

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

**PLAN TEMPLATE 2010
CEDAR MOUNTAIN FIRE (HUG5)**

**BLM Vale District Office
OREGON STATE OFFICE**

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

	Cedar Mountain
	LFESHUG50000 / LFBRHUG50000
	Vale District Office
	LLORV00000
	OREGON
	MALHEUR
	08/08/2013 Lightning
	08/13/2013
	530
	23419
	23949
	\$392,000
Costs to LF2200000 (2822)	\$279,000
Costs to LF3200000 (2881)	\$113,000

Status of Plan Submission (check one box below)

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

PART 1 - PLAN SUMMARY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FIRE.

The Cedar Mountain fire was ignited by lightening on the evening of August 8. The fire escaped initial attack due to heavy fuels, winds and low humidities. The Cedar Mountain Fire burned a total of 23,949 acres and was contained on August 13.

The majority of the fire (21,602 acres) was within the Cedar Mountain and Lower Owyhee Canyon Wilderness Study Areas. In addition, 1,797 acres are within the Rinehart Creek Lands With Wilderness Characteristics Area. Driving was limited to the perimeter of the burn area and vehicles were requested to avoid driving through areas of sagebrush and grass in an effort to prevent the creation of additional areas resembling two-track roads that could mistakenly be driven by the public.

Vegetative communities within the fire boundary are generally dominated by basin big sagebrush mixed with bluebunch wheatgrass and Idaho fescue with a component of bottlebrush squirreltail. Ridgetops and higher elevation slopes also contain areas of western juniper. Prefire juniper density was estimated to be an average of 50-70 stems per acre with the most dense pockets being around 75-100 stems per acre. Juniper understory consisted of a few forbs. Burn severity on bunchgrasses and sagebrush were estimated to be low based upon observation. The fire activity was flashy and wind driven in these area with many mosaics and unburned islands. There were some areas of residual standing stems of sagebrush and unburned bunchgrass root crowns in the areas that burned. Areas of juniper appear to have more moderate to high burn severities. Piles of white ash radiate out from the patches where there were juniper and the ground shows signs of still holding heat days after the fire had passed. Layers of duff under the junipers both carried the fire and facilitated prolonged exposure of the soil to sterilizing heat.

Cheatgrass is a common component of the vegetation in portions of the burned area at lower elevations near main roads, but only a small component in the higher elevations. A small population of medusahead rye was observed during the fire suppression activities. Whitetop species have been treated along the Crowley Road outside of the burned area, on the Rinehart Ranch Road inside and at the edge of the burned area and it is abundant on old farmland in the nearby Crowley area. It has also been noted on the private property at Rinehart Ranch within the burned area. Perennial pepperweed, has been observed in the Crowley area. A few small (less than 1/10 acre) isolated sites of Scotch thistle have been treated and reported within the fire area as well. Russian knapweed has been reported at Seaburn Reservoir at the edge of the burn and has been treated at other sites immediately adjacent to the burn.

The entire fire area is designated sage-grouse habitat. The fire burned 23,786 acres of Preliminary General Habitat and 162 acres of Preliminary Priority Habitat for sage-grouse. There are no known sage-grouse leks in the fire area.

The Cedar Mountain Fire burned portions of five pastures in the Turnbull Allotment - Juniper Mountain (27% burned), Sand Basin (23% burned), Jackson Creek (59% burned), Clark Flat (3% burned), and Rinehart Ranch FFR (98% burned). An estimated 828 AUMs were affected in the Turnbull Allotment. The Cedar Mountain Fire also burned 10,170 acres (46%) of the Cedar Mountain Pasture and 160 acres (2%) of the Hole in Ground Pasture both in the Quartz Mountain Allotment affecting an estimated 793 AUMs. See attached document "Cedar Mountain Allotment Pasture Analysis Form for ESR 7_19_2013" for breakdown on AUMS affected by pasture and allotment.

The Cedar Mountain Fire burned approximately 35.6 miles of livestock management fence which will need to be repaired to facilitate future livestock management.

The burn area consists of soils typical of the arid lands region. No soil survey data are available through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); however soil data are available from the BLM through a fourth order soil survey. The following information comes from, Oregon's Long-Range Requirements for Water General Soil information (State Water Resources Board, Owyhee Drainage Basin, 1969).

There are five general soil classification units within the burn area: Unit 76 (73%-17,430 acres); Unit 56 (12%-2,924 acres); Unit S76 (7%- 1,839 acres), Unit 77(6%-1,366 acres), and Unit 96 (2%-375 acres) Microbiotic crusts have not been inventoried, but are known to exist throughout the burned area.

Unit 76 soils are shallow, clayey, very stony, well drained soils over basalt, rhyolite, or welded tuff. These soils occur on gently undulating to rolling lava plateaus and some very steep faulted and dissected terrain.

Unit 56 soils are shallow, well drained soils with clayey subsoils and cemented pans. They occur on very extensive, gently sloping to moderately steep old fans on high terrace remnants.

Unit S76 soils are shallow, well drained, extremely stony soils over basalt, rhyolite, or welded tuff. These soils occur on gently undulating to steep lava plateaus.

