

Date of Report: 07/08/2021**BURNED-AREA REPORT****PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST****A. Type of Report**

- ☒ 1. Funding request for estimated emergency stabilization funds
- ☐ 2. No Treatment Recommendation

B. Type of Action

- ☒ 1. Initial Request (Best estimate of funds needed to complete eligible stabilization measures)
- ☐ 2. Interim Request # _____
- ☐ Updating the initial funding request based on more accurate site data or design analysis

PART II - BURNED-AREA DESCRIPTION**A. Fire Name: Rafael****B. Fire Number: AZ-PNF-000863****C. State: AZ****D. County: Coconino, Yavapai****E. Region: Southwestern R3****F. Forest: Coconino, Kaibab, Prescott****G. District: Flagstaff, Williams, Chino Valley****H. Fire Incident Job Code: P3N3CY****I. Date Fire Started: 6/18/2021****J. Date Fire Contained: 96% - 7/8/2021****K. Suppression Cost: \$11,000,000.00 - 7/8/2021****L. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds (estimates):**

1. Fireline repaired (miles): Dozerline – 13.5 miles Handline – 2 miles
2. Other (identify):

M. Watershed Numbers:*Table 1: Acres Burned by Watershed*

HUC #	Watershed Name	Total Acres	Acres Burned	% of Watershed Burned
150602020307	Big Spring Canyon	31715	2568	8
150602020313	Cedar Creek	8893	8722	98
150602020402	Government Canyon	12771	248	2
150602020406	Horseshoe Canyon- Verde River	37129	3209	9
150602020310	Little LO Spring Canyon	12268	8416	69

HUC #	Watershed Name	Total Acres	Acres Burned	% of Watershed Burned
150602020314	Lower Sycamore Creek	30695	12023	39
150602020312	Middle Sycamore Creek	18347	16623	91
150602020405	Railroad Draw	10851	5816	54
150602020506	Secret Canyon	11146	503	5
150602020510	Spring Creek	30850	1742	6
150602020311	Tule Canyon	29883	11365	38
150602020309	Upper Sycamore Creek	14925	4592	31
150602020308	Volunteer Canyon	24522	1874	8
150602020503	West Fork Oak Creek	27357	1004	4

N. Total Acres Burned:

Table 2: Total Acres Burned by Ownership

OWNERSHIP	ACRES
NFS	76,341
OTHER FEDERAL (LIST AGENCY AND ACRES)	
STATE	2,035
PRIVATE	296
TOTAL	78,672

O. Vegetation Types:

Sycamore Canyon dissects the Mogollon Rim, the transition zone between the Basin and Range Province to the south, and the Colorado Plateau to the north. The Rafael Fire burned along this transition zone. The canyon topography blends two distinct vegetative zones:

1. Colorado Plateau – Ponderosa Pine Forests, Wet and Dry Mixed Conifer Forests, and Montane/Subalpine Grasslands.
2. Basin and Range – Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands, Pinyon-Juniper Shrublands, Pinyon-Juniper Grasslands, and Interior Chaparral,

P. Dominant Soils:

Table 3. Dominant Soils – These 11 TEUI map units make up approximately 50% of the burned area. This table shows general soil and site characteristics by TEUI map unit.					
Map Unit	Acreage	Slope Range (%)	Parent Material	Depth Classification	Particle Size Classification
Prescott TEUI 468	4,938	40 - 120	Sandstone	Very Shallow to Shallow (0 - 50cm)	Sandy-Skeletal
Coconino TEUI 471	4,736	40 - 120	Sandstone/Limestone	Very Shallow to Shallow (0 - 50cm)	Loamy-Skeletal

Kaibab TEUI 537	4,597	0 - 15	Basalt/Cinders	Shallow to Moderately Deep (0-100cm)	Clayey-Skeletal
Kaibab TEUI 519	3,793	0 - 15	Basalt/Cinders	Very Shallow to Shallow (0 - 50cm)	Clayey-Skeletal
Kaibab TEUI 541	3,771	40 - 120	Sandstone	Shallow to Moderately Deep (0-100cm)	Sandy-Skeletal
Coconino TEUI 555	3,086	40 - 120	Sandstone/Limestone	Very Shallow to Shallow (0 - 50cm)	Sandy-Skeletal
Prescott TEUI 482	2,693	15 - 40	Sandstone	Very Shallow (0 - 25cm)	Sandy-Skeletal
Kaibab TEUI 540	2,670	40 - 120	Sandstone	Shallow to Moderately Deep (0-100cm)	Sandy-Skeletal
Coconino TEUI 530	2,607	15 - 40	Basalt/Cinders	Very Shallow to Shallow (0 - 50cm)	Clayey-Skeletal
Kaibab TEUI 563	2,163	0 - 15	Basalt/Cinders	Moderately Deep (50 - 100cm)	Clayey-Skeletal
Coconino TEUI 579	2,112	0 - 15	Basalt/Cinders	Very Shallow to Shallow (0 - 50cm)	Clayey-Skeletal

