BLM IDAHO POST-FIRE RECOVERY PLAN
EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND BURNED AREA REHABILITATION
2011 PLAN TEMPLATE

GRINDSTONE FIRE

BLM/TWIN FALLS DISTRICT/JARBIDGE FIELD OFFICE
IDAHO STATE OFFICE

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fire Name	Grindstone
Fire Number	GHX2
District/Field Office	Twin Falls/Jarbidge
Admin Number	LLIDT01000
State	Idaho
County(s)	Owyhee, Elmore
Ignition Date/Cause	10-01-2011 / Lightning
Date Contained	10-02-2011
Jurisdiction	**Acres**
BLM	4,522
State	769
Private	0
Saylor Creek Air Force Range	16,313
Total Acres	21,604
Total Costs	$121,000
Costs to LF20000ES	$14,000
Costs to LF32000BR	$107,000

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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE FIRE

The Grindstone Fire started on October 1, 2011, at approximately 1613 hours. Fire cause was lightning. The fire burned 4,522 acres of public land administer by the BLM; 16,313 acres of military land within the Saylor Creek Air Force Range; and 769 acres of state land. The entire Grindstone Fire area has burned one or more times in the last 30 years, with the highest frequency in the Saylor Creek Range. The most recent fire was the 2005 Clover Fire, which burned approximately 193,000 acres.

Digital soil survey data (SSURGO, 2008) indicate that most of the BLM portion of the burned area occurs on the Loamy 8-12 Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass-Thurbers Needlegrass ecological site. The Sandy Loam 8-12 Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Indian Ricegrass ecological site occurs in drainages. A small area at the eastern edge of the fire occurs on the Sand 8-12 Basin Big Sagebrush/Indian Ricegrass ecological site. Pre-burn vegetation consisted primarily of crested wheatgrass seedings established after past fires. Cheatgrass was common throughout the burned area. Wyoming big sagebrush and rabbitbrush occurred as scattered plants. The fire burned grass crowns, but left basal clumps and scattered shrub skeletons. A litter layer resulting from burned cheatgrass remains on the soil surface.

The closest occupied sage-grouse lek is about 10 miles southwest of the burned area. Historic fire frequency has limited success in efforts to restore sagebrush cover in the general area. The fire lies outside the priority sage-grouse habitat zone in the Jarbidge Field Office.

The fire burned portions of the West Saylor Creek and Blue Butte grazing allotments. A portion of the West Saylor Creek Allotment occurs within the Saylor Creek Air Force Range. BLM administers grazing on the entire allotment, including U.S. Air Force managed lands.

LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY

The following treatments are proposed under this Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) plan.

Emergency Stabilization
S5 Weed Control
S7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard
S12 Closure (Livestock)

Burned Area Rehabilitation
R5 Weed Control
R7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard
R12 Closure (Livestock)

The applicable land use plan for the ES&BAR project area is the 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP). The burned area is located in Multiple Use Area (MUA)-6 (Saylor Creek West) and MUA-7 (Saylor Creek East). The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatments analyzed in the Boise District Office and Jarbidge Field Office

Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (NFRP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) #ID-090-2004-050.

The burned area contains 4,166 acres of potential habitat for slickspot peppergrass. On August 26, 2009, Idaho BLM signed a Conservation Agreement (CA) with the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office of the Service. In this CA, BLM agreed to develop and implement activities that provide for the conservation and recovery of slickspot peppergrass. On September 16, 2009, BLM initiated consultation with the Service on existing land use plans. On November 30, 2009, the Service issued a Biological Opinion (LUP BO) which further recommended implementation of conservation measures contained within the CA, which was attached as an appendix to the BO.

In addition, programmatic conference reports were prepared in 2006 by the Boise District Office for Noxious and Invasive Weed Treatment (144-2006-IC-0918) and Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (14420-2006-IC-0975) programmatic actions. These programmatic actions were developed to include all field offices in the Boise District, which, at that point in time, included the Jarbidge Field Office. These Conference Reports were confirmed December 15, 2009 (14420-2010-TA-0103).

The potential habitat in the burned area is broadly defined by soil type and elevation; inventories to determine if slickspots or slickspot peppergrass occurs in the burned area have not been performed. Since it is unknown if slickspots or slickspot peppergrass are located in the burned area, project design features that address conservation measures contained in the LUP BO and Conference Reports are included to: 1) allow rest from grazing to promote vegetation recovery, and 2) reduce the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds in the burned area. Specific programmatic conservation measures addressed in this plan are:

1) Implement Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) activities to consider slickspot peppergrass habitat rehabilitation (LUP BO p. 84-85).
    a. As needed, protect disturbed and recovering areas using temporary closures or other measures. BLM will continue to rest areas from land use activities to meet ES&R objectives, defined through the ES&R plans (LUP BO p. 84, ES&R Conference Report p. 2).
2) Although non-chemical methods will be the preferred approach in occupied habitat, when appropriate, projects involving the application of pesticides (including herbicides, fungicides, and other related chemicals) in slickspot peppergrass habitat and potential habitat that may affect the species will be analyzed at the project level and designed such that pesticide applications will support conservation and minimize risks of exposure (LUP BO p. 70-71).
    a. Apply appropriate spatial and temporal buffers to avoid species' exposure to harmful chemicals.
    b. Explore opportunities to eradicate competing nonnative invasive plants in occupied habitat where slickspots are being invaded by such plants.
    c. Implement appropriate revegetation and weed control measures to reduce risks of nonnative invasive plant infestations following ground/soil disturbing actions in slickspot peppergrass habitat.

