

Date of Report:

**BURNED-AREA REPORT**  
(Reference FSH 2509.13)

GENERALLY THIS SHORT FORM CAN BE USED FOR SMALL FIRES (300-500 ACRES OR LESS) AND THERE IS A NO TREATMENT DECISION AND/OR THE ONLY PROPOSED TREATMENT IS NOXIOUS WEED DETECTION SURVEY- as a minimum fill out the yellow highlighted sections

NOTE: IF THERE IS A FUNDING REQUEST FOR NOXIOUS WEED DETECTION SURVEY, THEN THIS SHORT FORM 2500-8 MUST BE SIGNED BY FOREST SUPERVISOR and a funding request made through the correspondence database.

IF THERE IS NO FUNDING REQUEST, THEN THE TEAM LEADER OR FOREST BAER COORDINATOR MAY SIGN and send directly to the Regional Coordinator.

CALL THE REGIONAL COORDINATOR IF THERE IS A QUESTIONS IF THIS FORM IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE PARTICULAR FIRE  
August 25, 2009 BR

**PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST****I. Type of Report**

- ☒ 1. Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds  
☐ 2. Accomplishment Report  
☐ 3. No Treatment Recommendation

**I. Type of Action**

- ☒ 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:** Ponderosa Incident      **B. Fire Number:** CA-BTU-013737**C. State:** CA      **D. County:** Butte**E. Region:** 05      **F. Forest:** Plumas**G. District:** Feather River**H. Date Fire Started:** August 29, 2017      **I. Date Fire Contained:** September 12, 2017**J. Suppression Cost:****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: 4,106

NFS Acres (1,654) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private (2,452)

N. Vegetation Types: Mixed conifer/hardwood, foothill chaparral, and mixed manzanita brush

O. Dominant Soils: Holland, Wapi-Chaix complex (sandy loam texture)

P. Geologic Types: Jurassic metavolcanics, trondhjemite & unnamed metagabbro

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Transportation System

Trails: \_\_\_\_\_ miles

Roads: \_\_\_\_\_ miles

### PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): 1,620 (low) 844 (moderate) 1,642 (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres):

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):  
\_\_\_\_\_ (low) \_\_\_\_\_ (moderate) \_\_\_\_\_ (high)

D. Erosion Potential: \_\_\_\_\_ tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: \_\_\_\_\_ cubic yards / square mile

### PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 2

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): \_\_\_\_\_

I. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

### **A. Describe Watershed Emergency. State whether or not Values At Risk were identified and the degree or level of threats to them.**

The Ponderosa Fire threatened communities of Feather Falls, Forbestown, Brush Creek and Berry Creek and burned 55 structures within the fire footprint. These lands drain into the South Fork Feather River, Middle Fork Feather River, and Ponderosa Reservoir before entering Lake Oroville. The primary threat to values at risk for these areas is the loss of effective soil cover and fine organic matter which serves to potentially destabilize soils and contribute to erosion.

Of the 4,106 acres burned on both National Forest System (NFS) and private lands, approximately 1,620 acres (39%) was low severity, 844 acres (21%) moderate severity, and 1,642 acres (40%) high severity. Of the 1,654 acres burned on NFS lands, 509 acres were high severity, 358 acres were moderate, and 787 acres were low.

The values at risk identified were to the following: 1) Butte County road 27672 (also known as "Lumpkin Road") that goes through the north-west to north-east part of the fire, 2) South Feather Water And Power Agency's "Forbestown Powerhouse", "Sucker Run repeater", and other facilities (e.g. gates, roads, etc.) 3) PG&E powerlines and facilities located in the burn area, and 4) private property including residents within and adjacent to the burn area. The potential risk to these values would be from increased post-fire runoff and erosion resulting from precipitation events that could result in disrupting the usage and maintenance of roads and other facilities. Based upon field assessments, the level of threats to these values at risk are relatively low. No treatment was recommended for these values at risk as part of this BAER assessment based upon the following discussion.

Dennis Schmidt, Director of the Butte County Public Works Department was contacted regarding concerns over values at risk associated with their facilities from the fire. Dennis stated that most hazard trees were already taken care of or will be taken care by their staff along with the 16 road signs that were damaged by the fire. Dennis did not express any other concerns over other values at risk to their facilities from the fire.

Daniel Leon, Power Division Manager with South Fork Feather Water and Power Agency (SFWPA) was also contacted about concerns over values at risk associated with their facilities from the fire. Based upon a SFWPA's "condition report" that assessed SFWPA facilities within and around the fire perimeter, there was no damage to any powerhouses or associated switchyards from the fire. All damages from the fire that were mentioned in the report and by Daniel were either repaired or will be repaired by SFWPA. Daniel did not express any other concerns over other values at risk to their facilities from the fire.

Jim McKay, Senior Land Planner with PG&E was also contacted about concerns over values at risk associated with their facilities from the fire. Jim mentioned that although there was some damage from the fire to their transmission and distribution lines, specifically at the "Kanaka Substation" that is located at terminus of the powerline (near the "Lumpkin Staging Area"), most the repairs have or will be done by their staff. Jim did not express any other concerns over other values at risk to their facilities from the fire.

Some of the private residences and properties that burned or were threatened by the fire were assessed during and after the fire by resource advisors and others. Most of these residences and properties are located along "Lumpkin Road" in the north-west to north-east part of the fire and along "Ponderosa Way" road. Many of these areas are located towards the top of the drainage areas and/or along the ridge-line and received variable burn severities. Based upon field assessments, slopes, location in watershed, and potential for needle cast from standing dead trees make the threat to the values at risk to these areas fairly low.

