BLM OREGON POST-FIRE RECOVERY PLAN
EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND BURNED AREA REHABILITATION

CLARKS BUTTE FIRE

BLM/VALE DISTRICT/JORDAN FIELD OFFICE
OREGON STATE OFFICE

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fire Name	Clarks Butte
Fire Number	F9NH
District/Field Office	Vale/Jordan
Admin Number	OR-030 LLORV00000
State	Oregon
County(s)	Malheur
Ignition Date/Cause	8/06/2011/lightning
Date Contained	8/11/2011
Jurisdiction	*Acres*
BLM	13,260
State	
Private	40
Other	
Total Acres	13,300
Total Costs	$93,000
Costs to LF20000ES (2822)	$83,000
Costs to LF32000BR (2881)	$10,000

Status of Plan Submission (check one box below)

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

PART 1 - PLAN SUMMARY

A. Background Information on the Fire

The Clarks Butte Fire was started on 8/06/2011 by lightning and was contained on 8/11/2011 after burning a total of 13,330 acres. The location of the fire is identified on (Map 1) and burned within the Allotment as detailed below.. The burn area includes parts of several Special Management Areas (SMAs), including Clarks Butte Wilderness Study Area (WSA), Jordan Craters Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). A portion of the area also includes parts of a citizens proposed Clarks Butte WSA addition. The proposed addition was evaluated for wilderness characteristics in April of 2011 and was found to have wilderness character. Protection from grazing, seeding of sagebrush and weed treatments would stabilize the site, protect SMA and wilderness character values, prevent the loss of habitat and prevent invasion of noxious weeds.

Allotment	Pasture	Acres	Acres Burned
West Cow Creek	Clarks Butte	26,176	11,104
West Cow Creek	West Crater	17,324	1,981
Fenced Federal Range			175

Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*) and whitetop (*Lepidium spp*.), both creeping perennials, and perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), are all highly invasive, noxious perennials that occur adjacent to, and possibly within, the fire boundary. Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), a biennial, is also within the fire area and adjacent to the fire boundary. Yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis), a winter or spring annual, has been found in a few sites within 12 miles of the fire boundary. Scotch thistle and yellow starthistle are both capable of traveling several miles via wind transport due to the pappus attached to their seeds. Although cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), an annual grass, is only a minor component in some of the area burned by the fire, the fire increases the risk to further invasion.

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), a perennial, and bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), a biennial, occur in small populations in moister areas near Cow Lakes, and possibly within the fire boundary.

B. Land Use Plan Consistency

All treatments below have been reviewed and are in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan as detailed in the Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA) prepared for this plan.

COST SUMMARY TABLES
Emergency Stabilization (LF20000ES):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	Total by Spec
S1	Planning (Project Mgmt)	WM's	1	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	2,000	$8,000
S2	Sagebrush Seeding	Acres	1300		$12,000			$12,000
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	7025		$10,000			$10,000
S7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	5.5		$32,000		$8,000	$40,000
S12	Closures (area, OHV, livestock)	Acres	13,260		$1,000			$1,000
S13	Monitoring	Acres	13,260		$4,000	$4,000	$4,000	$12,000
	TOTAL COSTS (LF20000ES)			$2,000	$61,000	$6,000	$14,000	$83,000

Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF32000BR):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	FY011	FY12	FY13	FY14	Total by Spec
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres/yr	10			$5,000	$5,000	$10,000
	TOTAL COSTS (LF320000BR)					$5,000	$5,000	$10,000

PART 2 – POST-FIRE RECOVERY ISSUES AND TREATMENTS ISSUES

Issues relate to resource problems caused by the wildfire and include both the immediate wildfire effects as well as effects predicted to occur as a result of the wildfire. Determining the appropriate funding code must be based on the scope of the issue, purpose of the treatment, and the availability of funds.

EMERGENCY STABILIZATION ISSUES AND TREATMENTS

Emergency Stabilization 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

Emergency Stabilization Priorities: 1). Human Life and Safety, and 2). Property and unique biological (designated Critical Habitat for Federal and State listed, proposed or candidate threatened and endangered species) and significant heritage sites. 620DM3.7
ES Issue 1 - Human Life and Safety: The threats to human life and safety are minimal,

stabilization and rehabilitation of the burn area would minimize threats associated with erosion hazards to these areas.

ES Issue 2 - Soil/Water Stabilization: There are three primary soils units within the fire area; 182-Snowmore (20%); 184-Lava flows-Snowmore (20%); and 199-Bogusrim (60%). Soils on the project area are predominately loamy and rocky, poorly suited to rangeland seeding and slightly susceptible to wind erosion. The dominant range site is Loamy 8-11 with a mix of native perennial and introduced grasses as well as scattered introduced annual species. Wind erosion is expected to occur in the burned area until adequate vegetation cover is re-established. The burned area needs to be closed to livestock grazing to ensure the adequate recovery of the vegetation. Temporary fences would be needed to protect the recovering vegetation from livestock grazing while still allowing permittees access to the unburned portions of pastures and allotments. Native grasses and forbs are expected to recover naturally with protection from grazing. By seeding sagebrush, long term soil protection would be enhanced by having more plant biomass above and below the ground surface.