Noxious Weeds/S5/R5: The proposed noxious weed treatments address the RMP objectives to improve lands in poor ecological condition and maintain existing vegetative improvements (Jarbidge RMP, p. II-28, II-31). They also address RMP Resource Management Guidelines to 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 (p. II-94). Weed control treatments would improve recovery of existing seedings by reducing noxious weed competition. Therefore, the proposed noxious weed treatments are in conformance to the Jarbidge RMP. Treatments are also consistent with the treatments analyzed in the NFRP and Boise District and Jarbidge Field Offices Noxious and Invasive Weed Treatment EA #ID-100-2005-EA-265 (Noxious Weed EA). In addition, design features were included consistent with existing consultations for slickspot peppergrass. These include training of weed treatment staff for slickspot and slickspot peppergrass detection and implementation of treatment buffers should occupied slickspots be found.

Fence/Gate/Cattle Guard/S7/R7: Existing pasture and allotment fences would be repaired or replaced and temporary fence constructed if necessary to ensure that livestock remain within their area of authorized use and off the burned area until resource objectives are met. The NFRP states that gates, cattleguards, fences, and other control features would be repaired and/or constructed as needed to protect treatments during the recovery period or the seeding establishment period (NFRP, p. 17). The BLM ES&BAR Handbook allows for repair or reconstruction of existing BLM-approved fences, as well as temporary fence to protect new seedings and natural recovery areas (H-1742-1, p. 31). Therefore, the proposed treatment conforms to the NFRP and current BLM policy.

Closures (Livestock)/S12/R12: The Jarbidge RMP (II-89) states under the Fire Management Section that, "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 protect these areas. This rested area may include remnant stands of desirable species that survived the fire." The NFRP states that livestock grazing would be deferred for at least two growing seasons, or until resource objectives are met, through the closure of pastures, resting whole allotments, or construction or reconstruction of protective fences as needed (NFRP, pp. 17, 19). The BLM ES&BAR Handbook (H-1732-1) states that livestock are to be excluded from burned areas until monitoring results, documented in writing, show ES&BAR objectives have been met (H-1742-1, p. 35). Closing the burned area would improve the potential natural recovery of existing seedings by eliminating livestock use of recovering plants. Livestock use would be resumed when ES&BAR objectives are met. Therefore, the proposed treatment conforms to the Jarbidge RMP, NFRP, and current BLM policy.

The ES&BAR team developed objectives and treatments which respond to the identified issues and concerns. The BLM would evaluate this plan based on the success or failure in meeting these objectives.

COST SUMMARY TABLES

Emergency Stabilization (LF20000ES):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY12	FY13	FY14	Total Cost
S1	**Planning (Project Mangt)**	WM's	1		$2,000	$0	$0	$2,000
S5	**Noxious Weeds**	Acres	4,522	$2.65	$12,000	$0	$0	$12,000
S12	**Closures**	No.	1	$0.00	$0	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL COSTS					$14,000	$0	$0	$14,000

Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF32000BR):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY12	FY13	FY14	Total Cost
R1	**Planning (Project Mangt)**	WM's	1		$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$9,000
R5	**Noxious Weeds**	Acres	4,522	$2.65	$0	$12,000	$12,000	$24,000
R7	**Fence Repair**	Miles	13.0	$5,692.31	$74,000	$0	$0	$74,000
R12	**Closures**	No.	1	$0.00	$0	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL COSTS					$77,000	$15,000	$15,000	$107,000

PART 2 – POST-FIRE RECOVERY ISSUES AND TREATMENTS

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. N/A

ES Issue 2 - Soil/Water Stabilization. The scope of this issue includes: Placing structures to slow soil and water movement, stabilizing soil to prevent loss or degradation or productivity, increasing road drainage frequency and/or capacity to handle additional post-fire runoff, installing protective fences or barriers to protect treated or recovering areas.

Treatment Activity: *S7 Fence/Gate/Cattle Guard*

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *The Blue Butte Allotment will be assessed in early November 2011 to determine if fencing is necessary to allow use of the allotment while resting the burned area. If needed, about 3.5 miles of temporary fire protection fence would be built by the permittee utilizing existing materials provided by BLM. The temporary fence would tie into existing fences and would be built to BLM standards for wildlife. The fence would be removed following the closure period. Construction and removal would be monitored by BLM staff.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The objective of this treatment is to protect the burned area from livestock grazing and to allow for natural vegetation recovery. Construction of 3.5 miles of temporary protection fence would avoid the need to close the entire allotment to livestock grazing.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *Most of the burned area is protected by existing fences, or rest can be managed through other means. About 25% of the Blue Butte Allotment burned and may require fencing protection to facilitate natural recovery. Construction of 3.5 miles of temporary fence would allow livestock grazing to occur in the remaining unburned portions of the pastures during the closure period beginning in November 2012. If needed, the fence would be constructed by the permittee utilizing materials provided by BLM. There would be no ES cost associated with this treatment.*

