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

Date of Report: 8/22/05

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

[**X**] 1. Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds
[ ] 2. Accomplishment Report
[ ] 3. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

[**X**] 1. Initial Request (Best estimate of funds needed to complete eligible rehabilitation measures)

[ ] 2. Interim Report
[ ] Updating the initial funding request based on more accurate site data or design analysis
[ ] Status of accomplishments to date

[ ] 3. Final Report (Following completion of work)

PART II - BURNED-AREA DESCRIPTION

A. Fire Name: Bare Castle

B. Fire Number: Incident# 5102 (P1B3F0)

C. State: MT

D. County: Ravalli

E. Region: R1

F. Forest: Bitterroot

G. District: West Fork

H. Date Fire Started: 8/6/05

I. Date Fire Contained: 8/18/05

J. Suppression Cost: Not yet determined

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

L. Watershed Number: 170102050105 (Blue Joint Creek)

M. Total Acres Burned:
NFS Acres(132) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private ( )

N. Vegetation Types: mixed conifer, lodgepole, grassland

O. Dominant Soils: Not known

P. Geologic Types: decomposed granitic

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: 0 miles within fire perimeter

R. Transportation System

Trails: 0.5 miles Roads: .25 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): 40 (low) 75 (moderate) 10 (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 10

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):
115 (low) 5 (moderate) 5 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: .023 tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: 0 cubic yards / square mile

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 5 yrs – understory, 30 yrs - overstory

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): NA

C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years): NA (weeds are the value at risk)

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): NA

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches):

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): NA

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): NA

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): NA

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency: The Bare Castle Fire was limited to USFS lands. Only threat determined was potential for spotted knapweed or other invasives to spread into currently weed-free site. Knapweed is known to affect ecosystem integrity, including increasing erosion, competion with native plants and degradation of big game range conditions. Past experience and observations following fire disturbances on the Bitterroot NF predicts the potential rapid spread and establishment of populations of weeds. Weeds likely were spread as a result of firefighting actions, especially where ground disturbing activities took place.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives: Prevent spread of spotted knapweed or new invasives carried by suppression crews, preserve plant community & ecosystem integrity, and soil conditions.

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

Land __ % Channel ___ % Roads ___ % Other **NA** %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land	99 (weed monitoring and initial treatment)	95	95
Channel			
Roads			
Other			

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): **see attached cost-risk analysis**

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): **see attached cost-risk analysis**

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: Ed Snook

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H. **Treatment Narrative:**

(Describe the emergency treatments, where and how they will be applied, and what they are intended to do. This information helps to determine qualifying treatments for the appropriate funding authorities. For seeding treatments, include species, application rates and species selection rationale.)

Land Treatments:
Noxious weed control treatment –
Objectives
The purpose of the treatment is to maintain ecosystem integrity in the Bare Cone/Castle Rock roadless area. Known populations of spotted knapweed exist some distance (1-2 miles) from the burned area on the FR1303, and may be transported into the previously weedless area. The fire area is also close to the Blue Joint Wilderness Study Area, which in turn is adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Both the WSA and the Wilderness are managed to minimize invasive weeds. There is also the threat of new invasives inadvertently introduced into the area by firefighting crews and equipment.

Methods
Treat fire access roads and roadside areas with picloram (Tordon 22K) or clopyralid (Transline or Stinger) where there are known noxious weed populations. Selected sites include roadside spraying along FR1303 where ground cover loss has increased the risk of knapweed *(Centaurea maculosa)* spreading down slope. Effects of herbicides treatments at the proposed rates using clopyralid or picloram is addressed in the Bitterroot National Forest Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment.

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.)

Monitoring will be focused on detecting new weed infestations within the fire perimeter.

Noxious Weed Monitoring
Monitor known and high potential infestation sites for noxious weed species in the burned area and determine need and extent of control treatment to be implemented. Monitor weed treatments results to ensure objectives are being met. During 2006, monitor effectiveness of the spraying and establishment of new weed populations. Accurately map any new populations using GPS. Establish photo plots for documentation as needed.

PART VII - APPROVALS

Recommended by:

/s/ Ed Snook _____
BAER Team Leader Date

_____ _____
Forest Supervisor (signature) Date

_____ _____
Regional Forester (signature) Date