Q. Geologic Types:

- a. Sandstone, Limestone, Basalt

R. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class:

Table 4: Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class

STREAM TYPE	MILES OF STREAM
PERENNIAL	1.2
INTERMITTENT	78
EPHEMERAL	313
OTHER (DEFINE)	3.4 - (artificial path)

S. Transportation System:

Trails: National Forest (miles): 56

Other (miles):

Roads: National Forest (miles): 185

Other (miles):

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION**A. Burn Severity (acres):**

Table 5: Burn Severity Acres by Ownership

Soil Burn Severity	NFS	Other Federal (List Agency)	State	Private	Total	% within the Fire Perimeter
Unburned	8,403		101	118	8,622	11
Low	47,590		1,933	171	49,694	63

Soil Burn Severity	NFS	Other Federal (List Agency)	State	Private	Total	% within the Fire Perimeter
Moderate	14,675		0	4	14,679	19
High	5,673		0	3	5,676	7
Total	76,341		2,035	296	78,672	100

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 13,015**C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating:**

- a. Slight - 33,002
- b. Moderate - 10, 998
- c. Severe - 34,278

D. Erosion Potential:

Terrestrial ecological units with a significant erosion potential were identified. Significant erosion potential is defined as:

1. High erosion hazard due to inherent soil properties **and/or**
2. Large predicted increases in soil loss compared to pre-fire conditions **and**
3. Occupy a large extent (>2%) of the burned area

Table 6.

TEUI Map Unit	ERU	Slope Range	Erosion Hazard Rating	Acreage and (%) of Total Area Burned	Pre-fire Sedimentation Rate (tons/acre)	Average Sedimentation Rate 1 Year Post-Fire (tons/acre)
Coconino 470	Interior Chaparral	40 - 120	Severe	1,327 (2%)	1.0	41.3
Coconino 471	Interior Chaparral	40 - 120	Severe	4,736 (6%)	0.5	39.3
Coconino 555	Mixed Conifer w/ Aspen	40 - 120	Severe	3,086 (4%)	0.1	26.6
Coconino 584	Ponderosa Pine Forest	15 - 40	Severe	1,560 (2%)	0.0	7.7
Kaibab 540	Mixed Conifer - Frequent Fire	40 - 120	Severe	2,670 (3%)	0.1	22.3
Kaibab 541	PJ Woodland	40 - 120	Severe	3,771 (5%)	16.6	39.5
Kaibab 564	Ponderosa Pine Forest	15 - 40	Severe	1,269 (2%)	0.0	10.0
Prescott 455	PJ Evergreen Shrub	15 - 40	Severe	1,403 (2%)	2.9	13.6
Prescott 458	PJ Evergreen Shrub	0 - 15	Slight	1,448 (2%)	0.1	7.2
Prescott 465	PJ Evergreen Shrub	40 - 120	Severe	1,820 (2%)	10.5	41.4

Prescott 466	PJ Evergreen Shrub	40 - 120	Severe	1,360 (2%)	9.0	49.5
Prescott 468	Interior Chaparral	40 - 120	Severe	4,938 (6%)	7.9	53.1
Prescott 480	PJ Evergreen Shrub	40 - 120	Severe	1,409 (2%)	2.4	65.0
Prescott 482	PJ Evergreen Shrub	15 - 40	Moderate	2,693 (3%)	3.2	26.0

E. Sediment Potential:

Sediment potential is a single number for expected sediment delivery that is averaged across the entire fire (all burn severities and TEUs). Referencing this number alone could mask the site-specific impacts that are expected for units with high erosion potential.

The predicted unburned, pre-fire sedimentation rate averaged across the Rafael Fire for NFS lands is approximately 1.36 tons per acre with a 10% probability of exceedance.

The predicted post-fire sedimentation rate averaged across the Rafael Fire for NFS lands is approximately 14.76 tons per acre with a 10% probability of exceedance.

F. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period (years):

5 years. May be longer in areas of high soil burn severity and moderate soil burn severity where complete vegetation mortality occurred within the overstory.