Treatment/Activity: *S12/R12 Livestock Closure*

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *The Grindstone Fire burned area would be rested from livestock grazing until monitoring shows that ES &BAR objectives have been met. Livestock closure would be achieved by controlling location of water and/or supplements and periodic compliance checks or by temporary fencing.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The purpose of this treatment is to rest the burn area from livestock grazing to provide the opportunity for recovery of on-site vegetation. Recovery and maintenance of resilient, competitive perennial plant communities would inhibit the expansion of annual invasive vegetation and noxious weeds and stabilize soil resources.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *There are no costs associated with the livestock closure.*

ES Issue 3 - Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species. N/A

ES Issue 4 - Critical Heritage Resources. N/A

ES Issue 5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds. The scope of this issue includes: Seeding to prevent establishment of invasive plants, and direct treatment of invasive plants. Such actions will be specified in the emergency stabilization plan only when immediate action is required and when standard treatments are used that have been validated by monitoring data from previous projects, or when there is documented research establishing the effectiveness of such actions. Using integrated pest management techniques to minimize the establishment of non-native invasive species within the burned area. When there is an existing approved management plan that addresses non-native invasive species, emergency stabilization treatments may be used to stabilize the invasive species.

Treatment/Activity: *S5 Noxious Weeds*

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Rush skeletonweed has been documented in and adjacent to the burned area. Other noxious weeds, including Scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed, and Russian knapweed, have potential for establishment in the burned area. Noxious weed inventory and spot herbicide treatment would occur the first year following the fire within the burned area under ES. Noxious weeds would be treated with the BLM-approved chemicals in accordance with the Noxious Weed EA and the Record of Decision for Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States, approved September 29, 2007(Vegetation Treatment EIS). Appendix B of the Record of Decision includes a list of standard operating procedures that would be used for vegetation treatments using herbicides.*

Design features for weed treatments:

Slickspot peppergrass potential habitat

- Weed treatment staff will be trained to identify slickspots and slickspot peppergrass.

- Should slickspots containing slickspot peppergrass (aka, occupied slickspots) be located within the burned area, weed treatment staff will notify the Jarbidge Field Office Botanist to map the population area.
- Within an element occurrence, herbicide application will use only hand sprayers. A 10-foot no-herbicide treatment buffer will be established around occupied slickspots. Within the buffer zone, weeds will be treated using hand-pulling or cutting and bagging.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *Disturbance associated with the fire and fire suppression, including use of heavy equipment to create dozer lines, increases the potential for invasion and spread of noxious weeds due to vegetation removal and soil surface disturbance.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *Inventory and treatment of new noxious weed populations is more cost-effective than waiting until the population has had opportunity to establish and spread. Field work would be combined with other noxious weed treatments for cost efficiency.*

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 1 - Lands Unlikely to Recover Naturally. N/A

BAR Issue 2 - Weed Treatments. The scope of this issue includes: Chemical, manual, and mechanical removal of invasive species, and planting of native and non-native species, restore or establish a healthy, stable ecosystem even if this ecosystem cannot fully emulate historical or pre-fire conditions.

Treatment/Activity: *R5 Noxious Weeds*

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Rush skeletonweed has been documented in and adjacent to the burned area. Other noxious weeds, including Scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed, and Russian knapweed, have potential for establishment in the burned area. Noxious weed inventory and spot herbicide treatment would occur in the second and third years following the fire under BAR. Noxious weeds would be treated with the BLM-approved chemicals in accordance with the*

Noxious Weed EA and Vegetation Treatment EIS (See Treatment S5 above).

Design features for weed treatments:

Slickspot peppergrass potential habitat

- Weed treatment staff will be trained to identify slickspots and slickspot peppergrass.
- Should slickspots containing slickspot peppergrass (aka, occupied slickspots) be located within the burned area, weed treatment staff will notify the Jarbidge Field Office Botanist to map the population area.
- Within an element occurrence, herbicide application will use only hand sprayers. A 10-foot no-herbicide treatment buffer will be established around occupied slickspots. Within the buffer zone, weeds will be treated using hand-pulling or cutting and bagging.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *Disturbance associated with the fire and fire suppression, including use of heavy equipment to create dozer lines, increases the potential for invasion and spread of noxious weeds due to vegetation removal and soil surface disturbance. Potential for invasion and spread of noxious weeds remains high in years immediately following fire during vegetation recovery.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *Inventory and treatment of new noxious weed populations is more cost-effective than waiting until the population has had opportunity to establish and spread. Field work would be combined with other noxious weed treatments for cost efficiency.*

BAR Issue 3 - Tree Planting. N/A

BAR Issue 4 - Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities. The scope of this issue includes: Repair or replace fire damage to minor operating facilities (e.g., campgrounds, interpretive signs and exhibits, shade shelters, fences, wildlife guzzlers, etc.) [Rehabilitation may not include the planning or replacement of major infrastructure, such as visitor centers, residential structures, administration offices, work centers and similar facilities. Rehabilitation does not include the construction of new facilities that did not exist before the fire, except for temporary and minor facilities necessary to implement burned area rehabilitation efforts.]

