United States Forest Service
Department of Agriculture

Pacific Southwest Region

Regional Office, R5
630 Sansome Street
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File Code: 2520/6520
Route To:

Date: September 09, 1996

Subject: Authorization for Expending Burned-Area Emergency Rehabilitation Funds (WFSU-FW22) - Rogge Fire

To: Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest

Attached is the approved Burned-Area Emergency Rehabilitation Report for the Rogge fire. The report documents that this fire re-burned areas that burned in the 1987 Stanislaus Complex Fire, and that although casual observation seemed to indicate high burn intensity over much of the fire area, that detailed site specific observation revealed the opposite: that none of the area was burned to high intensity, and that the majority was burned at low intensity. Of specific importance is the observation that the soil seed bank contains adequate viable seed to germinate and replace the ground cover consumed by the fire.

You are authorized to expend up to $32,000 of WFSU-FW22 funds at this time for the emergency rehabilitation treatments indicated in Part VI of the enclosed FS-2500-8 report for BAER evaluation and administrative support.

/s/ James A. Lawrence
for
G. LYNN SPRAGUE
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: PDB
WSA:WO
USDA NRCS State Conservationist, Davis, California
R.Griffith

EC.090996.0900.RWG.rwg
I Concur: R.Griffith 9/9/96
I concur: P.VINING 09/09/96
I CONCUR: K.CLEMENT 09/09/96
I concur: J.De La Torre 09/09/96

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370-5909

File Code: 2520
Route To:

Date: September 9, 1996

Subject: Rogge Fire Burned Area Report

To: Regional Forester, R5
Attn: Rob Griffith, EC Staff

Attached is the Burned Area Report for the Rogge Fire. This 20,950 acre fire was essentially a reburn within the 147,000 acre Stanislaus Complex Fire of 1987. Initial aerial reconnaissance of the fire area indicated substantial ground cover reduction so a BAER team was convened to determine if there was a watershed emergency. The BAER team found that although cover was reduced there was minimal hydrophobicity in the fire area due to the relatively light fuels that have regrown since the previous fire. The team determined there was no emergency per criteria in FSH 2509.13.

As a result, we do not propose BAER treatments but we do request the authority to spend BAER funds for the cost of the Rogge BAER team's evaluation.

/s/ Jan Wold

JANET L. WOLD
Forest Supervisor

USDA-FOREST SERVICE Date of Report: 9/5/96

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13, Report FS-2500-8)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Report

[ ] 1. Funding request for estimated EFFS-FW22 funds
[ ] 2. Accomplishment Report
[X] 3. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

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

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

[ ] 3. Final report - following completion of work

PART II - BURNED-AREA DESCRIPTION

A. Fire Name: **Rogge** B. Fire Number: **P57524**

C. State: **California** D. County: **Tuolumne**
E. Region: **5** F. Forest: **Stanislaus**
G. District: **Miwok & Groveland**

H. Date Fire Started: **08/14/96** I. Date Fire Controlled: **Control Not Yet Declared**
J. Suppression Cost: **$7,480,509**

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with EFFS-PF12 Funds:

1. Fireline waterbarred (miles) **36 tractor, 11 hand**
2. Fireline seeded (miles) **0**
3. Other (identify) **30 safety zones, 7 drop points**

L. Watershed Number: 1804-00-0901,0105,0106

M. NFS Acres Burned: 19,374 Total Acres Burned: 20,950
Ownership type:
(0)State (21)BLM (1,555)PVT (0)____ _____

N. Vegetation Types: Five vegetation communities: Interior live oak-annual grass-rock outcrop; Mixed chaparral; Interior live oak-California black oak-ponderosa pine; Ponderosa pine-bear clover; Annual grass-buck brush

O. Dominant Soils: Josephine deep, Josephine moderately deep, Dystric Lithic Xerochrepts, Xerumbrepts

P. Geologic Types: Metamorphic (schist & gneiss)

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:
I - 28 P - 27 _____ _____

R. Transportation System:
Trails: 11 (miles) Roads: 79 (miles)

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Fire Intensity (Acres): 12,924 (low) 8,026 (moderate) 0 (high)

B. Water Repellant Soil (Acres): 803

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (Acres):
10,000 (low) 5,950 (moderate) 5,000 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: 12.8 tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential: 4,160 cu. yds/sq. mile

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period: 5 years.
B. Design Chance of Success: 80 percent.
C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval: 25 years.
D. Design Storm Duration: 6 hours.
E. Design Storm Magnitude: 3 inches.
F. Design Flow: 121 cfsm.
G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration: 10 percent.
H. Adjusted Design Flow: 133 cfsm.