Unit 77 soils are very shallow, very stony, rocky, well-drained soils over basalt, rhyolite, or welded tuff. These soils occur on gently undulating to rolling lava plateaus.

Unit 96 is a miscellaneous land unit called Rock Land. It consists of rough, steeply sloping areas that are predominantly shallow, very stony soils interspersed with rock outcroppings.

These soils are susceptible to wind erosion in the short term until vegetation cover returns. Also these soil types are susceptible to water erosion during heavy precipitation and spring run-off events, specifically in areas where flow is concentrated due to topographic features. Soils within the burn area are extremely stony; this will be a limiting factor on the amount of erosion that occurs during the recovery period. Temporary exclusion from livestock and use of temporary fencing will provide for increased success of vegetation establishment and a return of natural levels of soil erosion. Slopes within the burn area fall mostly between 10 -30 percent with short steeper pitches found within drainages and near ridge tops. Erosion

hazard potential ranges from low to moderate. Average annual precipitation for the area is 8-11 inches.

LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY

S5 - Noxious Weeds ES Issue 5

Noxious weed treatments would be consistent with the guidelines in the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook (H-1742-1, pages 34-35), the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (2002), the Vale District Integrated Weed Control Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (1989), and the standard operating procedures and mitigation measures identified in the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (2010). Pesticide Use Proposals (plans) would be prepared for weed treatments and comply with policy (BLM Manual 9011, H-9011, and 9015).

S7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard ES Issue 3

This activity has been reviewed and is in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan as detailed in the Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) that was prepared for this plan.

S11 - Facilities ES Issue 1

Treatments have been reviewed and are in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan (2002). Signs will be placed at the sites which have been previously identified. Signs will be replaced as stated in the Vale District Sign Plan.

S12 - Closures (area, OHV, livestock) ES Issue 3

This activity has been reviewed and is in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan as detailed in the Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) that was prepared for this plan. The closure to livestock grazing is specifically provided for on page 40 of the SEORMP. The burned area would be rested for one full year and through a second growing season at a minimum, or until monitoring data or professional judgment indicate that health and vigor of desired vegetation has recovered to levels adequate to support and protect upland and riparian function.

S13 - Monitoring ES Issue 2

This activity has been reviewed and is in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan as detailed in the Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) that was prepared for this plan.

R5 - Noxious Weeds BAR Issue 2

Noxious weed treatments would be consistent with the guidelines in the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook (H-1742-1, pages 34-35), the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (2002), the Vale District Integrated Weed Control Plan Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (1989), and the standard operating procedures and mitigation measures identified in the Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (2010). Pesticide Use Proposals

Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (2010). Pesticide Use Proposals (plans) would be prepared for weed treatments and comply with policy (BLM Manual 9011, H-9011, and 9015).

R7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard BAR Issue 4

This activity has been reviewed and is in conformance with the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan as detailed in the Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) that was prepared for this plan.

COST SUMMARY TABLES

Emergency Stabilization (LF2200000)

Action/ Spec #	ES Issue #	Planned Action	Unit (Acres, WMs, Number)	# Units	Unit Cost (If Appl.)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Totals by Spec.
S1		Planning (Project Management)				\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$28,000.00
S2										
S3										
S4										
S5	5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	23,419	\$1.30	\$0.00	\$31,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,000.00
S6										
S7	3	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	15	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$105,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$150,000.00
S8										
S9										
S10										
S11	1	Facilities	#	25	\$125.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
S12	3	Closures (area, OHV, livestock)	Acres	23,098	\$1.73	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$40,000.00
S13	2	Monitoring	Acres	23,419	\$1.15	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$27,000.00
S14										
TOTAL COSTS (LF2200000)						\$23,000	\$163,000	\$24,000	\$69,000	\$279,000
OTHER FUND CODE TOTALS:										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										

Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF3200000)

Action/ Spec #	BAR Issue #	Planned Action	Unit (Acres, WMs, Number)	# Units	Unit Cost (If Appl.)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Totals by Spec.
R1										
R2										
R3										
R4										
R5	2	Noxious Weeds	Acres	23,419	\$0.98	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$23,000.00
R6										
R7	4	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	36	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00
R8										
R9										
R10										
R11										
R12										
R13										
R14										
TOTAL COSTS (LF3200000)						\$0	\$90,000	\$15,000	\$8,000	\$113,000
OTHER FUND CODE TOTALS:										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										

PART 2 - POST-FIRE RECOVERY ISSUES

EMERGENCY STABILIZATION ISSUES

1 - Human Life and Safety

The fire burned primarily in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). There is potential for the fire lines in the WSAs to appear as travel routes to the public. Signs are required to alert the public to the prohibition against motor vehicles in the WSAs and to prevent degradation of the wilderness values of these areas.

2 - Soil/Water Stabilization

Soils within the fire boundary are generally shallow, rocky clayey soils with a large portion of visible rifts and bare lava flows. There are also some low areas of moderately deep loamy or silt soils that are susceptible to wind erosion in the short term until vegetation cover is restored. Similarly, these soil types are susceptible to water erosion during heavy precipitation events and during snow melt in the spring, until vegetation cover is restored; especially where overland flow is channeled by topographic features. Slope varies from 0 to 60 percent with the majority being moderately steep (0-30 percent slope). Erosion hazard ratings range from low to moderate.

