Date of Report: 05/26/2020

TAFT FIRE BURNED-AREA REPORT

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

☒ 1. Funding request for estimated emergency stabilization funds

☐ 2. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

☒ 1. Initial Request (Best estimate of funds needed to complete eligible stabilization measures)

☐ 2. Interim Request #___

☐ Updating the initial funding request based on more accurate site data or design analysis

PART II - BURNED-AREA DESCRIPTION

A. Fire Name: Taft

B. Fire Number: M3YE

C. State: NV

D. County: White Pine

E. Region: 04 – Intermountain

F. Forest: 17 – Humboldt-Toiyabe

G. District: Ely

H. Fire Incident Job Code: P4M3YE20-0417

I. Date Fire Started: 05/10/2020

J. Date Fire Contained: 90% contained as of 05/26/2020.

K. Suppression Cost: Estimated at approximately $700,000 as of 05/26/2020.

L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds (estimates):

1. **Fireline repaired (miles):** Approximately 300 feet (0.06 mi) each of handline and dozer line were constructed on NFS lands. Both were subject to repair activities by hand crews. Estimated cost is unknown.
2. **Other (identify):** N/A

M. Watershed Numbers:

Table 1: Acres Burned by Watershed

HUC #	Watershed Name	Total Acres	Acres Burned	% of Watershed Burned
160600080700	Outlet Spring Valley Creek	132,102	1,118	0.85

N. Total Acres Burned:

Table 2: Total Acres Burned by Ownership

OWNERSHIP	ACRES
NFS	636
OTHER FEDERAL (LIST AGENCY AND ACRES)	482 (BLM)
STATE	0
PRIVATE	0
TOTAL	1,118

O. Vegetation Types: The lower elevations of the fire comprised sagebrush steppe communities. Mid and upper elevations mostly comprised pinyon-juniper communities with small areas of mountain mahogany. Cheatgrass was a component of most communities.

P. Dominant Soils:

Badena Association (469.4 acres, 42.0%) – Alluvial fans. Cobbly. 4-30% slope.

Grandeposit-Majorsplace-Grube Association (344.6 acres, 30.8%) – Mountains. Generally shallow, gravelly. Generally steep (30-75%).

Grandeposit-Realmcoy-Grube Association (245.5 acres, 22.0%) – Mountains. Generally shallow, gravelly to cobbly. Generally steep (15-75%).

Suak-Successloop-Guiser association (38.4 acres, 3.4%) – Mountains. Deeper than mountain associations above, but still cobbly/ gravelly. Generally steep (15-75%)

Rangertaft-Realmcoy-Guiser association (20.2 acres, 1.8%) – Mountains. Generally shallow, gravelly to cobbly. Generally steep (30-75%).

Q. Geologic Types: Not identified.

R. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:

Table 3: Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class

STREAM TYPE	MILES OF STREAM
PERRENIAL	0.13
INTERMITTENT	2.36
EPHEMERAL	3.11
OTHER (DEFINE)	0.20 (pipeline and conector)

S. Transportation System:

Trails: *National Forest (miles):* 0 *Other (miles):* 0

Roads: *National Forest (miles):* 0 *Other (miles):* 0

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres):

Table 4: Burn Severity Acres by Ownership

Soil Burn Severity	NFS	Other Federal (List Agency)	State	Private	Total	% within the Fire Perimeter
Unburned	87	78 (BLM)				
Low	314	375 (BLM)				
Moderate	237	28 (BLM)				
High	0	0				
Total	638	481				

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): Not assessed.

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating: Not assessed.

D. Erosion Potential: Not assessed.

E. Sediment Potential: Not assessed.

F. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period (years):

G. Estimated Hydrologic Response (brief description): Rough estimations using WildCat 5 indicate a threefold increase in runoff from a 30-minute rainfall event totaling 0.61 inches of precipitation (a ten-year recurrence interval event).

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Introduction/Background

A. Describe Critical Values/Resources and Threats (narrative):

Table 5: Critical Value Matrix

Probability of Damage or Loss	**Magnitude of Consequences**		
	Major	Moderate	Minor
	RISK		
Very Likely	**Very High**	**Very High**	**Low**
Likely	**Very High**	**High**	**Low**
Possible	**High**	**Intermediate**	**Low**
Unlikely	**Intermediate**	**Low**	**Very Low**

1. **Human Life and Safety (HLS):** None identified.
2. **Property (P):** None identified.**Natural Resources (NR):**Soil productivity and hydrologic function:
    - Probability of Damage or Loss = Possible (One in ten chance of 30-minute storm that could increase flows threefold compared to unburned response).
    - Magnitude of Consequences = Moderate (Ranges from minor to major depending on precipitation. Past fires in the area have demonstrated likelihood of irreversible damage from debris flows. WildcCat does not estimate erosion.).
    - Risk = Intermediate.
    - Given the size of the fire, the shape of the burned area (i.e., spread out mostly across small portions of lower elevations in a few drainages and fans), the intensity of the fire as reflected by remote sensing data, and the location of the burned area (i.e., about a mile upstream of the nearest infrastructure), we have not identified an emergency condition related to hydrology and erosion. The area has experienced high intensity rainfall after fire in the past which led to appreciable runoff and erosion impacts, but we think the fire impacts here are lower and the likelihood of that sort of precipitation event is not great enough to warrant erosion prevention treatments.