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Emergency:

THE BAER TEAM HAS DETERMINED THAT THE FIRE HAS NOT CAUSED A WATERSHED EMERGENCY.

Summary

Approximately 95 percent of the fire burned within the boundary of the Stanislaus Complex fires of 1987. This area has not fully recovered hydrologically since the last event. Pre-existing conditions caused the fire to burn at a lower intensity, yet little to no ground cover remains on the site. Since the area burned at low and moderate intensities, the fire adapted vegetation types will respond rapidly and there should be quick recovery by the dominant shrub and herb species. Landslide susceptability is increased, but there is nothing that can be done, within reason, except through road closures and signing. The lack of high burn intensity, mosaic burn pattern, steep shallow soils and rocky canyons of the Tuolumne and Clavey Rivers, which normally produce high runoff, will all serve to mitigate or limit fire caused increases in surface runoff and sediment production. Negligible effect on wild trout fisheries, native fish assemblage, and amphibian habitat is expected. There are no California spotted owl PACs or SOHAs in the area, and potential habitat for the Federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle was not seriously damaged. The fire did not burn at a high intensity, so there are no emergencies within heritage resource sites as a direct result of the fire. Since no rehabilitation efforts are planned, no heritage resource effects are anticipated. The risk to road damage is low and no mitigation is recommended.

Introduction:

The Rogge Fire burned 20,950 acres about four miles southeast of Tuolumne City. It burned at elevations ranging from about 1,000 to 4,500 feet. The fire burned within the Grapevine and Bull Meadow Creek watersheds and parts of the Tuolumne and Clavey River watersheds.

This was a unique fire in that it was difficult to determine from initial reconnaisance if an emergency existed, through normal reconaissance. Many areas did not have a high white ash content, however, they lacked ground cover. Upon field investigations, these areas were determined to have burned at a moderate intensity, and would recover quickly, since it was a fire adapted area and sprouting shrubs and sufficent viable seed is available.

Following are initial concerns of management and specialists, and summaries of individual specialists, that document the results of the field determination of no emergency. More detailed information and maps can be found in the Rogge BAER file.

Inital B.A.E.R Concerns:

What effects did the fire have on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

Approximately 10,000 acres of the fire burned within the lower reaches of the Clavey River which is managed to protect it's outstandingly remarkable values that include a unique native assemblage of fish.

Will the fire negatively affect the wild trout fishery in the Clavey River?

Will the fire negatively affect amphibian habitat within the burn area?

A very large portion of the Rogge Fire is a reburn of the 1987 Stanislaus Complex Fire in which full watershed recovery had not been established.

What is the risk to river recreationists on the Tuolumne River from rock falls and other landslide hazards?

What is the risk to private property, forest system roads, on-site water quality and soil productivity within the fire area from sediment and landslide hazards that originate on National Forest system lands?

Did fire suppression activities impact Forest sensitive plant occurrences?

What effect will fire induced runoff have on the road system and drainage facilities?

What effect did the fire have on Critical Deer Range and California spotted owl habitat?

What is the potential for damage or destruction due to fire related erosion emergencies such as landslides or rilling and gullying and potential subsequent rehabilitation efforts such as deep tilling or log erosion barrier construction to the Heritage Resources.

Will the fire effect long term soil productivity?

Findings - Summary of individual specialists reports:

Suppression Rehab

All suppression rehab has been completed, except for fire camp rehab. A plan for fire camp rehab has been completed and work will be completed promptly. Fire suppression funds are being used.

Burn Intensity / Soils

The Rogge fire did not create an emergency relative to loss of soil productivity. The Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR) was calculated for the soils and site conditions present. The erosion hazard is expected to be low to moderate on about 15,000 acres, and high on 5,000 acres. Soil loss will likely vary from 6 to 24 tons/acre. The average soil loss is predicted to be 13 tons/ac which includes burned and unburned areas within the overall fire boundary.

