

**COMPLETE EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PLAN TEMPLATE**  
**RIMSTEP Fire**  
**EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PLAN**  
**BLM/BOISE/NCA**  
**IDAHO STATE OFFICE**

**FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Fire name	RIMSTEP
Fire Number	DH9E
District/Field Office	Boise/NCA
Admin Number	ID111
State	Idaho
County(s)	Ada
Ignition Date/Cause	15June07/Human
Date Contained	16June07
Jurisdiction	<i>Acres</i>
BLM	571
<i>State</i>	N/A
<i>Private</i>	68
<i>Other</i>	N/A
Total Acres	639
Total ES Plan Costs	\$16,000

**Status of Plan Submission** (check one box below)

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

## PART 1. - EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PLAN SUMMARY

**BACKGROUND ON THE FIRE:** The fire burned from private property onto public land in a deep basin without vehicle access. The fire burned across lakebed sediments and through scree slopes in the basin. At one point, the fire emerged from the basin and burned across approximately 40 acres of big sagebrush habitat above the rim.

The lakebed sediments in the basin are made up of very fine material and are very susceptible to erosion. The hill-sides within the basin have 10-40% slopes. A thunderstorm or heavy spring rain could cause severe erosion to these slopes and place tons of sediments into the Snake River. These sediments would have the potential to smother the Jackson Lake springsnail or its eggs, which is a BLM "Sensitive Species". The project area includes all public lands burned by the Rimstep fire.

### COST SUMMARY TABLE

Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Spec. # Totals
S6	Soil Stabilization	No.	10	1,300	13,000	0	0	0	13,000
S16	Monitoring	Acres	571	5	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
	TOTAL COSTS		571	28	13,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	16,000

### LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY

The 1995 Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) Management Plan is the primary plan governing management of resources within the NCA.

#### **Erosion control:**

Placing wood or straw wattles or bales across the main drainage in the bottom of the basin.

Snake River Birds of Prey Area National Conservation Area MP-- Chapter 3 – pp 3-27 - Soil Resources - Alternative D—Preferred: Objectives: 1) Watersheds would have stable vegetative communities that provide for proper hydrologic function, nutrient cycling, energy flow, and soil stability. 2) Soil productivity would be maintained and enhanced. Accelerated soil erosion caused by human activity would be minimal. 3) Prevent the potential for future localized soil erosion processes on all soils with moderate to very high erosion potential.

## PART 2. – EMERGENCY STABILIZATION ISSUES

### Emergency Stabilization Issues

#### **1. Human Life and Safety - N/A**

**2. Soil/Water Stabilization** - Protect the Snake River from excessive sediment deposits from runoff from the burned area by placing wattles and/or straw bales in the main drainages to catch sediment.

**3. Designated Critical Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species:** Throughout the NCA, the Snake River is important habitat for the Jackson Lake springsnail.

**4. Critical Heritage Resources:** N/A

**5. Invasive Plants:** N/A

### **PART 3. DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENTS**

**Issue 1. Human Life and Safety:** N/A

**Issue 2. Soil/Water Stabilization**

**Issue 3. Designated Critical Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species:**

#### S6 - Soil Stabilization

A. Treatment/Activity Description:

Place wood straw wattles or straw bales in major drainages during the summer or fall of 2007 (FY 2007-2008). Helicopters will be necessary to transport material and personnel to the drainage sites where sediment traps will be placed across the drainages. This is because of the inaccessibility of the drainage due to lack of roads, steep cliff structures, and the Snake River. The sediment traps would be expected to impede flow to the Snake River whenever a strong rainstorm passes through the area or there is a heavy spring runoff. It is expected that sediments would settle-out on the upstream side of the sediment traps while water would filter through the structures. The Snake River within the NCA is important habitat for the Jackson Lake springsnail. The springsnail is very small snail and subject to death by smothering from excessive sediment loads.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?

The fire removed annual and perennial vegetation from the project area. The soil in the project area is made up of fine lakebed sediments. Soil erosion under these circumstances is inevitable. By placing the sediment trapping structures across the drainages, much of the sediment will be filtered out and not reach private property or the Snake River. This will reduce the potential harm that could be caused by the sediment load to aquatic wildlife and recreation.

Well placed sediment traps should remove 60-80% of the sediment. Straw bale structures have been rated as about 50% (N=10) effective while straw wattles were rated as about 80% (N=3) effective in filtering sediments (Robichaud P.R., J. L. Beyer, and D. G. Neary. 2000. Evaluating the effectiveness of postfire rehabilitation treatments. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GR-63. Fort Collins: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 85 pp.)

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?

