DZE0 CHIEF PARRISH

BURNED AREA REHABILITATION PLAN
BLM/BOISE DISTRICT/FOUR RIVERS FIELD OFFICE
IDAHO

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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Fire Name	CHIEF PARRISH
Fire Number	DZE0
District/Field Office	Boise/Four Rivers
Admin Number	ID 110
State	Idaho
County(s)	Boise
Ignition Date/Cause	09-03-07/Human
Date Contained	09-09-07
Jurisdiction	
BLM	1154
State	177
Private	1238
Other	25
Total Acres	3,567
Total BAR Plan Costs	$ 39,000

Type of Action (check one box below)

✓	Initial Submission
	Updating or Revising the Initial Submission
	Amendment

PART 1. REHABILITATION PLAN SUMMARY

BACKGROUND ON THE FIRE

The Chief Parrish Fire, north of Horseshoe Bend, Idaho burned approximately 1,587 acres of public land within the Jerusalem Allotment in the Payette River Watershed.

Vegetation Summary

Native plant communities were more prevalent and representative of pre-fire vegetation on the northern extent of the fire. These areas were typified by native upland, mountain shrub, timber, and riparian vegetation with some intermediate wheatgrass intermixed from previous seedings. The pre-fire vegetation on the lower and gentler sloped areas was mostly dominated by exotic annual grass/forb communities, primarily medusahead and cheatgrass. However, a small portion of these areas still retain some native plant community components.

Watershed

All stream corridors burned on public lands had seasonal flow regimes. Water quality in Fleming creek may be affected by increased sediment yields, particularly in the first year following the fire. This is not expected to significantly impair downstream water quality. Sediment increases in affected streams are expected to be primarily in suspended form, consisting of low levels of fine charcoal, colloidal clays, organic flotsam, and other minute materials. The Payette River borders the western edge of the fire and may also be affected by increased sediment yields, particularly in the first year following the fire.

Following the first full growing season, sediment yields should return to near pre-fire levels after vegetation re-establishes and provides interception and infiltration of snow melt and rainfall. Erosion within stream channels is expected to be minimal. Root masses of willows and other woody vegetation remain intact, affording protection from erosion, and only a few areas exist in each stream segment where the fire actually burned into riparian vegetation. Typically, fires invigorate willow communities and produce vigorous regrowth in the years following a fire. The riparian areas will recover naturally and water quality mitigation measures do not appear to be warranted.

Wildlife

Prior to occurrence of the fire, the burned area provided crucial winter habitat for mule deer and some elk. The loss of the perennial shrub component will adversely affect these and other wildlife species.

COST SUMMARY TABLE

Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Spec. # Totals
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	1,154	1.7	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
R7	Fence Repair/Gate	Miles	6.7	3,582	0	24,000	0	0	24,000
R15	Closures	Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R16	Monitoring	Acres	1,154	2.6	0	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
	TOTAL COSTS		1,154	34	0	29,000	5,000	5,000	39,000

LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY

The 1987 Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP) states: Fire rehabilitation seedings in crucial wildlife habitats would be multi-species, incorporating species to restore wildlife habitat values (page 50) and public land and resources affected by wildfires will be rehabilitated (page 54). Some of the proposed actions listed below are not directly addressed in the 1987 Cascade RMP; however, they are clearly consistent with LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions).

1. Noxious Weeds (R5) The burned area would be surveyed for the presence of noxious species, and appropriate control measures would be initiated. The control of noxious weeds is consistent with Cascade RMP, Resource Management Guidelines, Weeds (Control of Noxious), "BLM districts will work with respective County governments to monitor the location and spread of noxious weeds and to maintain up-to-date inventory records." BLM will control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands where possible, where economically feasible, and to the extent that funds are prioritized for that purpose." The control of noxious weeds is in compliance with State and county laws.
2. Fence Repair/Gate (R7): Repair and/or replacement of existing fence to provide a functional structure for the control of livestock grazing distribution. Fence repair would afford livestock exclusion from the treatment area, and provide for the natural recovery desired plant species. The repair and/or replacement of fire damaged fences, although not addressed in the 1987 Cascade RMP, is consistent with RMP Objectives and Actions.
3. Livestock Closure (R15) Livestock would be excluded from the treatment areas until monitoring results, documented in writing; show rehabilitation objectives have been met. In case of treatment failure factors may need to be considered such as, natural recovery of untreated areas, and need or reason to continue closure. The Cascade RMP, Fire Management, Rehabilitation, Greenstripping and Reduction Actions/Procedures, (3.) states "All grazing licenses issued that include areas recently burned and/or seeded will include a statement concerning the amount of rest needed in the seedings or burned area. Normally two years of rest will be necessary to enable recovery of these areas."
4. Monitoring Effectiveness of Treatments (R16) Monitoring data would be collected from initiation of the proposed treatments through 2010.