Treatment Activity: *R7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard*

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *The objective of this treatment is to repair or replace approximately 2 miles of allotment fences and 11 miles of interior pasture fences damaged or destroyed by the fire. Damaged wood corners and braces would be replaced with galvanized steel posts. Damaged wire would also be repaired. The management fences would be constructed to BLM fence standards for wildlife.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The wildfire damaged fences associated with the livestock management of the affected allotments. Reconstruction and repair of management fences damaged by the fire would maintain the future*

integrity of the existing livestock grazing system. Repair of damaged management fences would also help to manage vegetation recovery.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *This treatment is reasonable and cost effective because it would utilize existing fences and gates to the greatest extent possible, while allowing unburned areas to be available to grazing. Damaged wood stretch points and corners would be replaced with galvanized steel pipe thus increasing the longevity of the structures and resistance to future wildfire damages.*

PART 3 – DETAILED TREATMENT COST TABLE

Emergency Stabilization		Units	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**Total Costs**
S1	***Planning (Plan Prep/Project Mangt)***					
	Project Management Field Office	WM's	2,000		0	2,000
	Total		2,000	0	0	2,000
S5	***Noxious Weeds***					
	Labor	Acres	8,000			8,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	2,000			2,000
	Supplies/Materials	Total	2,000			2,000
	Total		12,000	0	0	12,000
	EMERGENCY STABILIZATION TOTALS		$14,000	$0	$0	$14,000

Rehabilitation		Units	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**Total Costs**
R1	***Planning (Plan Prep/Project Mangt)***					
	Project Management Field Office	WM's	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
	Total		3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
R5	***Noxious Weeds***					
	Labor	WM's		8,000	8,000	16,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		2,000	2,000	4,000
	Supplies/Materials	Total		2,000	2,000	4,000
	Total		0	12,000	12,000	24,000
R7	***Fence/Gate/Cattle Guard***					
	Fence Material	Total	26,000			26,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	3,000			3,000
	Contract	Total	39,000			39,000
	Contract Administration	WM's	6,000			6,000
	Total		74,000	0	0	74,000
	BURNED AREA REHABILITATION TOTALS		77,000	15,000	15,000	107,000

PART 4 – SEED LISTS

N/A

PART 5 - NATIVE/NON-NATIVE PLANT WORKSHEET

N/A

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
S5	Noxious Weeds	**Acres**	4,522	$12,000	90
S7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	**Miles**	3.5	$42,000	100
S12	Closures (livestock grazing)	**Acres**	4,522	0	100
TOTAL COSTS:				$54,000	

Action/ Spec. #	Planned BAR Action (LF32000BR)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
R5	Noxious Weeds	**Acres**	4,522	$24,000	90
R7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	**Miles**	13	$74,000	100
R12	Closures (livestock grazing)	**Acres**	4,522	0	100
TOTAL COSTS:				$98,000	

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 |X| No |__| Rationale for answer: *Noxious weed treatments would reduce potential for expansion of noxious weeds in and adjacent to the burned area. Livestock closure and repair of burned fences would increase potential for vegetation recovery and, thus, the biological and physical stability of the burned area.*

No Action Yes |__| No |X| Rationale for answer: *Failure to treat noxious weeds and rest the burned area would compromise vegetation recovery and reduce wildlife values and soil stability.*

Alternative(s) Yes |__| No |__| Rationale for answer: *N/A*

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: *Monitoring and observations of weed treatments in similar locations indicate that success would be high. Normal climatic conditions and exclusion of livestock grazing would increase potential for vegetation recovery.*

No Action Yes |__| No |X| Rationale for answer: *The burned area and surrounding lands have high potential for expansion of noxious weeds. This potential would increase without treatment and recovery of on-site vegetation.*

Alternative(s) Yes |__| No |__| Rationale for answer: *N/A*

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

Proposed Action |X|,
Alternative(s) |__|,
No Action |__|

Comments:

C. Risk of Resource Value Loss or Damage

No Action - Treatments Not Implemented (check one)

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

Proposed Action - Treatments Successfully Implemented (check one)

Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Medium	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil			X		
Weed Invasion			X		
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity			X		
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure			X		
Unacceptable Disruption of Ecological Processes			X		
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property		X			

Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Medium	High
Off-site Threats to Human Life		X			
Other-Loss of Access Road Due to Plugged Culverts	X				

PART 7 – MONITORING PLAN

Monitoring and evaluation of ES and BAR treatments would be implemented to ensure that treatments are properly implemented, effective, and maintained. Monitoring methods may be qualitative or quantitative, and would be commensurate with the level of treatment complexity and extent. Monitoring and evaluation information would provide adaptive management feedback to improve ES and BAR treatment performance. Monitoring would be the responsibility of the BLM interdisciplinary team. An annual monitoring summary report would be submitted documenting treatment effectiveness.

Treatment/Activity: *S5/R5 Noxious Weed Treatments*

1) Treatment Objectives: *Rush skeletonweed, Scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed, and Russian knapweed are the primary noxious weeds of concern in the burned area. It is expected that these weeds would expand their range as a result of the fire. Since these weeds are not uniformly distributed across the burn area a quantifiable objective cannot be determined until the first year inventory occurs.*

The objective for the first growing season is to conduct an inventory of the burned area. Any noxious weeds detected during the inventory would be treated.

