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

Date of Report:

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

[x] 1. Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds
[ ] 2. Accomplishment Report
[ ] 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: Front Fire

B. Fire Number: CA-LPF-002334 p code = P5L3R4 0507

C. State: California

D. County: San Luis Obispo

E. Region: R5

F. Forest: Los Padres

G. District: Santa Lucia

H. Date Fire Started: August 19, 2018

I. Date Fire Contained: August 29, 2018

J. Suppression Cost: Approximately $ 1million

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 6
2. Fireline seeded (miles): 0
3. Other (identify):

L. Watershed Number: Cuyama River

M. Total Acres Burned:
NFS Acres(1000) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private (14)

N. Vegetation Types: Blue Oak grassland, chamise chaparral, coastal chaparral, riparian

R. Transportation System

Trails: 0 miles Roads: 1 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

The Front Fire burned oak grasslands and chaparral in a 1014 acre basin that all drains directly into the Cuyama river at the southern perimeter of the fire scar. The Cuyama is a very large watershed that flows through 30+ miles of agricultural land before meeting the fire scar and is heavily laden with sediment the entire length. Any increased post-fire sediment generated from the burn scar will flow into small drainages within the burn that flow less than a mile into the Cuyama River. The burn severity is generally low in the blue oak woodland and grassland habitats and moderate on the chaparral habitats.

BAER values at risk on the Los Padres National Forest affected by the Front Fire

0.3 miles of route 30S02 within the burn that has moderately burned slopes above with overside drains that may plug and accelerate road erosion

Soil and watershed integrity that is threatened by OHV trespass because brush barriers have burned along route 30S02,

Native plant communities are threatened by possible noxious weed invasion along new dozer lines,

Federally threatened California red-legged frog habitat in the Cuyama River.

No heritage or archeological resources have been described or are known of in the burned area.

Values at risk off of the National Forest include water storage capacity in Twitchell Reservoir about 20 miles downstream on the Cuyama River and federally threatened California red-legged frog habitat in the Cuyama River downstream of Los Padres National Forest lands. Values off-Forest are not addressed in this assessment.

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency:

Route 30S02 lies under moderately burned slopes for approximately 0.3 miles. There are existing overside drains that may be challenged by extra sediment entering the road prism from above and if that clogs the overside drains water could flow down the road creating deep gullying and potentially make this road impassable. The probability of loss is likely and the magnitude of consequence is moderate, leading to a high risk determination.

OHV trespass onto burned slopes is likely to happen once the road is open to the public during the winter months. Brush barriers are now burned and this area is popular with OHV users. Once a vehicle trespasses others are likely to follow and this can lead to erosion and gullying. The magnitude of consequences is moderate leading to a high risk determination.

There is about 6 miles of dozer line construction along ridges or adjacent to the Buck Rock OHV route. There are no current infestations of tamarisk or purple star thistle in this are, but these have appeared in the vicinity after past fires. Heavy equipment on intitial attack created these lines and were not washed prior to entering making it likely that new seeds could be distributed along these lines. Consequences are moderate, risk is high.

California red-legged frogs inhabit the Cuyama River but are adapted to intermittent high sediment flows. The size of the fire and resulting increase in sediment will be small compared to the existing load in the Cuyama River but may have some impact on their breeding success as breeding pools downstream of the fire may temporarily fill in. This is likely to happen with moderate consequences and a high risk.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

Route 30S02: The objective of treatment **will** be to protect the road drainage sysytem by maintaining the flow capacity of the existing drainage structures along the 0.3 miles of road influenced by the moderate burn severity.

OHV trespass: The objective will be to protect erodable slopes detect if OHV trespass is occuring so that it can be further treated by fencing or closure if necessary.

Noxious weeds: The objective **will** be to protect native plant communities by detecting any noxious weed infestation early and treat it by hand immediately or develop a plan to treat it using other funds if immediate hand pulling is not effective.

California red-legged frogs: Monitor the habitat to detect if excessive damage is occuring to breeding pools.

C. Probability of Completing Treatment Prior to First Major Damage-Producing Storm:

Land ____90% Channel ____% Roads ____ 90% Other ____%

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land	80	80	80
Channel			
Roads	80	85	90
Other			
Noxious weeds	80	80	80

E. *Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): $49626

F. *Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): $22450

* These costs are calculated using the BAER VAR economic assesment tool spreadsheet.

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: Kevin Cooper

Email: kccooper@fs.fed.us Phone:805-680-0318 FAX:805-961-5781

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.)

Channel Treatments: **N/A**

Roads and Trail Treatments/Land Treatments:

Road 30S02 will be closed until December 3, 2018 to protect the public from post fire hazards such as falling trees. At that time the closure will be re-evaluated to potentially address wet weather road protection. During the rainy season, in order to keep the drainage structures working the LPNF needs to conduct storm monitoring to clear the overside drains by hand. This will take 2 employees at the Pine Canyon Fire station 20 miles away approximately 4 hours to conduct after each storm. These same 2 employees can monitor for OHV trespass once the area is re-opened. On average there are about 10 storms per year, requiring

10 one day visits for two GS 7s. This would include enough time to clear the 5 overside drains along this 0.3 miles of road by hand and look for OHV trespass.

Fire/road crew cost = $450/day x 20 people days = $9000

Noxious weed detection will follow a Early Detection and Rapid Response model with two botanist assigned to hike the designated dozer lines to find and if possible, pull by hand any noxious weeds growing there. This will require two GS 4 biotechs for one pay period and five days coordination time for the GS 11 forest botanist.

GS 4 = $170/day x 10days x 2 techs = $3400

GS 11= $465/day x 5 days = $2325

Total =$5725

Structures:N/A

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										
EDRR suppression	ea	5725	1	$5,725	$0		$0		$0	$5,725
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$5,725	$0		$0		$0	$5,725
B. Channel Treatments										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$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										
Storm Patrol	days	450	20	$9,000	$0		$0		$0	$9,000
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				$9,000	$0		$0		$0	$9,000
D. Structures										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Structures				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
E. BAER Evaluation										
Small team	days	550	2.5	$1,375	$0		$0		$0	$1,375
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Evaluation				$1,375	$0		$0		$0	$1,375
F. Monitoring										
				$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				**$16,100**	**$0**		**$0**		**$0**	**$16,100**

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. Kenneth F. Hoffman for Forest Supervisor (signature) — Date: 9/14/18

2. Barnie T. Grant Regional Forester (signature) — Date: 9/18/18