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:** September 9, 2003
Route To:

Subject: Burned Area Report - Fiddle Creek Fire

To: Regional Forester

Enclosed is the initial Fiddle Creek Fire Burned Area Report Funding request for estimated WFSU-SULT funds. No emergency exists and no funds are requested beyond the BAER assessment costs of $1500. An amended request may follow based on additional reconnaissance of South Fork Fiddle Creek.

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

/s/ Terry A. Chute (for)
BRUCE E. BERNHARDT
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Bruce D Sims, Pat Green

Date of Report: 9 Sept, 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
[ ] 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: Fiddle Fire

B. Fire Number: ID-NPNF-108

C. State: Idaho

D. County: Idaho

E. Region: Northern (R1)

F. Forest: Nez Perce NF (17)

G. District: Salmon River RD (01)

H. Date Fire Started: 8/19/2003

I. Date Fire Contained: 8/28/2003

J. Suppression Cost: $600,000

K. Fire Suppression Damages Repaired with Suppression Funds
1. Fireline waterbarred (miles): 1 mile
2. Fireline seeded (miles):
3. Other (identify): Firelines returned to grade (1 mile), (3) helispots lopped & scattered, Fire camp and spike camp soil disturbances regraded, trails cleared of trees dropped for suppression (2 miles).

L. Watershed Number: 17060209-0302, Middle Fork John Day Creek
17060209-0320, Fiddle Creek
17060209-0323, South Fork John Day Creek

M. Total Acres Burned: 708 - NFS Acres(**708**) Other Federal ( ) State ( ) Private ( )

N. Vegetation Types: Lodgepole Pine (PICO), Subalpine Fir (ABLA), Whitebark pine (PIAL), Beargrass (XETE)

O. Dominant Soils: Dystric Cryochrepts, Andic Cryochrepts, Typic Cyrumbrepts

P. Geologic Types: Quartz diorite (tonalite)

Q. Miles of Stream Channels by Order or Class: 1st order - .6 miles

R. Transportation System

Trails: 2.1 miles Roads: 0 miles

PART III - WATERSHED CONDITION

A. Burn Severity (percent): 19% low 45% moderate 15% high 16% unburned

B. Water-Repellent Soil (percent): 60 percent of the burned area is likely to have a moderate to high degree of water repellency

C. Soil Erosion Hazard Rating (percent):
8% low <1% moderate 86% high

D. Erosion Potential: 12.1 tons / square mile (delivered from burned area)

E. Sediment Potential: 9.2 tons / square mile (routed from burned area)

PART IV - HYDROLOGIC DESIGN FACTORS

Flood flows have not yet been calculated

A. Estimated Vegetative Recovery Period, (years): 30 (overstory)

B. Design Chance of Success, (percent): 80%

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

D. Design Storm Duration, (hours): 6 hours

E. Design Storm Magnitude, (inches): 1.3 inches

F. Design Flow, (cubic feet/second/square mile): 34.8 cfsm

G. Estimated Reduction in Infiltration, (percent): 20% (onsite)

H. Adjusted Design Flow, (cfs per square mile): 34.8 cfsm (no change at S Fk John Day due to small % of wsd area affected)

PART V - SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

A. Describe Watershed Emergency: Describe Watershed Emergency:

Threat to life and private property: None at this time. A high potential exists for high water flows and debris torrents in ephemeral and the first stream channel in south Fork John Day Creek, but frequent lower gradient depositional areas should buffer these impacts from downstream areas. Further investigation may be warranted further downstream in unburned reaches of South Fork John Day Creek to evaluate its sensitivity.

Threat to federal property: None. Trails are on the ridge and their erosion hazard should be slight.

Threat of water quality deterioration: Slight. Fiddle Creek fire was small, high elevation, and effects are distributed over 3 subwatersheds. The steep terrain is very susceptible to erosion, and recent rainfall has resulted in some overland flow and sediment delivery to the headwater stream. Gullies, perhaps derived from historic sheep grazing, are active. Depositional areas are common and indicative of past active erosion and deposition. Large wood is abundant in most areas and provides good erosion barriers. Further investigation of downstream channel morphology and condition is warranted.

Threats to ecosystem integrity: Slight. The expansion of invasive non-native plants into fire-disturbed areas from nearby source areas is not a significant threat to the integrity of such high elevation areas. The fire has killed some whitebark pine in an area capable of supporting whitebark, which has been dramatically affected by blister rust. An opportunity exists to re-introduce whitebark pine into the burned area. This will be pursued through post-BAER or appropriated funding sources.

Threats to heritage resources:
None known. The Fiddle fire burned in an area with few heritage sites. Fire effects are so far considered negligible. Further evaluation may be made.

Threats to threatened and endangered plants and animals:
No emergency exists for threatened or endangered wildlife species. The severity and burn mosaic of the fire may result in short term displacement of some species, and benefit others that require early seral or snag habitat. The fire severity and extent are well within natural ranges, and large areas of similar unburned habitat occur nearby. *Douglasia idahoensis* may occur in the burned area on open ridges. Its response to fire is little known. A survey is warranted.

B. Emergency Treatment Objectives:
No emergency funds beyond assessment costs are requested at this time

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

Land __ % Channel __ % Roads __ % Other __ %

D. Probability of Treatment Success

	Years after Treatment		
	1	3	5
Land			
Channel			
Roads			
Other			

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

F. Cost of Selected Alternative (Including Loss):

G. Skills Represented on Burned-Area Survey Team:

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

Team Leader: Pat Green, forest ecologist

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.)

No emergency exists at this time. Further evaluation or unacceptable watershed response could prompt an amended request.

Land Treatments:

Channel Treatments:

Roads and Trail Treatments:

Structures:

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.)

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										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$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
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$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										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Road & Trails				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
D. Structures										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
				$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										
salary	days	250	6	$1,500	$0		$0		$0	$1,500
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Evaluation				$1,500	$0		$0		$0	$1,500
F. Monitoring										
				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Insert new items above this line!				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
Subtotal Monitoring				$0	$0		$0		$0	$0
G. Totals				**$1,500**	**$0**		**$0**		**$0**	**$1,500**

PART VII - APPROVALS

1. */s/ Terry A. Chute (for)* — 9/9/03
   Forest Supervisor (signature) — Date

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