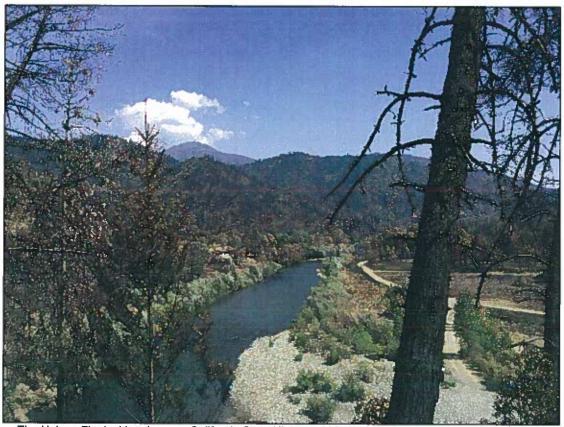
USDA-FOREST SERVICE

FS-2500-8 (7/08) Date of Report: 10/13/17

HELENA/FORK BURNED-AREA REPORT (Reference FSH 2509.13)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST



The Helena Fire looking down on California State Highway 299 along Trinity River on October 4th 2017.

A. Type of Report

- [x] 1. Funding request for estimated emergency stabilization funds
- [] 2. Accomplishment Report
- [] 3. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

- [x] 1. Initial Request (Best estimate of funds needed to complete eligible stabilization 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: Helena/Fork

B. Fire Number: Helena = CA-SHF-001770; Fork= CA-SHF-001555

C. State: CA

D. County: Trinity

E. Region: 5

F. Forest: Shasta-Trinity

G. Districts: Trinity River

H. Fire Incident Job Code: Helena - P5LA7C

Fork - P5LBJ1

1. Date Fire Started: Helena= August 30, 2017; Fork = August 7, 2017

J. Date Fire Contained: <u>Helena= October?</u>, 2017; Fork = October? 2017

K. Suppression Cost: Helena/Fork = \$30 million

L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds

Dozerlines:

Helena= Dozerline repaired / waterbarred: 67 miles Fork 2 = Dozerline repaired / waterbarred: 1 miles

Handlines:

Helena= Handline repaired / waterbarred: 20 miles Fork 2 = Handline repaired / waterbarred: 2 miles

M. Watershed Numbers and Names:

HUC6	NAME Sub-Watershed Name	Acres
180102110802	Middle Canyon Creek	22640.39456420000
180102111101	Big Bar-Sailor Bar	21153.16461880000
180102110904	East Fork North Fork Trinity River	29531.97268760000
180102110605	Weaver Creek	31781.98273490000
180102110803	Lower Canyon Creek	38421.71414230000

N. Total Acres Burned: 21,317

Acres Burned	Soil Burn Severity				
Row Labels	■ Unburned/Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Grand Total
⊝Fork	1,432	708	Committee and the second	Production of the Control of the Con	Contract to the State of the St
USDA Forest Service	1,432	708	959	263	
= Helena	6,225	4,931	5,747	1,051	17,955
Bureau of Land Managemen Other State Lands	t 1,551 6	•	1,510	333	4,499
Private	539	315	596	44	1,494
USDA Forest Service	4,130	3,511	3,641	675	11,956
Grand Total	7,658	5,639	6,706	1,314	EACH TO SELECT BUTCH SCHOOL STATE

O. Vegetation Types:

Helena Fire

Black oak, Oregon white oak, Pacific Douglas fir, white fir, mixed conifer, canyon live oak, lower montane mixed chapparal, gray pine, Ponderosa pine, annual grasses and forbs, upper montane mixed chapparal, huckleberry oak,

Fork Fire

Montane chaparral, mixed chaparral, montane hardwood, Douglas Fir, Montane-Hardwood-Conifer, Sierran mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine, red fir, white fir, subalpine conifer

P. Dominant soils:

Fork:

Chawanakee are coarse sandy loam soils with 60-80% slopes comprising of about 75% of the Fork Fire. Paradaloe-Goulding are gravelly loams with 30-75% slopes and encompasses about 20% of the Fork Fire. The Brockgluch is a gravelly loam and covers about 5% of the soils with in the Fork fire area and have 50-75% slopes.

Helena:

Specific dominant soils found in the Helena fire are, Brockgulch, and Pardaloe -Dedrick Complex, Pardaloe-Goulding Chawanakee primarily resulting in mostly loam and sandy loam soil textures. Brockgluch is a gravelly loam and covers about 23% of the Helena Fire. Pardaloe -Dedrick Complex is also a gravelly loam with 50-90% slopes that covers approximately 13.4% of the fire area. Paradaloe-Goulding are gravelly loams with 30-75% slopes and encompasses about 13% of the fire area. Chawanakee are coarse sandy loam soils with 60-80% slopes comprising of approximately 11% are found in the Helena fire area.

Q. Geology and Geomorphology:

The Helena/Fork fire lies within the Klamath Mountains Physiographic Province, and is underlain predominantly by Paleozoic and Mesozoic metavolcanic and metasedimentary rock, along with minor amounts Quaternary sediments in the valleys. Tectonic processes accreted numerous terranes to the western margin of North America and one of these occurs within the fire area: the **Central Metamorphic Terrane** (Table 1).

Table 1: Rock Units within the Helena/Fork Fires

Belt/Assemblage	Age	Terrane/Formation	Rock type
Western Paleozoic and Triassic	Jurassic	Central Metamorphic	Metavolcanics plus Metasediments, Hornblende Schist, Serpentinite
Plutons	Late Cretaceous	Intrude the Central Metamorphic	Intrusive igneous, Diorite, Quartz Granodiorite
Pliocene, Pleistocene and Holocene Fluvial Deposits	Tertiary, Quaternary	Weaverville Formation	Sedimentary, Fluvial, Alluvium/Colluvium

These Terranes were intruded by granitic plutons, and the largest in the fire area forms the headwater ridges of Big East Fork of Canyon Creek and Gwin Gulch in the northern part of the complex.

The Central Metamorphic Terrane occupies the bulk of the fire complex. This Terrane is an accretionary mélange consisting mostly of pre-silurian metavolcanics and a few highly dismembered ophiolite bodies including slabs of serpentinite and peridotite, some of which may contain naturally occurring asbestos.

R. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:

Fork = 5.9 Miles Perennial, 9.6 Miles Intermittent, 6.1 Miles Ephemeral

Helena = 33.9 Miles Perennial, 65.2 Miles Intermittent, 22.4 Miles Ephemeral

S. Transportation System:

Fork - Trails: 1.73 miles

Roads: 7.0 miles

Helena —Trails 2.85 miles

Roads: 50.0 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity by total and FS (acres):

Ownership:

O TOTO OF IND.					
Acres Burned Row Labels	Soil Burn Severity Unburned/Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Grand Total
⊟ Fork	1,432	708	959	263	3,362
USDA Forest Service	1,432	708	959	263	3,362
⊟ Helena	6,225	4,931	5,747	1,051	17,955
Bureau of Land Management	1,551	1,105	1,510	333	4,499
Other State Lands	6				6
Private	539	315	596	44	1,494
USDA Forest Service	4,130	3,511	3,641	675	11,956
Grand Total	7,658	5,639	6,706	1,314	21,317

B. Water-Repellent Soil by total and FS (acres): Water repellency is a primary element of the soils effects in this fire: severe repellency is widespread and throughout the fire area, occurring in all soil burn severity classes from the bottom of the surface-charred layer (generally 0.5 - 1 inch deep), and varying in thickness from 0.5 - 1 inches in clay loam soils to 1 to 2 inches in sandy loams in high SBS. Repellency will be largely responsible for moderate soil burn severity expected to have a watershed runoff response similar to high. Repellency also occurred naturally in unburned areas, usually beginning at about 0.5 inches depth and 1 inch thick; but repellency was greatly exacerbated by the fire in coarse-sandy soils. Without repellency, these soils have rapid infiltration rates and surface runoff and erosion would normally be localized to shallow soil areas and/or steep slopes. It is estimated that about 40% of the fire area has water repellency elevated by the fire.

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating by total acres:

Helena/Fork EHR					
Erosion Hazard Rating	Acres	Percent			
Low	7658	36%			
Moderate	5639	27%			
High	6706	31%			
Very High	1314	6%			
Total	21317	100%			

D. Erosion Potential:

Total fire areas: 35 tons per acre for a 5-year runoff event, as determined using WEPP-ERMiT. Stated model accuracy is +/- 50%. With water repellency levels in this fire, +50% may be more representative for this area.

Table 4. Predicted erosion rates and amounts for the Helena and Fork fires:

ERMIT Results 'Post Fire'					
	2-Yr Storm	5-Yr Storm	10-Yr Storm		
Untreated Tons	429,488	722,939	1,278,965		
Untreated Tons/Acre	21	35	61		
Mulch .5 Tons/ Acre	6	15	35.5		
Mulch 1 Ton/Acre	4.75	12.75	30		
ERMiT Results 'Pre Fire'					
Tons	42,221	193,189	533,737		
Tons/Acre	2.4	8.25	25		

E. Sediment Potential:

ERMiT estimates (part 3D) try to account for hillslope re-deposition, and sediment production numbers are delivery to the bottom of the hillslope. Many modeled hillslopes in this fire do have streams at the base of the slope; water percolates into the soils (depending on the degree of water repellency) and sediment is delivered into creeks below. Therefore it is roughly estimated that 50% of sediment estimates above would be delivered to the fluvial system and bulk it by 10 to 30%.