The objective for the second and third years is to decrease the acreage of noxious weeds needing treatment as compared to the first year.

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored: *Locations of noxious weed populations (by species), treatment type, and the amount of herbicide used would be documented using GPS and GIS.*

3) Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period: *Size and location of noxious weed populations and needed treatments would be compared between years 1, 2, and 3 to determine treatment effectiveness. If noxious weed populations remain in the burned area beyond the third year, responsibility would be transferred to the Twin Falls District Noxious Weed Program for ongoing inventory, treatment, and monitoring using funding sources other than ES&BAR.*

Treatment/Activity: S7/*R7 Fence/Gate/Cattle Guard*

1) Treatment Objectives: *The objective of this treatment is to repair or replace approximately 2 miles of allotment fence and 11 miles of interior pasture fence damaged or destroyed by the fire. Damaged wood corners and braces would be replaced with galvanized steel posts. Damaged wire would also be repaired. The fences would be constructed to BLM fence standards for wildlife. The need for 3.5 miles of temporary protection fence in the Blue Butte Allotment would be evaluated in early November. If fencing is required to rest the burned area to meet vegetation recovery objectives while allowing livestock use on the unburned portion of the allotment, the fence would be built by the permittee using materials provided by BLM and to BLM standards for wildlife.*

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored: *Implementation is monitored through contract administration and staff supervision. Any changes from the planned implementation would be documented in the project file.*

3) Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period: *Repair or replacement of existing fence would be monitored through contract administration and documented in the project file. Work would be completed within the first year following the fire.*

Treatment/Activity: *S12/R12 Livestock Closure*

1) Treatment Objectives: *Exclusion of livestock is critical for the recovery of burned vegetation. The burned area would be closed to promote recovery of existing seedings, consistent with the NFRP.*

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored: *Resumption of livestock grazing would ultimately depend on monitoring and meeting of natural recovery objectives. The monitoring for grazing availability and recommendations for opening the burn area to livestock would be the responsibility of an interdisciplinary team. Implementation is monitored through rangeland management administration. Post-fire grazing agreements would be issued closing the burn area to livestock grazing.*

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

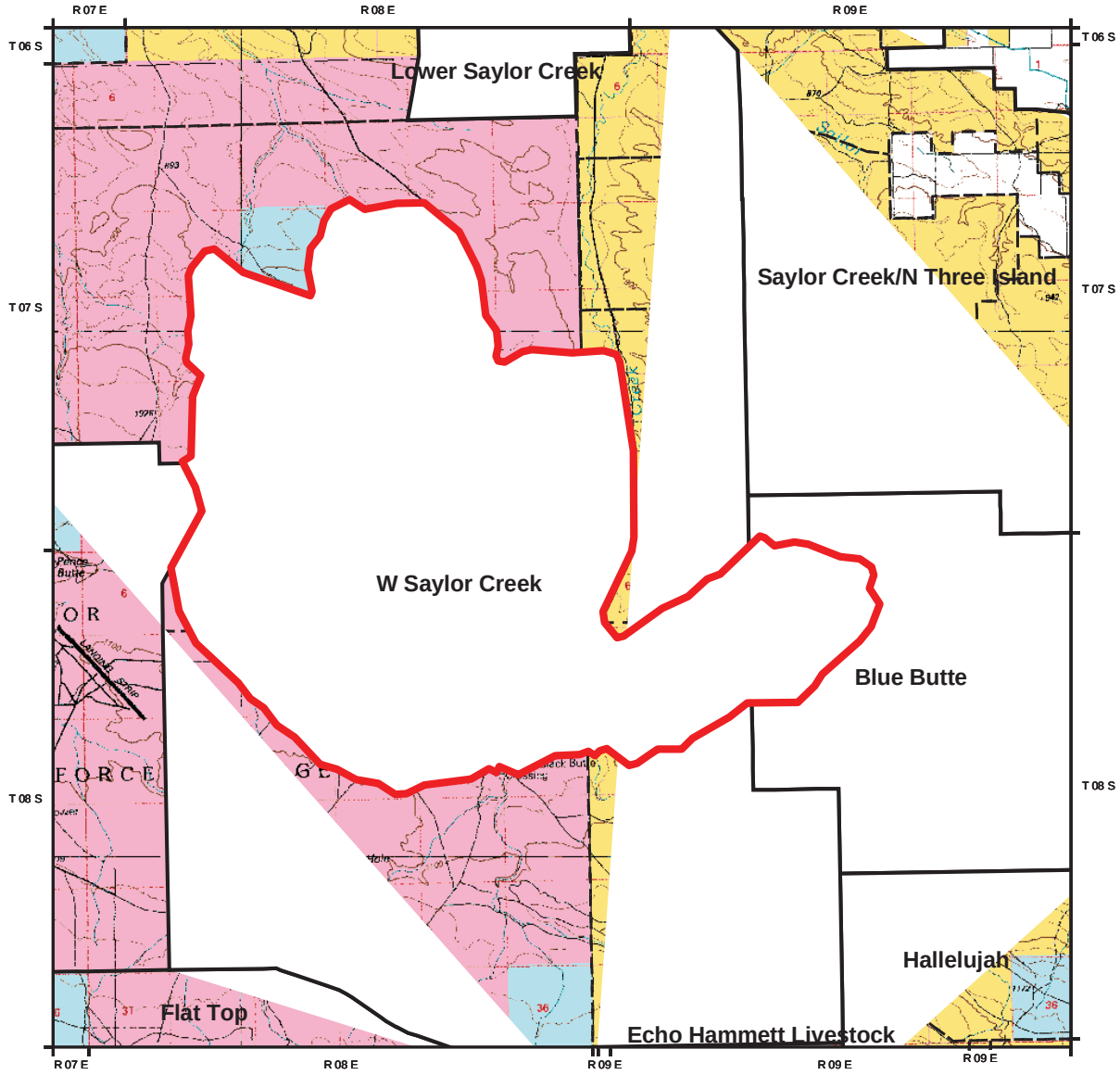
Natural recovery areas would be considered recovered and available for grazing when:

