may reach the river. However this increase and impact on the river should temporary, only for a few years.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

C. Probability of Completing Treatment Prior to First Major Damage Producing Storm:
Land _____ % Channel _____ % Roads _____ % Other _____ %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	<----Years after treatment-----> 1	3	5
Land			
Channel			
Roads			
Other			

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Risk): $_____

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Risk): $_____

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team ("x" appropriate boxes):

[x] Hydrology	[x] Soils	[x] Geology	[x] Range
[ ] Timber	[x] Wildlife	[x] Fire Mgmt.	[ ] Engineering
[ ] Contracting	[x] Ecology	[ ] Research	[x] Archaeology
[ ] _____	[ ] _____	[ ] _____	[ ] _____

Team Leader: Bob Blecker
Phone: 805 683-6711 DG Address: R05F07A

H. Treatment Narrative:

The 2,625 acre Seco Fire consists of 2,250 acres of National Forest System lands on the southern part of the fire are, 375 acres of private lands are on the northern part of the burned area. The fire occurred primarily in a area of granitic, gneissic, schist, sandstone and shale. Soil textures are primarily gravelly coarse sandy loam and loam. Slopes in the upper watershed were steeper and ranged from 50 to 85 percent. Slopes in the lower watershed areas range from 30 to 75 percent. The majority of the burn areas were in chaparral fuel types. Small unburned islands (5 acres) are located throughout the burn area. There are many areas of the burn where only the understory of the oak woodland was burned and or the fire was of low to medium intensity. The several upper drainages (455 acres) of Horse Run drainage were burned severely; often resulting in the complete loss of ground cover. All drainages, with the exception of the upper end of Horse Run drainage, have their riparian zones intact. This will enhance the ability of the streams to filter out sediment and reduce peak flows into the Arroyo Seco River.

Burn Rehabilitation Team justification for not seeding:

1. We estimate from 40 to 45 percent of the burn area is composed of low burn intensity and/or unburned islands of vegetation. Together these two categories should have only minimal impacts to the watershed resources. In some aspects they are actually beneficial to some wildlife species. The erosion potential will be significantly diminished because of these burn characteristics.

2. Within the moderate burn intensity areas the surface litter duff deposits contain sufficient amounts of partially burned or charred organic materials

that will reduce the risk of rain splash impacts on the soil surface. This will also help to reduce runoff.

3. There should also be substantial amounts of leaf dropping from the oak vegetation types in the low burn intensity areas. This will also provide significant cover protection going into the winter storm season. This will help to replace that portion of the litter cover that was destroyed by the fire. Evidence of this leaf dropping is clearly visible now.

4. A cursory examination of the charred litter deposits indicates there is a sufficient seed bank present in the surface soil. These appear to be mostly annual herbaceous species and they should provide quick germination and ground cover. This seed source is probably due to the large areas of grassy fuel types that were present before the fire. In essence this seed bank will provide the necessary seeds which we would otherwise provide by aerial grass seeding.

5. There are no significant downstream values in close proximity to the burn area. There is storage capacity available within the existing channels to contain significant amounts of sediment deposits. Also the channel filling processes does not appear to be significantly impacted by dry ravel movement. Again this indicates heating at the soil surface did not impact the existing litter deposits as in higher burn intensity fires.

The Burn Rehabilitation Team recommends that it is not necessary to do channel treatment or to build structures for the protection of downstream values or structures. The main drainages in the burned area, at their lower ends, have stream slopes which tend to flatten out assisting in the trapping and holding of a moderate amount of sediment before it reaches the downstream values or structures.

The Santa Lucia Adobe is located approximately 45 feet from the north bank of Santa Lucia Creek. This watershed is approximately 11,800 acres. 330 acres burned in the Seco Fire. Noticeably this structure was not damaged by the flows of the creek when the watershed was almost completely burned in 1977. It is not expected to be damaged by flows and or sediment generated by this fire.

All suppression lines were handlines having light to moderate soil disturbance. These lines will be reseeded by taking the top 1-2 inches of the soil and litter material that is on the non-burned part of the line and spread over the handline. This method will allow the local native plants to reseed the lines. No water barring should be necessary, none is recommended. All hand lines with ground slopes greater than 15 percent should be treated as described.

The 223 acre watershed of Abbott Lakes should not receive a significant impact from the fire since only 23 acres burned at a low to moderate intensity above the lakes.

The beneficial uses of the Arroyo Seco River are for recreation, wildlife, local water supply and groundwater recharge of the lower Arroyo Seco River and Salinas River Basin.

The seven river drainages that flow directly into the Arroyo Seco River should not be significantly impacted from this fire. This is because the riparian areas were not burned severely. Unburned islands, large areas with a light to moderate intensity burn exist, and the seed source has not been destroyed over a large part of the fire.

PART VI - EMERGENCY REHABILITATION TREATMENTS AND SOURCE OF FUNDS BY LAND OWNERSHIP

NOTE: Emergency rehabilitation is work done promptly following a wildfire and is not to solve watershed problems that existed prior to the wildfire.

			NFS Lands			Other Lands			All
Line Items	Units	Unit Cost $	Number of Units	FFFS-FW22 $	Other $ ident.	Number of Units	Fed $ ident.	Non-Fed $ ident.	Total $
A. LAND TREATMENTS									
B. CHANNEL TREATMENTS									
C. ROADS AND TRAILS									
D. STRUCTURES									
E. BAER EVALUATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT									
Rehab Team	Rpt.	4,000	1	4,000					
F. TOTALS		4,000	1	4,000					

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. /s/ KATHLEEN A. JORDAN, Distict Ranger — 8/7/92
FOR Forest Supervisor (Signature) — Date

2. Dale N. Bosmon — 8/20/92
Regional Forester (Signature) — Date