The BAER team looked at the situation where a moderate to high EHR occurred within areas of moderate burn intensity. We expect these areas to recover fairly quickly because of presence of viable native seeds in the soil. Transects were done to test for water repellent soil and very little was found. The Erosion Hazard is expected to drop to moderate after one year on the 5,000 acres of high EHR. No treatment measures are prescribed.

There is a concern with the cumulative effects of soil loss caused by the 1987 Stanislaus Complex Fire and the 1996 Rogge Fire. Two Landtype Associations, ecological units Eg 423 and Eg 436 are the focus of this concern. These landscapes are typically the steep, dissected, south facing slopes between the major ridges and the large canyons, at elevations of 2500 to 3500 feet. They are a transition between the Ponderosa Pine/Bear Clover subseries on the higher ridges and the Blue Oak/Annual Grassland association of the deep canyons.

Botany

No emergency is found to exist for the vegetation native to the burned area. The vegetation types in the burned area are notably fire-adapted. Response to burning will be rapid recovery by sprouting and seedling establishment by the dominant shrub and herb species. No significant loss of biodiversity due to fire is expected and in chaparral areas, biodiversity can be expected to increase due to increase in available water and nutrients. Native seed viability was tested and found to be adequate.

The results of this burn will likely reduce competion for the Tuolumne Fawn Lily (T&E species) thereby benefiting these plant populations. Fire suppression activities did not impact these occurrences. In general, there appeared to be no direct threats to the Forest Sensitive Plant, Tuolumne Fawn Lily. Forest Sensitive plants, Mimulus filicaulis and Clarkia australis may occur in the Jawbone area where fire suppression activities and rehabilitation have occurred.

Hydrology

Watershed condition has been affected due to loss of vegetation and groundcover, and there will be some increased runoff and sedimentation. However, hydrophobic soils are not present to the extent they will substantially increase watershed response.

There are landscape features and burn conditions that will serve to mitigate or limit fire caused increases in surface runoff and sediment production. The mosaic pattern and lack of high burn intensity limit the

extent of fire impacts and watershed response within individual sub-watersheds. More importantly, a large percentage of the burn is in very steep canyons of the Tuolumne and Clavey Rivers. The shallow, rocky soils normally produce high surface runoff. Given the mosaic pattern of the burn, loss of vegetation on these steep rocky slopes will not cause significant increases in surface runoff. Soil available to erode is limited. Native vegetation is fire adapted and will regenerate quickly.

When fall and winter rains arrive, sediment delivered to the Tuolumne River and Clavey River should have very little impact to beneficial uses of these waters or to Wild and Scenic values. Sediment which enters the lower reaches of these large streams will be quickly dissipated and transported through the system. (See Fish/Aquatic report findings for more information on the Clavey Rivers' aquatic values and native assemblage of fish.)

Fisheries

There appeared to be little impact to perennial stream channels. For the most part the fire burned lightly or not at all in riparian areas. No irretrievable or irreversible impacts to any riparian resources are anticipated.

The area is low enough (below 4500 feet) to be considered potential habitat for the California red-legged frog. However, the steep nature of these subwatersheds and high spring season streamflows combine to render this area as marginal for this species.

Geology

The risk to life and property to recreationists along the Tuolumne River is not expected to increase as a result of the fire. Pre-existing landslide hazards to undeveloped camp sites along the Tuolumne River are high to moderate. Recreationists should be made aware of this hazard.

Roads

High value road segments include the surfaced portions of 1N01, 1N43, and 1N09. The Clavey River bridge on 1N01 is the only major drainage structure in the burned area.

The consensus of the team was that the risk of road damage was low and that the expenditure of BAER funds was not warranted at this time.

Wildlife

Potential habitat for the Federally listed Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Desmocerus californicus dimorphus (VELB) burned in areas below 3,000 feet. Because inventories for elderberry shrub were not conducted prior to the Rogge Fire, it is not known how many acres of potential VELB habitat burned. Burning is important for the periodic rejuvenation of the species. The VELB, if present, could survive fire through refuge in the stems at the basal area of the plant, even if most of the crown is removed, as long as the root system is intact.

There were no California spotted owl PACs or SOHAs located within the perimeter of the Rogge Fire. In addition, no known northern goshawk or great gray owl (Strix nebulosa) nest sites were located within the burn boundary.