1) *Recovered herbaceous vegetation is providing sufficient ground cover to protect the site from accelerated erosion and expansion/conversion to annual grasses and noxious weeds. The amount of bare mineral soil (lacking cover of plants, litter, or biological soil crust) is within 10% of what would be expected for early seral stages of the ecological sites found within the burned area. Recommended study methods include line-point intercept or step point cover methods and photo points.*
2) *A qualitative visual assessment of the following would also be considered:*
   - *Plant vigor (perennial plants)*
   - *Precipitation information during the non–growing (winter) and growing (spring through early summer) seasons*
   - *Competition with invasive annual plants and noxious weed species*
   - *Seed production*
3) *An evaluation of collected monitoring data is completed documenting that reintroducing grazing to the area would not cause a downward trend in vegetation recovery.*

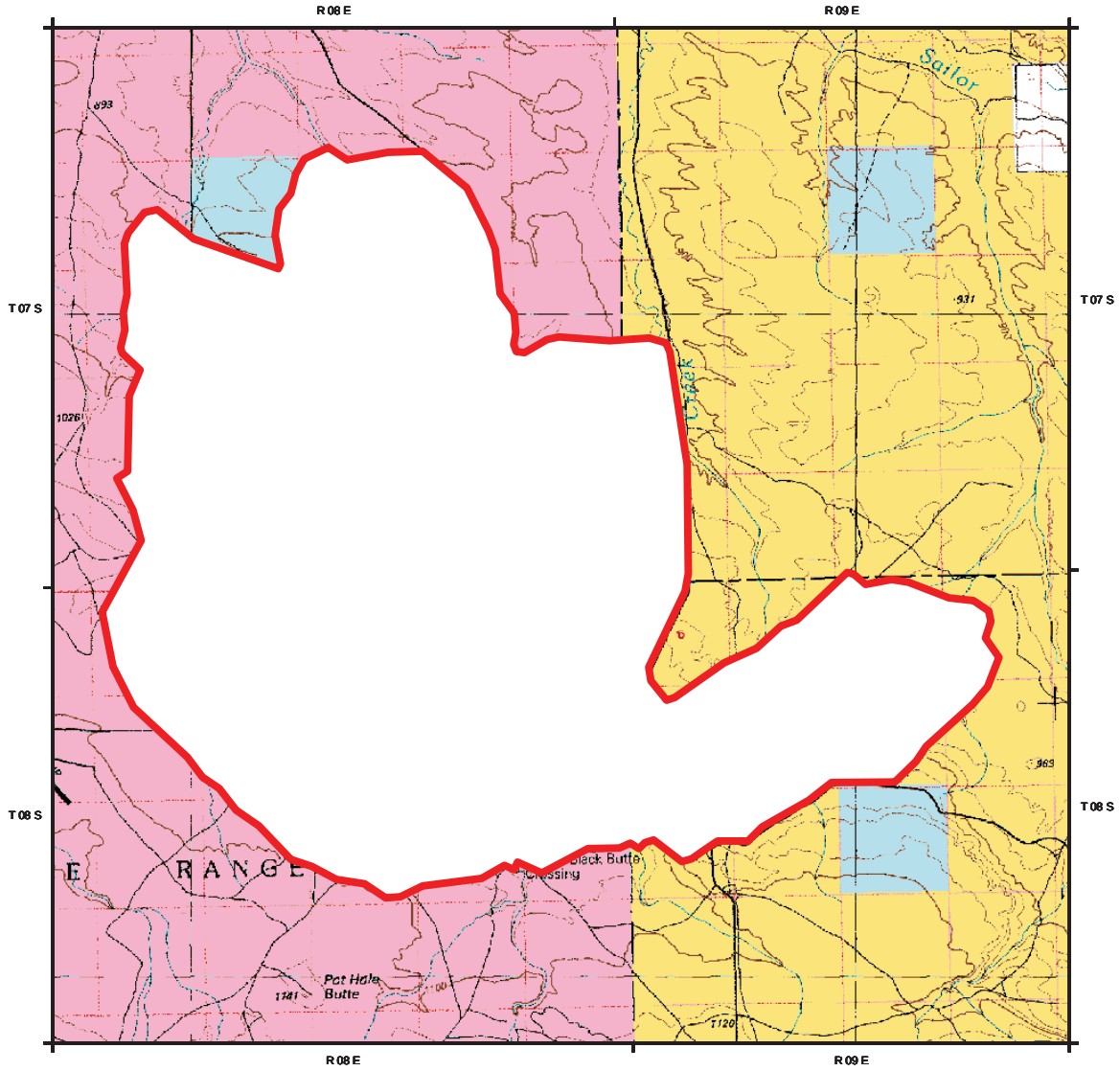
PART 8 - MAPS

1. Fire Perimeter, Land Status, and Grazing Allotments
2. Pre-fire Vegetation
3. Fence Repair and Temporary Protection Fence
4. Slickspot Peppergrass Potential Habitat