PART 2. – REHABILITATION ISSUES

Objectives: 1) To evaluate actual and potential long-term post-fire impacts to critical cultural and natural resources and identify those areas unlikely to recover naturally from severe wildland fire damage; 2) To develop and implement cost-effective plans to emulate historical or pre-fire ecosystem structure, function, diversity, and dynamics consistent with approved land management plans, or if that is infeasible, then to restore or establish a healthy, stable ecosystem in which native species are well represented; and 3) To repair or replace minor facilities damaged by wildland fire. 620DM3.4

Priorities: 1) To repair or improve lands damaged directly by a wildland fire; and 2) To rehabilitate or establish healthy, stable ecosystems in the burned area. 620DM3.8

Rehabilitation Issues

1. Weed Treatments. Chemical, manual, and mechanical removal of invasive species, and planting of native and non-native species, restore or establish a healthy, stable ecosystem even if this ecosystem cannot fully emulate historical or pre-fire conditions.

   Noxious weeds are known to be present within and in the vicinity of the burned area. Rush skeletonweed was also noted within the boundary of the burned area. Failure to locate and control existing noxious weed sites will lead to continued spreading of this undesirable species.

2. Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities. Repair or replace fire damage to minor operating facilities (e.g., campgrounds, interpretive signs and exhibits, shade shelters, fences, wildlife guzzlers, etc.) [Rehabilitation may not include the planning or replacement of major infrastructure, such as visitor centers, residential structures, administration offices, work centers and similar facilities. Rehabilitation does not include the construction of new facilities that did not exist before the fire, except for temporary and minor facilities necessary to implement burned area rehabilitation efforts.]

The fire caused extensive damage to allotment boundary and pasture division fences and exclosures; involving 17 grazing allotments, 24 pastures, and four riparian exclosures.

PART 3. – DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENTS

1. Actions to Repair/Improve Lands Unlikely to Recover Naturally

R15 Closures

A. Treatment/Activity Description. Starting immediately and through September of 2009, the 1,154 acres of public lands within the burned area of the Chief Parrish Fire will be closed to livestock grazing. There is the possibility that livestock grazing may be authorized following the growing season of 2008 on those areas dominated by annual grass communities.

The termination of livestock closures and authorization of grazing within the burned area will be based on the following criteria:

Livestock closure will be for two full growing seasons under “normal rainfall” years. If below average rainfall, plants will not have adequate time to recover from fire disturbance to be grazed.

Following the two full growing seasons of rest, as per Table 4-7 in Rangeland Health – New Methods to Classify, Inventory and Monitor Rangelands, by the National Research Council, the site must meet the “Healthy” requirements stated in the Recovery mechanisms Phase of the table. Recovery Mechanisms – Plants are vigorous, Germination microsites are present and well distributed. Diverse age-class will not be included in the criteria.

If the criteria as stated in the Recovery Mechanisms are not met by the end of the second growing season of closure, the burned areas will be evaluated for the potential to meet the criteria and the need to continue the closure.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? Exclusion of livestock grazing from the burned area will promote the natural recovery of riparian and upland perennial species.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? The estimated cost of closing the burned area to livestock grazing is shown in Part 1 and Part 4 tables in this BAR plan. Closure of the burned area facilitates the regeneration of surviving perennials and protection of rehabilitated of fire lines. The cost of enforcing the closure is small in comparison to the benefits gained from facilitating the natural recovery of surviving vegetation.