S7. Protective Fence/Gate

A. **Treatment/Activity Description.** Four miles of temporary-protection fence would be erected to separate burned and unburned portions of the West Crater pasture. The temporary fence would be removed when it was no longer deemed necessary to exclude livestock from the burned area. The temporary fence would be marked to minimize collision and entanglement of big game and bird species. All temporary fence within one mile of sage-grouse leks would be marked to avoid accidental collision. Approximately 1 1/2 miles of external pasture fencing needed to protect the burn area from grazing would be repaired. Only wooden H and corner braces need to be repaired.

B. **How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?** The goal of the treatment is to protect the burn area from grazing impacts to allow recovery of vegetative resources and establishment of seeded species. The temporary fence and fence repair would allow the site to recover while maximizing protection of soil and vegetative resources.

C. **Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?** Protection fences would enable the subject permittees partial use of their grazing preference until vegetation objectives are met. These fences would be effective in eliminating livestock from the burned areas. Repair of external fence is reasonable and cost effective because it would require little funding to repair the damaged fence. The fence was constructed of barb wire and steel posts, only wooden H and corner braces would need to be repaired. Treatments have been reviewed and are in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (2002). Monitoring is detailed in part 6 of this document. The treatment is cost and resource effective, would allow the site to stabilize and would minimize erosion in the long term. Costs are detailed in part 4 of this document.

S12 Closures, Livestock

A. **Treatment/Activity Description.** The pastures that were burned in the fire would be closed, in whole or in part, to livestock grazing until vegetation objectives in the burn areas are met. Permittees would be responsible for keeping their livestock off the recovering and rehabilitated areas in compliance with their grazing decisions and the standard stipulations of their annual grazing permits.

B. **How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?** Closing the burned (portions of) pastures to livestock grazing is essential for soil stabilization and vegetation recovery. Closure would facilitate the recovery of the shrub and herbaceous (forage) components of the burned plant communities, including native grasses, forbs and shrubs. Recovery of plant cover in the burned areas would stabilize the burned landscape, reduce wind and water erosion and provide habitat for wildlife.

C. **Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?** In accordance with BLM policy and the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan, the burn area would be closed to livestock grazing for at least 2 growing seasons at a minimum or until desired vegetation has recovered to levels adequate to support and protect upland function. BLM Range specialists would prepare grazing decisions or agreements for the Jordan Field Manager to sign.

ES Issue 3 - Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species: The treatment area is currently core and low density sage-grouse habitat that has the potential to be lost as a result of the fire. Little to no sagebrush is expected to remain alive in the burn area.

S2 Sagebrush Seeding

A. **Treatment/Activity Description.** Sagebrush will be seeded throughout the burned area utilizing ATVs or UTVs by scattering sagebrush branches that contain seed. Seed will be collected by selectively pruning branches in October and early November before seed is released. The pruning is expected to have little to no effect in the pruned plants. Branches containing seed will be cut and collected from areas adjacent to the burn. Pruned branches will be randomly distributed and left on the ground to provide a microsite to collect moisture and enhance germination. Approximately 10-20 branches will be scattered per acre on approximately 10% of the burned area.

B. **How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?** This treatment would address a key component of the shrub habitat that was lost in this fire. This treatment would alleviate habitat lost to sagebrush obligate species including sage-grouse. The treatment area receives from 10-12" of precipitation annually. A similar treatment was successfully done on the Burns District in 2009. .

C. **Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?** Sagebrush is one of the most crucial components of the sagebrush steppe for sagebrush obligate species including sage-grouse. Seeding within the burned area, at a minimal cost

would prevent the loss of sagebrush habitat.

ES Issue 4 - Critical Heritage Resources: Proposed treatments have no potential to cause surface disturbance or impact cultural resources.

ES Issue 5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds: Russian knapweed, Scotch thistle, whitetop, and perennial pepperweed, are all highly invasive, noxious perennials or biennials that occur adjacent to, and possibly within, the fire boundary. Yellow starthistle, a winter or spring annual, has been found in a few sites within 12 miles of the fire boundary. Scotch thistle and yellow starthistle are both capable of traveling several miles via wind transport due to the pappus attached to their seeds. The burn area will be very vulnerable to invasion by invasive and noxious weeds until desirable vegetation is established on the burn area.

S5 Noxious Weed Treatment

A. **Treatment/Activity Description.** Noxious weed infestations offer unstable, poor quality habitats for sagebrush steppe obligate wildlife species in the burned areas. Noxious weed inventory and treatment would help to control the increase of noxious weeds in the burned areas. Noxious weed treatment within the burned area would be done in the first year following the fire under stabilization. In years two and three (FY 2013 and 2014), the noxious weeds inventory and treatment would be included as a Rehabilitation treatment. Noxious weed treatments would be consistent with the guidelines set forth in the ESR handbook (1742-1, pgs. 34-35) using approved chemicals and methods appropriate for the target species. Chemical treatment of noxious weed populations would reduce the likelihood of their spread to new, open areas and help to re-establish higher quality habitats. Furthermore, noxious weed infestations have little to no value to livestock and wildlife and have little value in stabilizing the soil.