MAP 1. GRINDSTONE FIRE (GHX2) - LAND STATUS AND GRAZING ALLOTMENTS



MAP 2. GRINDSTONE FIRE (GHX2) - PRE-FIRE VEGETATION



Grindstone Fire perimeter

Pre-Fire Vegetation

- Annual
- Bluegrass
- Crested wheatgrass
- Wyoming sagebrush/crested wheatgrass

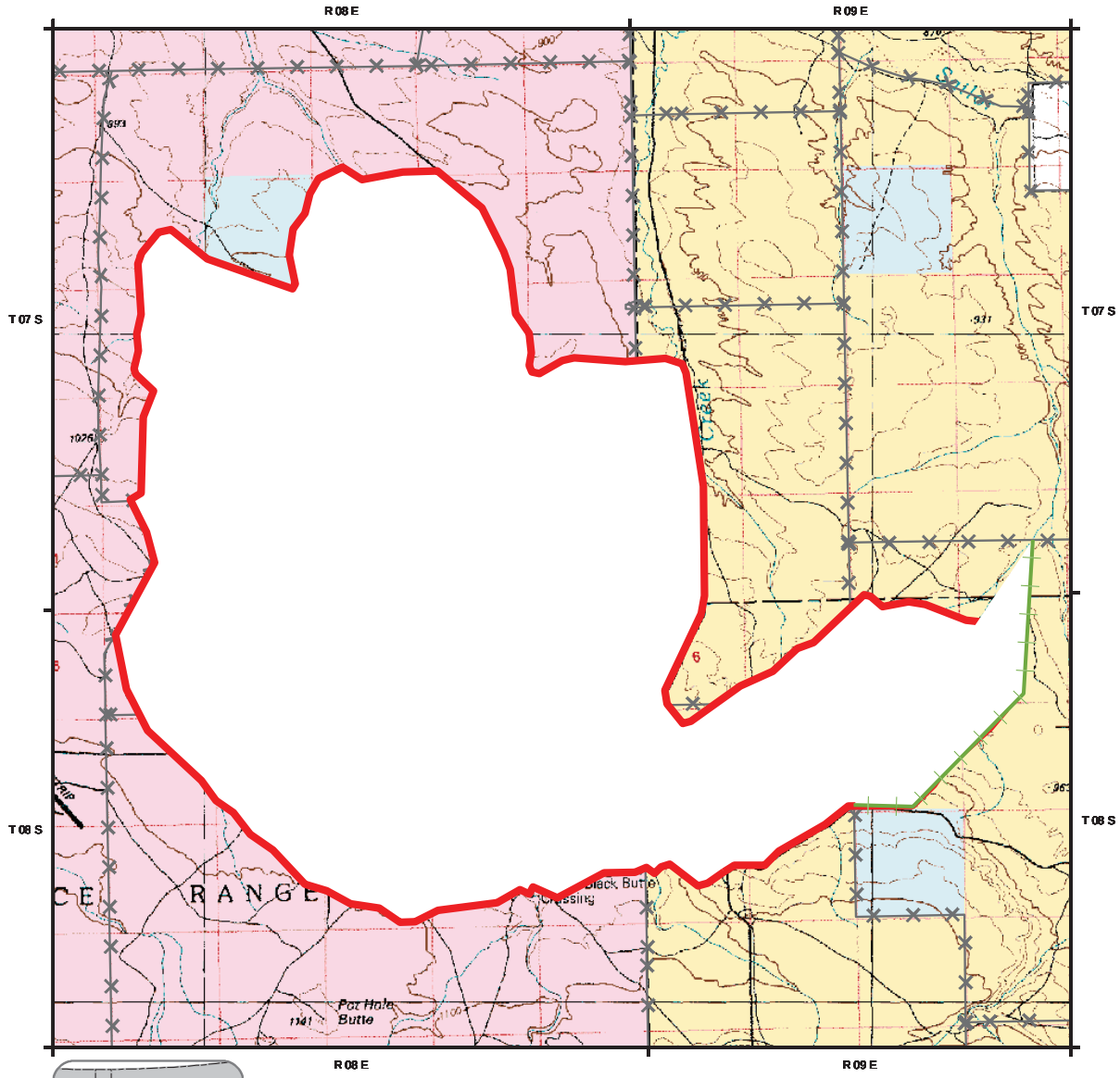
0 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

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.