Wood straw bales will trap sediment that would otherwise reach the Snake River. Excessive erosion entering the Snake River can have a negative effect on aquatic life and recreation. Because wood straw lasts longer than grass straw, it will remain in place for several years. The BLM is charged with protecting the Jackson Lake springsnail and its habitat. Allowing excessive sediment to enter the Snake River and smother the springsnail would be contrary to BLM policy regarding "Sensitive Species".

On August 3, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided the NCA Manager with a notice of concurrence for the Rimstep ES project, stating that "The Service agrees that the proposed Rimstep Fire Rehabilitation Plan is within the parameters of the Programmatic Normal Fire Year Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation consultation that was completed via the Service's February 9, 2005 letter of concurrence to the Boise District, Bureau of Land Management. The Service agrees that the proposed erosion control structures located in intermittent drainages are not likely to adversely affect the Idaho springsnail, and over the long term would result in beneficial effects to this species."

**PART 4. – INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT SPECIFICATIONS**

DH9E	RIMSTEP	571	Acres			
ES		FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Total Costs
S6	Soil Stabilization (other than seeding/planting)					
	Labor	0	0	0	0	
	Travel/Vehicles	2,000	0	0	0	
	Mobilization	3,500	0	0	0	
	Supplies/Materials	3,000	0	0	0	
	Contract	4,000	0	0	0	
	Contract Administration	500	0	0	0	
	Total	13,000	0	0	0	13,000
S16	Monitoring (implementation, effectiveness)					
	Labor	0	0	0	0	
	Travel/Vehicles	0	143	143	143	
	Supplies/Materials	0	57	57	57	
	Contract	0	571	571	571	
	Contract Administration	0	428	428	428	
	Total	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
	EMERGENCY STABILIZATION	13,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	16,000

**NATIVE/NON-NATIVE PLANT WORKSHEET: N/A**

**PROPOSED SEED SPECIES – NATIVES AND NON-NATIVES: N/A**

**PART 5. – COST-RISK ANALYSIS**

**Probability of Stabilization Treatments Successfully Meeting Objectives**

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
S6	Soil Stabilization (other than seeding/planting)	each	10	13,000	99
	TOTAL COSTS				

**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 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 [] No []      **Rationale:** Soil erosion will be reduced and most sediments from public land will be retained at trap sites. The BLM will have done all it can to protect the Jackson Lake springsnail and keep sediment from entering the Snake River. .

**No Action** Yes [] No []      **Rationale:** Sediments would be allowed onto private property and enter the Snake River. Aquatic wildlife and recreation would be negatively affected by the turbidity caused by the sediments entering the Snake River. There is likelihood that these sediments could smother the Jackson Lake springsnail, BLM “Sensitive Species”.

**Alternative(s)** Yes [] No []      **Rationale:** N/A

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

**Proposed Action** Yes [] No []      **Rationale:** In accordance with policy the BLM has to make its best effort to keep sediments from harming the Jackson Lake springsnail.

**No Action** Yes [] No []      **Rationale:** BLM is required to protect BLM “Sensitive Species” and therefore, no action is not acceptable.

**Alternative(s)** Yes [] No []      Rationale for answer: N/A

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

**Proposed Action** [, **Alternative(s)** [, or **No Action** [

**RISK OF RESOURCE VALUE LOSS OR DAMAGE**

Identify the risk (high, medium, low, none or not applicable (NA) of unacceptable impacts or loss of resources.

**No Action-Treatments Not Implemented (check one)**

Resource Value	N/A	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	N/A	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 Access Road Due to Plugged Culverts	X				

**PART 6 - MONITORING PLAN**

1. Wattles and/or bales will be used to trap sediments carried off the slopes of the project area by strong rainstorms or heavy spring runoff.
2. Monitoring of the implementation will be by visual and physical testing of the placement of the structures.
3. Effectiveness will be measured by volume of sediment (cubic feet) captured by the structures over a three year period from time of installation.

**PART 7 - MAPS**

1. Fire Perimeter, Colored Land Status, Wattle/Bale Placement.

## REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS

### EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PLAN TEAM MEMBERS

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial and Date
Team Leader	J. Doremus BLM/Boise	
Operations	C. Fritz BLM/Boise	
NEPA Compliance & Planning	M. McCoy BLM/Boise	
Botanist	M. Steiger BLM/Boise	
Hydrologist	P. Seronko BLM/Boise	
Soil Scientist	P. Seronko BLM/ Boise	
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	D. Shaw BLM/Boise	
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	M. Barnum BLM/Boise	
Wildlife Biologist	J. Doremus BLM/Boise	

### EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PLAN APPROVAL

“The Agency Administrator is responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plans, treatments, and activities.” 620 DM 3.5C

/s/ John Sullivan (Acting)

