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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto
National
Forest

2324 E. McDowell Road
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Reply To: 2520

Date: June 29, 1994

Subject: Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation; Crossing Fire

To: Files

Forest Service Policy (FSM 2523.03) requires burned area surveys of all fires 300 acres or greater to determine if emergency watershed rehabilitation is needed. The purpose of this letter is to document the findings of the Forest Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) team regarding the Crossing Fire.

Burned Area Information

The Crossing Fire started on June 24, 1994 and was declared controlled on June 26, 1994 at 1800 hours. The fire was located primarily in Sections 3 and 4 in T5N R7E just south of Bartlett Reservoir. Total burned area was approximately 500 acres. Burn intensity was predominately moderate.

The fire burned in three small unnamed drainages that flow directly into Bartlett Reservoir. Elevations range from 1820 to 2880 feet. Vegetation is typical of the Sonoran Desert and consists predominately of desert shrubs and annual grasses with mixed Paloverde and Saguaro cactus. Terrain is predominately steep with gentler slopes on ridge tops and near Bartlett Reservoir. Soils are generally rocky and shallow except for those formed in alluvium along drainage bottoms. Erosion hazard is moderate for sheet erosion and high for gully erosion. There are no improvements within the burned area and no improvements or private lands between the burned area and Bartlett Reservoir.

Evaluation by the Burned Area Team

There is very little vegetative ground cover present in this area under natural conditions. Runoff and erosion during storm events is therefore naturally high. The burn is located in an area of harsh climatic and soil conditions, consequently the likelihood of successfully seeding the area is small. Other rehabilitation measures, such as erosion control structures are not considered economically feasible because substantial increases in runoff and erosion are not expected and there are no major improvements potentially impacted by the burned area that warrant this type of protection.

Recommendation

The Burned Area Rehabilitation Team recommends that emergency funds not be requested for the Crossing Fire.

/S/ GRANT LOOMIS
Grant Loomis
Emergency Rehabilitation Team Leader

CC: Watershed & Air, R-3
Cave Creek RD