B. **How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?** The objective of this treatment is to identify and locate the expected noxious weeds, starting with previously known infestations, and working into new areas. The identified weeds are present in the burned area and if not treated, they are expected to increase due to the removal of the existing plant cover by the Clarks Butte Fire. Inventory and chemical treatment of noxious weeds is an effective means of controlling known infestations and identifying new infestations and controlling them.

C. **Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?** Noxious weed treatments are completed in conjunction with the inventory for efficiencies of cost and time. All BLM field personnel record and report new noxious weeds as they are found. Noxious weed treatments would be consistent with the guidelines set forth in the ESR handbook (1742-1, pgs. 34-35).

BURNED AREA REHABILITATION ISSUES AND TREATMENTS

Burned Area Rehabilitation 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

Burned Area Rehabilitation 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

BAR Issue 2 - Weed Treatments. Russian knapweed, Scotch thistle, whitetop, and perennial pepperweed), are all highly invasive, noxious perennials or biennials that occur adjacent to, and possibly within, the fire boundary. Yellow starthistle, a winter or spring annual, has been found in a few sites within 12 miles of the fire boundary. Scotch thistle and yellow starthistle are both capable of traveling several miles via wind transport due to the pappus attached to their seeds. The burn area will be very vulnerable to invasion by invasive and noxious weeds until desirable vegetation is established on the burn area.

R5 Noxious Weed Treatment

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B. **How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?** The objective of this treatment is to identify and locate the expected noxious weeds, starting with previously known infestations, and working into new areas. The identified weeds are present in the burned area and if not treated, they are expected to increase due to the removal of the existing plant cover by the Clarks Butte Fire. Inventory and chemical treatment of noxious weeds is an effective means of controlling known infestations and identifying new infestations and controlling them.

C. **Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?** Noxious weed treatments are completed in conjunction with the inventory for efficiencies of cost and time. All BLM field personnel record and report new noxious weeds as they are found. Noxious weed treatments would be consistent with the guidelines set forth in the ESR Handbook (1742-1, pgs. 34-35).

PART 3 – DETAILED TREATMENT COST TABLE

Fund Code	Treatment/Action	Type Unit	# Units	FY 11	FY12	FY13	FY14	Total Costs
S1	**Plan Preparation**							
	Labor	WMs	1	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,000
	TOTAL			**2,000**	**2,000**	**2,000**	**2,000**	**8,000**
S2	**Sagebrush Seeding**							
	Labor	WMs	1		8,000			8,000
	Travel/Vehicles /Supplies	days	10		4,000			4,000
	TOTAL				**12,000**			**12,000**
S5	**Noxious Weeds**							
	Weed Inventory (labor)	acres	7000		2,500			2,500
	Weed Inventory (vehicle, travel	acres	7000		2,500			2,500
	Chemical Treatment (Herbicide)	acres	25		4,000			4,000
	TOTAL				**10,000**			**10,000**
S7	**Protective Fence/Gate**							
	Fence Materials	mile	4		14,000			6,000
	Fence labor/vehicles	mile	4		16,000			16,000
	Fence removal	mile	4				8,000	8,000
	Fence repair materials	mile	1.5		1,000			1,000
	Fence repair labor	mile	1.5		1,000			1,000
	TOTAL				**32,000**		**8,000**	**40,000**
S12	**Livestock Closure**							
	Labor	acres	13,260		1,000			1,000
	TOTAL				**1,000**			**1,000**
S13	**Monitoring**							
	Labor	acres	13,260		3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
	Travel/Vehicles	acres	13,260		1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
	TOTAL				**4,000**	**4,000**	**4,000**	**12,000**

Fund Code	Treatment/Action	Type Unit	# Units	FY 11	FY12	FY13	FY14	Total Costs
	S TOTAL			**2,000**	**61,000**	**6,000**	**14,000**	**83,000**

Fund Code	Treatment/Action	Type Unit	# Units	FY 11	FY12	FY13	FY14	Total Costs
R5	**Noxious Weeds**							
	Chemical Treatment (Herbicide)	acres	10			5,000	5,000	10,000
	TOTAL					**5,000**	**5,000**	**10,000**

PART 4 – SEED LISTS NA

PART 5 - NATIVE/NON-NATIVE PLANT WORKSHEET

A. Proposed Native Plants in Seed Mixture

1. Are the native plants proposed for seeding adapted to the ecological sites in the burned area?
Yes |_x_| No |__| Rationale: The sagebrush seed will be collected from the local area and are adapted to the ecological sites in the burned area.

2. Is seed or seedlings of native plants available in sufficient quantity for the proposed project?
Yes |_x_| No |__| Rationale: The sagebrush seed will be collected from plants adjacent to the treatment area and are in sufficient quantity for the proposed treatment.