3 - Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species

The entire fire area is classified as greater sage-grouse habitat. There are 162 acres of Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) and 23,786 acres of Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) for greater sage-grouse within the burn area. There are no sage-grouse leks documented in the burned area. Although there are five leks within five miles of the fire perimeter. Due to the character of the fire leaving a mosaic of unburned islands of habitat, the treatments identified for closure and protection from grazing along with weed inventory and treatment is expected to allow for recovery and maintenance of greater sage-grouse habitat.

4 - Critical Heritage Resources

N/A

5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds

There are scattered populations of noxious weeds in the burn area and general vicinity of the fire. Until desirable perennial vegetation is recovered the area will be at risk to invasion from noxious weeds. The primary noxious weeds of concern within the fire area are Russian knapweed, whitetop, perennial pepperweed, and Scotch thistle.

BURNED AREA RECOVERY ISSUES

1 - Lands Unlikely to Recover Naturally

N/A

2 - Weed Treatments

This treatment activity includes monitoring of FY14 treatments, re- inventory and

This treatment activity includes monitoring of FY14 treatments, re- inventory and treatment/retreatment of noxious weeds on BLM administered lands within the burn perimeter in FY 15 and FY 16. The primary noxious weeds of concern known to be within the fire area are Scotch thistle, and whitetop species . Russian knapweed and perennial pepperweed could be present within unsurveyed areas due to their close proximity to the fire and will be a threat in the absence of competition. The area will be at risk to invasion from these highly competitive, noxious and invasive weeds until desirable perennial vegetation is recovered. Infestations are generally small and scattered, therefore treatments would be done by ground application utilizing ATV/UTV and backpack sprayers. Survey/monitoring would be by ATV/UTV and possibly horseback.

3 - Tree Planting

N/A

4 - Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities

The Cedar Mountain Fire burned over approximately 35.6 miles of livestock management fence. These fences will need to be assessed and repaired where needed to facilitate future livestock management.

PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENTS

Issue 1 - Human Life and Safety

S11 Facilities

A. Treatment/Activity Description

Twenty-five signs indicating the Wideness Study Area (WSA) boundaries will be placed at the sites which have been previously identified to limit public vehicular travel in the WSA and prevent resource damage. Signs will be replaced as stated in the Vale District Sign Plan.

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

Placement of these signs is necessary for public safety in addition to protecting the recovering resources. This treatment will be an effective method of informing the public of the risks posed by rehabilitated fire lines post-fire and the prohibition of vehicular traffic in WSAs.

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

Signs are intended to inform the public and ensure their safety while protecting the recovering resources as it is our mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. This treatment is cost effective, because the sign design can be easily implemented. They will provide important information to members of the public at a reasonable cost.

Issue 2 - Soil/Water Stabilization

S13 Monitoring

A. Treatment/Activity Description

This activity is to monitor implementation and effectiveness of other treatments/activities identified in this plan.

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

Monitoring is integral to determine if recovery objectives are being achieved and if methods to promote recovery are effective.

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

Monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the treatments/activities identified in this plan is required as documented in the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook H-1742-1 on page 58.

Issue 3 - Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species

S7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard

A. Treatment/Activity Description

Approximately fifteen miles of temporary fence will be constructed to protect the burned area from livestock grazing. The temporary fence would be removed when vegetation recovery objectives have been achieved. Temporary fence locations within greater sage-grouse PPH would be marked with anti-strike markers to minimize potential for collision by birds. Temporary fence will not be located on prominent ridegelines to reduce the potential for sage-grouse collisions. Electric fence was considered for this project but rejected because the cattle that use these allotments have never been around electric fencing and the potential of training them to respect it over the winter is minimal, unless the operator can change the logistics of his livestock rotation.

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

This treatment will protect the burned area and allow for vegetative resources to recover without the impacts of livestock grazing. Temporary fencing is the preferred action because less than 60% of five of seven pastures burned in the fire. Temporary fences will allow livestock access to the unburned portions of these pastures. If the burned portion was in an area where livestock were not generally present resource condition could be maintained without temporary fencing. Vegetation would not be able to recover to preburn levels without temporary fences excluding livestock.

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

Temporary fencing is a reasonable and cost effective treatment to protect burned areas from livestock grazing while still allowing permitted livestock the ability to utilize forage within the remaining unburned portions of the pastures. This treatment would be constructed according to policy and guidance in the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook H-1742-1 pages 31 - 33.

S12 Closures (area, OHV, livestock)

A. Treatment/Activity Description

The burned portions of the Cedar Mountain, Jackson Creek, Juniper Mountain and Sand Basin pastures would be closed to livestock grazing for a minimum of two full growing seasons or until monitoring data or professional judgment indicate that health and vigor of desired vegetation has recovered to levels adequate to support and protect upland function. These closures would be accomplished using temporary fencing. Electric fence was considered for this project but rejected because the cattle that use these allotments have never been around electric fencing and the potential of training them to respect it over the

winter is minimal, unless the operator can change the logistics of his livestock rotation. Temporary fences would be located away from major ridges to minimize the potential for collision by birds. In addition, the Rinehart Ranch FFR pasture will be closed in its entirety for for a minimum of two full growing seasons or until monitoring data or professional judgment indicate that health and vigor of desired vegetation has recovered to levels adequate to support and protect upland function. This treatment includes development of the livestock grazing closure decision or agreement and follow-up monitoring to ensure compliance with the livestock grazing closure decision or agreement.

