

Warm Spring Fire
EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PLAN
BLM/BOISE DISTRICT/FOUR RIVERS FIELD OFFICE
IDAHO STATE OFFICE

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fire Name	Warm Spring Fire
Fire Number	DNZ5
District/Field Office	Boise District, Four Rivers Field Office
Admin Number	ID110
State	Idaho
County(s)	Washington
Ignition Date/Cause	7/6/07/Lightening
Date Contained	7/11/07
Jurisdiction	Acres
BLM	5,294 (22%)
State	1,196 (05%)
Private	17,357 (73%)
Other	
Total Acres	23,847 acres
Total Plan Costs	\$ 153,000

Status of Plan Submission (check one box below)

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

PART 1. - EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PLAN SUMMARY

BACKGROUND ON THE FIRE

The Warm Springs fire burned 5,294 acres of public land (Map 1). Of this, approximately 3,725 acres are within eight (8) grazing allotments and the remaining 1,569 acres are mostly within the Henley Basin Wildlife Habitat Area. There are a few scattered parcels that are intermingled with private lands that are not within an allotment. Although grazing periods vary on each allotment in the burned area, cattle use is authorized year-round, totaling 2,230 AUMS.

The northern and eastern extents of the fire were characterized by a pre-fire vegetation of big sagebrush intermingled with small patches of bitterbrush with an understory dominated by perennial native grasses and forbs. These areas also supported mountain shrub patches, and riparian habitat with a dominant overstory of willows. The south and western extents of the fire are typified by pre-fire vegetation dominated by invasive annuals (cheatgrass and medusahead). In the general area, cheatgrass and medusahead are represented in scattered occurrence as invasive annual grasses that can dominate in a post-burn scenario. Noxious weeds such as Scotch thistle and jointed goatgrass are scattered throughout the burned area.

The general area provides habitat for big game including elk and mule deer, along with diverse populations of nongame birds and mammals. The burned area is within designated crucial elk and mule deer winter range. Big sagebrush and bitterbrush are habitat components lost by the fire that support elk and mule deer populations that utilize this area during the winter. Henley Basin Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) is within the burned area, and is managed cooperatively by BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Within the burned area there is an isolated 40 acre parcel that contains an extant population of southern Idaho ground squirrels, a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Pre-burn vegetation on the parcel was characterized by xeric big sagebrush, bitterbrush, native grasses and forbs, and a component of cheatgrass and medusahead. The parcel is surrounded by private land with a vegetative component largely comprised of cheatgrass and medusahead. Treatments which address the rehabilitation of Southern Idaho ground squirrel habitat require multiple year implementation and are being considered under the BAR.

COST SUMMARY TABLE - Warm Spring Fire

Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Spec. # Totals
S1	Planning	WM	0.8	7,317	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	5,294	1.3	0	7,000	0	0	7,000
S7	New Protective Fence	Miles	9.0	12,556	0	113,000	0	0	113,000
S15	Closures	Acres	4,940	0	0	0	0	0	0
S16	Monitoring	Acres	4,940	1.8	0	9,000	9,000	9,000	27,000
	TOTAL COSTS		5,294	29	0	131,000	11,000	11,000	153,000

LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY

The 1987 Cascade Resource Management Plan (RMP) states: Suppression of wildfire in crucial wildlife habitats will have a high priority. Fire rehabilitation seedings in crucial wildlife habitats will 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 1988 Cascade RMP; however, they are clearly consistent with LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions).

- Noxious Weeds (S5) 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.
- Protective Fence (S7) New protective fence would be constructed under this ES plan to exclude livestock from the treatment area during the vegetative recovery closure period. Fence construction and repair, and/or replacement of fire damaged fences, although not addressed in the 1987 Cascade RMP, are consistent with RMP Objectives and Actions.
- Livestock Closure (S15) Livestock would be excluded from the treatment area until monitoring results, documented in writing; show objectives have been met. In case of treatment failure factors may need to be considered such as, natural recovery 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.”
- Monitoring Effectiveness of Treatments (S16) Monitoring data would be collected from initiation of the proposed treatments through 2010.

PART 2. – EMERGENCY STABILIZATION ISSUES

Objectives: “determine the need for and to prescribe and implement emergency treatments to minimize threats to life or property or to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources resulting from the effects of a fire.” 620DM3.4

Priorities: 1). Human Life and Safety, and Property, 2). Unique biological (designated Critical Habitat for Federal and State listed, proposed or candidate threatened and endangered species) and significant heritage sites. 620DM3.7

Emergency Stabilization Issues

Temporary protective fence is needed to exclude livestock and provide for the establishment of recovering native and seeded species.

