

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Nez Perce NF

To keep

Date: Sept. 1, 1994

REPLY TO: 2520

SUBJECT: Burned Area Report for Rapid River Fire

TO: Regional Forester

Enclosed for your records is the Burned Area Report for the Rapid River Fire.

No emergency exists and we are not requesting any funds for emergency rehabilitation. The intensely burned areas are in well distributed small patches, mostly on the less erodible landtypes within the area. The area of moderate and intense burn is about 800 acres, or 5 percent of the 16,000 acre West Fork Rapid River watershed. About 40 percent of the burn perimeter is within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, administered by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Objectives for this wilderness area include the facilitation of natural disturbance and recovery processes.

Although some sediment will be generated by this burn, the rehabilitation team has concluded that long term benefits to watershed function have accrued. The fire has reduced the amount and continuity of fuels and will help reestablish conditions for more natural levels of fire and fuel in the future. Fire has been infrequent in this drainage since before 1900. Small areas burned in 1910 and 1953. The 1989 Curren Mt. Fire burned the headwaters of the West Fork of Rapid River on the Payette NF.

Surface soils are moderately to highly erodible, but produce dominantly silt, gravel, and cobble size material, and relatively little sand. Severely burned areas on steep slopes in lower Bridge Creek have the greatest potential for generating some sediment.

Monitoring points for documentation of channel and substrate changes through photo points and pebble counts, as well as long term monitoring plots to describe snag attrition and fuel accumulation are being established to evaluate watershed and vegetation response.

MIKE KING
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: J. Carlson: R01F17D01A
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BURNED AREA REPORT

DATE: Aug. 30, 1994

PART I - TYPE OF REQUEST

1. A. Funding Request
2. A. Initial

PART II - FIRE LOCATION

1. Fire name: Rapid River (part of the Snake Complex)
2. Supervisors Fire Number: ORWWF-022
3. State: Idaho
4. County: Idaho
5. Region: Northern (01) and Pacific Northwest (06)
6. Forest: Nez Perce and Wallowa-Whitman
7. Ranger District: Nez Perce Salmon River District (01) and Wallowa-Whitman, Hells Canyon NRA (05)
8. Date Started: Aug. 1, 1994
9. Date Controlled: Aug 23, 1994
10. Estimated suppression costs: \$4.5 million as of Aug 20
11. Fire suppression damage repaired with FFF 102 funds:
 - a. 11. . miles of firelines waterbarred (1.25 mi dozer and remainder hand)
 - b. . . .4. acres of firelines seeded
 - c. . . . other (identify) _____
12. Fire intensity 40 % low 10 % medium 10 % high 40% unburned

PART III - NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM PROBLEM INVENTORY

1. Watershed Number: 17060210-01-5 (98%), 17060210-01-2 (1%), 17070210-01-3 (1%)
2. NFS acres burned: 6574 fire perimeter (about 3900 actually burned)
3. Water repellant soil: 10 % NFS acres burned (10-20% in unburned areas)
4. Vegetation types: 10% grassland, 30% DF and PP, 60% SAF, LP
5. Geologic types: Seven Devils andesite
6. Soil erosion hazard rating: 0 % low 30 % medium 70 % high
7. Erosion potential: 46 cu.yd./sq.mi. (total for first two years)
8. Miles stream channel by regional order or class: 12: 1st order perennial and intermittent, 4: 2nd order, 2: 3rd order.
9. Miles FS trails: 18
10. Miles FS roads by maintenance level: NONE
a. (level I) b. (level II) c. (level III, IV, V)

BURNED AREA REPORT

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PART IV - CALCULATED RISK AND CLIMATIC EVALUATION

1. Est. veg. recovery period: 1 year (grassland), 5 years (forest)
2. Chance of success desired by management: 95 %
3. Equivalent design recurrence: 100 years
4. Related design storm duration: 1/2 hours
5. Related design storm magnitude: .90 inches
5. Related design flow: 55 cfsm 10 %
7. Estimated reduction in infiltration: 61 cfsm
8. Adjusted related design flow: 61 cfsm

PART V SUMMARY OF SURVEY AND ANALYSIS

1. Skills represented on burned area survey team (list as appropriate):
 - Soils
 - Botany
 - Hydrology
 - Fisheries Biology
 - Landscape architecture
 - Range
 - Recreation
2. Describe emergency:
 - No emergency exists. Natural recovery processes will be adequate to maintain watershed values.