

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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To: Field Managers, Nevada
From: Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, Lands and Planning
Subject: Usage of Program Elements for ESR and Weed Management

There has been some confusion concerning the interpretation of the definitions for several of the Program Elements relating to Subactivity 2822 - Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation (ESR) and Subactivity 1020 □ Range Management (Weeds). As a result, there has been some inconsistency in the planning of workload measures and in reporting of accomplishments. This memorandum seeks to clarify the usage of the following Program Elements in Annual Work Plan development and reporting of accomplishments: **JD □ Weed Treatments Applied, JL □ Fire Rehabilitation Treatments, MK □ Weed Treatments Evaluated, and MZ □ Monitor Fire Rehabilitation Treatments.**

The following definitions are provided on the BLM Cost Management Website:

JD □ Weed Treatments Applied

Program Element Description - All appropriate labor and operational costs associated with weed treatments. This could include, but is not limited to: Employee salary, travel costs, vehicle costs, purchase of equipment (GPS units, chemicals, sprayers, etc.), contract costs and map costs (GIS, base maps).

Unit of Measure: Number of acres (whole numbers)

Number of acres treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents by fiscal year (include use of domestic animals for the primary purpose of weed control). Each acre treated is counted only once during a fiscal year no matter how many re-treatments occurred that fiscal year. Actual total of chemical use will be reported in annual Pesticide Use Reports. Actual total of domestic animals and biological control will also be reported in the annual Integrated Weed Management Report.

Acres treated is defined as an infestation treated that is within a 40-yard radius of each plant or the edge of an infestation rounded up to the nearest acre. This includes domestic animals, mechanical, biocontrol, cultural, physical and chemical. Biocontrol treatments are based on the biocontrol agents' expansion from the previous year. The original point of release may only be counted the first year.

JL - Fire Rehabilitation Treatments

Program Element Description: Includes labor and other costs associated with the reportable unit including: Planning, NEPA, work to prevent land degradation, resource losses, and other measures necessary to stabilize erodible soils, structures, or other conditions or damage caused by wildfires. Includes costs such as re-seeding to prevent immediate wind or water erosion and to prevent establishment of undesirable plant species, fencing of areas to prevent animals or humans from entering sensitive areas, and felling damaged trees posing threats to human safety. Includes all costs to plan, survey and design emergency measures to ensure rehabilitation of lands damaged by wildfire. Includes all costs of preparing post-burn supplements to Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plans (NFPR) and the costs of preparing Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Plans where no NFPR exists. Emergency rehabilitation costs for any one fire shall not exceed two years or two full growing seasons. Costs of restoring burned areas to full natural or pre-fire productivity are to be funded from the resource programs benefitting activities. Projects exceeding \$100,000 require WO approval.

Unit of Measure: The workload measure is the number of acres rehabilitated to prevent land degradation, resource losses, and other measures necessary to stabilize erodible soils, structures, or other conditions or damage caused by wildfire as opposed to damages caused by the act of suppression.

MK □ Weed Treatments Evaluated

Program Element Description: Evaluation of the number of acres treated to determine effectiveness. All appropriate labor and operational costs associated with evaluation of weed treatments. This could include, but is not limited to: Employee salary, travel costs, vehicle costs, purchase of equipment (such as GPS units), contract costs and map costs (GIS, base maps).

Unit of Measure: Number of acres evaluated. This data is based on BLM's or any cooperator's report. Effectiveness will be based on the goals of the treatment. This workload measure reports the number of acres evaluated during the fiscal year.

MZ □ Monitor Fire Rehabilitation Treatments

Program Element Description: Includes labor and other costs associated with the monitoring and evaluation of Emergency Fire Rehabilitation (2822) subactivity driven projects and actions for up to three growing seasons after fire control. This includes monitoring plot establishment, reading of studies, data analysis and preparation of an evaluation report. Acres monitored are reported each year that studies are read and when the evaluation report is completed. Monitoring and/or evaluations of weed invasion or control in burned areas conducted with EFR funds should be reported in Program Element **MK** (Weed Treatments Evaluated). Monitoring and/or evaluations of wildfire or rehabilitation treatments impacts on wildlife populations, recreational activities, cultural resources, etc., must be paid for with the appropriate subactivity funds.

Unit of Measure: Acres. (Report to the nearest whole acre.)

The workload is the number of acres monitored and/or evaluated following treatment after wildfire.

The Program Element descriptions are very clear that rehabilitation projects associated with approved ESR plans are the only projects that can be charged to Subactivity 2822. Weed treatments can be charged to the ESR project for up to two full growing seasons after control of a fire. Where weed treatment is necessary in a rehabilitated burn area beyond the two growing-season limit, cost of treatment must be charged to another subactivity, such as 1020 or 8100.

Program Element **MZ** is intended solely for monitoring and/or evaluations of rehabilitation treatments. As stated in the description, monitoring and/or evaluations of weed invasion or control in burned areas conducted with ESR funds should be reported in **MK**. Inventory of weed invasions in burned areas under an approved ESR Plan is charged to **MK**, rather than **BS - Weed Inventory**.

Program Element **JD** is used for all weed treatment work, regardless of whether or not it is associated with an ESR project funded by 2822, or a conventional weed treatment project funded by 1020, 8100, etc. Note that each acre treated for weeds is counted only once during a fiscal year, no matter how many re-treatments occurred that fiscal year. Also, acres treated for weeds are only to be reported once in the MIS system under **JD** and should not be double-reported in another Program Element such as **JL**, even if the weed treatment is within a burn area (**JL** is not to be used for weed-related fire rehabilitation treatments).

Further, Program Element **JA - Shrub and Grassland Vegetation Treatments Applied** should not be used to report integrated weed management treatments. They are reported under **JD**.

Any questions should be directed to Pat Murphy, State Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation Coordinator, at (775) 861-6464, or Ted Angle, State Weed Program Coordinator, at (775) 861-6401.

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