1. Soil/Water Stabilization: Construction of temporary protective fence is necessary to exclude livestock from treatment areas. The proposed fencing would provide for the establishment of seeded species and foster recovery of the burned area, while allowing for grazing use of unburned portions of pastures and other allotments.

2. Invasive Plants: Compliance with State and county laws requires the control of noxious weeds. The establishment and long-term maintenance of perennial seeded species could be jeopardized if noxious weeds are not controlled.

3. Designated Critical Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species: Treatments which address the rehabilitation of Southern Idaho ground squirrel habitat require multiple year implementation and are being considered under the BAR.

PART 3. - DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENTS

Issue 2. Soil/Water Stabilization

S7 - Protective Fence/Gate

A. Treatment/Activity Description: Approximately 9.0 miles (Map 1) of protective fence would be constructed to exclude livestock and provide for the establishment of ground and aerial seeding treatments. The protective fences would adjoin other (existing) fences and would be built by a private land owner and BLM (see table below). One fence would be constructed by a private land owner and BLM would provide materials. Two other fences would be constructed by BLM contractors; BLM would provide materials. The protective fence would remain in place to exclude livestock from the treatment area until monitoring results indicate rehabilitation objectives have been met. Fences may be used for long term management of the Henley Basin Wildlife Habitat area to reduce livestock use and maintain the investment within the wildlife management area.

Fence	RIPs Number	Financial Code	Location	Length	Responsibility
Lower Allotment Protection Fence	5660	D4CY	T13N, R6W, Sections 33, 34	1.0 mile	Permittee (Labor)
Henley Basin WHA Protection Fence	5659	D4CX	T12N, R6W, Sections 3, 4, 5, 9	7.5 miles	BLM
Tar Gulch SIDGS Protection Fence	5661	D4CZ	T11N, R5W, Section 6	.50 mile	BLM
TOTAL				9.0 miles	

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? Construction of protective fence would protect seeding treatments from livestock grazing and allow grazing permittees to utilize unburned areas. This measure would be highly effective in controlling livestock distribution, and would provide for the establishment of BAR plan seeded species and long term management of the Henley Basin Wildlife Habitat Area. If BAR seeding does not occur this fence is still necessary to protect the recovering native species.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? Protective fence construction would provide for the effective management of livestock and the protection of seeding treatment areas during the establishment period. Considering the significant cost of implementing the BAR, and the value of the Henley Basin Wildlife Habitat Area, protective fence construction is a reasonable and cost effective method of protecting this investment.

S-15 – Livestock Closure

A. Treatment/Activity Description: The eight (8) grazing allotments and Henley Basin WHA, which were impacted by the Warm Springs Fire, will have varying degrees of closure to livestock grazing until monitoring results, documented in writing; show plan objectives have been met. In case of treatment failure, other factors may need to be considered, such as natural recovery, and need or reason to continue closure. All allotments have intermingled land patterns, with private land being the majority. The table below identifies the closure treatments for public lands within each allotment.

LIVESTOCK CLOSURE TABLE				
Allotment	Acreage (approximate)			Livestock Closure
	Private Land	Public Land	Public Land Burned	
Lower #14	640	360	360	During natural recovery & seedling establishment period, livestock would be excluded from the allotment by construction of protective fence (ES) and repair of existing fences damaged by the fire.
Three Springs #53	1,680	160	40	Public lands burned by the fire are not easily accessible by livestock. Livestock are not likely to utilize this area, which would provide for natural recovery.
Scott Creek #145	4,198	3,280	1,535	Wildlife habitat is the management focus on both private and public lands. During natural recovery & seedling establishment period livestock would be excluded from burned pastures by repair of existing fences damaged by the fire. Approximately 410 acres in the Middle Pasture are scheduled for aerial seeding and the remaining 1,125 acres would be allowed to recover naturally.
Sage Hen Flat #174	1,560	280	280	Medusahead dominates public lands that are winter-grazed by livestock. Livestock exclusion will not impact natural recovery in this area and therefore will not be closed.
Grouse Creek #194	6,967	6,511	115	Medusahead dominates public lands that are grazed in a deferred-rotation grazing system. Livestock exclusion will not

