United States Department of Agriculture | **Forest Service** | **Nez Perce National Forest** | **Route 2, Box 475 Grangeville, ID 83530 208 983-1950**

File Code: 2520-3 **Date:** October 15, 2003
Route To:

Subject: Burned Area Report - Berg 3 fire

To: Regional Forester

Enclosed is the initial BERG 3 Fire Burned Area Report Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds. This requests funds to treat noxious weeds during 2003-2004. At this time no other treatments are proposed.

Please contact Pat Green, Forest Ecologist, at 208-983-1950 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter. She will gladly assist you.

/s/ Laura A. Smith (for)
BRUCE E. BERNHARDT
Forest Supervisor

cc: Bruce D Sims, Jack M Carlson, Linda Hinds, Pat Green

Date of Report: October 15, 2003

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
[X] 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: Berg 3

B. Fire Number: ID-NPF-000244

C. State: Idaho

D. County: Idaho

E. Region: Northern (01)

F. Forest: Nez Perce

G. District: Salmon River

H. Date Fire Started: October 2, 2003

I. Date Fire Controlled: **Estimated** October 16, 2003

J. Suppression Cost: $ 1,515,132 current

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 6 miles of hand line to be obliterated; 3.5 miles of road used as burnout line
2. Fireline seeded (miles): none
3. Other (identify): None

L. Watershed Number: 17060209-03-16

M. Total Acres Burned: 2102
NFS Acres (2102) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private (110)

N. Vegetation Types: Annual grasses and weeds, native grasses, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir

O. Dominant Soils: Ultic haploxerolls, with mixed volcanic as surface layers

P. Geologic Types: Fiddle Creek and Lightning Creek schist

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: 5.5-1st order, 2.8 - 2nd, 1.0 - 3rd

R. Transportation System

Trails: None Roads: 3.5 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (percent): 30% unburned 50% low 17% moderate 3% high

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 240 acres with moderate or high water repellency. Unburned and low severity have 32% water repellency.

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):
100% moderate

D. Erosion Potential: .02 tons/acre delivered but unrouted first year

E. Sediment Potential: .015 tons / acre delivered and routed to the mouth first year

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 40

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): 90

C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years): 10

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): 6

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches): 1.3

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): 13.6

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): 0-10

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): 13.6

Flood analysis was completed for Kelly Creek for culvert sizing.

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency:

1.Threats to long-term soil productivity and ecosystem integrity:

The burned area includes extensive infestations of Idaho noxious weeds including rush skeleton weed, scoth thistle, spotted knapweed, and (unconfirmed) sulfur cinquefoil. These species result in decreased soil stability, higher erosion risk, degraded wildlife habitat, and loss of native species and community integrity. An estimated 80 percent of the burned area is habitat moderately or highly susceptible to invasion by one or more of these species. The existing infestations in the burned area are located on or adjacent to highly susceptible habitat. The burned areas provide seedbeds, and the

hand line and roads provide vectors for spread. This request may be revised upward based on better information.

2. Threats to water quality,TES aquatic species, and heritage resources:

The burned area is in very steep canyons with high potential for debris torrents under both natural and burned conditions. Listed fish species occur in the Salmon River. Berg Creek may be fish bearing, and the culvert makes fish passage difficult. Areas of high and moderate severity fire within the Berg Creek watershed may increase the risk for debris torrents. The culvert at the mouth of Berg Creek may be inadequate in size to pass flood flows, and may be plugged by debris or sediment. It is now 50 percent plugged by old sediment. This culvert is on private land. The owner will be notified of opportunities for culvert replacement through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which administers the Emergency Watershed Protection program. If Berg Creek is fish bearing, there may be an opportunity to replace this culvert with one allowing fish passage under the Craig Wyden authority, if the landowner is in agreement. This will be further investigated. An amended request may be be submitted based on the outcome of this analysis.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

1. Control spread of noxious weeds within the fire perimeter, and along the roads that border the fire perimeter.

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

Land ___ % Channel ___ % Roads ___ % Other **70** %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land			
Channel			
Roads			
Other			
(weeds)	70	80	80

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): $60,000 to control expanded weed populations.

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): $8,000 includes cost of treatments, exclusive of assessment and monitoring costs.

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: Pat Green
Email: pgreen@fs.fed.us Phone: 208 983-1950 FAX: 208 983-4099

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: Spot herbicide treatments of 10 acres along leading edge of current infestations, new infestations, road 1163 and 263 in spring and fall of 2004, a total of 20 acres would be treated. Retreatment over the next few years would be accomplished using Forest program funding. Weed management strategy for the Salmon River Weed Management Area is currently in place. Concurrence with a BA for noxious weed control has been received from Fish and Wildlife Service and has been approved by NOAA Fisheries. An approved EA for weed control is in place. The relatively high cost is due to the steep inaccessible slopes of the interior of the burned area.

Channel Treatments: None at this time

Roads and Trail Treatments: None

Structures: None at this time

H. **Monitoring Narrative:**

No monitoring is proposed.

Part VI – Emergency Rehabilitation Treatments and Source of Funds by Land Ownership

Line Items	Units	Unit Cost	# of Units	WFSU SULT $	Other $	# of units	Fed $	# of Units	Non Fed $	Total $
A. Land Treatments										
weeds	acres	$400	20	$8,000			$0		$0	$8,000
				$0			$0			
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$8,000			$0		$0	$8,000
B. Channel Treatments										
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				$0			$0		$0	$0
C. Road and Trails										
							$0		$0	
							$0		$0	
Subtotal Road & Trails										
D. Structures										
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
				$0			$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Structures				$0			$0		$0	$0
E. BAER Evaluation										
Salary	days	$250	5	$1,250			$0		$0	$1,250
				$0			$0		$0	$0
G. Monitoring Cost										
weeds										
H. Totals				**$9,250**			**$9,250**		**$0**	**$9,250**

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. */s/ Laura A. Smith (for)* — 10/15/03
   Forest Supervisor (signature) — Date

2. _____ — _____
   Regional Forester (signature) — Date