



BLM Post-Wildfire Recovery: Emergency Stabilization & Burned Area Rehabilitation

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Bureau of Land Management – Headquarters

NASEM Native Seeds Committee Meeting – June 29, 2021

2020 FIRE YEAR STATISTICS

Category	All Ownership	BLM
Acres Burned	10,122,336	1,131,500
10-Year Average	7.1 million	858,000
Number of Wildfires	58,950	2,362
Large Fires	999	153



Headlines

- 2nd highest number of acres burned since 1983
- First reported million-acre fire in CA
- 3 of the largest wildfires in CO's history

WHAT IS ESR?

“The purpose of ESR is to reduce the risk of resource damage and restore landscapes impacted by wildfire and to promote long-term restoration and recovery objectives.” 620 DM 7

Emergency Stabilization (ES)

Identify imminent threats to human life, property, and critical natural or cultural resources, and take immediate actions to manage unacceptable risks.

Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR)

Address areas unlikely to recover naturally from severe wildland fire damage.





ES = BAER

- Emergency Stabilization is equivalent to Burned Area Emergency Response
- DOI's ES program has a broader scope than FS BAER
- Local unit decides when to pursue an ESR plan
- Most plans developed in-house
- National DOI BAER teams can provide support



ESR PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Link ES and BAR treatments to long-term recovery.
- Represent BLM's current and out-year plans for stabilizing and rehabilitating landscapes affected by fire.
- Burned area assessments conducted to identify values at risk and inform plan development.
- Plans developed by an interdisciplinary team and submitted via a database called VMAP
- ESR plans due within 21 days of wildfire containment (H-1742-1)



EMERGENCY STABILIZATION ISSUES



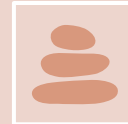
Human Life &
Safety



Soil/Water
Stabilization



Critical Habitat



Critical
Heritage
Resources



Invasive Plants



BURNED AREA REHABILITATION ISSUES



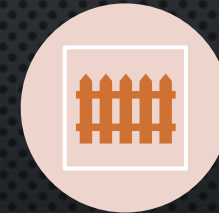
Lands Unlikely
to Recover
Naturally



Tree Planting



Weed
Treatments



Repair Minor
Facilities

PLAN REVIEW & COORDINATION

- Plans approved at State & National Level
- Plans represent an internal funding request
- Documentation for coordinating across multiple programs:
 - fire and aviation,
 - national seed strategy,
 - seed warehouse system,
 - national seed drill system,
 - other BLM programs, etc.

2020 Holiday Farm Fire

Burned Area Emergency Response Plan

Upper Willamette Field Office – Northwest Oregon District

Bureau of Land Management



Springfield, OR

October 2020

Interagency BAER Team



United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



BURNED AREA EMERGENCY STABILIZATION and REHABILITATION



BLM Handbook H-1742-1

BLM IDAHO POST-FIRE RECOVERY PLAN EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND BURNED AREA REHABILITATION PLAN TEMPLATE 2010 CAT FIRE (LIGB) BLM Boise District Office IDAHO STATE OFFICE

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

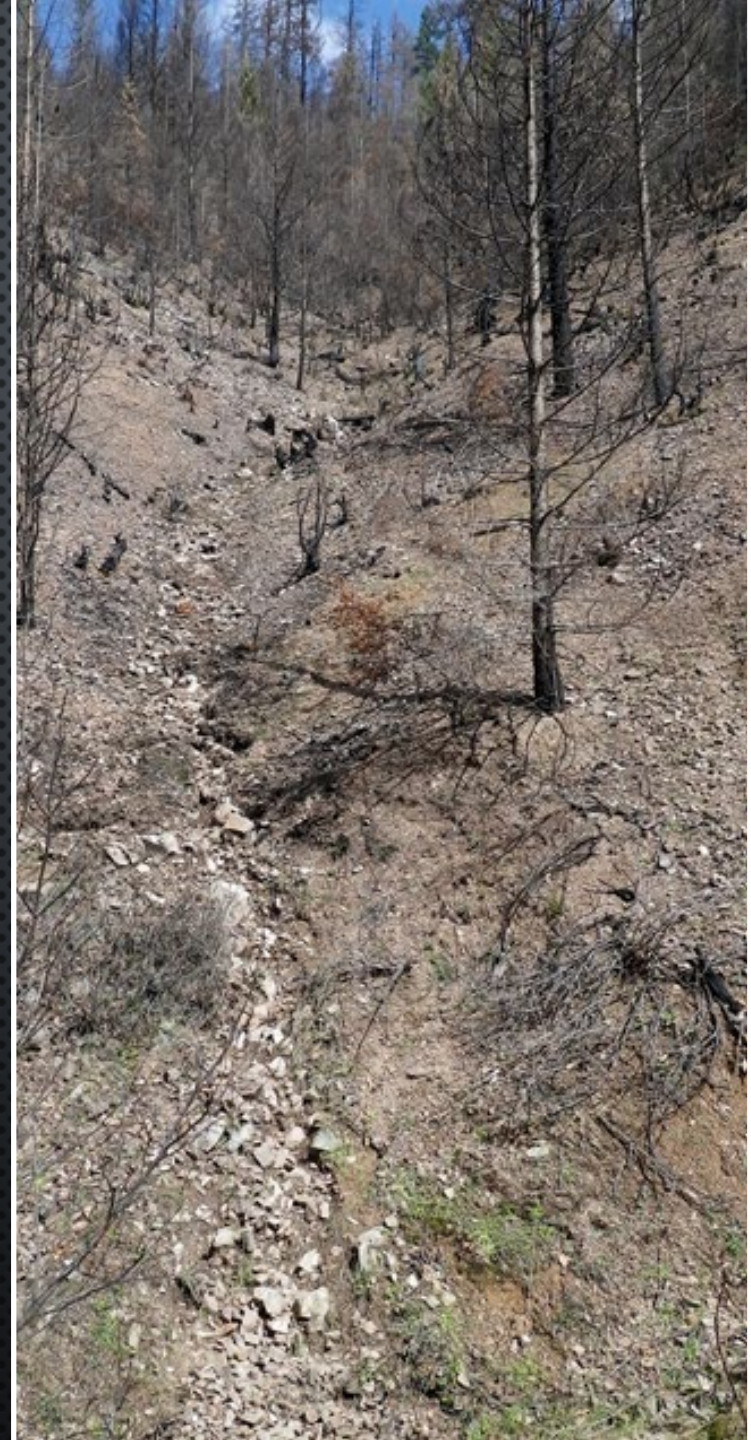
Fire Name	Cat
Fire Number	LFESLIGB0000 / LFBRLIGB0000
District/Field Office	Boise District Office
Admin Number	LLIDB00000
State	IDAHO
County(s)	OWYHIE
Ignition Date/Cause	07/24/2018 Lightning
Date Contained	07/29/2018
Jurisdiction	Acres
State	1530
BLM	23869
Private	1205
DOD	1
Total Acres	26605
Total Costs	\$3,164,000
Costs to LF2200000 (2822)	\$2,556,000
Costs to LF3200000 (2881)	\$598,000