LIVESTOCK CLOSURE TABLE				
Allotment	Acreage (approximate)			Livestock Closure
	Private Land	Public Land	Public Land Burned	
				impact natural recovery in this area and therefore will not be closed.
Jenkins Creek #344	8,243	2,669	1,280	Pasture 3 (780 acres): Burned public lands occur in steep terrain areas and are not easily accessible by livestock. Livestock use in these areas would be minimal, which would provide for natural recovery. Pasture 4 (400 acres): To provide for natural recovery, livestock would be excluded from the pasture by repair of existing fences damaged by the fire. One-hundred acres of burned public lands are scattered through two other pastures of this allotment. This acreage accounts for only a very small fraction of the allotment. It would be impractical to fence these areas and the use of private lands mandates the grazing within this allotment therefore this area will not be closed.
Tar Gulch #345	230	95	95	South Pasture: The 40-acre parcel would be excluded from livestock grazing by construction of protective fence (ES) and repair of existing fences damaged by the fire. Success of rehabilitation would be measured in terms of effectiveness to restore southern Idaho ground squirrel habitat. North Pasture: Steepness precludes livestock use and natural recovery would be afforded on majority of public land therefore this area will not be closed.
Roberts Ind. #356	1,160	40	10	Burned public lands account for only a very small fraction of the acreage within the allotment. It would be impractical to fence this area and the use of private lands mandates the grazing within this allotment therefore this area will not be closed.
Henley Basin WHA			1,670	To provide for the establishment of aerial seeded species, livestock would be excluded from the WHA by construction of protective fence (ES).
Not within an allotment or management area			50	These lands are isolated parcels intermingled with private lands. Medusahead dominates this area and livestock exclusion will not impact natural recovery in this area and therefore will not be closed.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? Closure of portions of pastures and the Henley Basin Wildlife Habitat Area to livestock grazing would provide for the establishment of recovering native species and desired seeded species and achievement of plan objectives.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? BLM policy requires rest of the treated area from livestock grazing use until stabilization and rehabilitation objectives have been met. Closures allow for the recovery of vegetation and establishment of seeded species.

Issue 5. Invasive Plants

S5 – Noxious Weeds Treatment

A. Treatment/Activity Description: Noxious weeds such as Scotch thistle and jointed goatgrass are scattered throughout the burned area. The 5,294 acres of public land that burned would be surveyed for the presence of noxious species in 2008 (ES). Site inventory and noxious weed control would be conducted and appropriate treatment(s) would be applied during the suitable stage of plant growth. Monitoring and treatment would continue under the BAR 2009- 2010.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? The potential for noxious weeds to spread is amplified after a wildland fire disturbance. Wildfires foster the spread of noxious weeds by the burning and removal of competitive vegetation. The application of appropriate treatments would control the spread of noxious weeds. The effectiveness of controlling noxious weeds is related to the size and configuration of the weed population. The smaller and more uniform the noxious weed population, the more effective the control.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? Compliance with State and county laws requires the control of noxious weeds. Current policy states that treatment should occur where there is a threat that those species may quickly invade or hamper reestablishment of native vegetation. Scotch Thistle and jointed goat grass can quickly spread following wildfire and identification and control in the first years following a wildfire can contain a small infestation and keep it from becoming a widespread problem. This is cost effective in the long term.

PART 4. – INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT SPECIFICATIONS

ES		FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Total Costs
S1	Planning (plan pres/project Management)					
	Project Management Idaho State Office	0	0	0	0	
	Project Management Boise District Office	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	
	Plan Preparation	0	0	0	0	
	Total	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
S5	Noxious Weeds					
	Labor	0	2,647	0	0	
	Travel/Vehicles	0	1,324	0	0	
	Chemical Purchase	0	1,059	0	0	
	Supplies/Materials	0	0	0	0	
	Contract	0	1,853	0	0	

ES		FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	Total Costs
	Contract Administration	0	0	0	0	
	Total	0	7,000	0	0	7,000
S7	Protective New Fence/Gate 3 Wire Temp					
	Labor	0	6,300	0	0	
	Travel/Vehicles	0	5,400	0	0	
	Clearances	0	6,300	0	0	
	Fence Material	0	33,300	0	0	
	Contract Fence Construction	0	53,600	0	0	
	Contract Fence Removal	0		0	0	
	Contract Administration	0	7,200	0	0	
	Supplies/Materials	0	1,350	0	0	
	Total	0	113,000	0	0	113,000
S15	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	
	Total	0	0	0	0	0
S16	Monitoring (implementation, effectiveness)					
	Labor	0	741	741	741	
	Travel/Vehicles	0	741	741	741	
	Supplies/Materials	0	247	247	247	
	Contract	0	6,175	6,175	6,175	
	Contract Administration	0	1,235	1,235	1,235	
	Total	0	9,000	9,000	9,000	27,000
	EMERGENCY STABILIZATION	0	131,000	11,000	11,000	153,000

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
S1	Program Management	WM	.8	6000	100
S5	Noxious Weeds	acres	5,294	7000	80
S7	Protective Fence/Gate	miles	9.0	113,000	100
S15	Livestock Closure	acres	4,940	0	100

S16	Monitoring	acres	5,294 / 3yrs	27,000	100
	TOTAL COSTS			153,000	

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: The proposed treatments are related actions which maximize the probability of success and effectiveness of restoring ecosystem components and achieving plan objectives.