Issue 2. Weed Treatments

R5 Noxious Weeds

A. Treatment/Activity Description. The burned area will be surveyed for the presence of noxious species, and appropriate control measures will be initiated. Scheduled surveys will be conducted by BLM noxious weed control crews during the spring seasons of 2008, 2009, and 2010. In addition, periodic incidental surveys will be accomplished by BLM staff during routine site visits. Based on findings of the surveys and anticipated effectiveness, one or more appropriate chemical/mechanical treatments may be applied by the BLM noxious weed control crews. Herbicide application would be conducted during the suitable stage of plant growth to control any identified occurrences of noxious species. Records, including GPS coordinates, would be kept of the surveys and treatments of the areas. The weed control crews would revisit the treated sites to evaluate mortality and search for any additional weed populations needing treatment.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? The fire destroyed existing vegetation and exposed the soil, making the site more vulnerable to aggressive invasive species. The treatment may be necessary to reduce occurrence and spreading of noxious weeds known to exist in the vicinity of the site.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? The estimated cost of noxious weed control is shown in Part 1 and Part 4 tables in this BAR plan. Noxious weed treatments on the burned area will be coordinated with other weed control activities to realize efficient use of both the fire rehabilitation funds and other noxious weed control funds. Without treatment, noxious weeds can develop into a monoculture that excludes all desirable plant species. State and county laws and regulations require control of noxious weeds. It is BLM policy to comply with these requirements provided they do not conflict with federal laws. It is cost effective to treat noxious weeds when their populations are relatively small rather than wait until they dominate a broad area.

Issue 4. Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities

R7 - Repair Fence/Gate

A. Treatment/Activity Description. Approximately 7 miles of allotment boundary and pasture division fence, and existing exclosures, involving 1 allotment and 3 pastures, was damaged by the fire. Repair of the existing barbed wire fences will include replacing the wooden brace structures with metal pipe, and replacing damaged wire and steel posts as needed. Some fences were so completely damaged by the fire that replacement will be needed. Repair/replacement of allotment boundary and pasture fences is scheduled for 2007.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? Fences identified as requiring repair/replacement were damaged by the fire.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? The estimated cost of repairing/replacing existing fences is shown in Part 1 and Part 4 tables in this BAR plan. The estimated expenditure will effectively provide for managing livestock grazing. Some fencing was so completely damaged by the fire that replacement would be more cost effective than repair. Repair/replacement of fire-damaged fences is necessary to control livestock grazing and is necessary in order to restore pre-fire conditions.

PART 4. – INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT SPECIFICATIONS

BAR		FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Total Costs
R5	Noxious Weeds					
	Labor	0	1,731	1,731	1,471	
	Travel/Vehicles	0	346	346	294	
	Chemical Purchase	0	231	231	196	
	Supplies/Materials	0	0	0	0	
	Contract	0	0	0	0	
	Contract Administration	0	0	0	0	
	Total	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
R7	Protective Fence Repair/Gate					
	Labor	0	2,010	0	0	
	Travel/Vehicles	0	1,675	0	0	
	Clearances	0	0	0	0	
	Fence Material	0	6,700	0	0	
	Contract Fence Construction	0	11,390	0	0	
	Contract Administration	0	1,340	0	0	
	Supplies/Materials	0	670	0	0	
	Total	0	24,000	0	0	24,000
R15	Closures (OHV/livestock/area)					
	Labor	0	0	0	0	
	Travel/Vehicles	0	0	0	0	
	Supplies/Materials	0	0	0	0	
	Contract	0	0	0	0	
	Contract Administration	0	0	0	0	

BAR		FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Total Costs
	Total	0	0	0	0	0
R16	Monitoring (implementation, effectiveness)					
	Labor	0	289	289	289	
	Travel/Vehicles	0	289	289	289	
	Supplies/Materials	0	115	115	115	
	Contract	0	1,443	1,443	1,443	
	Contract Administration	0	577	577	577	
	Total	0	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
	BURNED AREA REHABILITATION	0	29,000	5,000	5,000	39,000