Within the burn boundary on the east side of the Clavey, ponderosa pine stands and mixed conifer stands burned at low to moderate intensity (See burn intensity maps). Areas within Deer Critical Winter Range and Deer Concentration Areas that burned at varying intensities are shown below.

Table 1. Acreage of moderate burn intensity and low burn intensity in Deer Critical Winter Range, Deer Concentration Areas, and Other Winter Range in the Rogge Fire, August 1996, Tuolumne County.

Burn Intensity	Moderate	Low
Critical Deer Range	3088 acres	2918 acres
Deer Concentration Areas	4594 acres	7501 acres
Other Winter Range	342 acres	2482 acres

In areas of moderate and low burn intensity, Deer Critical Winter Range burned in a mosaic pattern. Additional acreage of critical range for the Tuolumne herd is located outside the perimeter of the burn boundary. This additional acreage will provide forage and thermal cover for deer this winter. Field visits throughout the winter range 24-August to 28-August verified that there will be sufficient forage this winter. Thermal cover may be lacking in some locations, but is available in close proximity to the burn boundary.

Heritage Resources

The survey was conducted by primarily focusing on the preliminary mapped high intensity areas. Sample sites were visited within these areas to assess the direct effects to the sites, and to assess possible future effects to the sites due to post rain run off and erosion.

There are 98 sites within the vicinity of the fire, 38 of which are within the areas of moderate burn intensity. These sites include historic mining and homestead sites and prehistoric sites of varying components including bedrock milling features, midden, debitage, house pits etc. As the fire did not burn at a high intensity, we did not find any emergencies within the sites as a direct result from the fire. As no rehabilitation efforts are planned, no effects are anticipated.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

NA

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:
NA

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

Land **NA** % Channel **NA** % Roads **NA** % Other **NA** %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	<----Years after treatment----->		
	1	3	5
Land	NA	NA	NA
Channel	NA	NA	NA
Roads	NA	NA	NA
Other	NA	NA	NA

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): $ NA

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): $ NA

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

[X] Hydrology	[X] Soils	[X] Geology	[ ] Range
[ ] Timber	[X] Wildlife	[ ] Fire Mgmt.	[X] Engineering
[ ] Contracting	[X] Ecology	[ ] Research	[X] Archaeology
[X] Silviculture	[x] GIS	[ ]	[ ]

Team Leader: Gary Schmitt
Phone: 209-297-0706 x4933 DG Address: G.Schmitt:r05f15a

Team Members:

Steve Apperson - Hydrologist

Phyllis Ashmead - Botanist (Trainee)

Mike Bradshaw _ Engineer

Dan Brown - Engineer (Trainee)

Kathy Coulter - Archelogist

Loren Everest - Fish Biologist

Lisa DeHart - Archeologist (Trainee)

Alan Gallegos - Geologist

Bob Gecy - Hydrologist (Trainee)

Molly Hurt - Wildlife Biologist (Trainee)

Alex Janicki - Soil Scientist

Brent Roath _ Soil Scientist

Matt Lechner - Fisheries Biologist

Will Moore - Archeologist (Trainee)

Joyce Mousseau - GIS

Katy Phillips - Botany/Ecology (Trainee)

Gary Schmitt - BAER Team Leader

Brian Kermeen - Landscape Architect

Jim Frazier - Forest BAER Coordinator

Dave Campodonico - Silviculture (Suppression Damage Rehab.)

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.

NA

PART VI - EMERGENCY REHABILITATION TREATMENTS AND SOURCE OF FUNDS BY LAND OWNERSHIP

NOTE: Emergency rehabilitation is work done promptly following a wildfire and is not to solve watershed problems that existed prior to the wildfire.

			NFS Lands			Other Lands			All
Line Items	Units	Unit Cost $	Number of Units	EFFS-FW22 $	Other $ ident.	Number of Units	Fed $ ident.	Non-Fed $ ident.	Tota $
A. LAND TREATMENTS									
B. CHANNEL TREATMENTS									
C. ROADS AND TRAILS									
D. STRUCTURES									
E. BAER EVALUATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT									
Salary, Perdiem, etc.									32,00
F. TOTALS									32,00

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. /s/Jan Wold — 09/09/96
Forest Supervisor (Signature) — Date

2. /s/James A. Lawrence — 09/09/96
Regional Forester (Signature) — Date