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years):	30
B. Design Chance of Success, (percent):	80
C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years):	2
D. Design Storm Duration, (hours):	6
E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches):	1.95
F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile):	35.8
G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent):	40
13	
H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile):	62.4

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

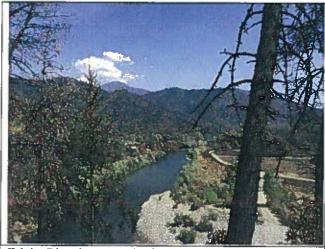
A. Describe Critical Values/Resources and Threats:

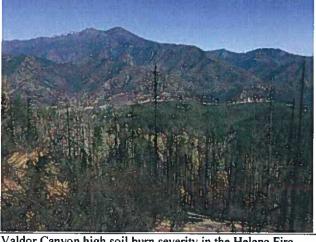
Background:

The Helena fire was human caused and is under investigation. The Fork fire started by a series of lightning strikes in early August, 2017 starting 15 new fires across the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. A few quickly grew out of control with near-record heat and strong gusty southwesterly winds. Fork fire started later as a holdover from the August lightning swarm. Fires were fueled by an abundant grass crop produced by above average rain coupled with local brush suffering from long-term drought effects, dead-and-down trees from the 2008 fires, and old growth stands of vegetation.

Approximately 38% for the Helena and 36% for the Fork burned at moderate to high soil burn severity (see soil burn severity maps below). The rest of the fire was either low or very low soil burn severity. It is very important to understand the difference between *fire intensity* or *burn severity* as discussed by fire

behavior, fuels, or vegetation specialists, and soil burn severity as defined for watershed condition evaluation in BAER analyses. Fire intensity or burn severity as defined by fire, fuels, or vegetation specialists may consider such parameters as flame height, rate of spread, fuel loading, thermal potential, canopy consumption, tree mortality, etc. For BAER analysis, we are not mapping simply vegetation mortality or above-ground effects of the fire. Soil burn severity considers additional surface and belowground factors that relate to soil hydrologic function, runoff and erosion potential, and vegetative recovery.

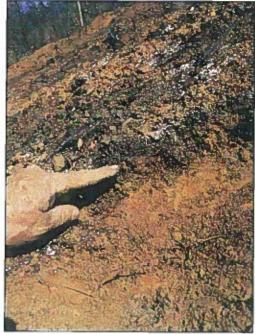




Trinity River burn severity from the Helena Fire

Valdor Canyon high soil burn severity in the Helena Fire

General trends are mixed conifer forested areas were moderate to high soil burn severity with 40 to 90 percent timber mortality. Open rocky mixed conifer with brush/grass areas had moderate to low soil burn severities and with 30 to 70 percent mortality (see pics above and below).



High soil burn severity with 1in char in clay loam soil.



High soil burn severity with strong repellency in clay loam.





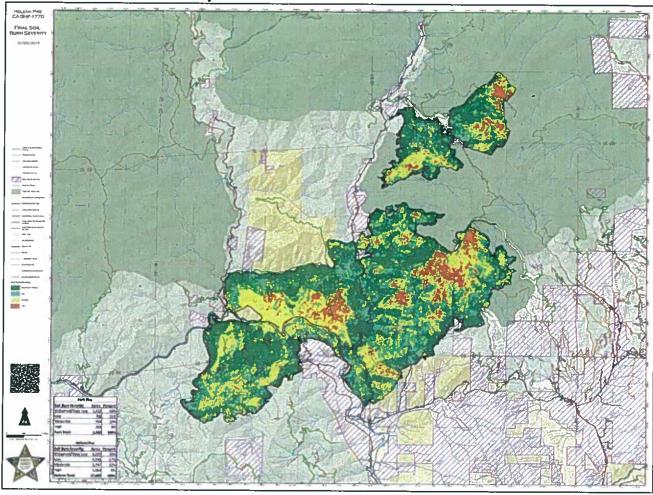
High soil burn severity landscape in mixed conifer with oak.

High soil burn looking up Wheel Gulch above Hwy 299.

Looking at the soil burn severity maps below shows multiple areas that have the majority of moderate and high soil burn severity. These areas are Weaver Bally, Monument Peak, Clear Canyon, Valdor Canyon, Conner Creek, and Hocker Meadow area being at risk due to flooding and sedimentation affecting roads, water quality, and fish habitat.

Soil Burn Severity Map:

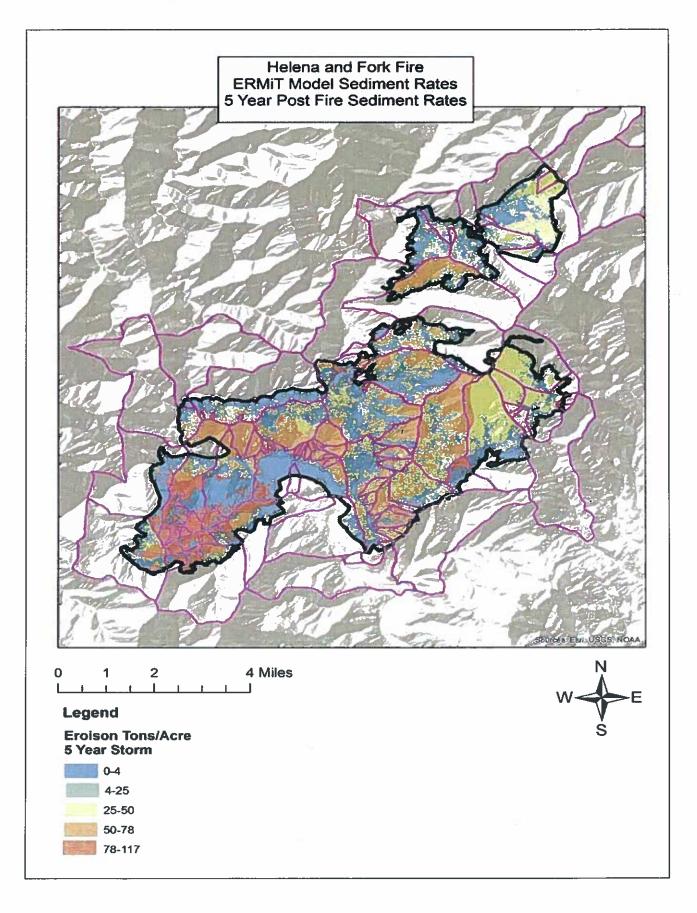
Helena/Fork Soil Burn Severity:



Resource Condition Assessment Sections:

Soils

Severe soil heating was mostly restricted to forested areas. Soil water repellency was common within moderate and high burn severity, and even in low burn severity areas. Hydrophobic strength was often high in the top 0.5 to 2 inches in burned areas. Based on soil burn severity an increase in hydrophobicity will occur on 40% of the Helena/Fork fires. Roughly half of the moderate severity class resulted in near complete vegetation canopy and organic horizon removal, leaving surface rock as the only effective ground cover. A 5-Year storm was modeled in ERMiT to determine if the estimated soil erosion for the fire area would affect soil productivity. For the 5-year event (20% probability); an estimated average 722,939 tons of sediment may be produced (35 tons/acre). Increased hillslope erosion is expected to occur throughout the fire area, especially within those areas in the high soil burn severity (see map below).



Thus, erosion rates are elevated high enough to constitute an emergency situation to soil productivity, and targeted hillslope treatments are proposed on slopes above critical Coho habitat (see soils report for maps and details). Point treatments on roads and trails are also recommended along with protection of localized homes.

Hydrology

Pre and Post Fire Peak Flow Model Results:

Soil burn severity information was used to model post-fire runoff response for each watershed of concern. Stream Gage data from the Trinity River at Burnt Ranch was used in a flood frequency analysis using the new USGS 2017 Bulletin 17c draft to determine pre-fire flows for the 2, and 5 year flows. The flood frequency was then applied to the USGS gaged to ungaged relationship appropriate for the North Coast region. Turn severity data was used to modify the post fire response including a bulking factor for areas with instability and soils with very high erosion hazard ratings.

		Normal		Post Fir	e Flows	Increase x Normal
Watershed	HU SQ MI	Q2	Q5	Q2	Q5	Q2
West Weaver Creek	14	437	528	674	815	1.54
Big EF Cyn Cr	7	241	294	389	473	1.61
Canyon Creek	64	1666	1983	1742	2073	1.05
Clear Gulch	6	212	258	372	453	1.76
Wheel Gulch	0.1	4	6	9	12	2.08
Conner Creek	4	150	184	234	287	1.56
Trinity At Burnt Ranch	1438	27400	31610	27500	31726	1.00

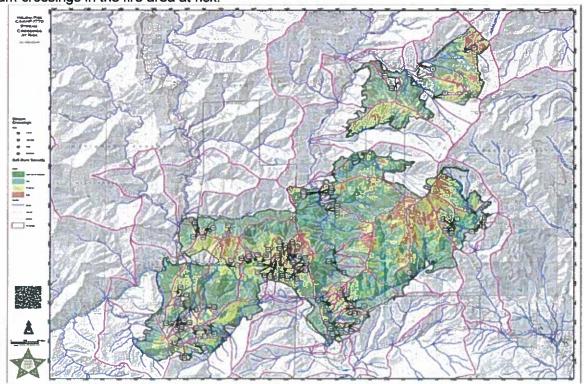
Stream crossings at risk were identified by overlaying roads and trails over streams within the burn area. A subsection of crossings was selected if they were within high or moderate burn severity areas or if the watershed area above them had a significant portion of high and moderate severity. After the "pour point" watersheds were delineated above these points the final burn severity totals were calculated for each point. The following table shows each road or trail that had at least one crossing at risk. Crossings that are identified as critical have at least 90% of the watershed area burned at a combined high and moderate soil burn severity. The stream crossings are also shown on the map following the table, see below.