As stated in the Southeast Oregon RMP and Record of Decision (September 2002) on page 40: "Areas burned by wildland fire, including those subsequently rehabilitated, will be rested from grazing for one full year and through a second growing season at a minimum, or until monitoring data or professional judgment indicate that health and vigor of desired vegetation has recovered to levels adequate to support and protect upland function. Appropriate grazing use of healthy perennial vegetation communities, or areas dominated by annual species, prior to the two growing season limit may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, as consistent with objectives for improving or maintaining rangeland health and other objectives."

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

Closure of the burned lands in the Cedar Mountain, Jackson Creek, Juniper Mountain, Rinehart Ranch FFR and Sand Basin Pasture would allow surviving vegetation to fully recover as well as provide increased soil stabilization through the accumulation of litter and biomass. This would reduce the potential for wind and water erosion and speed the recovery of sagebrush steppe habitats. This treatment will protect both the PGH and PPH for sage-grouse in the burn area, and allow for vegetative resources to recover without the impacts caused by livestock grazing. If the burned portion was in an area where livestock were not generally present resource condition could be maintained without fencing.

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

This treatment/activity is reasonable in that it provides surviving plants the opportunity to reestablish healthy below and above ground biomass and it allows seeded plants to become established. This activity/treatment would be implemented in accordance with policy and guidance in the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation BLM Handbook H-1742-1 as discussed on page 27, the SEORMP (2002), and 43 CFR 4100.

Issue 5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds

S5 Noxious Weeds

A. Treatment/Activity Description

This treatment/activity includes inventory and treatment of noxious weeds on BLM administered lands within the burn perimeter in FY14. There are scattered populations of noxious weeds known to be within the burn area and general vicinity of the fire. The primary noxious weeds of concern known to be within the fire area are Scotch thistle and whitetop species. Russian knapweed and perennial pepperweed could be present within unsurveyed areas due to its close proximity to the fire and would be a threat in the absence of competition. Until desirable perennial vegetation is recovered, the area will be at risk to

invasion from these highly competitive, noxious and invasive weeds. Known infestations are generally small and scattered; therefore treatments would be done by ground application utilizing ATV/UTV and backpack sprayers. Surveys would be by ATV/UTV and possibly horseback. Herbicides and application rates are determined based upon weed species, stage of growth, soil type, terrestrial/riparian, etc. All herbicides will be applied at rates approved by Best Management Practices (BMPs) found in the Oregon Vegetation Management EIS and the District Weed Treatment EA. Only the four chemicals approved for Oregon (Glyphosate, picloram, dicamba and 2,4-D) under the old injunction will be used, unless additional NEPA is completed. These restrictions as well as all label restrictions will be adhered to. Timing will consider sage-grouse, cultural and other resource considerations. These are all BMPs from Oregon's Vegetation Management EIS.

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

Noxious weed infestations offer unstable and poor quality habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligate plant and wildlife species. Highly competitive, noxious and invasive species quickly take advantage of the absence of competition from perennial plants removed by wildfire and are the first plants to reestablish following fire. Inventory and treatment of both known and new noxious weed infestations, within the fire perimeter, is necessary to ensure that noxious weeds do not increase in abundance. Disturbances caused by contingency dozer lines and heavily traveled routes outside the fire perimeter used for fire suppression are also vulnerable to noxious weed invasion.

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

Noxious Weed treatments have been shown to limit further spread, and in most cases, decrease the presence/extent of noxious weed populations. Treating newly discovered noxious weed infestations will help the burned area recover with desirable plant species. Treatment of new small noxious weed infestations is more likely to be successful, at much less cost, than treating large established infestations. Noxious weed treatments will be consistent with policy and guidance in the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and rehabilitation BLM Handbook (H-1742-1) as described on pages 34 and 35.

Issue 2 - Weed Treatments

R5 Noxious Weeds

A. Treatment/Activity Description

This treatment activity includes monitoring of FY14 treatments, re-inventory and treatment/retreatment of noxious weeds on BLM administered lands within the burn perimeter in FY 15 and FY 16. The primary noxious weeds of concern known to be within the fire area are Scotch thistle and whitetop species. Russian knapweed and perennial pepperweed could be present within unsurveyed areas due to its close proximity to the fire and will be a threat in the absence of competition. Until desirable perennial vegetation is recovered, the area will be at risk to invasion from these highly competitive, noxious and invasive weeds. Infestations are generally small and scattered, therefore treatments would be

done by ground application utilizing ATV/UTV and backpack sprayers. Survey/monitoring would be by ATV/UTV and possibly horseback. Herbicides and application rates are determined based upon weed species, stage of growth, soil type, terrestrial/riparian, etc. All herbicides will be applied at rates approved by Best Management Practices (BMPs) found in the Oregon Vegetation Management EIS and the District Weed Treatment EA. Only the four chemicals approved for Oregon (Glyphosate, picloram, dicamba and 2,4-D) under the old injunction will be used, unless additional NEPA is completed. These restrictions as well as all label restrictions will be adhered to. Timing will consider sage-grouse, cultural and other resource considerations. These are all BMPs from Oregon's Vegetation Management EIS.