G. Estimated Hydrologic Response (brief description):

Watershed conditions following a fire, such as loss of stabilizing vegetation, decreased soil porosity, and increased hydrophobicity in soils, are all factors that can increase the magnitude, timing, and volume of stormwater runoff. Additionally, the volume of sediment and ash that these flows can transport can cause aggradation, down cutting, and/or widening of stream channels that can significantly reduce the functioning condition of these channels. The increased peak flows pose a threat to life, property, and resources within and below the burned area.

Post-fire hydrologic response for 2, 5, and 10 year 1-hour precipitation events were modeled using HEC-HMS 4.8 for the Cedar Creek and Lower Sycamore Creek 6th code watersheds. HEC-HMS was chosen as the modeling method due to the size of the watersheds of interest being over 5 sq. mi. A Farmer-Fletcher storm distribution curve over one-third of the catchment was used to model convective storm distributions.

Runoff from the 2-year one-hour convective event (~.914") was modeled to result in approximately 4 times greater flow than unburned conditions as a function of burn severity distribution throughout the two watersheds. Runoff from the 5-year convective storm (~1.24") was modeled to result in approximately 2 times greater flow from unburned conditions. Lastly, the 10-year one-hour storm (~1.50") resulted in slightly less than 2 times increase from unburned conditions. The decrease in

percent change as recurrence intervals lower in probability is due to increased precipitation depths resulting in higher peakflows instead of curve numbers dictating the model outputs.

Table 7. HEC-HMS Results (Percent Change: Prefire to Postfire)

Storm Event (1-hour duration)	Precipitation Depth (in.)	Percent Change (%)
2-year	0.914	194.73
5-year	1.24	116.48
10-year	1.5	89.17

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

Introduction/Background

The Rafael Fire was discovered on June 18th, 2021 on the Prescott National Forest in a remote area approximately 4 miles north of Perkinsville, AZ. The fire originated in a pinyon juniper vegetation type and strong winds combined with uphill topography allowed the fire to move quickly within the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness and onto the Kaibab and Coconino National Forests.

A. Describe Critical Values/Resources and Threats (narrative):

Table 8: Critical Value Matrix

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

1. Human Life and Safety (HLS):

- a. There is a very high risk to human life and safety on NFS lands within and immediately downstream of the burn area. The highest risk is within the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness area and downstream drainage. Threats to human life and safety include falling trees and limbs, rolling rocks, flash floods and debris flows. Threats downstream of the burned area on NFS lands include flash floods and debris flows.

2. Property (P):

- a. There is a very high risk to approximately 14.8 miles of trails within the burned area. These trail sections occur within or below moderate and high SBS on steep terrain (>40%). The major threat to these trail sections include first year erosion rates ranging from 25 tons/acre to 53 tons/acre.
- b. There is a high risk to portions of FSR 538 that travel through areas of high and moderate soil burn severity. FSR 538 is a major ingress/egress route to Turkey Butte Lookout. The secondary route to the lookout is not reliable. The major threat to these road sections include first year erosion rates >25 tons/acre that will comprise culverts.

3. Natural Resources (NR):

- a. There is a high risk to naturalized plant communities from threats related to high soil burn severity and suppression disturbances. The highest threat comes from populations of Dalmatian toadflax documented just outside the fire perimeter and Scotch thistle near staging areas on the Coconino NF near the boy scout camp. The areas of suppression disturbance (dozer line, hand line and staging areas) and high soil burn severity had no documented presence of these species prior to the fire.

- b. There is a low risk to southwestern willow flycatcher and yellow billed cuckoo habitat. There is a low risk to the majority of the Mexican spotted owl critical habitat except within a small portion of high and moderate soil burn severity where there is a likely probability that invasive and noxious species will invade. There is a low risk to the northern Mexican gartersnake, narrow-headed gartersnake, spikedace, loach minnow and razorback sucker critical habitat.

4. **Cultural and Heritage Resources:** Fourteen archaeological sites were assessed during the BAER assessment. Of these, one site required further discussion and evaluation for treatment due to a high risk from post fire flows and erosion. Ultimately treatments were not recommended due to the remoteness and sensitivity of the site.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

Human Life and Safety – Post closure and warning signs to control public access and to inform the public of post-wildfire hazards that exist within the burned area.

Trail Infrastructure – Minimal work should be completed to save prioritized trail segments from total loss requiring full redesign and reconstruction.

Road Infrastructure – Ensure primary access route to the fire lookout remains drivable.

Early detection rapid response – Early detection and rapid response to targeted areas to detect infestation of invasive and noxious weeds in burned areas as well as locations impacted by fire suppression activities.