Stream crossing locations by road and risk rating:

Location	Critical	High	Moderate	Considered	Total
Canyon Cr Rd 401	2	6	3	2	13
299TRI	10	1	n 1		12
33N30C		2			2
33N31			1	1	2
33N31A				1	
33N41		5	2		7
33N41C	I	1	X.		2
33N41G		3			3

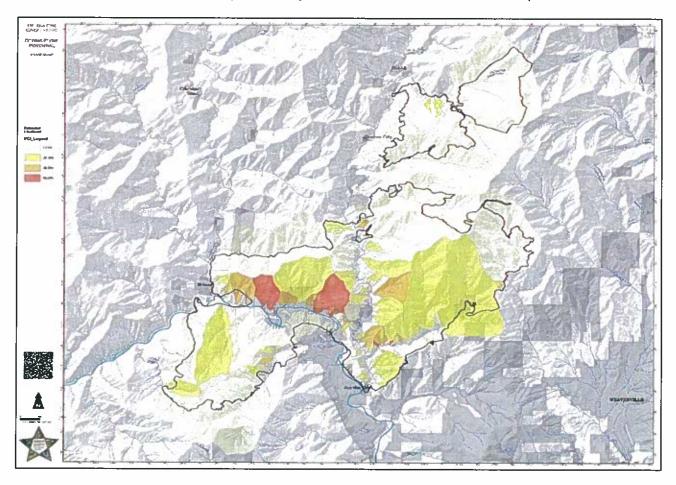
35N47Y				1	1 1
35N48Y		1			1
35N49Y		1			1
Bear Gulch Trail - 09W23A				1	1
BLM Trinity tributary	4				4
BLM Brock Gulch tributary		1	1		2
Clear Gulch - Log Xing	·		I		1
Dolly Ditch Trail - 10W12		3	1	4	8
East Fork Trail	1				1
Pvt Rd Clear Gulch tributary		1	1		2
Pvt Rd Brock Gulch tributary		2	1		3
Pvt Rd Canyon Cr Tributary	2	2	1		5
Pvt Rd Clear Gulch				1	1
Pvt Rd Coopers Bar				1	1
Pvt Rd tributary near Coopers Bar	2				2
Pvt Rd tributary near Wheel Gulch	4			(8	4
Pvt Rd Wheel Gulch	2				2

Stream crossings in the fire area at risk:



Debris Flow Potential:

There is a moderate potential for the occurrence of earth flows/debris flows within the burned area (Figure 3 Soil Burn Severity). Most of the streams and stream segments at risk for earth flows/debris flows are located within West Weaver Creek, Wheel Gulch, and Manzanita Creek watersheds that may have moderate to major impact on values at risk. Values that are at risk include channel crossing along multiple road segments of SR 299 (see map below and Figures 4 and 5 in the geology report for debris flow potential maps). Flow consistency will mostly be mud flows, but debris flows are possible.



Rock Fall Potential:

Rockfall hazards occur along SR 299, County Road 401 and Valdor Gulch road. All are existing conditions that may be worsened by the fire which caused the burning of vegetation that was stabilizing material on the steep slopes. There is a large amount of cobbles and boulders and lose material susceptible to rock falls observed in the portion of the fire along County Road 401.

Values at Risk: (see Appendix B)

The risk matrix below, Exhibit 2 of Interim Directive No.: 2520-2010-1 was used to evaluate the Risk Level for each value identified during Assessment:

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

Forest Service Roads and Trails:

Roads - Helena Fire:

<u>Life:</u> **High Risk** (Likely, Moderate) – It is likely that storms would provide increased runoff and sediment delivery to various roads within the Helena Fire due to the moderate to high burn severity in the area. If not mitigated, runoff and sediment delivery to the road prism would cause a safety issue to road users and increase the chance of injury. In the Helena Fire, National Forest System Road (NFSR) 33N30C, 33N31, 33N41C, 33N41G are at risk. Potential rock fall could also occur on County Rd. 401 along Canyon Creek.

<u>Property:</u> **High Risk** (Likely, Moderate) – It is likely that storms would provide increased runoff, sediment delivery, and mudflow to 33N30C, 33N31, 33N41, 33N41C, and 33N41G due to the moderate to high burn severity in the area. Protection of the cross-drain culvert inlets and road prism is necessary to handle the increased runoff and sediment delivery. In addition, these roads lack the amount of drainage structure to handle the increased runoff and sediment delivery. If not mitigated, the cross-drain culverts would not function as intended and cause damage to the road prism. Potential washouts could occur on road segments where there is a lack of drainage structures for the increased runoff and sediment delivery. NFSR 33N31 and 33N41 are operational maintenance level 3 roads while NFSR 33N30C, 33N41C, and 33N41G are operational maintenance level 2 roads. Road-fill burn-outs have occurred on 33N31 (4 ea), 33N41 (2 ea), and 33N41G (1 ea) where logs in fill have burned out compromising the road prism.

Trails – Helena/Fork Fire:

<u>Property:</u> High Risk (Likely, Moderate) – It is likely that storms would provide increased runoff, sediment delivery, and mudflow to the East Fork and Dolly Ditch Trails due to the moderate to high burn severity in the area. Protection of the crossings and trail prism is necessary to handle the increased runoff and sediment delivery. If not mitigated, the crossings would not function as intended and cause damage to the trail prism. Potential washouts could occur on trail segments where there is a lack of drainage structures for the increased runoff and sediment delivery.

Soil Productivity:

Values at Risk – Threats to Soil Productivity and Hydrologic Function (Fire-Wide)

Probability of Damage or Loss: Very likely Magnitude of Consequences: Moderate

Risk Level: Very High

An elevated level of erosion can be expected in the aftermath of the fire based on modeling of erosion and sedimentation and erosion risk analysis. Many of the slopes with the highest predicted erosion are too steep to effectively treat with mulch. The risk matrix used for determining the level of risk to soil productivity.

Based on the low ground cover and conditions in moderate and high severity burn, it is <u>very likely</u> that erosion and sedimentation will occur in the Helena and Fork fires fire in the first year. The ERMiT modeled results show with the most likely scenario (a 2-year runoff event) that the amount of soil lost will be relatively moderate, this leads to a conclusion that the magnitude of consequences of soil loss is moderate. This leads to an overall risk rating of very high.

Highest amount of soil erosion expected in Hocker Meadows area and Upper Connor Canyon Watershed (Southwest corner of Fire area).

Water Quality and Quantity:

Potential Critical Values at Risk (VARs)

- A. Human Life and Safety, Property and Infrastructure
 - People using the roads and trails within and downslope of the burn area (in particular, State Highway 299, County Road 401--Canyon Creek, and FS Routes 33N41 & 33N41G) could be at risk due to the threat of rock fall, tree fall, debris and sediment flows, and road washouts. These same roads and trails could be at risk of damage due to plugged culverts washing out and loss of road surface and fill, and damage to paved road surfaces.
 - Roads and stream crossings are more susceptible to plugging and damage from increased sediment loads as well as from floatable debris (ash and burned wood).
 - Water systems in the small rural communities near Junction City and the Weaverville Community Services District are at increased risk. Many Junction City residences rely upon a series of ditches that could be damaged by increased erosion and sedimentation and minor slope failures on steep slopes that burned relatively hot. West Weaver Creek intakes, fish screens, and filters could also be affected by heavy debris flows and increased turbidity due to heavy sedimentation from large storm events.
- B. Beneficial Uses of Water: Water Quality/Aquatic Habitat/Hydrologic Function
 - Domestic and agricultural water supplies for the Junction City small water systems and the Weaverville Community Services District may be affected by increased turbidity and sediment loads of incoming water as well increased erosion and sedimentation if transmission pipes and/or ditches are compromised.
 - Water quality will also be degraded due to accelerated surface runoff and various erosion processes including mass wasting, debris flows, hillslope sheet and rill erosion as well as from failure of roads at stream crossings resulting in delivery of sediment to stream channels.
 - Fisheries habitat, the "Outstanding Remarkable Value" of the Wild & Scenic Trinity River is likely to be negatively affected in areas where tributaries carry large amounts of fine sediment, from accelerated hillslope erosion, that will be delivered to streams and can cause elevated nutrients, suspended sediment, turbidity, and accumulation of fines in pool habitat and spawning beds.

• Recreation from contact recreation (fishing/swimming/rafting) would be impacted following storms when waters are likely to become turbid or transport floating debris.

Natural Resource Values at Risk - Threatened and Endangered Fisheries

The values at risk considered were federally threatened Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and associated impacts to designated critical habitat that exist inside the Helena/Fork Fire perimeter. Impacts to Designated Critical Habitat from excessive sedimentation and habitat degradation. Impaired habitat could lead to impacts to emergence, feeding and growth of young Coho salmon.

This rapid aquatic analysis is based on aerial reconnaissance, ground investigation and GIS between October 4-8, 2017. Due to time constraints, streams designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as critical habitat for federally threatened Coho salmon were given highest priority for field assessments. Areas with moderate to high burn severity were the areas of focus for this assessment on stream systems within the Shasta Trinity National Forest impacted by the Helena/Fork Fire.

There were 5 watersheds (HU10) affected by the Helena/Fork Fire, and all have Coho salmon designated critical habitat impacted by the Helena/Fork Fire. An average of only 7% of these watersheds (i.e., having designated Critical Habitat within them) were burned by the Helena/Fork Fire. Impacts to these watersheds were also evaluated as part of the hydrology, and other BAER specialist reports. See hydrology report for pre and post discharge predictions to watersheds inside the Helena/Fork Fire.

Areas of moderate to high burn severity have the greatest potential to mobilize sediment into stream systems, reduce productivity and benthic macroinvertebrate populations and reduce the availability of spawning and rearing habitat, all impacting fisheries. Stream ecosystem impacts include changes in geomorphology (e.g., sediment filled pools and riffles), decreased pool depth, loss of habitat, increased solar radiation owing to losses in riparian cover, changes in water quality, increased dissolved nutrients and pH, and changes in pool:riffle ratios (Dunham et al. 2003, Earl and Blinn 2007, Aha et al. 2014). For fish, habitat loss, reduced riparian cover, changes in water quality, increased temperature, and reduced prey availability all affect fish population responses to fire including increased mortality and extirpation. However, these effects may be pronounced or muted depending on the fire burn severity, timing of subsequent rainfalls, intensity and duration of ensuing rains, and volume of debris and sediment entering streams.