No Action Yes [] No [] Rationale: No action would not provide for the control of livestock grazing distribution or the protection of desired seeded species. The effectiveness of the treatments to achieve designed objectives would be jeopardized by invasive annuals dominating the burned area.

Alternative(s) Yes [] No [] Rationale: Although acceptable alternatives may exist, none have been identified that would pose less risk to the natural resources or private property than the proposed treatments.

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

Proposed Action Yes [] No [] Rationale: The probabilities of the proposed treatments being successful are relatively high, and the cost is reasonable considering the benefits to be realized.

No Action Yes [] No [] Rationale: There would be no costs associated with no action, but no benefits would be realized.

Alternative(s) Yes [] No [] Rationale: No alternatives have been identified that would be more cost effective than the proposed treatments

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

Comments: The proposed treatments are anticipated to be cost effective, and are necessary in order to meet stabilization and rehabilitation plan objectives. This will reduce the vulnerability of the site to expansion of invasive annuals by restoring ecosystem components lost by the fire. The cost/risk is reasonable considering the benefits to the long-term health of the ecosystem.

RISK OF RESOURCE VALUE LOSS OR DAMAGE

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 wildlife habitat					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 of wildlife habitat			X		

PART 6. – MONITORING PLAN

The proposed treatments would be actively monitored and documented by personnel of the Boise District Office; Division of Operations and Four Rivers Field Office.

1. S5 – Noxious Weeds Treatment: BLM noxious weed specialists would inventory the area, identify noxious weeds on the site, and conduct weed control. Species found, treatment and GPS location would be recorded. Personnel would revisit the treated sites to evaluate mortality and search for any additional weed populations. In addition, the Four Rivers Field Office Range Staff would watch for any occurrences of noxious weeds in the burned area and report their locations to the noxious weed specialist. The 5,294 acre burned area would be surveyed for the presence of noxious species. Site inventory and noxious weed control would be conducted starting spring of 2008. Monitoring and treatments would continue through FY 2010 under the BAR. Appropriate treatment (s) would be applied during the suitable stage of plant growth. The objective would be the elimination or control of noxious weeds on the site. BLM noxious weed specialists would inventory the area, identify noxious weeds on the site, and conduct weed control.

2. S7 - Temporary Protective Fence: The objective is to prevent livestock access to the fire damaged areas by constructing protective fence. Fence construction would be monitored by the BLM Contracting Officer's Representative to ensure work meets BLM specifications. Effectiveness of the protective fence to control livestock grazing and provide for establishment of the ground and aerial seedings would be monitored by Four Rivers Range Staff during routine allotment inspections. Routine site visits would be made by BLM personnel to monitor livestock grazing distribution and ensure effectiveness of fences to maintain the area closure.

3. S15 - Livestock Closure: Livestock are to be excluded from portions of the burned area until monitoring results, documented in writing; show plan objectives have been met. In case of treatment failure, other factors may need to be considered, such as natural recovery of untreated areas, and need or reason to continue closure. Routine site visits would be made by BLM personnel to monitor for livestock trespass and ensure effectiveness of area closure. The treatment objective would be achieved when the mean monitoring data collected from sites within the burned area show: 1) the density and ground cover of recovering vegetation is equal to or greater than 90 percent of the density and ground cover afforded by those same species at a representative unburned site located immediately adjacent to the burned area and 2) 60 percent of the surviving pre-fire native perennial plants produced seed.

PART 7. - MAPS

1. Fire Perimeter and Colored Land Status, Proposed ES Fence (Protective Fence)

REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS

EMERGENCY STABILIZATION PLAN TEAM MEMBERS

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial and Date
Team Leader	Mary Clark (BLM/ID 110)	
Operations	Cindy Fritz (BLM/ID 102)	
NEPA Compliance & Planning	Matt McCoy (BLM/ID 100)	
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Dean Shaw (BLM/ID 110)	
Rangeland Management Specialist	Mary Clark (BLM/ID 110)	
Wildlife Biologist	Tim Carrigan (BLM/ID 110)	
GIS Specialist	Jeff Mork (BLM/ID 110)	
Natural Resource Specialist	Allen Tarter (BLM/ID 110)	
Other Technical Specialists - Noxious Weeds	Pat Kane (BLM/ID 102)	