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

Land: N/A

Channel: N/A

Roads/Trails: 70

Protection/Safety: 80

D. Probability of Treatment Success

Table 9: Probability of Treatment Success

	1 year after treatment	3 years after treatment	5 years after treatment
Land	70	80	80
Channel			
Roads/Trails	70	80	90
Protection/Safety	80	70	70

E. Cost of No-Action (Including Loss): \$753,000.00

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss): \$168,000.00

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

- ☒ Soils ☒ Hydrology ☒ Engineering ☒ GIS ☒ Archaeology
☒ Weeds ☒ Recreation ☒ Fisheries ☒ Wildlife
☐ Other:

Team Leader:

Email: Chad Yocum/Micah Kiesow

Phone(s): 928-458-4879/505-438-5433

Forest BAER Coordinator: David Moore (PNF), Robert Ballard (KNF), Jan Curtis-Tollestrup (CNF)

Email: david.moore@usda.gov, robert.w.ballard@usda.gov, jan.curtis-tollestrup@usda.gov

Phone(s): 928-443-8179

928-635-8354

928-527-3451

Team Members: Table 10: BAER Team Members by Skill

Skill	Team Member Name
Team Lead(s)	Chad Yocum/Micah Kiesow
Soils	Rob Ballard
Hydrology	Edgar Martinez
Engineering	Sergio DeLeon (t)
GIS	Mark Christiano
Archaeology	John Rose/Michael Terlep (t)
Weeds	Jesse Duff-Woodruff
Recreation	Jason Williams
Wildlife & Aquatics	Noel Fletcher, Mark Bellis (t), Albert Sillas

H. Treatment Narrative:

Land Treatments:

Early Detection Rapid Response is recommended to protect naturalized plant communities within high soil burn severity areas and suppression disturbance areas. Detection survey is expected to allow for protection of ecological integrity of native plant communities. Surveys and rapid response eradication treatments will begin in 2021 during the flowering periods of weed species. Survey for annual and perennial noxious/invasive species that establish with summer rains should be accomplished during mid-late summer and early fall of 2021. For species that establish with winter rains, survey should occur during the late spring and early summer of 2022. A biological control method will be used to treat for Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) infestations which is outlined and approved in the FEIS for Integrated Treatment of Noxious or Invasive Weeds for Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott National Forests. This treatment method is appropriate due to the amount and size of the burned area and a high risk potential for the spread of this noxious weed species.

Table 11. EDRR – High Soil Burn Severity Areas

Item	Labor	Unit	Cost	Total
Survey Detection	AZ Conservation Corps	1	\$4,500	\$4,500
Linaria dalmatica biocontrol		20 boxes	\$150.00	\$3,000.00
Coconino National Forest				\$7,500

Table 12. EDRR – Suppression Disturbance

Item	Labor	Unit	Cost	Total
Survey Detection/Chemical Treatment	AZ Conservation Corps	1	\$4,500	\$4,500
Coconino National Forest				\$4,500

Channel Treatments: N/A

Roads and Trail Treatments:

Trail storm proofing is recommended to protect trail infrastructure within the burned area. Minimal work should be done to stabilize trail alignments preventing total loss. Total trail loss would not only require total reconstruction, but once the alignments are undetectable the entire trail would need a total redesign and layout. The work would include rapid trail benching, removing backslope sloughing to keep the trail alignment identifiable, focused on priority trail segments in or below high and moderate SBS on steep (>40%) slopes. Trail treatments will be completed by three 5 person crews. Both the Prescott NF and Coconino NF will modify existing agreements to expedite the treatments being completed. See trail treatment map for specific locations.

Table 13. Trail Priorities for Treatment

Number	Trail Name	Priority	Miles	Justification
12	Mooney	1	0.42	Critical Stock Driveway to Summer Pasture
63	Sycamore Basin	2	1.94	Access to Historic Cabin listed on the national register with Scheduled GAOA Stabilization Work
53	Henderson	3	0.84	Used by Range Permittees
70	Winter Cabin	4	1.68	Access to Historic Cabin for future preservation and fire response
52	Yew Thicket	5	3.53	Longest trail, provides fire response to remote areas
35	Taylor Cabin	6	1.35	Most direct route to Taylor Cabin for Foot Traffic
61	Lonesome Pocket	7	1.28	Fire access and range permittee use
117	Deadman Pocket	8	3.76	Fire access and range permittee use

Table 14. Trail Treatment Cost Breakdown per Mile

Item	Item/Mile	Days	Miles	Miles Per Day	Cost/Day	Total Cost	Cost per Mile
						\$45,000	\$3,000
Conservation Corps Crew	5 person crew	24	15	1.6	\$1,667	\$40,000	\$2,667
Conservation Corps Crew	Mobilization Cost	4			\$1,250	\$5,000	
		Days	Miles		Mobilization	Total Cost by Forest	
Coconino National Forest		8	5		\$1,667	\$15,000	
Prescott National Forest		16	10		\$3,333	\$30,000	