NATIVE/NON-NATIVE PLANT WORKSHEET

N/A

PART 5. – COST-RISK ANALYSIS

Probability of Rehabilitation Treatments Successfully Meeting Objectives

Action/ Spec. #	**Planned Action**	**Unit** (acres, WMs, number)	**# Units**	**Total Cost**	**% Probability of Success**
R5	Noxious Weeds	acres	2,778/ 2 yrs	6,000	80-90
R7	Fence Repair/Gate Repair Existing	miles	6.7	24,000	100
R15	Livestock Closure	acres	2,778	0	100
R16	Monitoring	acres	2,778	9,000	100
	TOTAL			39,0000	

Cost/Risk Summary

The costs of the project and probability of success of the proposed treatments are compared with the risks to resource values if: 1) no action is taken, and 2) the proposed action is successfully implemented. Alternatives may be included in this analysis to assist in the selection of the treatments that will cost effectively achieve the rehabilitation objectives. Answer the following questions to determine which proposed treatments should be selected and implemented.

*1. Are the risks to natural resources and private property **acceptable** as a result of the fire if the following actions are taken?*

Proposed Action Yes | x | No |__| *Rationale for answer:* The proposed treatments will re-establish a perennial plant community to emulate the pre-fire ecosystem structure, function, diversity, and dynamics consistent with the existing land use plan. The treatments will not pose risks to the natural resources or to any private property.

No Action Yes |__| No | x | *Rationale for answer:* No action would result in a reduction in vegetation diversity and almost complete absence of shrubs for many years within the burned area, thereby decreasing the values for wildlife habitat.

Alternative(s) Yes |__| No | x | *Rationale for answer:* Although acceptable alternatives may exist, none have been identified that would achieve the objectives and pose fewer risks to the natural resources or private property than the proposed action.

2. Is the probability of success of the proposed action, alternatives, or no action acceptable given their costs?

Proposed Action Yes | x | No |__| *Rationale for answer:* The probability of the proposed action being successful is moderate to relatively high, and the cost is reasonable considering the long-term benefits that will be achieved.

No Action Yes |__| No | x | *Rationale for answer:* Although the initial monetary cost of no action would be less than the proposed action, it would not achieve the identified objectives.

Alternative(s) Yes|__| No | x | *Rationale for answer:* No alternatives have been identified that would be more cost effective than the proposed action.

3. Which approach will most cost-effectively and successfully attain the rehabilitation objectives and therefore is recommended for implementation from a Cost/Risk Analysis standpoint?

Proposed Action | x |, **Alternative(s)** |__|, or **No Action** |__|

Comments: The proposed action is designed to cost effectively allow natural recovery of the burned area. The cost/risk is reasonable considering the long-term benefits to the health of the ecosystem.

RISK OF RESOURCE VALUE LOSS OR DAMAGE

No Action - Treatments Not Implemented (check one)

Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Medium	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil			X		
Weed Invasion				X	
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity			X		
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure			X		
Unacceptable Disruption of Ecological Processes			X		
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property			X		
Off-site Threats to Human Life		X			
Other – Loss of Access Road due to Plugged Culverts			X		

Proposed Action - Treatments Successfully Implemented (check one)

Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Medium	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil			X		
Weed Invasion			X		
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity			X		
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure			X		
Unacceptable Disruption of Ecological Processes			X		
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property			X		
Off-site Threats to Human Life		X			
Other – Loss of Access Road due to Plugged Culverts			X		

PART 6. – MONITORING PLAN

Monitoring protocols for this rehabilitation plan are based primarily on those described in Table 4-7 in Rangeland Health – New Methods to Classify, Inventory and Monitor Rangelands, by the National Research Council.

Monitoring and evaluation of BAR Plan treatments would be implemented to ensure that treatments are properly implemented, effective, and maintained. Monitoring methods may be qualitative or quantitative, and would be appropriate with the level of treatment complexity and extent. Monitoring and evaluation information would provide adaptive management feedback to improve ESR treatment performance. Monitoring would be the responsibility of the BLM interdisciplinary team. An annual monitoring summary report would be submitted documenting treatment effectiveness. If prior site visits show adequate natural recovery has/is occurring, treatments proposed for that area will not be necessary/completed.