<u>Canyon Creek</u> – Headwaters of Canyon Creek begin on the south face of Thompson Peak (9,002 ft.) and drain in a southerly direction for approximately 22 miles before joining the Trinity River near Junction City, California (1,497 ft.). The upper 11 miles are completely within the Trinity Alps Wilderness Area. Anadromous fish have access to approximately 15 miles of the creek before a large water fall prevents upstream migration. Along Canyon Creek 6 miles of designated critical habitat were burned by the Helena Fire. 5.2 miles were either unburned or had very low burn severity, 0.70 miles of low burn severity and only 0.10 miles of moderate burn severity.

Site reconnaissance on Canyon Creek October 5th revealed a significant amount of material had come down Big East Fork Canyon Creek inside the Fork Fire. This combination of ash and mud was a result of a high intensity storm event on September 19th and 20th near Monument Peak. Based on data from the Backbone RAWS station (just north of the fire area) the storm event recorded 0.62 inches of rain fell in a 12 hour time period. The RAWS station revealed that most of the precipitation dropped between 9pm and 7am. Sediment and ash was deposited throughout Big East Fork Canyon Creek and significant amounts of ask and sediment was observed at the confluence with Canyon Creek.

No fish mortality was observed along Canyon Creek. However anecdotal evidence from private land owners indicated that some mortality was observed of juvenile fish. The entire reach inside the Helena/Fork Fire is designated critical habitat for Coho salmon. One adult foothill yellow-legged frog was observed at 40°46′03.3″N, 123°03′04.5″ along Canyon Creek. Just downstream a river otter was also observed actively pursuing prey beneath the surface.

Conner Creek – Conner Creek is a tributary to the Trinity River in the Junction City area of Trinity County, California. The entire reach inside the Helena/Fork Fire is designated critical habitat for Coho salmon. Surface flows were observed along the entire reach inside the Helena/Fork Fire. Conner Creek was recently the recipient of two fish passage removal projects. The project consisted of the removal of two migration barriers structures on county roads in the Conner Creek watershed. The projects are located in Section 2, T33N, R11W, MDBM on the USGS 7.5 Dedrick Quadrangle and are accessible by taking Highway 299 west out of Weaverville 8 miles, turn left at Dutch Creek Road and cross the Trinity River, turn right on Red Hill Rd. The downstream project, on Conner Creek Road is accessed by turning right onto Conner Creek Road from Red Hill Road at approximately road mile 2.2. The upstream project site is located on Red Hill Road approximately 500' past the Conner Creek Road turnoff. The purpose of the Conner Creek projects were to provide full passage for all life stages of Coho salmon and steelhead to the natural limits of anadromy by removing two County road culverts that were migration barriers to salmonids.

There was a total of 90 miles of surface water burned inside the Helena Fire, of those miles 70 miles were either unburned or very low and 20 miles burned at low burn severity. However, given the acres of moderate burn severity on the upland hillslopes (2008 Eagle Fire burn scar) it is likely that significant sediment will mobilize into the stream during ensuing rain events. No fish mortality was observed during field reconnaissance. Some riparian vegetation was burned by pockets of low burn severity but this is not expected to result in increased stream temperature.

An assessment of fisheries Values at Risk (VAR) in relation to potentials for, soil erosion/sedimentation, decreased water quality and loss of cover indicated that federally threatened Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) populations and habitats (designated critical habitat) are likely to be adversely affected by post-fire impacts. BAER treatment opportunities across the landscape are limited due to slope steepness (>60 percent) and inner gorge areas. Treatable acres for fisheries were limited to the Conner Creek drainage due to its importance as a domestic water source, designated critical habitat for Coho salmon, access roads, presence of dormant landslides and the inflow to the Trinity River which is designated as a Wild and Scenic River. In all other affected burn areas, too few treatable acres were identified to make a significant or cost effective difference in post-fire projected sediment yields. Emergency BAER treatments were identified for roads in the Helena and Fork Fires. No in channel treatments were prescribed for affected Helena Fire and Fork Fire streams due to the steepness of side slopes (>60 percent) and instability of inner gorge areas.

Threatened, Endangered, Sensitive and Invasive Plants:

Potential Values at Risk

The health of the ecosystem is at risk of post-fire noxious weed introduction which could result in the following issues: increased erosion, increased fire frequency intervals, decreased native plant communities, reduced terrestrial and aquatic sensitive plant and fisheries habitat, and altered nutrient cycles.

The Forest Service is obligated by law, and regulations such as Executive Order 13112, to respond to invasive species that threaten terrestrial and aquatic resources of the National Forest System and to

collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to address invasive species that can spread from adjacent lands. Forest Service policy for invasive species management and research has recently been updated in 2013 by direction provided in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2900 and by directions provided in FSMs 3400 and 4000.

Information on weed presence and abundance was documented with information from Natural Resources Information Systems (NRIS), California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), GIS analysis, and field surveys during the BAER assessment.

Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed Species

The most recent list of endangered, threatened, or proposed species for Trinity County from the US Fish and Wildlife Service website (https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac), was accessed on October 8, 2017 by forest botanist, Lusetta Sims. White bark pine, *Pinus albicaulis*, is a candidate species and does not require consideration under this analysis. White bark pine is, however, analyzed as a sensitive species and although only threatened and endangered plants are considered for treatments under BAER.

Flowering plant species included on the report of Listed/Proposed Threatened and Endangered Species for Trinity County are:

Scientific name	Common name	Endangered Species Act status
Chamaesyce hooveri	Hoover's spurge	Threatened
Arabis macdonaldiana	McDonald's rock cress	Endangered
Orcuttia tenuis	Slender Orcutt grass	Threatened

None of these species occurs or has suitable habitat in the project area. Critical Habitat has been designated for Hoover's spurge and slender Orcutt grass; in neither case does Critical Habitat extend to Trinity County.

Noxious Weeds

The weed populations within and near to the fire perimeter are concentrated along the roadsides, particularly the Canyon Creek road. The 3 dominant noxious weeds found during the assessment are scotch broom, Dalmatian toadflax, and starthistle. Other invasive and noxious weed species known to occur within or adjacent to the burn include the following:

Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), moth mullein (*Verbascum blattaria*), Dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe ssp. Micranthos*), diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea* diffusa), Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), lenspod whitetop (*Cardaria chalepensis*), sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*), and sweet clover (*Melilotus albus*). See Appendix C for a map of known infestations. The weed profiles can be found in Appendix B and at the CAL-IPC website: www.cal-ipc.org. Noxious weed ratings (CDFA, 2015).

Advantageously, the majority of the areas along roadsides that were burned have had needle cast drop over the burned soil, creating a buffer to help prevent the spread of invasives into the interior of the fire,

along with pine cones dropping as a future seed source. There are exposed dozer lines that intersect roads within and adjacent to the fire that provide a prime habitat for invasives to establish in the newly disturbed soil.

Areas within and surrounding the Helena and Fork fire have had a history of fires within the last 30 years. See map in Appendix D. Burn scars are visible on the southwestern portion of the fire that surround Conner Creek and Hocker Creek, where the fire burned moderate to high burn severity. It is reasonable to assume the recovery process of this fire will be similar to these past fires. These areas that have had repeated burns, are particularly susceptible to establishment of annual grasses and invasive weeds due to the lack of ground cover, organic material, high slope, and increased erosion potential.

Didymo

During suppression activities, water samples were taken from the main stem Trinity River and the bridge in Junction City near Evans Bar and submitted to a lab in Eureka tested positive for Didymo (*Didymophenia geminata*). Didymo, also referred to as "rock snot" is an aquatic invasive species of diatom that generally grows in colder, low nutrient, high clarity streams. Didymo can alter the entire stream ecosystem. It can form extensive blooms that result in large mats on the bottom of lakes, rivers and streams.

Didymo cells secrete a mucus-like substance to create a firm hold on substrates and to help keep the alga moist. Changes in the stream can be extensive and can include an increase in suspended organic material, fluctuating pH levels, and a change in macroinvertebrate population structures. Fish populations may suffer as the habitat (interstitial spaces between rocks) for macroinvertebrates (especially the pollution-sensitive taxa—caddisfly, stonefly and mayfly) is covered by the algal colonies, reducing preferred food supplies. The resulting loss of quality habitat can also lead to a shift to pollution-tolerant macroinvertebrates like midges, leeches, etc. Once Didymo is established in an area, wading is hazardous due to slippery, algae-covered rocks. The spread of Didymo can also affect the fishing industry by clogging water intakes of boat motors and interfering with fishing gear and lines. Excessive blooms of Didymo can render fishing impossible, with devastating economic consequences.

Water drafting occurred from Evans Bar to Bagdad campground along the main stem of Trinity River. It is reasonable to assume those same fire engines moved around to draft out of local tributaries and helicopter water bucket drops occurred throughout the fires and adjacent to fire perimeter that potentially contaminated previous tributaries that had not been infected with Didymo. Once Didymo presence was confirmed, those confirmed infested locations were no longer used, but not all drafting locations were tested and sampling didn't occur until approximately 2 weeks post initial attack. Given this information, there is a possibility of Didymo spreading to the tributaries that run into the Trinity River.

<u>Threats to ecosystem stability from the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and Didymo:</u> An emergency exists in the form of soil erosion, increased exposed soil surfaces, decreased native vegetation to compete with the noxious weeds, noxious weeds competing with sensitive species for sensitive habitat, potential increased fire frequency return interval, decreased salmonid spawning habitat and potential reduction in aquatic organism food sources.

