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

Date of Report: 9/6/02

BURNED-AREA REPORT
(Reference FSH 2509.13)

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

A. Type of Fire: Fire Use

B. Type of Report

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

C. Type of Action

[x] 1. Initial Request (Best estimate of funds needed to complete eligible rehabilitation measures)
Fire Use Team projection is that this fire could continue for a couple months or until a major Winter event.
[ ] 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: Big Fish Fire

B. Fire Number: CO-WRF-518

C. State: Colorado

D. County: Rio Blanco and Garfield

E. Region: 02

F. Forest: 15 (White River National Forest)

G. District: 02 (Blanco RD)

H. Date Fire Started: 7/19/02

I. Date Fire Out: projected winter event

J. Fire Use Cost: Current cost is $933,000 for both fires on 8/29/02, with no separation of costs at present.

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

L. Watershed Number: HUC Codes: 1405000511, 14050005114

M. Total Acres Burned: 15,500 on 8/29/02, with a projection of 18,800 acres.
NFS Acres(15,500) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private ( )

N. Vegetation Types: Spruce/Fir, Aspen, Grassland Meadow, and Riparian

O. Dominant Soils: From the Flat Tops Soil Survey

35% -108- Rubble Land, Rock Outcrop
25% - 78 Mulgon, Leighcan, Angostura
13% - 107 Rubble Land, Cryorthents
10% - 67 Leighcan, Duchesne, Heterwa

P. Geologic Types:

50 % Tertiary Basalt Flows
30 % Quaternary Glacial Drift (mixed sources)
10% Tertiary Browns Park (mixed sediments)

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:
Blueline:
1st Order—23 miles
2nd Order—7 miles
3rd Order—10 miles
4th Order—4.5 miles

R. Transportation System

Trails: miles Roads: miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (acres): 4,495 (low) 6,975 (moderate) 4,030 (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 8,215

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres): 6,975 (low) 4,650 (moderate) 3,875 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: 6 tons/acre (estimated to be approx. 2/3 of what WEPP modeling showed for the Spring Creek Fire)

E. Sediment Potential: 540 cubic yards / square mile

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 3

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): N/A

C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years): 25

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): 1

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches): 1.5

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet / second/ square mile): 41

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): 70

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): 140 (15,500 acres); 175 (18,000 acres)

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency: The Big Fish Fire started by a lightning strike on July 18, 2002 and the fire perimeter is entirely within the Flat Tops Wilderness. This fire is in Spruce/Fir and Aspen with heavy dead and down fuels. On 7/18/02, the Lost Lakes Wildland Fire Use and the Big Fish Fire was being managed as the Lost Green Complex. On 7/19/02, Wayne Cook's Interagency Fire Use Management Team took over management of the complex and is still being implemented to present date. Currently the Big Fish Fire is 15,500 acres. There has been no suppression efforts on this fire due to the decision to let the fire maintain a natural role in the wilderness ecosystem and managed as a "Fire Use" fire. Conclusion of the BAER Team field analysis, determined that with the soils hydrophobicity in the area, there is the potential for overland ash, organice material, and sediment movement. The degree will be determined by future precipitation.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

Not Applicable

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

Land **N/A** % Channel **N/A** % Roads **50** % Other **N/A** %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land	N/A	N/A	N/A
Channel	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roads	100	100	100
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): **N/A**

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): **N/A**

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: Larry Sandoval

Email:lwsandoval@fs.fed.us Phone:970-945-2521 FAX:970-945-3211

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: N/A

Channel Treatments: N/A

Roads and Trail Treatments:

It is estimated that a 2.8 mile stretch of FSR# 205 will need drainage and culvert improvements to safely handle the estimated increased runoff and prevent water concentration damages from occuring on the road and off the road. Specific measures include the replacement of three corrugated pipes, and installation of four additional corrugated pipes so the road can handle safely the increase volume and velocity of anticipated flows from storm runoff or snowmelt. Additionally, 19 existing culverts will be reconditioned and have inlets, outlets and ditchlines cleaned so they can effeciently pass anticipated increased runoff.

Sign trailheads to the Big Fish, Trapper's Lake, and Skinny Fish areas alerting trail users of the risk of flooding and debris flows during high intensity rain storms. Include an advisory to choose campsites located outside of potential flood or rock fall areas as well as be cautious before crossing any stream during and immediately after a rainstorm.

Structures: N/A

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 nedds for the Big Fish Fire should include noxious weed monitoring, as determined by the BAER Team. This should occur during FY 03, with an estimation of 1 person for 10 days, to identify infestations occurring within the final fire perimeter. Detailed monitoring plan will be developed by the range staff on the Blanco Ranger District.

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

			NFS Lands				Other Lands			All
		Unit	# of	WFSU	Other	# of	Fed	# of	Non Fed	Total
Line Items	Units	Cost	Units	SULT $	$	units	$	Units	$	$
A. Land Treatments										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
B. Channel Treatments										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
C. Road and Trails										
Culvert replacement,	each	$2,585	7	$18,100	$0		$0		$0	$18,100
Road surface and ditch	miles	$3,398	2.8	$9,513	$0		$0		$0	$9,513
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				$27,613	$0		$0		$0	$27,613
D. Structures										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Structures				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
E. BAER Evaluation										
Team Members				$3,651	$0		$0		$0	$3,651
Helicopter	hours	$800	2.8	$2,245	$0		$0		$0	$2,245
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Evaluation				$5,896	$0		$0		$0	$5,896
F. Monitoring										
Noxious Weeds	each	$165	10	$1,650	$0		$0		$0	$1,650
Insert new items above this line!					$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Monitoring				$1,650	$0		$0		$0	$1,650
G. Totals				**$35,159**	**$0**		**$0**		**$0**	**$35,159**

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. *__/s/ Steven W. Deitemeyer, Acting FS__* September 10, 2002
   Forest Supervisor (signature) Date

2. *__/s/ Marisue Hilliard for__* September 13, 2002
   Regional Forester (signature) Date