If the following protocols are not met after 3 years (September of 2010) of monitoring, future treatments will be modified to improve the success. No specific action is closed per the treatments unless specifically stated in this plan, such as livestock grazing.

1. Monitoring Weed Treatments

Objective. The objective is to identify and locate occurrences of noxious weeds within the burned area and apply appropriate chemical/mechanical treatments to control and prevent the spread of any identified occurrences.

Protocol. If treatment of infestation is concluded to be feasible, the BLM noxious weed control crews will revisit the treated sites post application to evaluate weed mortality and search for any additional weed populations needing treatment. In addition, the Four Rivers Staff will watch for any occurrences of noxious weeds in the burned area and report their locations to the treatment crews. The treatment objective would be achieved when surveys verify that noxious weeds are not present within the burned area or when all identified occurrences have been appropriately treated.

2. Monitoring Fence Repair/Replacement

Objective. The objective is to restore existing fences to pre-fire conditions, exclude livestock from riparian areas, and re-establish a previously existing physical barrier that will prevent livestock access to the burned area.

Protocol. Fence repair/replacement will be monitored by the BLM Contracting Officer's Representative to ensure that the work meets BLM standards. Ongoing monitoring of the fence's condition and effectiveness will be accomplished by the Four Rivers Field Office Range Staff during routine allotment inspections, in coordination with the livestock grazing permittee. The objective would be achieved when site inspection reveals that proposed fence repair/replacement has been completed and is in compliance with specifications set forth in BLM Handbook H-1741 and the 2005 Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan for the Boise District Office and the Jarbidge Field Office.

3. Monitoring Closure

Objective. The objective is to exclude livestock use from the burned area, and promote the natural recovery of surviving perennials.

Protocol. The closure will be monitored by the Four Rivers Field Office Staff during allotment inspections, and in coordination with the allotment permittees appropriate actions will be taken to maintain the effectiveness of the closure. The termination of livestock closures and authorization of grazing within the burned area will be based on the following criteria:

Livestock closure will be for two full growing seasons under "normal rainfall" years. If below average rainfall, plants will not have adequate time to recover from fire disturbance to be grazed.

Following the two full growing seasons of rest, as per Table 4-7 in Rangeland Health – New Methods to Classify, Inventory and Monitor Rangelands, by the National Research Council, the site must meet the "Healthy" requirements stated in the Recovery mechanisms Phase of the table. Recovery Mechanisms – Plants are vigorous, Germination microsites are present and well distributed. Diverse age-class will not be included in the criteria.

If the criteria as stated in the Recovery Mechanisms are not met by the end of the second growing season of closure, the burned areas will be evaluated for the potential to meet the criteria and the need to continue the closure.

PART 7 - MAPS

1. Fence Repair

Rehabilitation Plan Team Members

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial and Date
Team Leader/Rangeland Mgt	Chris Robbins (BLM/ID110)	
Wildlife	Tim Carrigan (BLM/ID110)	
Vegetation	Lynn Wessman (BLM/ID110)	
Soils	Paul Seronko (BLM/ID110)	
Riparian	Allen Tarter (BLM/ID110)	
Cultural Resources	Dean Shaw (BLM/ID110)	
Operations, ESR Coordinator	Cindy Fritz (BLM/ID102)	