Status of Plan Submission (check one box below)

	Initial Submission of Complete Plan
X	Updating or Revising the Initial Submission
	Amendment

FUNDING & PRIORITIZATION

- ES (1-year post-fire) ~\$27 million
- BAR (1-5 years post-fire) ~ \$12 million
- Funding requests for ES & BAR often exceed available funding
- Prioritization criteria and spend plan required for BAR funding



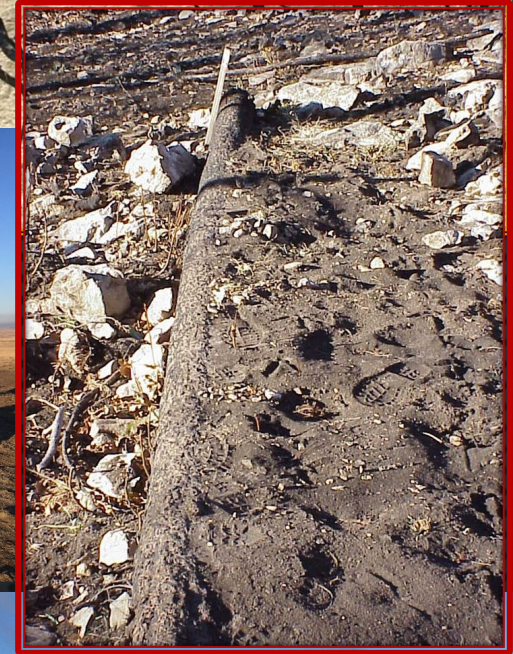
FY21 IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY

- 83 plans encompassing 749,000 acres of BLM-administered lands
- ES Treatments/Activities on 83 projects
- BAR Treatments/Activities on 187 projects
- 1.76 million acres and 223 miles in treatments

IMPLEMENTATION

Management actions can include:

- Hazard trees
- Slope stabilization
- Culvert replacement
- Storm patrol
- Signage
- Seeding
- Livestock closures
- Fence repair
- Noxious weed treatment
- Invasive annual grass treatment



IMPLEMENTATION: POST-FIRE SEEDINGS



- BLM averages about 380,000 acres of post-wildfire seedings per year.
- Not necessarily footprint acres.
- FY20 – 422,147 acres of seeding at \$14.9M in seed; ESR represented 2/3 of total seed procurement by BLM.
- Seeding needs and seed mixes are first identified in ESR plan.

CHALLENGES/BARRIERS TO POST-FIRE SEEDINGS



Seed mix decisions based on:
Data sets and resources; Pre-fire condition; Seed availability.



Process alignment:
Fiscal year, seed buy, seed availability/delivery/viability, procurement, funding, equipment.



Narrow timeframe for implementation due to weather.

MONITORING & REPORTING

- Required by Department policy
- Support management actions
- Standard measures and tools for evaluating treatment effectiveness
- Data management
- Adaptive management linkage to long-term restoration



TRANSITION TO LONG-TERM RESTORATION

5 years +

- Projects transition to other program areas' responsibility

Long-term objectives

- Habitat recovery
- Vegetation composition
- Landscape resilience
- Resistance to invasion





Thank you