3. Is the cost and/or quality of the native seed reasonable given the project size and approved field unit management and Plan objectives?
Yes |_x_| No |__| Rationale: Cost is reasonable and lower than if buying seed from the open market. Seed collected and used immediately as planned would be of the best quality possible.

4. Would the native plants establish and survive given the environmental conditions and the current or future competition from other species in the seed mix or from exotic plants?
Yes |_x_| No |__| Rationale: Seed germination and establishment is dependent on favorable environmental conditions which cannot be guaranteed in this sagebrush steppe site which receives 10-12 inches of precipitation per year. Competition from annual species continues to be a concern, but sites with a sagebrush overstory and annuals in the understory which are released following the fire would surely be converted to grassland with no sagebrush if no treatment is implemented.

5. Would the existing or proposed land management practices (e.g. wildlife populations, recreation use, livestock, etc.) maintain the seeded native plants in the seed mixture when the burned area is re-opened?

Yes |x__| No |__| Rationale: Livestock grazing would be excluded for two growing seasons or more from all areas treated. Once established, these species would survive moderate grazing as defined by terms and conditions of grazing permits as defined in allotment management plans currently followed.

B. Proposed Non-native Plants in Seed Mixture – N.A.

1. Is the use of non-native plants necessary to meet objectives, e.g., consistent with applicable approved field unit management plans?

Yes |__| No |__| Rationale:

2. Would non-native plants meet the objective(s) for which they are planted without unacceptably diminishing diversity and disrupting ecological processes (nutrient cycling, water infiltration, energy flow, etc.) in the plant community?

Yes |__| No |__| Rationale:

3. Would non-native plants stay on the site they are seeded and not significantly displace or interbreed with native plants?

Yes |__| No |__| Rationale:

C. PROPOSED SEED SPECIES – NATIVES AND NON-NATIVES

Native species	Non Native species
Wyoming Big Sagebrush	

PART 6. – COST-RISK ANALYSIS

A. Probability of Treatments Successfully Meeting Objectives

Action/ Spec. #	Planned ES Action (LF20000ES)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
S2	Sagebrush Seeding	**Acres**	1300	12,000	75
S5	Noxious Weeds	**Acres**	25	10,000	95
S7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	**Miles**	5.5	40,000	95
S12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	**Acres**	13,260	1,000	100
			TOTAL COSTS:	63,000	

Action/ Spec. #	Planned BAR Action (LF32000BR)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
R5	Noxious Weeds	**Acres**	10	10,000	95
			TOTAL COSTS:	10,000	

B. 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 would cost effectively achieve the objectives. Answer the following questions to determine which proposed treatments should be selected and implemented.

Weed treatments

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: Recovery of residual perennial species, establishment of desirable native species on areas that were dominated by sagebrush and other species prior to the fire, and recruitment of shrub species back into these steppe vegetation communities would meet objectives to stabilize soils, restore ecological function, and limit fire intensity and rate of spread with future ignitions.

No Action Yes |__| No |_X_| Rationale for answer: Failure to treat weeds would result in a significant increase of annual dominated rangeland and loss of sage-grouse habitat.

Alternative(s) Yes |__| No |__| Rationale for answer: none identified

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: Weed control would be done by selective herbicide application and impacts to non-target vegetation are expected to be low.

No Action Yes |__| No |_X_| Rationale for answer: No action would ensure that sites would have an increased dominance by annual species, resulting in loss of ecological function and increased fire frequency with greater risk to life and property. The No Action alternative has a low probability of successfully stabilizing soils, preventing the spread of invasive and noxious weeds and providing for the long-term health of these rangelands

Alternative(s) Yes |__| No |__| Rationale for answer: none identified

3. Which approach would most cost-effectively and successfully attain the ESR 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 the only option that would have any chance to meet the identified objectives.

Temporary Fence & Livestock closure

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: Construction of a temporary fence and closure of the burn area would allow livestock to continue to graze within unburned portions of the pasture(s) burned, but provide ample time for the protected area to recover. Approximately 600 acres would not be protected from grazing and perennial grasses may be negatively impacted in those areas. **No Action** Yes |__| No |_X_| Rationale for answer: No action may necessitate a livestock closure on large unburned portions of pastures putting additional hardship on permittees.

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: Livestock closure and construction of a temporary fence would allow livestock to continue to graze within the pasture(s) burned, but provide ample time for the protected area to recover to its pre-existing state.

No Action Yes |__| No |_X_| Rationale for answer: Not ensuring the protection of the burn from livestock grazing has a moderate to high risk of causing irretrievable and irreplaceable loss of soil resources by providing an opportunity for erosion to occur. In addition, the No Action alternative has a very high probability of irretrievable and irreplaceable loss of vegetation resources and subsequent invasion of non-native annual and noxious weed species.

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

Proposed Action |_X_|, Alternative(s) |__|, or No Action |__|

Comments: Protective (temporary) fences are successful at excluding livestock most of the time and protection from grazing would allow vegetation objectives to be achieved.

