Burned-Area Emergency Rehabilitation Report
EAST THUNDER 14 FIRE
Idaho Panhandle National Forests

The East Thunder 14 fire burned 691 acres on the Sandpoint District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF). It started from lightning strikes August 11, 2000. Suppression resources were not used on this fire, it was a watch and let burn fire. We were told that a control declaration probably would not be issued until middle October, but in reality it was established on September 11, 2000.

A Burned-Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) team consisting of Rick Patten – team leader and Forest hydrologist; Jerry Niehoff – Forest soil scientist; Chris Savage – North Zone hydrologist; Bob Ralphs, Forest wildlife biologist and Art Zack, Forest ecologist conducted a burned-area survey using numerous vantage points to determine if a flooding, erosion, or life and property emergency existed.

Our finding was that *No Emergency Exists* and emergency funding is *not* requested.

The fire burned primarily in the following sections: Western half of T.29 N., R.35 E., S. 14 (this section is in Montana) and the eastern half of T.57 N., R.3 E., S.22, which is in Idaho. The fire was in East Fork Creek which is a tributary of Lightning Creek, which flows into the Clark Fork River. The burn area is very steep, rocky terrain, with a high component of talus. This fire was left to creep around in these rocky landscapes. Resources were not committed to this fire because of the creeping nature of the fire and the hazards involved in potentially fighting this fire. Most of the burn was low to moderate intensity with patchy extent. Very little riparian area was burned. Most of the fire occurred at higher elevations, burning primarily lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, spruce, lichens and brush.

The effective ground cover in the burned area was estimated to be 80 to 90 percent. Effective ground cover comes primarily from a large surface component of gravel, cobble and stone, along with minor contributions from charred duff, woody debris and vegetation.

The high effective ground cover on the burned area, along with a large portion of the burn-ash acting as a tackifier will protect the soil surface from the forces of raindrop impact and overland flow erosion.

The Team expects that a small portion of the burn-ash and surface soil could erode and be transported short distances downslope. However, most of this eroded material along with the surface runoff associated with hydrophobic surface soils will be contained by and infiltrated into unburned areas on the slopes. The stream system processes will easily manage the little burn-ash and

sediment that might enter East Fork creek as a result of the fire. No sustained reduction in water quality is anticipated; and there is little likelihood that fish or aquatic organisms will be adversely affected.

Normal fall rain and the winter snowpack will reduce most of the hydrophobic soil conditions in the surface mineral soil. Surface erosion and soil productivity losses are not a likely result of this burn.

RICK PATTEN
Forest Hydrologist

JERRY NIEHOFF
Forest Soil Scientist

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

Date of Report: 10/24/2000

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

[ ] 1. Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds
[ ] 2. Accomplishment Report
[X] 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: East Thunder 14 Fire

B. Fire Number: 096

C. State: Idaho

D. County: Bonner

E. Region: One

F. Forest: Idaho Panhandle National Forests (04)

G. District: North Zone, Sandpoint RD

H. Date Fire Started: 8/11/2000

I. Date Fire Contained: 9/9/2000

J. Suppression Cost: $0

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles):
2. Fireline seeded (miles):
3. Other (identify):

L. Watershed Number:

M. Total Acres Burned:
NFS Acres(691) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private ( )

N. Vegetation Types: Subalpine fir, lodgepole pine (minor componenents of other conifer species)

O. Dominant Soils: Andic Dystrocryepts, loamy-skeletal, mixed, superactive and rock outcrops.

P. Geologic Types: Metasedimentary belts, mostly Prichard and Burke formations.

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:

R. Transportation System

Trails: miles Roads: miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): 300 (low) 391 (moderate) 0 (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 391

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

D. Erosion Potential: ____ tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: ____ cubic yards / square 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, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): ____

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

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

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency:
NONE

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

Effectively waterbar opened road

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 Loss): **$0**

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): **$0**

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: Rick Patten

Email: rpatten@fs.fed.us Phone: 208-765-7403
FAX: 208-765-7307

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:

Channel Treatments:

Roads and Trail Treatments:

Structures:

I. **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.)

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										
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0			
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$0			$0		$0	$0
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										
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
G. Totals				**$0**			**$0**		**$0**	**$0**

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. _____ _____

Forest Supervisor (signature) Date

2. _____ _____

Regional Forester (signature) Date