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

Noxious weed infestations offer unstable and poor quality habitat for sage-grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligate plant and wildlife species. Highly competitive, noxious and invasive species quickly take advantage of the absence of competition from perennial plants removed by wildfire. Re-inventory and treatment/retreatment of both known and new noxious weed infestations, within the fire perimeter, is necessary to ensure that noxious weeds do not increase in presence. Disturbances caused by contingency dozer lines and heavily traveled routes outside the fire perimeter used for fire suppression are also vulnerable to noxious weed invasion.

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

Noxious weed treatments have been shown to limit further spread, and in most cases, decrease the presence/extent of noxious weed populations. Noxious weed treatments will be consistent with policy and guidance in the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation BLM Handbook (H-1742-1) as described on pages 34 and 35.

Issue 4 - Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities

R7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard

A. Treatment/Activity Description

Approximately 35.6 miles of livestock management fences were impacted by the fire and would need to be repaired or replaced to facilitate proper livestock management. Fence repair will need to occur in FY 2014 because these fences will be used to exclude livestock from the burned area as it recovers.

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

This treatment is necessary to repair/replace livestock management facilities that were damaged as a result of the fire.

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

Repairing/replacing of livestock management fencing is a reasonable and cost effective treatment to allow for proper grazing management. This treatment would be constructed according to policy and guidance in the Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook H-1742-1 as discussed on pages 31-33.

PART 4 - DETAILED TREATMENT COST TABLE

Action / Spec #	Action Description	Unit Type	# Units	Unit Cost	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Total Cost
S1	Planning (Project Management)								
1	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	WM'S	3	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$27,500.00
	Total			\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$28,000.00
S5	Noxious Weeds ES Issue 5								
1	Weed Treatment	Acres	65	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$19,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,500.00
2	Weed Inventory	Acres	11,000	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,000.00
	Total			\$301.00	\$0.00	\$31,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,000.00
S7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard ES Issue 3								
1	Labor	Miles	15	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$52,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52,500.00
2	Materials Purchase	Miles	15	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$52,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52,500.00
3	Removal of Temp Fence	Miles	15	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
	Total			\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$105,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	\$150,000.00
S11	Facilities ES Issue 1								
1	sign purchase and installation	Number	25	\$125.00	\$3,125.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,125.00
	Total			\$125.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
S12	Closures (area, OHV, livestock) ES Issue 3								
1	Prepare Decision/Agreement	WM'S	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
2	Administration of closure	WM'S	3	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00
	Total			\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$40,000.00
S13	Monitoring ES Issue 2								
1	Monitoring	WM'S	3	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$27,000.00
	Total			\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$27,000.00
ES	Grand Total			\$49,426.00	\$23,000.00	\$163,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$69,000.00	\$279,000.00
Action / Spec #	Action Description	Unit Type	# Units	Unit Cost	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Total Cost
R5	Noxious Weeds BAR Issue 2								
1	Weed Treatment	Acres	60	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$18,000.00
2	Weed Inventory	Acres	5,000	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
	Total			\$301.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$23,000.00
R7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard BAR Issue 4								
1	Labor	Miles	36	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00
	Total			\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00
BAR	Grand Total			\$2,801.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$113,000.00
Project	Grand Total			\$52,227.00	\$23,000.00	\$253,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$77,000.00	\$392,000.00

PART 5 - SEED LISTS

DRILL SEED

AERIAL SEED

SEEDLINGS

Seedling Species	Scientific Name	Acres of Seedlings planted.	# of Seedlings per Acre	Total # of Seedlings	Cost / Seedling	Total Cost
TOTALS:		0.0	0	0		\$ 0.00

PART 6 - NATIVE/NON-NATIVE PLANT WORKSHEET

A. Proposed Native Plants in Seed Mixtures (Both ES & BAR Treatments)

1. Are the native plants proposed for seeding adapted to the ecological sites in the burned area?

Yes No Rationale:

NA

2. Is seed or seedlings of native plants available in sufficient quantity for the proposed project?

Yes No Rationale:

NA

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 No Rationale:

NA

4. Will 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 No Rationale:

NA

5. Will 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 No Rationale:

NA

B. Proposed Non-native Plants in Seed Mixtures (Both ES & BAR Treatments)

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:

NA

2. Will 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:

NA

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

Yes No Rationale:

NA

C. Proposed Seed Species - Native & Non-Natives (Both ES & BAR Treatments)

PART 7 - COST-RISK ANALYSIS

A. Probability of Treatments Successfully Meeting Objectives

Action/ Spec #	ES Issue #	Planned ES Action (LF2200000)	Unit (acres, WMs, Number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
S5	5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	23419	\$31,000.00	85%
S7	3	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	15	\$150,000.00	95%
S11	1	Facilities	#	25	\$3,000.00	100%
S12	3	Closures (area, OHV, livestock)	Acres	23098	\$40,000.00	95%
S13	2	Monitoring	Acres	23419	\$27,000.00	100%
					\$251,000.00	
Action/ Spec #	BAR Issue #	Planned BAR Action (LF3200000)	Unit (acres, WMs, Number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
R5	2	Noxious Weeds	Acres	23419	\$23,000.00	85%
R7	4	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	36	\$90,000.00	100%
					\$113,000.00	

B. Cost Risk Summary

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 for Answer:

Implementation of temporary fencing and livestock grazing closure or agreement will minimize risks to natural resources and private property. These types of treatments/activities have proven over the years to be effective in achieving ESR Plan objectives as shown by monitoring of previous year ESR Plans that prescribed similar treatments/activities.