Sagebrush Seeding, Rehabilitation Weed treatments and Fence reconstruction

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:

Seeding sagebrush would protect habitat for sagebrush obligate species. As a deep rooted shrub, sagebrush provides need competition for knapweed, whitetop and perennial pepperweed, deep rooted noxious weeds found in the area.

Repairing fence would keep authorized livestock in their proper places.

Treating weeds would keep the weed population from becoming too large to control. A large weed infestation could negatively affect sagebrush obligate species, upland wildlife, and livestock.

No Action Yes |__| No |_X_| Rationale for answer:

If sagebrush is not planted there would be a loss of sage brush habitat.

Failure to repair the fence would result in livestock not being able to follow an allotment grazing schedule.
Failure to treat weeds would result in a larger infestation that covers the entire landscape versus just isolated areas.

Alternative(s) Yes |__| No |_X_| Rationale for answer:

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:
Planting sagebrush is the most cost effective way to protect sage brush habitat.
Repairing the fence would ensure livestock stay where they are authorized.
Treating the noxious weeds would keep them from spreading across the BLM and onto private land.

No Action Yes |__| No |_X_| Rationale for answer:
No action would result in higher costs in the long-term due to loss of native species and habitat for wildlife.

Alternative(s) Yes |__| No |_X_| Rationale for answer:

3. Which approach would 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 the most cost effective alternative in the long-term and the only alternative that would meet rehabilitation objectives.
Seeding sagebrush would provide habitat for sagebrush obligate species at minimal additional cost. Repairing the fence would keep livestock in their authorized place.
Treating noxious weeds would keep them from spreading

C. 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

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

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		

PART 7 – MONITORING PLAN

This plan outlines actions that would be taken to monitor implementation and effectiveness of stabilization treatments described in this document. Two types of monitoring would be completed.

Implementation Monitoring: This monitoring is the responsibility of the Vale District ESR Implementation Lead or designee. Monitoring of implementation would be accomplished by determining whether or not specific activities identified in this plan were actually implemented as planned. Items to be monitored include, but are not limited to, dates of actual treatment implementation, seed utilized, GPS data gathering of actual treatment unit perimeters and structures (fences, etc.), and documenting any deviations from planned activities including a justification for the deviation.

Effectiveness Monitoring: This monitoring is the responsibility of the Vale District ESR Monitoring Lead or designee. Effectiveness monitoring would be completed on identified treatment activities within this plan using a variety of methods, including but not limited to vegetative monitoring protocols.

Noxious Weed Treatment

1. The objective of the weed treatment is to prevent the increase of existing weed populations and the establishment of additional noxious weed species within the burn area until desirable vegetation can re-establish. Initial treatment should kill and/or

control from 90% to 100% of targeted weed populations, depending upon type of weed and/or density of infestation. Retreatment by spot spraying is desirable on remaining weeds.

2. Implementation would be monitored by site visits of treated areas by herbicide contract COR/PI (weed personnel).

3. Effectiveness would be monitored by site visits to treated areas by herbicide contract COR/PI (weed personnel). Noxious weed infestations are generally small and widely scattered, therefore effectiveness in most cases would be measured by presence or absence of weeds. Treatment effectiveness on larger infestations would be determined either by stem counts or density of stand, depending upon weed physiology, i.e., 10 plants per acre of Scotch thistle or 1 plant per square yard of perennial pepperweed. Weed treatments would be monitored on a timetable commensurate with the type of chemical used.

Protective Fence, Livestock closure

1. The objective of the protective fence treatment and livestock closure is to protect the burn area from grazing impacts to allow recovery of vegetative resources. The fencing would allow site recovery while maximizing protection of soil and vegetative resources. The protective fence would be removed when adequate recovery of resources is achieved following a minimum two full growing seasons of full rest.

2. Implementation would be monitored by site visits by primarily range staff with some assistance from other Vale district personnel. During use supervision, BLM would monitor the temporary protective fences to ensure that they are constructed before livestock turnout, and are effective and properly functioning to keep livestock out of the burned areas. Any unauthorized use occurring on the burn area would be properly documented and steps would be taken to insure that it does not continue.

3. BLM personnel would annually monitor the recovery of the vegetation in the burned areas to measure the following objectives: above ground plant cover (%), regardless of species, is at least 90% of that on a similar, unburned range site within 3 years (i.e., similar precipitation zone, soil type and land form). Above ground plant cover is the amount of ground covered by the vertical canopy projection of grasses, forbs and shrubs, including standing dead and fallen litter. Effectiveness would be monitored annually at the appropriate time using a variety of methods, including but not limited to vegetative monitoring protocols (FIREMON, USGS protocols in, etc.)

Fence Repair

1. The objective of the fence repair is to keep livestock off of the burned area and once the temporary fence is removed keep livestock in the proper place at the proper time.

2. Implementation would be monitored by site visits by primarily range staff with some assistance from other Vale district personnel.

3. Effectiveness would be determined by site visits to determine if the fence is repaired to BLM standards and compliance checks consistent with the grazing regulations.