Much of the burned area along "Sucker Run" and "Little Sucker Run" drainages indicated some increase in the risk of occurrence of surface erosion (i.e. rilling) due to steepness of slopes and severity and intensity of burn. However, unburn fine roots and roots of stand dead vegetation, and location in watershed, give the appearance that the soils will be resistant to mass wasting. Overall, the effects of the fire do not appear to be sufficient to result in significant alteration of runoff or erosion rates in the watersheds affected by this fire.

Additionally, there are several noxious weed plants species that are known to occur within the Ponderosa fire (see Ponderosa Fire BAER Noxious Weeds Specialist Report for known species occurrences), but some are much more threatening to the ecosystem than others. Invasive weeds are very effective at occupying disturbed soil and displacing native plants and habitat. Non-native invasive weeds have the potential to displace native vegetation, degrade habitat for other plants and animals, and lower ecosystem stability. Ecological stability is impacted when noxious weeds displace native plant communities.

Many known occurrences of noxious weeds were burned over and further disturbed by vehicles and heavy equipment. Where weed seeds were present they are likely to germinate and establish seedlings in the post fire community. Many of these sites are driven over or parked on by suppression vehicles. It is likely that seeds were transported by vehicles into burned areas that are highly vulnerable to infestation. Field visits confirmed that some of these sites had burned and/or been disturbed.

There was also no washing of vehicles or equipment at any time during the incident. Equipment such as water tankers, engines, dozers, and excavators were not washed or inspected or cleaned for dirt/plant parts on the way into the fire during suppression and rehabilitation efforts. Lack of washing increases the risk of introduction of invasive noxious weeds.

The potential values at risk, in relation to invasive noxious weeds are the native plant communities, soil stability, adjacent private lands, and the Sensitive plant habitat. The Ponderosa Fire impacted a variety of different plant communities and environments. Noxious weed populations established in the fire area also threaten all nearby public and private lands. Water quality may also be threatened when noxious weeds displace native riparian and wetland plant species. Many native wetland plants prevent riparian soil erosion while some noxious weeds do not.

**Provide justification why NO TREATMENT was chosen.**

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 Loss):

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss):

I. **Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:**

☒ Hydrology    ☒ Soils    ☐ Geology    ☐ Range  
☐ Forestry    ☐ Wildlife    ☐ Fire Mgmt.    ☒ Engineering



☐ Contracting    ☐ Ecology    ☒ Botany    ☐ Archaeology  
☐ Fisheries    ☐ Research    ☐ Landscape Arch    ☐ GIS

**Team Leader:** Antonio Dueñas

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Phone: (530) 836-7156

FAX: (530) 836-0493

**I. 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:

1. Noxious weed detection surveys and treatment are expected to occur in 2018 of all roads, firelines, drop points, drop points, and safety zones affected by the Ponderosa fire that will identify new and expanded infestations. These areas will be surveyed for introduction or spread of noxious weeds. If any new or outlying populations are found in these surveys, a supplementary request for noxious weed treatment may be submitted. Some populations will be treated by hand pulling, at the discretion of the Feather River District Botanist (see Ponderosa Fire BAER Noxious Weeds Specialist Report for further treatment description) and mapped by capturing treated areas with a GPS system unit.
2. Additional treatment consisting of revegetation with native grass seed will provide competition for and reduce the risk of spread of noxious weeds. Native grasses will also reduce the risk of erosion by providing soil cover. Revegetation should be done at all drop points, safety zones, and at the intersections of dozer lines with forest roads.

Based upon the Ponderosa Fire GIS Layers and field surveys, there are approximately 9 miles of firelines and 10 miles of NFS system roads on NFS lands and 11 miles of NFS system roads on private lands. The total firelines and roads to be surveyed and potentially treated would be approximately 30 miles. Additionally, there are a total of eleven sites that were identified to be surveyed and treated that include drop points, staging areas, and safety zones.

Based upon field assessments, the total noxious weed survey and treatment cost being requested is \$8,775. This would consist of one GS-09 for 10 days, one GS-07 for 10 days, one GS-05 for 10 days, and 2 GS-04's for 10 days and 1,500 travel miles at 0.40 per mile.

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		Fed	# of	Non Fed	Total
Line Items	Units	Cost	Units	SULT \$	\$	# of units	\$	Units	\$	\$
A. Land Treatments										
noxious weed survey	GS-9	280	10	\$2,800	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,800
	GS-7	160	10	\$1,600	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,600
	GS-5	130	10	\$1,300	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1,300
	GS-4	120	20	\$2,400	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,400
	Mileage	0.45	1500	\$675	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$675
Insert new items above this line!				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				\$8,775	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$8,775
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										
				\$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 Road & Trails				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
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										
	team	2000	1	\$2,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,000
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Insert new items above this line!				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Evaluation				\$2,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,000
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

If NO TREATMENT AND NO FUNDING REQUEST- then

Forest Coordinator or Team Leader (signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

IF NO TREATMENT EXCEPT FUNDING REQUEST FOR NOXIOUS WEED DETECTION SURVEY, then

Forest Supervisor (signature) Barbara White Date 10/5/17

Regional Forester (signature) Joe G. E. C. Date 10/12/17