

Date of Report:

**BURNED-AREA REPORT**

(Reference FSH 2509.13)

**PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST**

## A. Type of Report

- ☒ 1. Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds  
☐ 2. Accomplishment Report  
☐ 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 or design analysis  
    ☐ Status of accomplishments to date  
☐ 3. Final Report (Following completion of work)

**PART II - BURNED-AREA DESCRIPTION**A. Fire Name: I-40B. Fire Number: TX-TXS-006013 (PNCC6D)C. State: TexasD. County: GrayE. Region: 03F. Forest: CibolaG. District: Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National GrasslandsH. Date Fire Started: 03/12/06I. Date Fire Controlled: 03/19/06

J. Suppression Cost:

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds

1. Fireline waterbarred (miles):  
2. Fireline seeded (miles):  
3. Other (identify):

L. Watershed Number: 111203010203 and 111203010204 McClellan Creek above and below the dam part of Upper North Fork of the Red RiverM. Total Acres Burned: 751449

NFS Acres(1449) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private (750,000)

N. Vegetation Types: Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem and Sideoats Gramma Grasslands. Plains Cottonwood, Elm, and Hackberry Forest.O. Dominant Soils: Udic Ustorthents, Udic Haplustolls, Udic Argiustolls, Fluventic Haplustolls. Sands and sandy loams.

P. Geologic Types: Sandstone, Alluvium and Eolian from mixed sources.

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: ~1.5 miles of perennial, spring fed stream (0.5 miles above the dam and 1 miles below the dam) both sections are currently isolated

R. Transportation System

Trails: 20 miles      Roads: 9 miles

### **PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION**

A. Burn Severity (acres): 700 (low) 700 (moderate) 49 (high)

B. Water-Repellent Soil (acres): 49 with slight to moderate repellency

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (acres):  
300 (low) 149 (moderate) 1000 (high)

D. Erosion Potential: 22 tons/acre

E. Sediment Potential:        cubic yards / square mile

### **PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS**

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): n/a

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): n/a

C. Equivalent Design Recurrence Interval, (years): n/a

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): n/a

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches):

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

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): n/a

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): n/a

### **PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS**

A. Describe Emergency:

The I-40 Fire started on 3/12/06 in the grasslands of Gray County Texas from a unknown ignition source. Due to dry conditions and high winds, the fire spread very rapidly. When the fire was controlled on 3/19/06 it had burned approximately 750,000 acres of private land. Approximately 95 percent of the McClellan Creek National Grasslands (1449 acres) was burned over in the fire. In the areas that burned, all of the shrub, grass and ground litter was consumed. There are a few small areas around the campgrounds which had been mowed. These areas experinced light to no burn and still have some grass cover. There is approximately 50 acres in the wooded areas around the lake that experienced high burn severity.

There are many developed camping and picnic sites around the lake along with approximately 20 miles of ATV trails. Most of these sites have trees around them and several of the trails go through treed areas. Many of the trees (mostly Plains cottonwood and elm) around the lake were killed by the fire and falling snags were observed during the BAER assessment.

A majority of the trail signs were burned up during the fire. The trails showed signs of erosion prior to the fire and may be affected by increased runoff and wind erosion from the fire.

A majority of the fire drains into Lake McClellan reservoir which is dry at this time. During wet years it holds water.

There are oil pumps and holding tanks located on the National Grasslands. Several of the plastic pipes leading from the pumps to the holding tanks were burned during the fire. These had been replaced by the time of the assessment.

One Forest Service building was completely consumed by the fire. This was the Concession building, built in 1939, which was on the Historic Register. This large building (3362 sq. foot footprint) contained materials (ceiling & floor tiles, insulation) made with asbestos. Additionally 2 burned picnic pavillions contained asbestos roofs. After burning, the asbestos materials in the 3 structures became friable and is now subject to airborne transport. This area receives very high winds in spring through early summer and the potential for movement of the asbestos fibers is high. There is no set threshold on the amount of asbestos that is potentially harmful to humans and/or wildlife. Upon calling the EPAs Asbestos Clearinghouse, Joe Albright (202-566-2817) indicated that the asbestos should be properly disposed of immediately to avoid risk of exposure and off-site movement.

Several prehistoric lithic scatters and historic trash dumps were looked at during the assessment. No post-fire threats to these sites were identified

#### B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:

Immediate public safety concerns are related to hazard trees in and around camping and picnic areas. This would initially be mitigated through installing gates at the entrances in conjunction with posting signs explaining why the area is temporarily closed. Hazard trees within the developed campground that pose a high risk to personal property or life will be felled.