No Action Yes No Rationale for Answer:

If the proposed treatments of temporary fencing and livestock grazing closure or agreement are not implemented there is an increased risk to natural resources within the burned area. Desirable plants would likely be targeted by livestock for grazing and would result in damage to viability of plants through a reduction in above ground biomass and the plants ability to establish root reserves for long term survivability. This would degrade the sage-grouse habitat in the fire area.

Alternative(s) Yes No Rationale for Answer:

NA

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

Proposed Action Yes No Rationale for Answer:

The proposed treatments all have a high probability of success at the costs identified. Vegetation will be allowed to recover.

No Action Yes No Rationale for Answer:

The probability of success of achieving desired objectives will be greatly reduced if identified treatments/activities are not implemented.

Alternative(s) Yes No Rationale for Answer:

na

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)

No Action

Comments:

The treatments/activities in this plan are recommended for implementation for the following reasons: 1) vegetative resources will be allowed to recover naturally without the impacts associated with livestock grazing; and 2) allows livestock operator to utilize available AUM's in unburned portions of pastures.

C. Risk of Resource Value Loss or Damage

No Action - Treatments not Implemented

Resource Value	N/A	None	Low	Med	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	Med	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 8 - MONITORING PLAN

S5 - Noxious Weeds - ES Issue 5

Identify the objective of the treatment:

The objectives of the treatment are to 1) inventory the burned area for existing and emerging noxious weed populations; and, 2) treat observed noxious weeds with approved herbicides. Specifically, the objective of the treatment is to ensure the extent of noxious weed populations does not increase within three years following the fire.

Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Implementation will be monitored by site visits to noxious weed infestations to determine that they have been treated. Records of chemical used, rate of application and other PUP required information would be recorded and submitted to the State Weed Coordinator in end of year reports.

Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:

Treatment effectiveness will be monitored annually by BLM personnel. The method to be used will either be 1) stem counts of noxious weed infestations; or, 2) presence or absence of noxious weed. The monitoring will be conducted at a time commensurate with the herbicide used for treatment. Weed treatments will also be tracked in NISMS.

S7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard - ES Issue 3

Identify the objective of the treatment:

The general objective of this treatment is to protect the burned area from the impacts of livestock grazing to allow for the natural recovery of vegetative resources. Specifically, the objective is that livestock grazing will be allowed to resume when total ground cover is at least 70% of that of preburn conditions or on an adjacent unburned area, and at least 50% of surviving deep-rooted perennial grasses have produced seed.

Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Implementation of this treatment would be conducted by BLM personnel to ensure specific implementation requirements are achieved.

Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:

Effectiveness will be monitored annually for up to three years by installation of monitoring plots designed to measure total cover and seed head production of surviving deep-rooted perennial grass species. Methods to be utilized include line point intercept, basal gap intercept, and or density.

S11 - Facilities - ES Issue 1

Identify the objective of the treatment:

The objective of posting signs is to prevent further degradation of lands, allow for recovery of vegetation on dozer lines, and provide for public safety. The objective of this treatment is to repair/replace directional and information signs within the burn area which aid in the public's safety and enjoyment of their public lands.

Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Implementation will be monitored by site visits to ensure signs are placed at appropriate locations.

Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:

Effectiveness will be monitored by site visits periodically throughout the year.

S12 - Closures (area, OHV, livestock) - ES Issue 3

Identify the objective of the treatment:

The general objective of this treatment is to protect the burned area from the impacts of livestock grazing to allow for the natural recovery of vegetative resources. Specifically, the objective is that livestock grazing would be allowed to resume when total ground cover is at least 70% of that of preburn conditions or on adjacent unburned area, and at least 50% of surviving deep-rooted perennial grasses have produced seed.

Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Implementation of this treatment would be monitored through periodic field visits to ensure compliance with the closure.

Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:

Effectiveness will be monitored annually for up to three years by installation of monitoring plots designed to measure total cover and seed head production of surviving deep-rooted perennial grass species. Methods to be utilized include line point intercept, basal gap intercept, and or density.

S13 - Monitoring - ES Issue 2

Identify the objective of the treatment:

The objectives are 1) determine if implementation of treatments/activities in this plan were achieved and to document any deviations and rationale for deviation from what was planned; and, 2) determine the effectiveness of treatments/activities in meeting the specific objectives

for each treatment/activity as discussed above.

Describe how implementation will be monitored:

See specifics for each treatment/activity above.

Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:

See specifics for each treatment/activity above. A monitoring summary report will be compiled annually that will document results of monitoring efforts specific to each treatment identified within this plan.

