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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto
National
Forest

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Reply To: 2520

Date: August 2, 1989

Subject: Burned Area Rehabilitation - Horton Fire

To: Files

Forest Service policy requires that all fires 300 acres or larger in size be evaluated for watershed damages. The purpose of this letter is to document the findings of the Forest Emergency Rehabilitation Team regarding the Horton Fire.

Burned Area Information:

The Horton Fire started on July 7 and was declared controlled on July 17, 1989. The fire was located primarily in Section 2, T 11N, R 12E and Section 35, T 12N, R 12E and burned approximately 300 acres.

The Horton Fire burned on the face of the Mogollon Rim. Elevations range from 6,800 to 7,800 feet. Vegetation is predominately ponderosa pine and mixed conifer.

The terrain is extremely rocky and very steep. Soils are derived from sandstone and limestone and are very shallow.

There are no significant improvements within the burned area.

Approximately one-half of the area did not burn intensely enough to remove all vegetation. Seventy five acres of this was a burn out necessary to control the east flank of the fire.

Analysis of Burned Area Rehabilitation Needs:

The burned area is located on the face of the Mogollon Rim. Due to the extremely rocky and steep terrain and poorly developed soils, the probability of success in seeding erosion control species is very limited.

Other rehabilitation measures, such as erosion control structures were not considered physically or economically feasible.

It was necessary to construct 260 chains of fire line in order to contain the fire. Most of this was handline. All mechanically constructed lines were drained and seeded. Those handlines that could erode were also drained and seeded. The area around Horton Spring which was used as a spike camp was also seeded and the hiking trails used for transportation to the spike camp were drained and spot seeded.

Recommendation:

As a result of the above findings, it is recommended that burned-area emergency rehabilitation funds not be requested for the Horton Fire.

/S/RICHARD C. MARTIN
RICHARD C. MARTIN
Emergency Rehabilitation Team Leader

I concur with the above recommendation.

/S/CHARLES C. WILDES ACTING FOR
JAMES L. KIMBALL
Forest Supervisor

cc:
Payson RD
Watershed & Air Management, R-3