Sagebrush Seeding

1. The objective of the shrub seeding is to restore habitat for sage-grouse and sage brush obligate species. The objective by the end of the third growing season is to have a density of sagebrush of at least 1 sagebrush plant per 9 square meters (m^2).

2. Implementation would be monitored by site visits in conjunction with monitoring being conducted for stabilization treatments

3. Effectiveness would be monitored annually in conjunction with monitoring of stabilization treatments at the appropriate time to measure percent bare-ground, and perennial shrub frequency through site visits using a variety of methods, including but not limited to vegetative monitoring protocols (FIREMON, USGS protocols in development, etc.). The study plots consist of 3 separate 100M transects radiating from a central hub. Each transect would consist of 100 points (at 1M intervals) in which plant cover is sampled using a vertically placed pin, whereby the ground level or basal hit is recorded at or below a 1-inch height, along with any live vegetation above that intersect the pin. Density of desirable perennial grasses, shrubs and forbs would be gathering using a 1M X 1M frame spaced at 5 meter intervals along each transect. 10 total plots would be read along each transect. Transects are also documented with dated plot and aspect photos.

Reporting: Annual monitoring summaries of findings and recommendations would be submitted to the Oregon State Office ESR Coordinator and Field Office Manager for inclusion into the official project file.

PART 8 - MAPS

1. Fire Location
2. Temporary fence
3. Fence Repair

REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS

TEAM MEMBERS

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial and Date
Team Leader	Aimee Huff/Randy Eyre	8/26/2011
NEPA Compliance & Planning	Randy Eyre	8/26/2011
Recreation Specialist	Kari Frederick/Richard White	9/1/2011
Hydrologist/Soil Scientist	Linus Meyer	8/30/2011
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Don Rotell	8/29/2011
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Aimee Huff	8/26/2011
Wildlife Biologist	Garth Ross	8/26/2011
Weeds Specialist	Lynne Silva	8/30/2011
Fire Ecologist	Brian Watts	8/26/2011

