



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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To: District Managers: Burns, Lakeview, Prineville, Spokane, Vale

From: Deputy State Director for Resource Planning, Use and Protection

Subject: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Monitoring DD: 10/17/2007

In April 2003, the General Accounting Office (GAO) published a report to Congress entitled "Better Information Needed on Effectiveness of Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Treatments." The GAO reported that neither the Department of Interior (DOI) (primarily the Bureau of Land Management) nor the Forest Service could determine whether emergency stabilization and rehabilitation treatments were achieving their intended results. The report also stated:

"The departments require that treatments be monitored, but they do not specify how and the type of data to collect or analyze for determining effectiveness. The departments have stressed the need to systematically collect and share monitoring data for treatment decisions. Yet neither has developed a national interagency system to do so. Therefore, the nature and extent of data collection, analysis, and sharing vary widely."

In response to the GAO report Oregon/Washington commissioned the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to, among other things, determine the current ESR monitoring protocols used by the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States DOI, test the cost effectiveness of each major technique, evaluate the precision of each technique (repeatability among different evaluators), evaluate the power of a sampling protocol to detect a given change in a variety of ecosystems, and begin the process of testing a common rangeland monitoring protocol for use by the Bureau of Land Management.

As a result of this effort, the USGS published their findings in the Scientific Investigations Report 2006-5048, "Monitoring Post-Fire Vegetation Rehabilitation Projects: A Common Approach for Non-Forested Ecosystems."

A number of training sessions will be held on their recommended effectiveness monitoring protocols in Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah. The Oregon session is scheduled for October 16-17, 2007 in Burns, Oregon. It is recommended that those individuals in your respective field offices that monitor the effectiveness of ESR treatments attend this session.

If you have approved Burned Area Rehabilitation Plans, attendee travel can be coded to 2881 with the appropriate project number.

Please inform Clif Fanning how many individuals your district expects to send to this session by October 12, 2007, so that Burns can prepare their conference room.

If you have any questions please call Clif Fanning, Soil Scientist, at 503-808-6053.

Districts with Unions are reminded to notify their unions of this Information Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by
Michael J. Haske
Acting, DSD for Resource
Planning, Use and Protection

Authenticated by
Paj Shua Cha
Records Section