<u>Probability of Damage or Loss:</u> **Likely** for both noxious weed spread and spread of Didymo. This determination is due to the newly exposed soil surfaces created, the high amount of vehicle traffic, the presence of Didymo from water drafting locations during suppression activities and the ease of spread.

<u>Magnitude of Consequence</u>. **Moderate** for both weed spread and spread of Didymo. This determination is due to the noxious weed's ability to compete with sensitive species habitat and in areas that are at risk of having a vegetative type conversion which could cause long term negative impacts. For Didymo, a moderate determination is due to the impacts to critical spawning habitat to the Coho salmon, decreased food sources for aquatic species, reduced enjoyment to recreationists and fishermen.

Risk Level: **High** for both noxious weed spread and spread of Didymo.

<u>Threats to Cultural Resources</u>: Post-fire effects on cultural resources result from two types of disturbances. The first is natural; the degradation of sites from burned hazard trees falling and increased erosion within the burn area which causes an increase in sediment deposition, debris flows, and scouring of the landscape. The second is cultural; increased access to the resource as a result of a denuded landscape that leads to a greater risk of looting, vandalism, and unauthorized OHV use. Each of these effects can also cause or exacerbate the other.

Critical Values for Heritage include all cultural resources which are listed on or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, Traditional Cultural Properties and Indian Sacred sites on National Forest lands. There are 12 known sites within the Helena and the Fork burn perimeters that are in or in proximity of burned moderate to high intensity areas, some of which are prehistoric locations.

Field assessment of historic and prehistoric properties for the Helena/Fork Fire BAER was conducted over the span of two days. The fire areas are rich in cultural resources that represent Native American use of the area, as well as historic homesteading, ranching, and logging. It was necessary to prioritize sites as this is a large assessment in a relatively short amount of time. Three sites (out of 12 sites) that were identified as most "at risk" from post-fire effects were visited for assessment, although it should be noted that all sites that burned are at increased risk of vandalism and looting. Of the 3 visited, 1 was prehistoric, 2 were historic.

Of these, only 1 has been identified as at particular risk from an increase in public access along highway 299 due to the loss of vegetative barriers resulting from the fire. This makes this site particularly vulnerable to increased disturbance and looting.

- For the site, the probability of damage or loss is "Likely;" there is clear and recent use of these
 area.
- The magnitude of consequences is "Moderate" for the site and the risk is "High".

Threats to Public Safety:

Geologic Values-at-Risk (VARs) all involve public safety and property damage (rockfall, debris flow).

Rock falls - Rockfall hazards occur along SR 299, County Road 401 and Valdor Gulch road. All are existing conditions that may be worsened by the fire which caused the burning of vegetation that was stabilizing material on the steep slopes. There is a large amount of cobbles and boulders and lose material susceptible to rock falls observed in the portion of the fire along County Road 401.

Earth flow/debris flow – There is a moderate potential for the occurrence of earth flows/debris flows within the burned area (Figure 3 Soil Burn Severity). Most of the streams and stream segments at risk for earth flows/debris flows are located within West Weaver Creek, Wheel Gulch, and Manzanita Creek watersheds that may have moderate to major impact on values at risk. Values that are at risk include channel crossing along multiple road segments of SR 299 (see Figures 4 and 5 in the geology report for debris flow potential maps). Flow consistency will mostly be mud flows, but debris flows are possible.

<u>Threats to Wildlife:</u> There are no wildlife concerns for the Helena and Fork due to limited impacts on T&E species.

Emergency Treatment Objectives: To allow safe passage of water to protect infrastructures and watersheds from accelerated sheet and rill erosion. To protect watersheds from the spread of noxious weeds and unfettered OHV access.

Risk determination is dependent on the design storm selected and downstream values at risk. By using an average storm (2-year event) emergency planning measures can be designed to mitigate and minumize anticipated risks. Using a 2-year design storm the values at risk can be evaluated to determine if an emergency exists.

C. Probability of Completing Treatment Prior to Damaging Storm or Event:

D. Probability of Treatment Success:

	Years after Treatment							
	1	5						
Land	80%	85%	90%					
Channel	-	-	-					
Roads/Trails	95%	90%	85%					
Protection/Safety	95%	90%	85%					

- E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): \$11,572,000
- F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): \$273,380
- G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

[x] Hydrology	[x] Soils	[x] Geology	[x] Range	[] Administration
[] Forestry	[] Wildlife	[] Fire Mgmt.	[x] Engineering	[]
[] Contracting	[x] Aquatics	[x] Botany	[x] Archaeology	[]

[x] Fisheries [] Research [] Landscape Arch [x] GIS

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Summary of Shasta-Trinity Fork BAER Values at Risk:

Based on field observations and assessment of burned watershed conditions and expected responses the BAER team identified potential for post wildfire impacts on the following BAER values at risk:

Human Life and Safety

- Increased risk for the general public to be impacted by rolling rocks, flooding, landslides, debris flows and hazardous trees along road and trails
- · Domestic and municipal water sources

Property

- USFS and BLM system roads
- USFS trails
- USFS campgrounds
- Private homes

Natural Resources

- Water for domestic and agricultural uses
- Native or naturalized plant communities
- · Soil productivity and hydrologic function
- Fisheries and Aquatics

Cultural Resources

- Prehistoric sites
- Historic sites

Risk Assessment Process:

The risk matrix below, Exhibit 2 of Interim Directive No.: **2520-2010-1** was used to evaluate the Risk Level for each value identified during Assessment:

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

Values at Risk Matrix:

The values at risk (VAR) matrix displayed in Appendix C below summarizes values at risk, post wildfire threats and risk ratings for forest service lands. Other lands that are not forest service (BLM, State, County, and Private) were noted and evaluated for risk. Values with high or very high risk ratings are addressed, where possible, with BAER response actions (treatments). Generally, response actions are not recommended for values with low and intermediate risk ratings (except in the case for life).

H. Treatment Narrative for Forest Service:

(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.)

Land Treatments:

The proposed treatments on National Forest System lands can help to reduce the impacts of the fire, but treatments will not completely mitigate the effects of the fire. The treatments listed below are those that are considered to be the most effective on National Forest System lands given the local setting including topography and access.

<u>Natural Recovery:</u> Vegetation in the mixed conifer and fir forests will recover slowly. Even in areas of moderate soil burn severity, the canopy was mostly killed and the seed source removed. Stands with an element of Jeffrey, sugar, western, or ponderosa pine will likely recover more quickly, since at least a few mature trees are likely to have survived to produce seed into newly exposed mineral soil. Meadows dominated by grasses and forbs will recover within a year, because for the most part soil temperatures were not hot enough to kill root systems. The montane chaparral shrubs were mostly killed by the fire, but fire stimulates manzanita seeds stored in the soil to germinate. In riparian areas sedges and grasses were resprouting within 10 days of the fire, and most riparian shrubs are also likely to resprout.

<u>Hand-Mulching</u>: Proposed treatment of 100 acres of hand-mulching comprises of moderate soil burned severity with no vegetation cover. The soils range from gravelly loam to clay loams. Slopes in the area range from 40% to around 65%. The predicted erosion rate for a 2 year storm event is 21 tons/acre and for a 5 year storm event is 35 tons/acre. Mulching 1.0 tons/acre will drop these predicted rates to 6 tons/acre and 15 tons/acre respectively. Wood straw is recommended since it is roughly 50% more effective than most other options but rice-straw at higher rates can be effective if triple chopped. Wood straw is heavier and has less of a tendency to blow off steeper slopes or wash downhill vs. unchopped straw.

Treatment proposal consists of seeding with native grass seed, then mulching with rice straw 1.0 tons/acre over 100 acres in the Connor Creek watershed. Hand seeding and hand mulching with 3x rice straw is recommended to be carried out by an Agreement. The recommended treatment area is directly above newly designated Critical Habitat for the Coho Salmon which is a Threatened Species. (See the Fisheries Report for more information)

The 100 acres treatment area is upstream of domestic water source. It is also approximately 2 miles from the confluence of Connor Creek and the Trinity River. The Trinity River is not only a wild and Scenic River, but is also on the 303D list due to being sediment impaired and managers are required to reduce 37% of that sediment per year until the river is back in to good standing (See Watershed Report and Fisheries Report).

Seeding with weed free native seed before mulching will allow native plant species to quickly dominate the area to reduce weeds infiltrating the area. There are dormant landslides within the watershed and seeding will assist stabilizing the hillslope. The local District (Weaverville Ranger Station) has an estimated 500-1500lbs of native seed already available. This seed is stationed at Big Bar and in Weaverville, and more seed is on hand being cleaned at the in Bend Seed Extractory in Oregon. (See Botany Report)

There is a Special Use Permit for the U33N41K road, which is intersects the treatment area, but is located mostly directly below the 100 acre recommended treatment area.

Lastly, the <u>Time Factor</u> is the most critical reason why hand seeding, hand mulching, and using agreements is recommended. Effective treatments will need to be implemented before the first big storms of the wet season. There are local available crews (Fire Crews, Resource Conservation District (RDC), California Conservation Corps (CCC), Inmate Crews etc.) to assist in application operations, which will reduce the time it takes to implement. Reducing the time line for implement is imperative since the wet season will be starting within approximately 3-5 weeks. The Forest Service already has agreements in place with all listed local available crews and would be able to start approximately within 2-3 weeks upon an approval of the recommended treatment.

Noxious Weed Detection and Eradication Treatments:

Treatments proposed for this fire include weed detection surveys, noxious weed removal within year one, native seeding and mulching with straw on hillslopes above Conner Creek, testing for Didymo and posting informative signs to prevent the spread of Didymo. There could be effects of BAER treatments on special status plant species, habitats, and with the use of the weed freerice straw, some associated risk of noxious weed introduction or spread during these treatments is expected therefor monitoring will be required to last up to 3 years.