    b. Native or naturalized plant communities:
    - Probability of Damage or Loss = Likely (better than 50% chance).
    - Magnitude of Consequences = Moderate (unmanaged expansion of weeds could result in long term effects).
    - Risk = High.
    - While cheatgrass was present in much of the burned area, discrete populations of bull thistle and other noxious weeds were indicated by the READ to exist near the burned area and areas associated suppression activities. It is likely that suppression activities could have resulted in the spread of seeds from these sources into the burned area or into certain suppression-related locations (e.g., dozer and hand lines, supply locations, parking areas, etc.). There is also a possibility that the burned area will be more

susceptible to invasive plant expansion until expected native or naturalized plant recovery occurs.

4. **Cultural and Heritage Resources:** None identified.**Emergency Treatment Objectives:** The objective of proposed treatments is to prevent spread of musk thistle (a known population exists near, but outside the burned area) and other invasive weed species (which may have been transported in by suppression equipment and personnel) within the burned area and at suppression activity locations adjacent to the burned area.

C. Probability of Completing Treatment Prior to Damaging Storm or Event:
Land: Probability of completing Early Detection and Rapid Response for invasive plants (EDRR) is expected to be 100%.
Channel: N/A
Roads/Trails: N/A
Protection/Safety: N/A

D. Probability of Treatment Success

Table 6: Probability of Treatment Success

	1 year after treatment	*3 years after treatment*	*5 years after treatment*
Land	>90%	N/A	N/A
Channel	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roads/Trails	N/A	N/A	N/A
Protection/Safety	N/A	N/A	N/A

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): Without treatment in year one, it is estimated that future invasive plant treatment costs could increase from two to ten times (e.g., $7,000-36,000) depending on environmental conditions that would limit or promote spread of invasive plants. Cost of ecosystem service value lost not calculated.

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): $3,614 Cost of ecosystem service value lost not calculated.

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

☐ Soils ☒ Hydrology ☐ Engineering ☐ GIS ☐ Archaeology
☒ Weeds ☐ Recreation ☐ Fisheries ☐ Wildlife
☐ Other:

Team Leader: John McCann
Email: john.mccann@usda.gov **Phone(s)** 856-904-2258

Forest BAER Coordinator: John McCann
Email: john.mccann@usda.gov **Phone(s):** 856-904-2258

Team Members:*Table 7: BAER Team Members by Skill*

Skill	**Team Member Name**
Team Lead(s)	John McCann
Soils	
Hydrology	Brendan Waterman
Engineering	
GIS	
Archaeology	
Weeds	Dirk Netz
Recreation	
Other	

H. Treatment Narrative:

Land Treatments: Conduct EDRR for any new invasive plant growth or expansion in the burned area (i.e., Fire EDRR for 636 acres of burned area) and at certain areas of suppression disturbance within or adjacent to the burned area (i.e., Suppression EDRR for an estimated one acre of dozer and hand lines). This would be consistent with Washington Office guidance. This would be conducted by a weeds crew comprising one GS-5 and one GS-4 within the burned area and at suppression activity locations adjacent to the burned area. Funding would cover 10 days of said crew with EDRR efforts split between the fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021 as well as two days of oversight from a GS-11 rangeland management specialist. BAER-funded EDRR activities not extending beyond one year of the containment date. The majority of the time and funding would be spent conducting Fire EDRR while the small remainder would cover the Suppression EDRR.

Staff	Daily Cost	Number of Days	Total
GS-11	$432	2	$864
GS-05	$145	10	$1,450
GS-04	$130	10	$1,300
		Total:	$3,614

Channel Treatments: N/A

Roads and Trail Treatments: N/A

Protection/Safety Treatments: N/A

I. Monitoring Narrative:

PART VI – EMERGENCY STABILIZATION TREATMENTS AND SOURCE OF FUNDS

			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										
Fire EDRR	Acres	6	636	$3,554	$0		$0		$0	$3,554
Suppression EDRR	Acres	60	1	$60	$0		$0		$0	$60
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$3,614	$0		$0		$0	$3,614
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 Treatments				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
C. Road and Trails										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Road and Trails				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
D. Protection/Safety										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Protection/Safety				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
E. BAER Evaluation										
Initial Assessment	Report			$1,161	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				---	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Evaluation				$1,161	$0		$0		$0	$0
F. Monitoring										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$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				$4,775	$0		**$0**		**$0**	**$3,614**
Previously approved										
Total for this request				**$4,775**						

PART VII - APPROVALS

WILLIAM DUNKELBERGER

Digitally signed by WILLIAM DUNKELBERGER
Date: 2020.06.02 15:42:42 -07'00'

1. _____

Forest Supervisor Date