Road Storm Inspection and Response is recommended to protect road infrastructure for a major ingress/egress route to Turkey Butte Lookout. The secondary route to the lookout is not reliable. Storm inspection and response would consist of 1 person inspecting road sections at highest risk within moderate and high soil burn severity after an estimated 4 monsoonal events. Response would include force account labor and machinery to mobilize to site and clean culverts. Cost is estimated at an overtime rate due to potential timing of storms.

Table 15. Road Storm Inspection and Response

Item	Cost/Event	Events	Total
Labor	\$600.00	4	\$2,400.00
Coconino National Forest			\$2,400.00

Protection/Safety Treatments:

An administrative closure is currently in place for the fire area. This closure is recommended to remain in place through at least the first monsoon season to protect human life and safety. Following the first monsoon season the forests should reassess post fire threats and risk to inform reopening. The highest risk from the burned area occurs within Sycamore Canyon Wilderness and directly downstream within drainages to the confluence with the Verde River.

Coconino NF -Install 7 closure/warning signs on roads and 15 closure/warning signs on trails as depicted within the treatment map. Install 1 gate on FSR 131 as shown on treatment map. This popular swimming area is remote and difficult to manage.

Kaibab NF -Install 10 warning signs on roads and 8 warning signs on trails as depicted within the treatment map.

Prescott NF -Install 4 closure/warning signs on roads and 6 closure/warning signs on trails as depicted within the treatment map. Install 1 gate on FSR 181 as shown on treatment map. This remote and difficult to manage road allows access to the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness area.

Table 16. Sign Cost Estimate

Item	Quantity	Cost	Total
Trail Warning Sign	23	\$55.00	\$1,265.00
Trail Closure Sign	6	\$66.00	\$396.00
Road Warning Sign	19	\$50.00	\$950.00
Road Closed Sign	2	\$100.00	\$200.00
Post	42	\$20.00	\$840.00
Hardware (bolts)	100	\$1.00	\$100.00
Labor	10 days	\$200.00	\$2000.00
Vehicle	10 days	\$150.00	\$1500.00

Table 17. Sign Cost by Forest

Signs and Hardware	Trail Warning	Trail Close	Road Warning	Road Close	Post	Signs and Hardware	Labor Days	Vehicle Days	Total Cost
Coconino	10	5	6	1	16	44	4	4	\$3,044.00
Kaibab	8	0	10	0	18	36	4	4	\$2,736.00
Prescott	5	1	3	1	8	20	2	2	\$1,471.00

Table 18. Gate Cost Estimate

Items	Quantity	Cost	Total
16 ft. gate	2	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
Concrete	40	\$10.00	\$400.00
Labor	8 days	\$600	\$4,800.00
Equipment	4 days	\$500	\$2000.00
(backhoe, dump truck)		TOTAL	\$15,200.00
Cost by Forest			
Coconino	\$7,600.00		
Prescott	\$7,600.00		

I. Monitoring Narrative:

PART VI – EMERGENCY STABILIZATION TREATMENTS AND SOURCE OF FUNDS

Line Items	Units	Unit Cost	# of Units	BAER \$	Other \$	# of units	Fed \$	# of Units	Non Fed \$	Total \$
A. Land Treatments										
EDRR - BAER				\$7,500	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$7,500
EDRR - Suppression				\$4,500	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$4,500
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Land Treatments</i>				\$12,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$12,000
B. Channel Treatments										
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Channel Treatments</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
C. Road and Trails										
Trail Storm Proofing				\$15,000	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$15,000
Road Storm Inspection and Response				\$2,400	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,400
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Road and Trails</i>				\$17,400	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$17,400
D. Protection/Safety										
Road/Trail Hazard/Closure Signs				\$3,044	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$3,044
Road Closure Gate				\$7,600	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$7,600
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Protection/Safety</i>				\$10,644	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$10,644
E. BAER Evaluation										
Initial Assessment	Report			---	\$26,950		\$0		\$0	\$26,950
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				---	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Evaluation</i>				\$0	\$26,950		\$0		\$0	\$26,950
F. Monitoring										
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Insert new items above this line!</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
<i>Subtotal Monitoring</i>				\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
G. Totals				\$40,044	\$26,950		\$0		\$0	\$66,994
Previously approved										
Total for this request				\$40,044						

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. _____
 Forest Supervisor Date