REVIEW, APPROVALS, AND PREPARERS

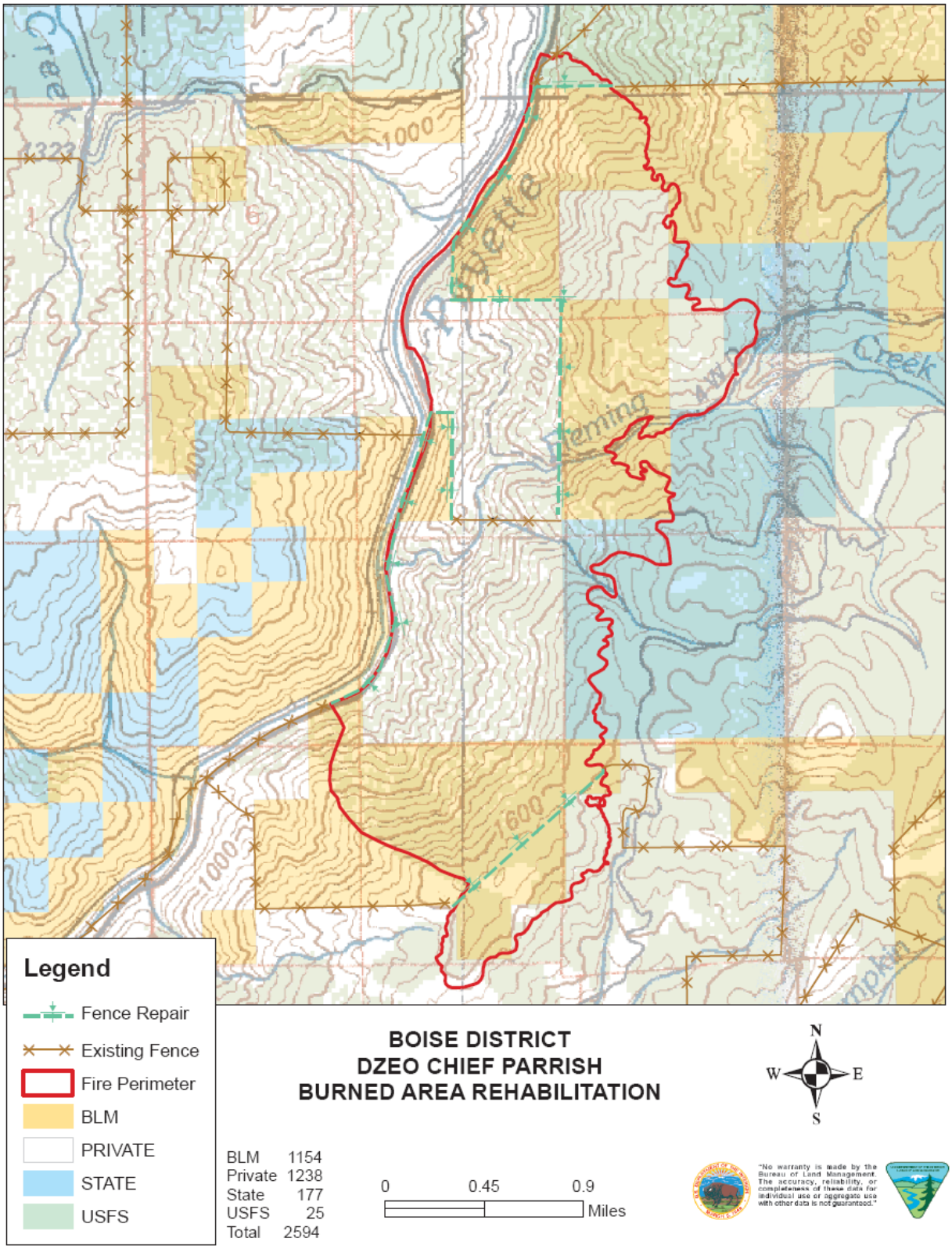
Rehabilitation Plan Approval

/s/ John Sullivan (Acting)	9/26/2007
FIELD OFFICE MANAGER	DATE

Funding Approval

Rehabilitation plans are approved through the AWP, on a priority basis by the National BAER Coordinators. Funding for prior year fires is through the following year's AWP. If it becomes necessary to prioritize, this will be done by the NBAER coordinators based on relative values to be protected, commensurate with rehabilitation costs.

Map 1


Legend
Fence Repair
Existing Fence
Fire Perimeter
BLM
PRIVATE
STATE
USFS
BOISE DISTRICT
DZEO CHIEF PARRISH
BURNED AREA REHABILITATION
N
W
E
S
BLM 1154
Private 1238
State 177
USFS 25
Total 2594
0
0.45
0.9
Miles
1000
1600
1322
Creek