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)

9/24/2007

FOUR RIVERS FIELD MANAGER

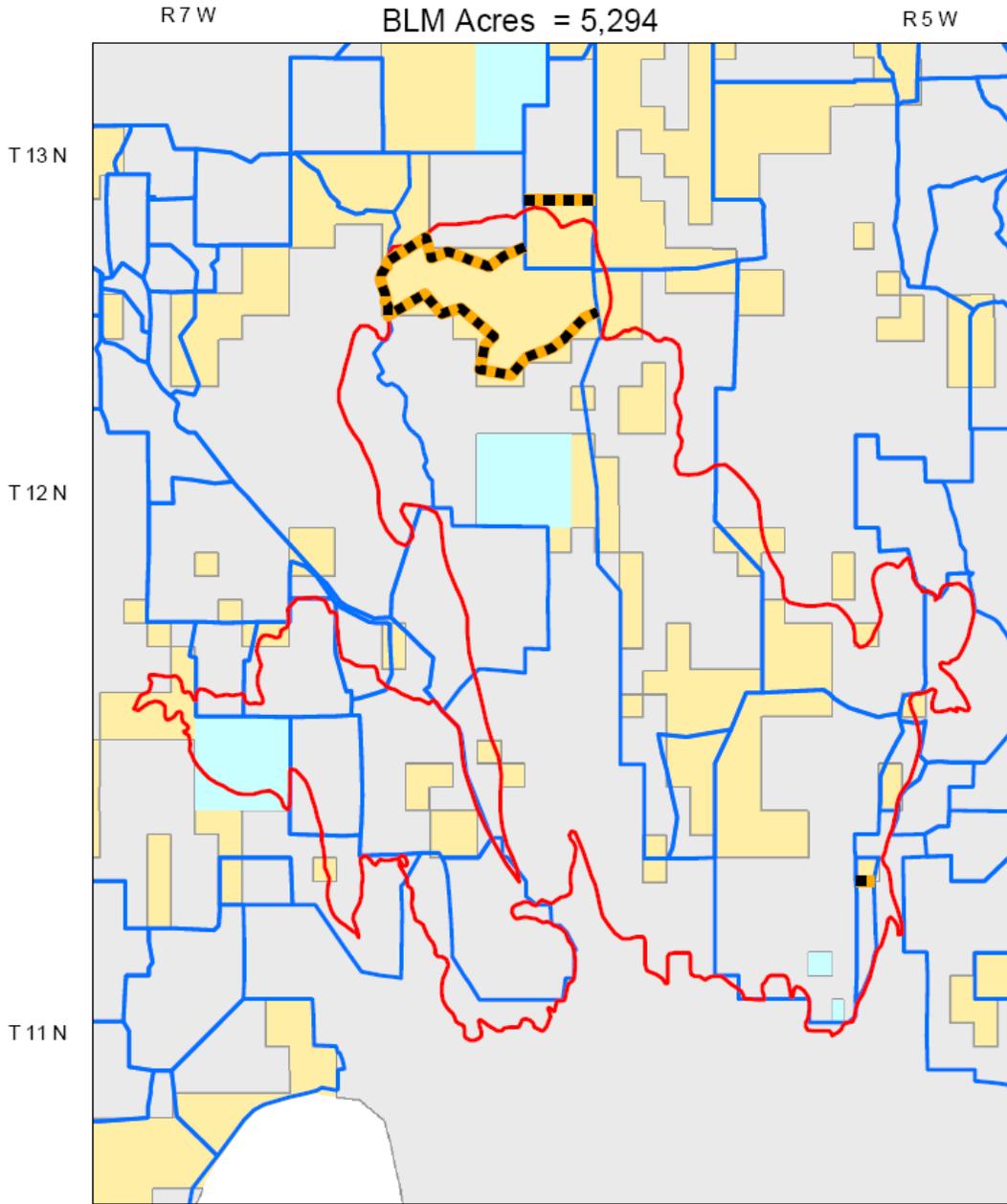
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FUNDING APPROVAL

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.

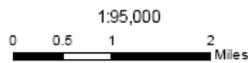
MAP 1

Warm Springs Fire DNZ5 ES Plan
Total Acres = 23,847
BLM Acres = 5,294



Legend

- Proposed ES Fence
- Warm Springs Fire
- Pasture Boundary
- BLM
- PRIVATE
- STATE



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. 8/23/2007. 070817_WarmSpringsDNZ5_ES_Fence.mxd