Weed detection surveys will occur during the flowering season in 2018. Because of differences in flowering times for all potential species, two visits may be required during the growing season. Completion of inventory and treatments along roads, dozer lines, drop points, road and dozer line intersections, and known invasive plant populations will be the primary focus. See Appendix E for treatment location and Appendix B (in Botany report) for list of weed species will be mapped, using the west side Shasta-Trinity NF Invasive Weed List. Surveys will be completed using the NRIS protocol available at the national website: http://fsweb.nris.fs.fed.us/products/TESP Invasive Species/documentation.shtml.

Results will be entered into the NRIS database. Surveying will include documentation and hand pulling new weed occurrences at the time of inspection, where practical. New weed occurrences will be pulled to root depth, placed in sealed 3 mm plastic bags, and properly disposed.

Documentation of new infestations will include:

- Mapping perimeter of new infestations
- Filling out Weed Element Occurrence Form
- Treatment method
- Dates of treatment
- Incorporating data into local GIS spatial database
- Entering data into National Resource Information System (NRIS) database
- Entering data into FACTS database
- Evaluating success of treatment in subsequent inspections

A Weed Detection Survey Report will be submitted to the Regional and Forest BAER Coordinators, Invasive Weed Coordinator and Forest Botanists. If weed introduction and spread has occurred, an

interim BAER report will be completed to request eradication funding. Reporting costs are included in figures below.

Seeding and Mulching

Hand application of native seed and wood straw mulch on 100 acres of the hillslopes above Conner Creek. Seeding rate is prescribed at 6lbs of seed per acre, half of which is *Elymus glaucus*, the other as *Bromus carinatus*. Atop the layer of seed will be a layer of rice straw mulch applied at a rate of 1.0 tons per acre by hand. See soils report for information on the mulching treatment.

Didymo Testing and Signage

Determine presence/absence of Didymo through monitoring samples along the Trinity River and tributaries surrounding the Helena/Fork Fires that have Coho Critical Habitat: Conner Creek, Eagle Creek, Big East Fork of Canyon Creek, North Fork, West Weaver and East Weaver Creek. Testing Methods:

- Collect samples from June to September along accessible streams prioritized in the fire perimeter and representative sites in the upper reaches. See Appendix E for Treatment Map for recommended sites.
- Sample containers will be labeled with date, tributary name, and collector name.
- Fill Nalgene 8 oz. sample containers with any observable algae material. If larger substrates of algae are found they can be placed in a plastic bag.
- Photos of collection sites labeled with site name and date along with GPS points. If no algae is observed a photo and GPS point will be taken.
- Verification of presence/absence will be done by forest botanist in Weaverville using a compound microscope.

Results of verification will be entered into the Northern California Aquatic Invasive Database.

- Gear and equipment that may have touched water from the sampling site will be cleaned with 2% bleach solution or Quat 128, dried in the sun or frozen for 48 hours.
- Informative signs that describe what Didymo is, the impacts that Didymo can cause, and ways to
 prevent the spread will be designed and posted for the public who would likely visit the Trinity
 River. Locations where Didymo is present and high use water recreation areas will be the priority
 locations to post informative signs.

Treatment Cost

			Total Treatment Co	osts				
Treatment Type	Item	UOM (Unit of Measure)	Rate (\$)/UOM	# of Units	Totals	Sum of Treatment Cos		
Noxious Weed	Road	Mile	700-1000	34.5	24,150-34,500	4		
urvey and Removal	Dozer line	Mile	700-1000	5	3,500-5,000	\$27,650- \$39,500		
Native Seeding	Elymus gloucus seed	Lbs	24	300	7200	4		
Marrae Seeding	Bromus carinatus seed	Lbs	20	300	6000	\$13,200		
	GS 11 Botanist	Day	378.21	2	756.42			
	GS 6-1 Biological Technician	Day	125	5	625	7		
	GS7-1 Biological Technician	Day	155	5	775	7		
Didymo Testing and	FS Vehicle	Mile	0.05	5	375	2,240		
Signage	Supplies (Bottles (5\$ ea), cooler)	Each	175	1	175	2,821.42		
	Drift net	Each	115	1	115	7		
	Sign Materials (paper, printing, lamination, etc.)	Each	3,000	1	3,000			
		Grand Tota	ıf.		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$46,671.42 to \$58,521.42		

Road Treatments:

Helena Fire:

<u>Safety</u> – Within the Helena Fire, warning signs would need to be installed to warn road users of the fire area. In addition, on county road 401, warnings about rock fall would need to be installed due to the potential of rock fall on the road. In addition to warning signs, several roads within the Helena Fire would need a temporary closure for the winter due to potential runoff and sediment delivery that would likely be a safety issue to road users. Temporary road closures would include a forest order, barricades, and warning signs to warn the public.

<u>Storm Proofing</u> – NFSR 33N41, 33N41C, 33N41G, and the U33N41K are expected to see an increase in runoff and sediment delivery to the road prism due to the moderate to high burn severity and steep terrain of the Helena Fire. On NFSR 33N41, 33N41C, 33N41G, and 40N11, all the cross-drain culverts don't have pipe risers in place and would need them to mitigate against the higher runoff and sediment delivery. In addition, several culverts would need to be cleaned to prepare for the upcoming storms.

On NFSR 33N31, 33N41, and 33N41G, are areas of road fill burn-outs of buried logs compromising the integrity of the roads. To mitigate against erosion and failure these areas will to be dug out to remove partially burned logs, fill with compacted soil, and regrade.

On BLM Valdor road at Wheel Gulch will need a low water crossings. This area has an undersized culvert that is not armored and the increased runoff and sediment delivery could compromised the road infrastructure. To mitigate against the increased runoff and sediment delivery, it is recommended that the low water crossings be armored to protect the road infrastructure.

<u>Storm Patrols</u> – NFSR 33N31, 33N41, 33N41C, and 33N41G are within a moderate to high burn severity. There is a future threat to travelers along the roads due to the increased runoff and sediment delivery and the potential for culverts to be plugged with sediments. Storm patrol would allow the forest to monitor the road drainage structure treatments to ensure the treatments are functioning, clean the area to ensure they continue to function in the future, and maintain and/or repair any damage to the road surface to the sediment delivery.

Road Treatments Cost Estimate for the Helena Fire:

Treatment Objectives

Treatment Type	Treatment Objective	Treatment Description	Treatment Cost
Storm proofing and storm-patrol	To protect the road infrastructure, by reducing likelihood of culverts plugging up and road washouts due to increased runoff and sediment delivery.	Clean culverts, install risers where recommended, construct armored dips, install low water crossings. The forest will send out a storm patrol after rain events to monitor and/or repair treatments as needed to prevent further damage to infrastructure.	\$63,200

Safety	To protect the lives of people by making them aware of the hazards they may encounter in the burned areas.	Install warning signs that describe hazards that can be encountered such as hazardous trees, falling rocks, and road debris. Install barricades and signs for temporary road closures for upcoming winter storms.	\$1000
		Total Cost	\$64,200

Treatment Costs

Road Costs		Spot Roc	king		Rolling	Dips (RD	/Armored Dips (AD)			Risers			F	il Burn-ou	ıt Re	pair	DAGE.	Cu	vert C	leanic	ng	1	
Road	Length	cost/ ml	Tota	l Cost	Qty (each)	Each (\$)	Total Cost	Size	Qty (Each)	Cost Each	Tot	al Cost	Qty (each)	Cost Each	To	tal Cost	Each		cost/each	Tot	tal Cost		verall Total
33N31			4000	CHECK TO			3 -32//23 1	36	1	\$ 2,250	\$	2,250	5	\$ 1,800	\$	9,000	10	S	750	\$	7,500	.5	18,750
	-		30533	1027	_						77%	2.03892			dist	2019(0)				See.	and the same	5	- 1
33N41			102					36	1	\$ 2,250	\$	2,250	2	\$ 1,800	\$	3,600	13	\$	750	\$	9,750	\$	15,600
33N41C	-		SALES OF	Orașio Orași	,	\$ 2,250	\$ 4,500				NAME OF TAXABLE				655			ŝ	750		3,000		7.500
			1750	6000		1,111	CONCLUSED BY				100				680	SERVICE.			730	100	3,000	\$	7,500
33N41G			0000								(C)		1	\$ 1,800	5	1,800	3	\$	750	\$	2,250	\$	8,550
U33N41K	0.06	\$ 10,000	\$	600	6	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000				losso.				200	Michael Artesin			_	\$2000 \$2000		\$	6,600
Storm-patrol			ESS/F	PROPERTY.			Control South				198	253MS1			3425	13602pr	9 5		- 15	NAMES FOR IN	THE REAL PROPERTY.	\$	6,200
Warning Signs			596	nach Nach							1000				risco minist	MARKET .				860	PER COLUMN	s	1,000
			\$	600			\$ 10,500				\$	4,500			Ś	14,400				5	22,500	\$	64,200

The average value of the road and the cost of repairing these road segments without BAER treatment if damage occurs is approximately \$50,000/mile with the average cost to of the BAER treatment of approximately \$5,500/mile.

Trail Treatments Cost Estimate (Fork and Helena Fires):

Treatment Objectives:

Recommendations are being made in this assessment to address erosion potential within the Fork Fire and Helena Fire. Since the forest has made the decision not to close the forest to the public, measures must be taken to protect the infrastructure and the public. These measures, if employed, will effectively protect the trail from anticipated erosion and trail use by the public.