PLAN APPROVAL

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

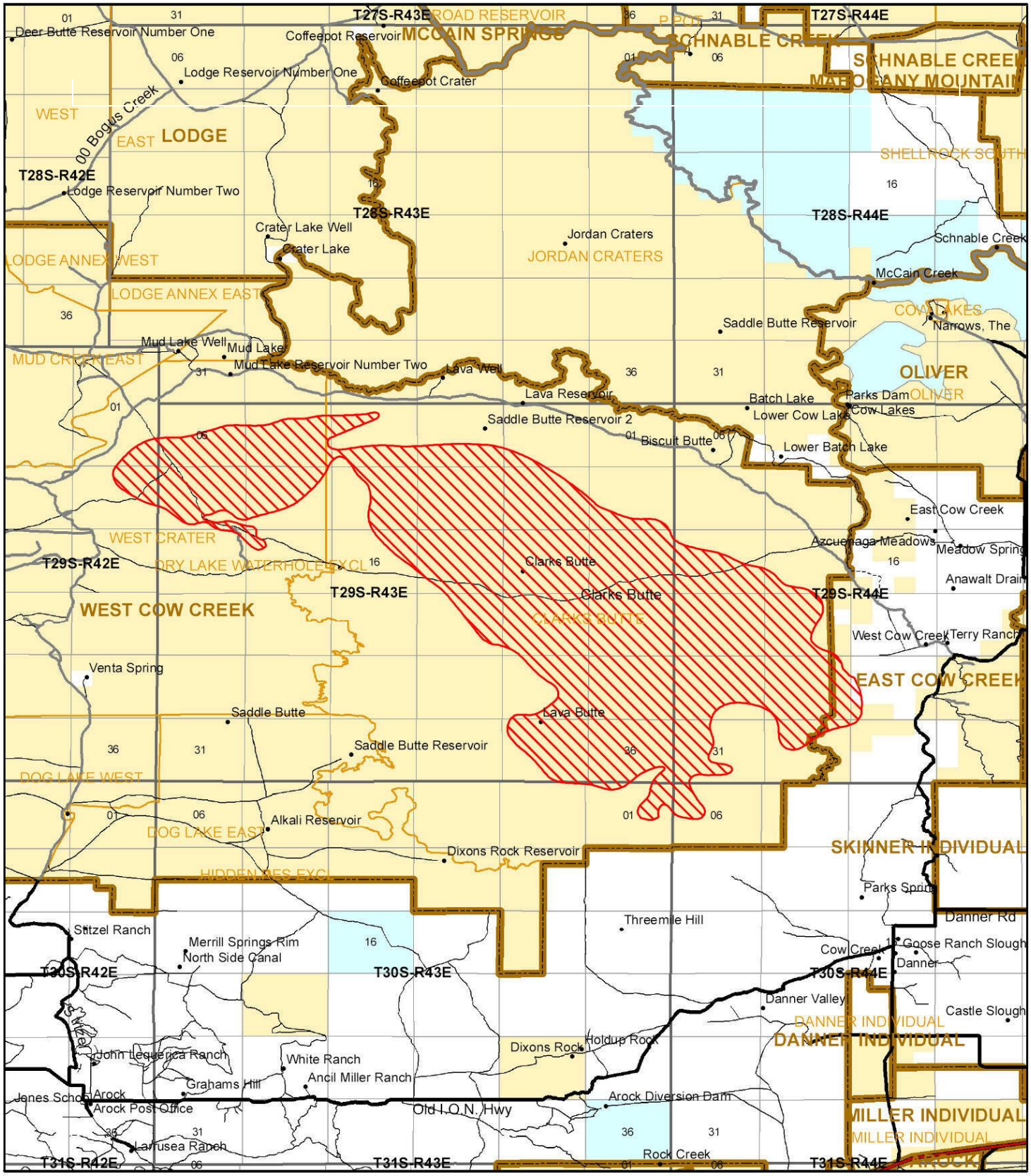
9/1/11

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DATE

FUNDING APPROVAL

The funding of ES treatments is approved through the appropriate administrative approval level in coordination with the National Office Budget Shop. As funding is available, ES funding requested within a plan that totals below $100,000 may be approved by the State Director, while ES funding of $100,000 and above must be approved by the WO. If the ES funding cap is reached, all ES funding would be approved through the National Office in coordination with State ES&R Coordinators to determine highest priority projects. Funding of all BAR treatments is accomplished through a scoring process and is dependent on accurate entries into NFPORS. All funding is approved and allocated on a year-by-year basis.

Map 1, Clarks Butte Fire



Legend

- Clarks Butte Fire
- Allotment
- Pasture
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Other Federal
- U.S. Forest Service
- Private
- State Lands
- Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- WATER

U.S. Department of Interior
au of Land Management

Vale District
Insert Date Here

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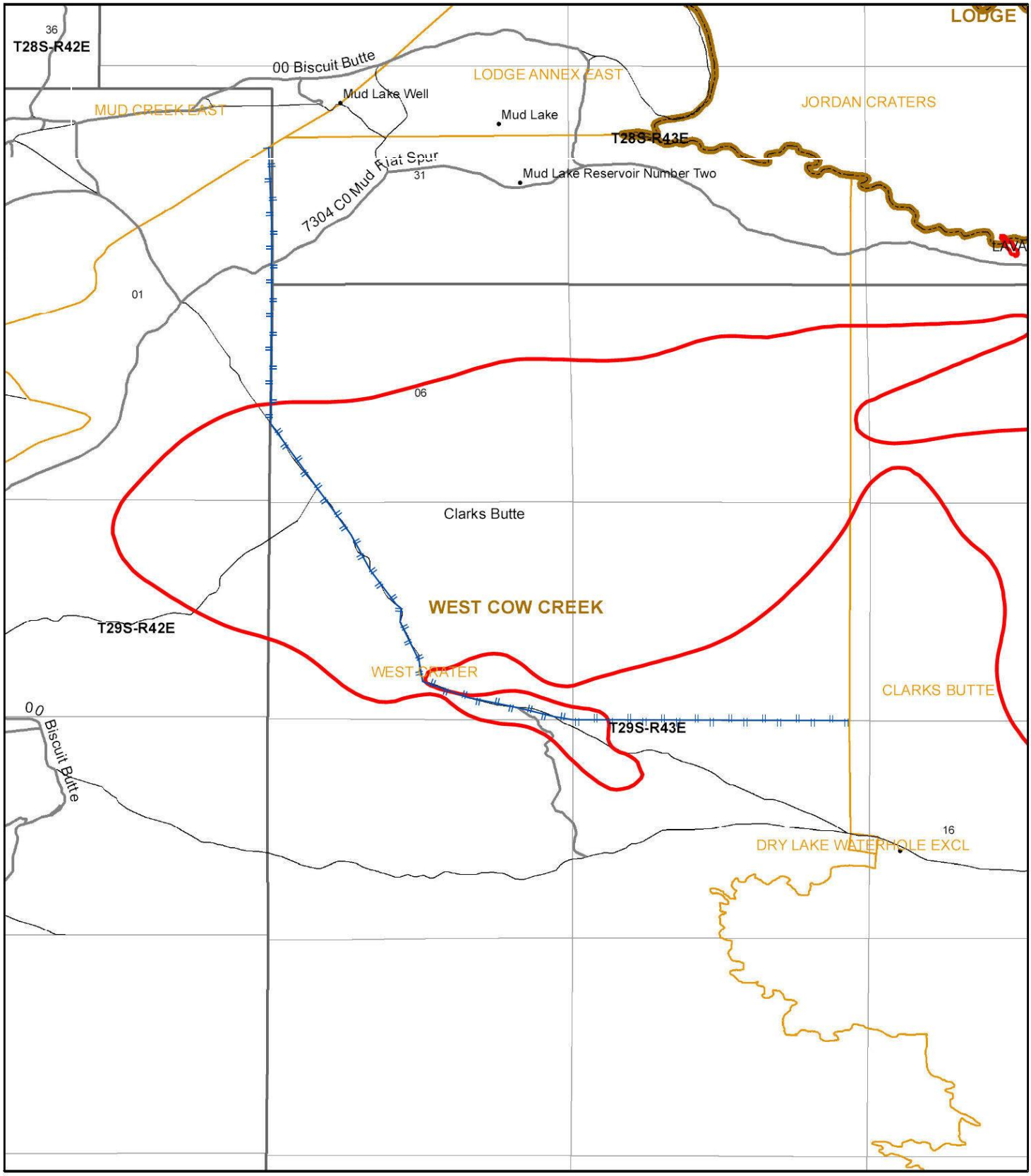
Map 2, Clarks Butte Temporary Fence