R5 - Noxious Weeds - BAR Issue 2

Identify the objective of the treatment:

The objectives of the treatment are to 1) inventory the burned area for existing and emerging noxious weed populations; and 2) treat observed noxious weeds with approved herbicides. Specifically, the objective of the treatment is to ensure the extent of noxious weed populations does not increase within three years following the fire.

Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Implementation will be monitored by site visits to treated noxious weed infestations. Records of chemical used, rate of application and other PUP required information would be recorded and submitted to the State Weed Coordinator in end of year reports.

Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:

Treatment effectiveness will be monitored annually by BLM personnel. The method to be used will either be 1) stem counts of noxious weed infestations; or, 2) presence or absence of noxious weed. The monitoring will be conducted at a time commensurate with the herbicide used for treatment. Weed treatments will also be tracked in NSIMS.

R7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard - BAR Issue 4

Identify the objective of the treatment:

The objective of this treatment is replace/repair management fences damaged by the fire.

Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Implementation would be monitored by site visits to ensure fence construction requirements are achieved and to BLM standards.

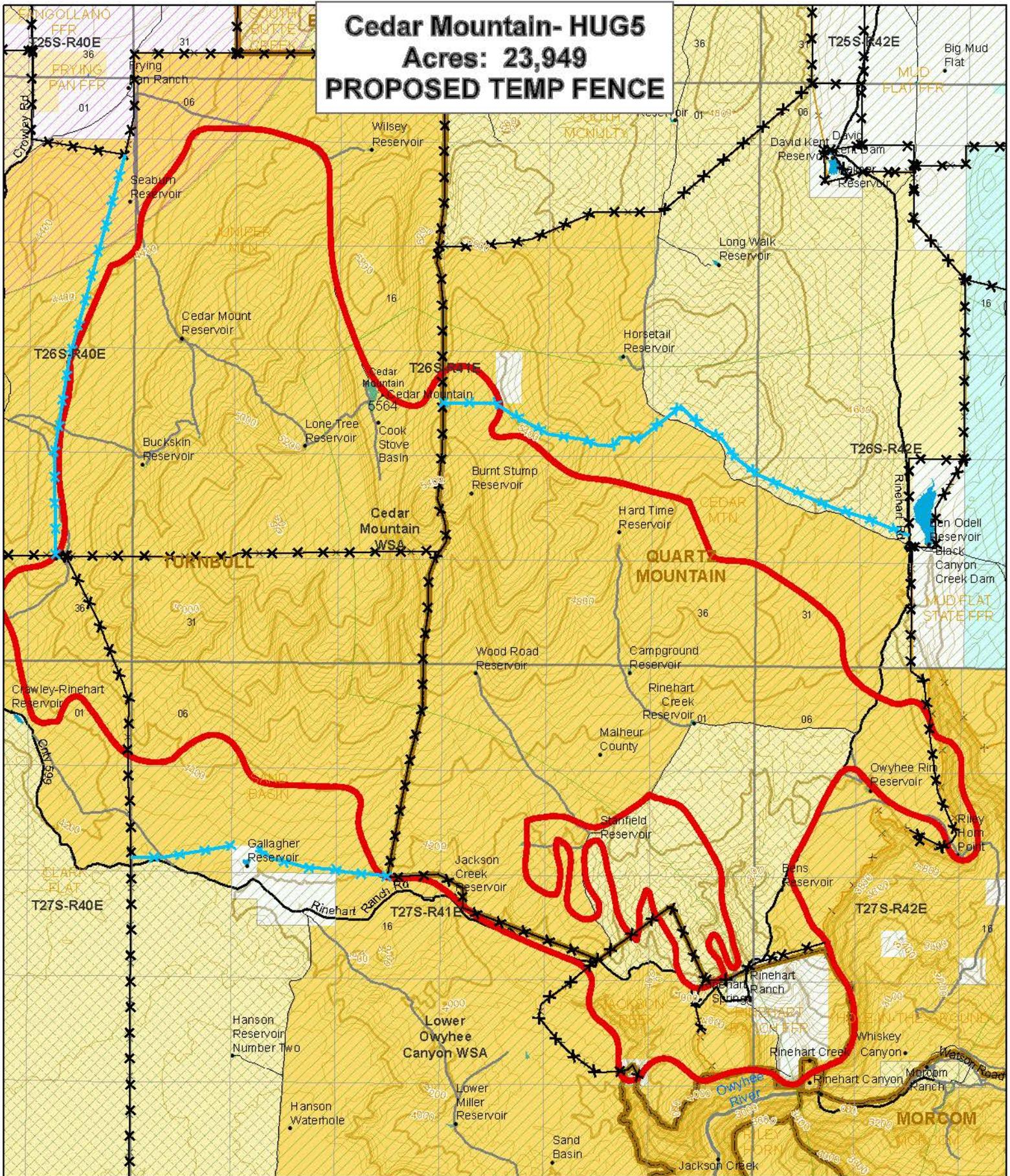
Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:

Effectiveness would be monitored by periodic field visits.