Treatment Costs:

Treatment	Unit	Amount	Cost
Trail erosion control	miles	4.6	9,500
Stumphole repair	ea.	46	2,300
Warning & trail signs	ea.	4	1,500
Hazard tree removal	ea.	52	5,200
Re-treading sections that have already blown out	miles	1.3	6,000
Per diem for crew 12 person crew 10 days	\$46 per day per person	84	4,830
		Total	29,330

Natural Resource Values at Risk - Threatened and Endangered Fisheries

Treatment Recommendation:

Treatment proposal consists of seeding with native grass seed, then mulching .5 tons/acre over 100 acres in the Connor Creek watershed. Hand seeding and hand mulching with wood straw is recommended to be carried out by an Agreement.

The 100 acres of proposed ground to be treated comprises of Moderate soil burned severity with no vegetation cover. The Soils range from gravelly loam to clay loams. Slopes in the area range from 40% to around 65%. The predicted erosion rate for a 2 year storm event is 21 tons/acre and for a 5 year storm event is 35 tons/acre. Mulching .5 tons/acre it will drop these predicted rates to 6 tons/acre and 15 tons/acre respectively. Wood straw is recommended since it is roughly 50% more effective than most other options. Wood straw is heavier and has less of a tendency to blow off steeper slopes or wash downhill.

The recommended treatment area is directly above newly designated Critical Habitat for the Coho salmon which is a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Fine sediments such as clay and loam soils are damaging for Coho and spawning gravels. Even moderate silt loads can damage the gills of small Coho and reduce growth rates; likewise, even short periods of high turbidity or silt loads can be detrimental to emergence, feeding, and growth of young Coho. Again, Conner Creek was the recipient of a few fish passage efforts several years ago at road crossings that collectively cost a couple million dollars. Given these restoration activities and newly designated critical habitat there is a strong interest to avoid degrading habitat conditions in the Conner Creek watershed.

The 100 acres treatment area is upstream of domestic water source. It is also approximately 2 miles from the confluence of Connor Creek and the Trinity River. The Trinity River is not only a wild and Scenic River, but is also on the 303D list due to being sediment impaired and managers are required to reduce 37% of that sediment per year until the river is back in to good standing (See Watershed Report).

Based on the above assessment, it is my determination that an emergency does exist for federally threatened Coho salmon designated critical habitat and water quality in Conner and Canyon Creek. Specific treatments that minimize ash, mud and sedimentation will reduce the chances of adversely modifying designated critical habitat. These steps include road treatment packages and hillslope stabilization treatments. Emergencies also exist for designated critical habitat and water quality for North Fork Trinity and mainstem Trinity River; however, no specific treatments are recommended. A total of 4.1 miles of designated critical habitat burned along the Trinity River and 0.30 miles of designated critical habitat burned along the North Fork Trinity River. However, road treatments to improve infrastructure such as culvert cleaning, rolling dips, culvert risers and armoring will reduce sediment and ash input into the stream channels.

It is also recommended that the following work/monitoring be pursued by local, state and federal agencies (e.g., CDFW, NOAA) using non-BAER funding:

- Monitor Coho salmon habitat in Conner Creek and Canyon Creek.
- Water quality samples in Conner Creek, Canyon Creek and mainstem Trinity should be collected to detect chemical changes post-fire with potential consequences for all aquatic biota.

Protection/Safety Treatments:

Burned area road signs:

Safety: Posting of areas burned will alert the public to potential dangers of falling trees and rolling rocks. Repair of road signs burned will insure public safety (see treatment map). Closure and safety signs for roads that have potential for flooding and debris-flows with a 2yr-6hr storms.

Heritage Resource Prescriptions:

Treatments being proposed are for the historical Dolly Ditch Trail listed in the trails section. Rest of the 10 sites identified in and adjacent to moderate to high burn severity areas are not at risk and no treatments are recommended.

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.)

See Appendix B below for road and mulch monitoring.

Part VI – Emergency Stabilization Treatments and Source of Funds

Interim #1

HelenaFork BAER Costs	12722	a promotion to	NES L	ands			Other	Land	8	Money Left
Line items	Units	Unit Cost	# of Units	EAER 6	Spent \$	Units	Fed	Units	Non Fed	Total \$
A. Land Treatments (L)						A STATE OF	YARAM -			
NX Weed Det. Survey	miles	\$700	58	\$40,600	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$
NX Weed Treatment	acres	\$1,000	5	\$5,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$ \$ \$
Handmulching (ricestraw) with seeding	acres	\$1,200	100	\$120,000	\$0		\$0	32000	\$0	\$
Subtotal Land Treatments				\$165,600	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$
B. Channel Treatments (L)										
Subtotal Channel Treatments	1	1 1	=	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$1
C. Road and Trails (R&T)						Stronguni				
Helena Fire Roads - Stormproofing	project	\$64,200	1	\$64,200	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$(\$(
HelenaFork Trails - Stormproofing	project	\$29,330	1	\$29,330	\$0		SO	-	\$0	S
Sublotal Road & Trails				\$93,530	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$(
D. Protection/Salety (P&S)										
Didymo Datection and Containment	project	\$3,000	1	\$3,000	\$0		\$0	7 may -1	\$0	\$(
HelenaFork Fires - Safety (hazard and warning signs)	each	\$350	15	\$5,250	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$(
Interagency Coordination	each	\$2,000	1	\$2,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	S
Subtotal Protection		1		\$10,250	\$0		\$0	3	\$0	\$1
E. BAER Evaluation										-
Assessment Team	0520	H5BAER			\$80,516		\$0	-	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Evaluation					\$80,516		\$0		\$0	\$0
F. Monitoring (M)										
Road & Trail Treatment Monitoring	ea	\$1,000	1	\$1,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$(
Mulch Treatment Monitoring	ea	\$3,000	1	\$3,000	\$0		\$0	Jan W	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Monitoring				\$4,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	so
G. Totals				\$273,380	\$0		\$0		\$0	sc
Previously approved					(Comment	s:			
Total for this request		S = 2 1	23	\$273,380						

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. David K-11

Forest Supervisor (signature)

10/13/17 Date 10/19/2017

2

Regional Forester (signature)

APPENDICES: Supporting Information:

Appendix A: Helena/Fork BAER Team

Appendix B: Monitoring for Roads and Handmulch

Appendix C: Values at Risk Spreadsheet

Appendix D: Summary of Cost-Risk Analysis

Appendix E: Treatment Map

Appendix A: Helena and Fork BAER Team:

<u>NAME</u>	AGENCY	FUNCTION	OFFICE PHONE	CELL PHONE	E-MAIL
Brad Rust	USFS	Team Leader	530 226 2427	530 917 0434	brust@fs fed us
Anna Courtney	USFS	Soil Scientist	530	630 632 5589	annacourtney@fs.fed.us
Galen Anderson	USFS	Hydrologist	530	707 330 8038	galenanderson@fs.fed.uz
Dennis Veich	USFS	Geologist	530	530-515-7414	dennisveiche@fs.fed.us
Christine Mai	USFS	Lead Hydrologist	530	530 949 4908	cmai@fs.fed.us
Ashely Knight	USFS	Botany/Weeds	530	209 535 6955	ashleviknight@fs.fed.us
Lusetta Sims	USFS	Botany/Weeds	530	530 739 3595	lusettassims@fs.fed.us
Dan Teater	USFS	Fisheries	530	530 613 7040	dteater@fs.fed.us
Laura Broadhead	BLM	Ecologist	530	281 782 2427	lbroadhead@blm.gov
Tim Bradley	BLM	Fuels	530	530 276 3189	Isbradley@blm.gov
Andy Kirsch	NPS	GIS	208-387-5202	208-949-4851	andy_kirsch@nps.gov
Mike McFadin	USFS	Recreation	530 623 1760		mmcfadin@fs.fed.us
Jason McInteer	USFS	District Ranger	530	530 440 9334	imcteer@fs led us

Appendix B: Monitoring Protocols:

Helena Fire Road Effectiveness Monitoring

The 2500-8 report requests funds to monitor the effectiveness of road treatments on Helena roads.

- 4. Monitoring Questions
- Is the road-tread stable?
- Is the road leading to concentrating runoff leading to unacceptable off-site consequences?
- 2. Measurable Indicators
 - Rills and/or gullies forming of the road
 - Loss of road bed.
- 3. Data Collection Techniques
 - · Photo documentation of site
 - Inspection Checklist (attached)
- 4. Analysis, evaluation, and reporting techniques
 - Monitoring will be conducted after storm events. If the monitoring shows the treatment to be
 ineffective at stabilizing road and there is extensive loss of road bed or infrastructure an interim
 report will be submitted. A several page report would be completed after the site visit. The
 report would include photographs and a recommendation on whether additional treatments are
 necessary.

Road Inspection Checklist

Date: Time:	Inspector Forest Road	
Describe locations reviewed during i	nspection:	
Was there road damage?		
Was culvert plugged?	·	
GPS		
Describe damage and cost to repair		
Photo taken of road damage		
Recommended actions to repair:		

Helena Fire Site Mulching Effectiveness Monitoring

The 2500-8 report requests funds to monitor the effectiveness of straw hand-mulch treatments on Helena heritage sites.

- 4. Monitoring Questions
- Is the straw mulch with good cover stable?
- Is the straw mulch being undercut by concentrated runoff leading to unacceptable on-site erosion?
- 2. Measurable Indicators
 - Rills and/or gullies forming around the artifacts
 - Loss of artifacts
- 3. Data Collection Techniques
 - · Photo documentation of site
 - Inspection Checklist (attached)
- 4. Analysis, evaluation, and reporting techniques
 - Monitoring will be conducted after storm events. If the monitoring shows the treatment to be ineffective at stabilizing and there is extensive riling an interim report will be submitted. A several page report would be completed after the site visit. The report would include photographs and a recommendation on whether additional treatments are necessary.