9/26/2007

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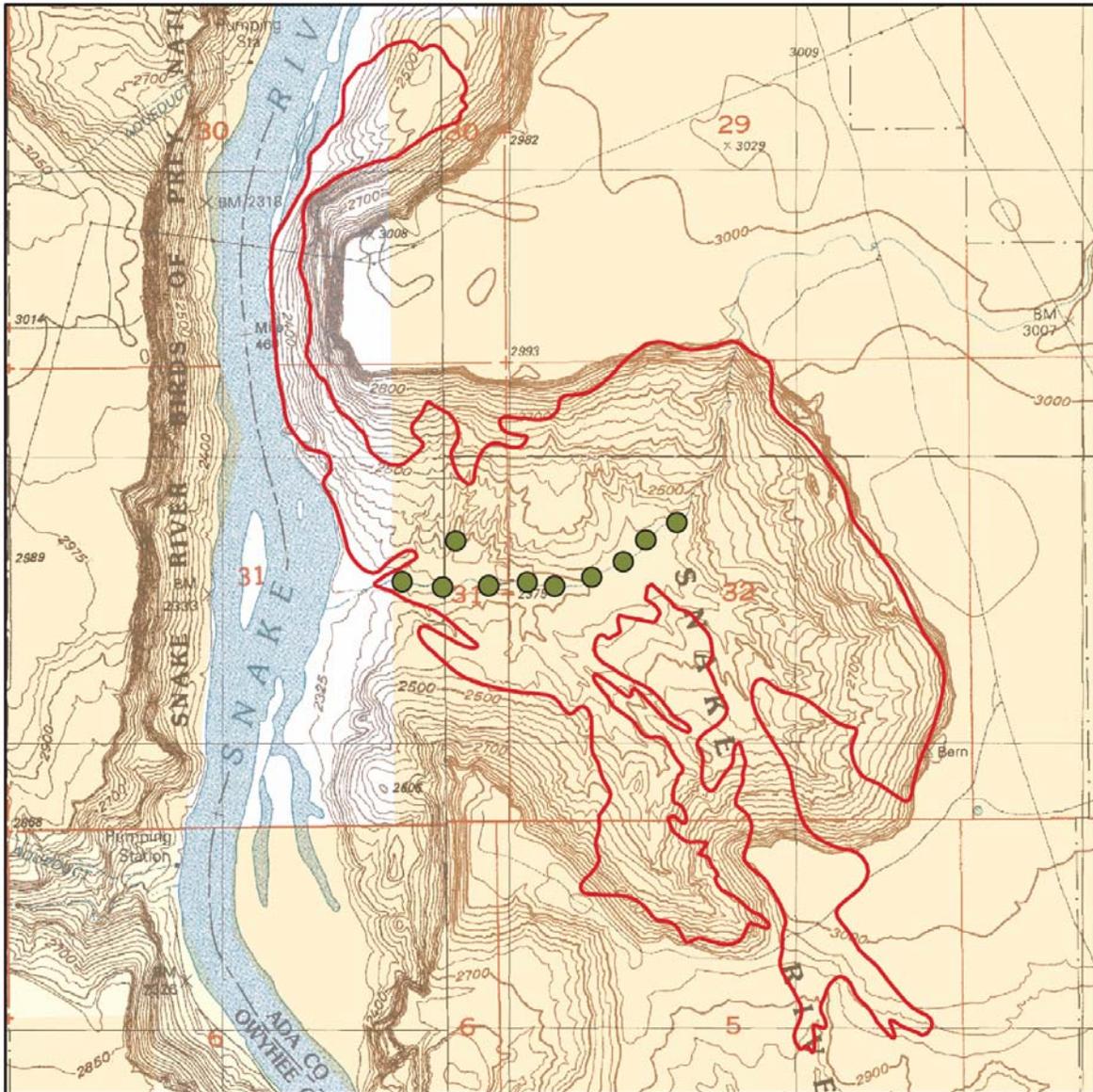
FIELD OFFICE MANAGER

DATE

### FUNDING APPROVAL

Funding of ES Plans is approved through a memo from the appropriate approval administrative level. ES Plans below \$100,000 may be approved by the State Director; ES Plans of \$100,000 and above must be approved by the WO. Funding is approved and allocated on a year-by-year basis.

Map1



T2S R1E S30

**BOISE DISTRICT  
DH9E RIMSTEP  
EMERGENCY STABILIZATION**

**Legend**

- FIRE PERIMETER
- Proposed\_Pt\_Erosion\_Control\_2007

**OWNERSHIP**

- BLM
- BOR
- PRIVATE

BLM 571 ACRES  
PRIVATE 68 ACRES  
TOTAL 639 ACRES



1:20,000



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