Additional public safety concerns are related to the now friable asbestos in the building and 2 picnic pavillions. The asbestos fibers associated with the burned structures will be removed by a certified HazMat responder and disposed in an appropriate facility to avoid movement off-site and exposure to humans and animals

Other resource concerns stem from potential uncontrolled ATV use due to trail signs being burned up in the fire. A gate on the southern entrance and another at the entrance to the ATV trails on the north side of the Grassland will be installed to stop access to these untreated areas and keep ATVs from further damaging the area until new groth can hide old trail scars.

Monitoring of the response of the grasses after the fire is also needed. A fire of this severity and magnitude in March is a rare occurance in the Grasslands. When added to the effects of long-term and severe drought, there are concerns that the burned grass may not recover. If the monitoring showed little or no grass response, money would be requested to seed the area.

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

Land \_\_\_ % Channel \_\_\_ % Roads \_\_\_ % Other 95 %

#### D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land			
Channel			
Roads			
Other			
Asbestos removal	100%	100%	100%
Signs/closures	95%	95%	n/a
Hazard tree	80%	50%	30%

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

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss):

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Range	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Mgmt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Contracting	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/> Botany	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeology	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Arch	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	

Team Leader: Mike Natharius

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Team members:

Tedd Huffman (Hydrology) 505-346-3908

Chuck Milner (Range)

Dave Johnson (Heritage Resources)

Bryan Hajny (Wildlife and Fire)

Tom Smeltzer (District Ranger) 580-497-2143

#### H. Treatment Narrative:

##### Land Treatments:

Approximately 375 hazard trees in the immediate area of the developed campground and parking areas on the north side of the lake will be felled to avoid a risk to human safety and personal property.

##### Roads and Trail Treatments:

The area will be closed to avoid risk to human life and property from hazard trees and allow the grass to resprout and take hold. The south side of the Grassland and the access to the ATV trails on the north side will have gates installed to stop access to these areas where some hazards will remain. Recovery time will allow old scars on the landscape to grow over and hopefully keep people on existing-use areas rather than areas that had been closed off prior to the fire. Signs will help to inform the public (some of which may have driven a significant distance) why it is important for their safety and the future of McClellan Creek National Grassland that they obey the closure order.

##### Structures:

The asbestos in the 3 structures will be removed and properly disposed of immediately to avoid the potential for it to move off-site and to potentially affect human and/or animal health. See Task 1,4 &5 in Asbestos removal scope of work.

#### H. Monitoring Narrative:

Grass emergence will be monitored by District employees in the coming month to ensure that the recent drought and early spring burn did not hinder the ability of the grass to resprout following fire as usual. The need for emergency treatment with an annual grass/forb will be assessed if monitoring doesn't find adequate grass emergence within approximately one month.

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

Line Items	Units	Unit Cost	NFS Lands		Other \$	Other Lands				All Total \$
			# of Units	WFSU SULT \$		# of units	Fed \$	# of Units	Non Fed \$	
<b>A. Land Treatments</b>										
Hazard Tree Felling		75	375	\$28,125			\$0		\$0	\$28,125
				\$0			\$0			
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Land Treatments				\$28,125			\$0		\$0	\$28,125
<b>B. Channel Treatments</b>										
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Channel Treat.				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>C. Road and Trails</b>										
initial closure signs		367	3	\$1,100			\$0		\$0	\$1,100
informational signs		500	2	\$1,000			\$0		\$0	\$1,000
gates		2000	2	\$4,000			\$0		\$0	\$4,000
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				\$6,100			\$0		\$0	\$6,100
<b>D. Protection</b>										
Asbestos Removal				\$19,470			\$0		\$0	\$19,470
and disposal				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
				\$0			\$0		\$0	\$0
Subtotal Structures				\$19,470			\$0		\$0	\$19,470
<b>E. BAER Evaluation</b>										
							\$0		\$0	
				\$0	\$5,681		\$0		\$0	\$5,681
<b>G. Monitoring Cost</b>				\$1,700			\$0		\$0	\$1,700
<b>H. Totals</b>				<b>\$55,395</b>			<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$61,076</b>

**PART VII - APPROVALS**

1. /s/ Cynthia Correll for  
Forest Supervisor (signature)

4/7/06  
Date

2. /s/ Abel M. Camarena  
Regional Forester (signature)

4/10/06  
Date