Cedar Mountain- HUG5

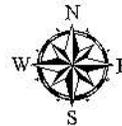
Acres: 23,949

PROPOSED TEMP FENCE



Legend

- - - Proposed Temp Fence
- Cedar Mountain Perimeter
- Preliminary General Habitat (PGH)
- Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH)
- ▲ Sage Grouse Leaks
- County route
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Private road (no symbol)
- Not Known
- Allotment
- Pasture
- Private
- BOR
- State Lands
- GRA Line
- Fence
- Wilderness Study Area
- Lands With Wilderness Characteristics
- BLM



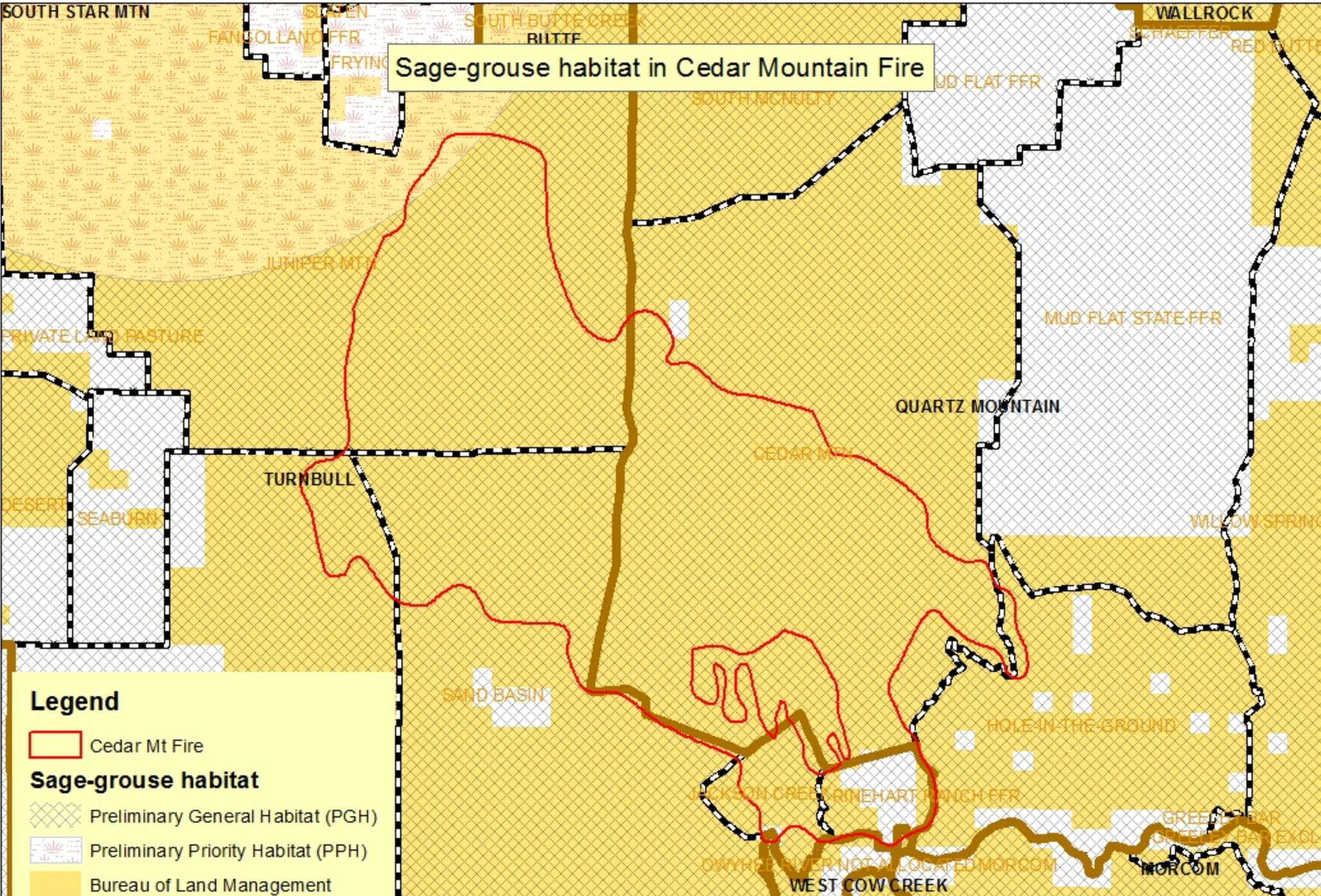
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Vale District
August 21, 2013

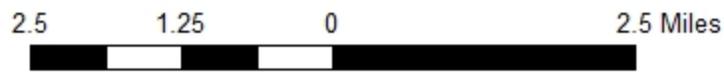
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data or information or any use of the data. Original data were compiled in accordance with the standards of the National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Sage-grouse habitat in Cedar Mountain Fire



Legend

-  Cedar Mt Fire
- Sage-grouse habitat**
 -  Preliminary General Habitat (PGH)
 -  Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH)
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private/Unknown
-  Pasture
-  Allotment



PART 10 - REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS

TEAM MEMBERS

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial	Date
Team Leader	Roger Ferriell (BLM Vale)	Initialed	08/30/2013
Soil Scientist	Todd Allai (BLM Vale)		
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Kevin Eldredge (BLM Vale)		
Noxious & Invasive Species Specialist	Lynne Silva (BLM Vale)		

PLAN APPROVAL

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

 *Acting FM for Pat Ryan* 9/5/13
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 will 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.