Mulch Protection Inspection Checklist

Date:	Inspector Forest Road Nearby	 _
	g inspection:	
Was there loss of treatment effect	tiveness?	
Was mulch covered or eroded?	·	
GPS)	H	
	air? (GPS)	
Photo taken of mulch damage		
Recommended actions to repair:		

Helena/Fork BAER assessment

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Appendix C: Values at Risk Spreadsheet

ж	na/Fork BAER Risk Matrix			property of the side of the			THE RESERVE			100	Shirt Contraction	7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	THE RESERVE			100000
W		Type of Pisk	Post Fire Threats	Probability			Metakvde of Conteguerors			Bis			Treatment to Markey Petential Part WillPhra			
	The state of the s			- Ulfa -	Property	- Paker 1		Property		and the same	Property 1	Other Inc.	con the proc	- Property -	Dies -	Account to
1	Physicologic Function	Loss of Mydrologic Punetion	Flooding Sediment	-		Barney			Manae			Low			natural recovery	15
•						-										-
2	rissues along their and letterior	Eracion, tooding deans flows	Flooding Sediment	Likely	Levy		Moder ate	Moderate		High	Hap		early werning	erounn bymert		Pet, MIII
3	Dompatk weter	Turbrity and undersent	Flooping September		Liberty			Affoderate			High			advite	natural recovery	Pvi
4	Municiple water	Turjekty and sediment	Flooding, Sediment		Liberty			Moderate			High			advite	natural recovery	Count
_																
5	Spil Producthity from CHM Trespors	OHY trespens, loss of spill productivity	€1ertmm			Estely			Moderato			High	Cloture		Barners	В
6	Roads	Lors of function								-	į					
Ť	Platena															
_	38938	Activation of langitudes, ungaroused rulyers. & plugged considerant	Flooding Crosson, & Jediment											stermoreef		- 65
	13843	Mifrestructure, lack of cross-draws for runoff reset	Floating, Erasian, & Sedanent		Laste			Moderate			High			normorael		- 65
	1884 BC	Protection and salety	Flooding, Erosson, & Sediment	Linky			Moderate			High	1			stormproof		FS
	139416	Production and salinty	Flooding, Erasion, & Seaming	Law			Medical			High	1			stermproof		65
	Valuor gowerine Road	Intrastructure, understed culverts & plugged cross-drains, rock fal-		-	Liquity		1	Moderate			High			L-WC	_	SUM
_	Carryon Chrosel 401	Infrastructure, understand cultures & physical cross-drains	Flooding Eroson, & Sediment		Passible			Moderate			(nquempag-ape			clean culverts		Count
-	Brack Creek road	inhastrycture, poderszeed colverts & plugged cross-disans.	Flooding, Cration, & Separami		Possible			Moderate			taranmediate			clean culverts		BUM
-	Conner Ck drish 48 U33N4 III	Infrastructure, last of pross-drawn for synotti reter	Flooring, Eventor, & Section 1		Herly			Moderate			High			rolling das		F5
_	Burn outs (33N32 - Sea, 33N4) - 2ns, 33N49G - 5no)	Rood proventations	Exocute and fashers		Herly			Moderate			H-gn			deg-cut/i-		85
_																
7	Trails	Loss of function							-							
	99622 - E. Cook Bake Trad	Erosion of trail tread and crossings	Flooding, Erosion, & Sediment		Ukely			Moderate			H-gh			stormproof		- 15
	209912 - Dolly Drick Trad	Erotion of their St. Les w December Controls and Aleir principals	Flooding, Erpsion, & Sedment		Likely			Musiocato			High		,	1001/00/1008		F5
-	Other Infrastructures															
	Red Hell pand	tost of Capacity	Sedements and Pool Fring	_	Lank			Moderate			M-gh			Adves		MACS, E
_	Speint Statestark	Hazard trees		_	Litely		-	Moderate		_				Assert Irem	fence retion	BUM
-	Benefit Bulletin	Hazard travel	Destruction of lense & graves		Lany			Moderate	_	_	High			Angled trees	Tence repair	BUM
9	Noslous weeks occupying native plant populations	Metive Vegetation Recovery and Diversity	Capacition of myasses			Very Litely			Major			Wey High			No system contact	65
												-				\vdash
10	fitheries and Aquatics (Sensitive and T&E)															
	Coho Salmon (main Trinny River, Canzon Ck., Conner Ck)	Mabinat degradation of Resive Populations	Habnat degradation			(planty			Moderate			High			road treatments	PS.
_	Dismo - noch snatt presence	Planest angradation of Native Populations	Habitat degradation			Post bre	_	_	Moderate			Intermedistr		1	lering	. PS
_					-	_	-	-					-		-	\vdash
11	Public Safety		-	-	-						-	-	-	! 	-	-
_	Boukfall risk on r Canyon Ch (ord 4)	Safe Srayet	Rolling rocks	Linely			Repeterate			Migh		_	Warning	-	-	61
_			Debris flow	Possible	-	-	Magor	-	-	Migh			Warning	1	-	- 61
_	Flooding along Trinny Burn at Canyon Chimiet	Safe Habitation	Flooding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Warning	1	-	- 15
12	Heritage (doponding on Naturkal vs. psylvistuskal)		-			-		<u> </u>	-		<u> </u>	-		1		
**	Harteria - Barteri (ri literatio, hugher risk of literang)	Crossin	Sedencetation and Erosian			Possible	-		Moderate			Insermediana			COMM	15
13	Soil ProductMby	Ensure Productivity on productive softs	\$105mm			V. LAWLY			Moderate			V. High		1	naturel	45
_	_															

Appendix D: Summary of Cost-Risk Analysis For All Resources:

Helena/Fork Fires Benefit Cost And	lysis:									i i	
Total benefits of resources for whole fire F5 lan	ds:										
All Resource		Value \$									
All roads & trails (FS)		\$500,000									
Native plants											
		\$950,000									
Water quality		\$9,400,000									
Aquatics/fisheries		\$11,000,000									
Soil productivity		\$600,000									
Public safety		\$1,500,000									
		\$23,950,000									
Proability of loss without and with treatments:		420,000,000									
All Resource		Proability loss no	treatment	ts:	Proability loss	v/ treatm	ents:	Reduction in	proability of	of loss	
All roads & trails (FS)		75%		-	10%			65%			
		65%									
Native plants					20%		45%				
Water quality		80%			20%			60%			
Aquatics/fisheries		70%			30%			40%			
Soil productivity		85%			30%			55%			
Public safety		50%			20%			30%			
Total cost of treatments on Forest Service:										Money	
HelenaFork BAER Costs	NI	s				Lands		Left			
Line Items	Units	Unit Cost	# of Units	BAER \$	Spent \$	Units	Fed	Units	Non Fed	Total \$	
A. Land Treatments (L)	1										
NX Weed Det. Survey	miles	\$700	58	\$40,600	\$0		\$0	Carry School - Ob	50	\$0	
NX Weed Treatment	acres	\$1,000	5	\$5,000	80		\$0		\$0	\$0	
Handmulching (ricestraw) with seeding		\$1,200									
	acres	\$1,200	100	\$120,000			\$0		\$0	\$0	
Subtotal Land Treatments	-	1	-	\$165,600	.50		50		50	\$0	
B. Channel Treatments (L)											
Subtotal Channel Treatments				\$0	\$0	8	SO		\$0	50	
		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1				9		A Australia and Table		0.4	
C. Road and Trails (R&T)	Y	45	- 1							April 10	
Helena Fire Roads - Stormproofing	project	\$64,200	1	\$64,200	\$0	10000	\$0		80	S	
HetenaFork Traits - Stormproofing	project	529,330	1	\$29,330			\$0		50	SI	
Subtotal Road & Trails	project	929,330		\$93,530	50		\$0	-	50	\$0	
2501000 1980 8 11819	1	T	_	293,330	30	-	30		39	31	
D. Protection/Safety (P&S)		1									
	T	70.000			4.0					-	
Didymo Detection and Containment	project	\$3,000	1	\$3,000			\$0		50	- 50	
HelenaFork Fires - Safety (hazard and warning signs)	each	\$350	15	\$5,250	\$0	- 0	\$0		\$0	\$0	
Interagency Coordination	each	\$2,000	- 1	\$2,000	\$0	- 8	50		\$0	\$(\$(\$(
Subtotal Protection			11.00	\$10,250	\$0	10000	\$0		\$0	\$0	
E. BAER Evaluation											
Assessment Team	0520	H5BAER			\$80.516	***	en	7.77	Fol	**	
	0320	TOBALK	201				SO.	***	50	\$0	
Subtotal Evaluation		1 1	-	875	\$80,516		\$0	144	50	\$0	
		1									
F. Monitoring (M)											
Road & Trail Treatment Monitoring	ea	\$1,000	1	\$1,000		- 0.00	\$0	No.	\$0	\$0	
Mulch Treatment Monitoring	ea	\$3,000	1	\$3,000	\$0	2000-00-9	\$0		SO	\$0	
Subtotal Monitoring	T	1		\$4,000	50		80		50	\$0 \$0	
G. Totals				\$273,380	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0	
Previously approved Total for this request					10	Comments.	12.11		50 103715-1	LEGSTE ST	
		28	1	\$273,380							
Benefit/cost ratio:)	
All Resource		Benefit of treatm	nent		Treatment Cost		B/C ratio	Justified			
All roads & trails (FS)		\$325,000	to the same of the								
Native plants					\$93,530		3.5	yes			
		\$427,500			\$45,600		9.4	yes			
		\$5,640,000			\$262,130		21 5	yes			
Water quality											
Water quality Aquatics/fisheries		\$4,400,000			\$123,000		35.8	yes			
Water quality Aquatics/fisheries Soil productivity		\$4,400,000 \$330,000			\$123,000 \$120,000		35.8 2.8	yes yes			
Water quality Aquatics/fisheries		\$4,400,000		-							

Appendix E: Treatment Map:



 $http://ftp.nifc.gov/incident_specific_data/calif_n/!2017\%20FEDERAL_Incidents/CA-SHF-001770_Helena/BAER/$