0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

Legend

- Clarks Butte Temporary Fence
- Clarks Butte Fire
- Allotment
- Pasture

U.S. Department of Interior
au of Land Management

Vale District
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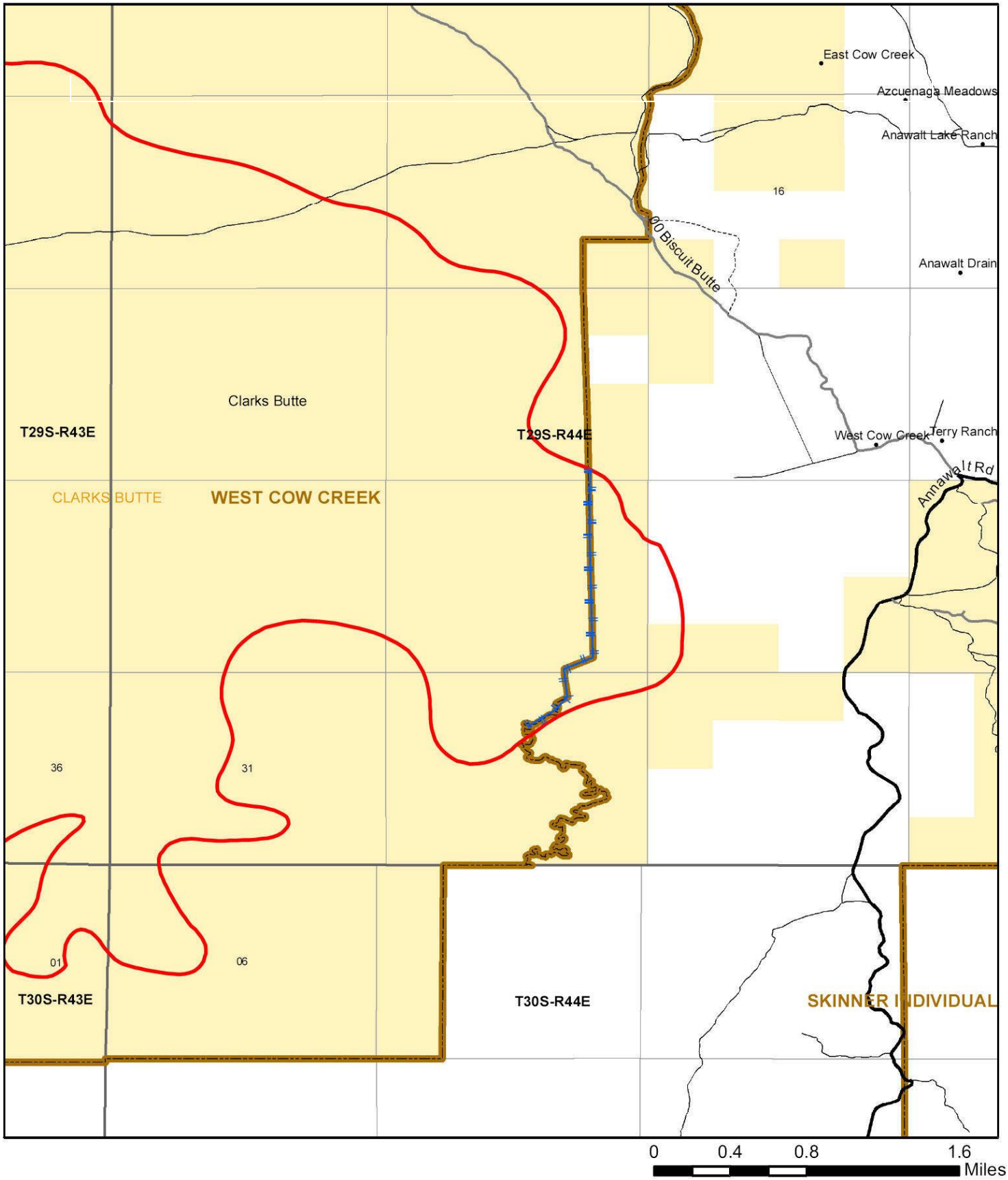
Map 3, Clarks Butte Fence Repair



Legend

Fence Repair

Clarks Butte Fire

U.S. Department of Interior
au of Land Management

Vale District

Insert Date Here

nty is made by the Bureau of Land Management accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these ndividual or aggregate use with other data data were compiled from various sources. rmation may not meet National Map Accuracy ts. This product was developed through digital and may be updated without notification.