US Depart. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Twin Falls District, Idaho

Map Created on: October 6, 2011
Data Displayed in NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_11N Projection
Q:\tf\loc\planning\Users_Files\Jarbidge Fires 2011\Hot Springs 2\GIS\ArcProj\GHX2_Grindstone_Vegetation.mxd
Author: jhilty

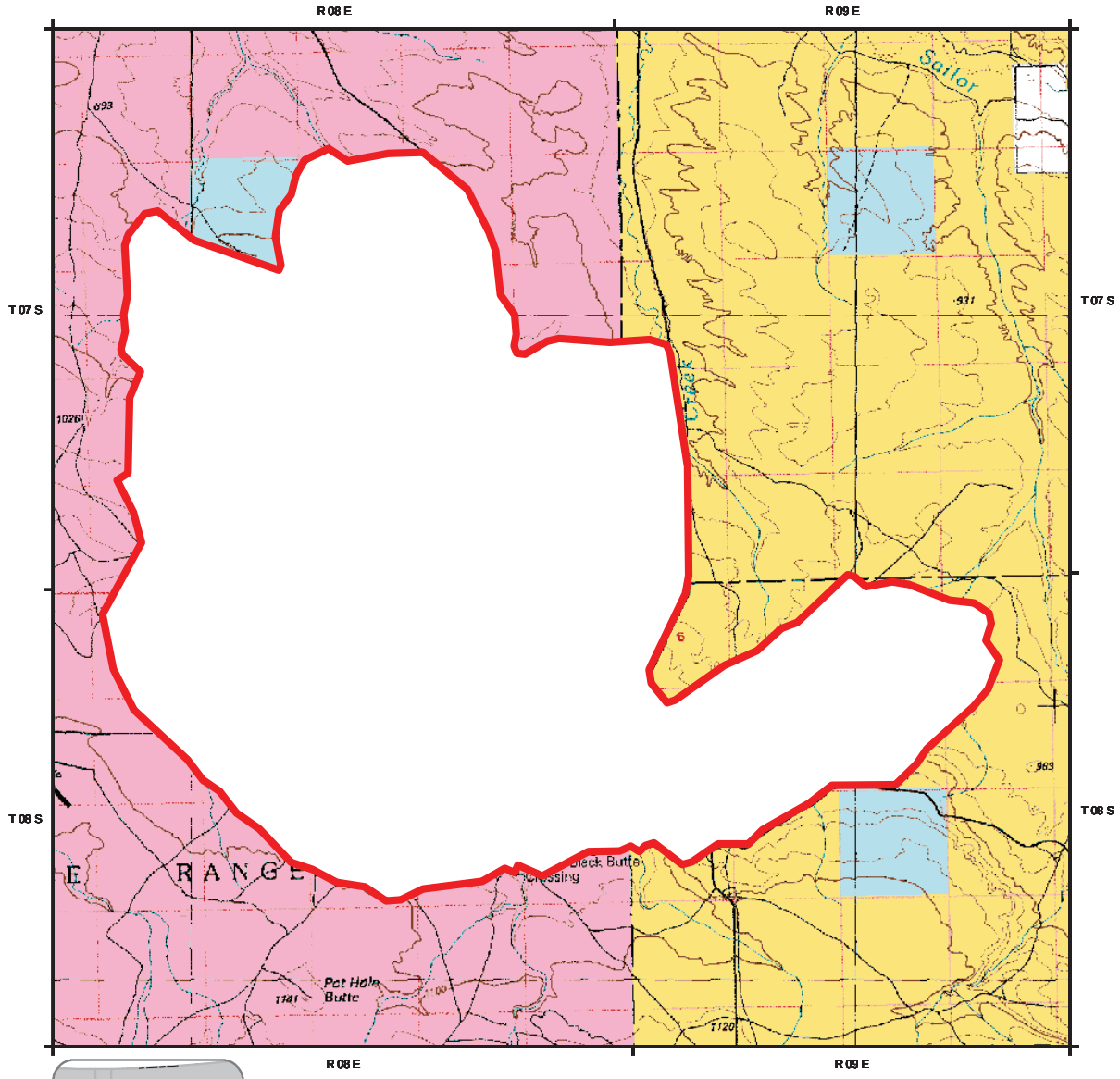
MAP 3. GRINDSTONE FIRE (GHX2) - EXISTING FENCE
AND TEMPORARY PROTECTION FENCE



US Depart. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Twin Falls District, Idaho

Map Created on: October 12, 2011
Data Displayed in NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_11N Projection
Q:\tf\loc\planning\Users_Files\Jarbidge Fires 2011\Grindstone\GIS\ArcProj\GHX2_Grindstone_Treatments.mxd
Author: jhilty

MAP 4. GRINDSTONE FIRE (GHX4) - SLICKSPOT PEPPERGRASS POTENTIAL HABITAT



Grindstone Fire perimeter
Slickspot peppergrass potential habitat
Bureau of Land Management
Military, Department of Defense
Private; other
State

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

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.

US Depart. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Twin Falls District, Idaho

Map Created on: October 12, 2011
Data Displayed in NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_11N Projection
Q:\tf\loc\planning\Users_Files\Jarbidge Fires 2011\Grindstone\GIS\ArcProj\GHX2_Grindstone_Slickspot_Potential_Habitat.mxd
Author: jhilty

PART 9 – REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS

TEAM MEMBERS

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial and Date
Team Leader	Julie Hilty (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JH 10/7/2011
Operations	Scott Uhrig (BLM, Twin Falls DO)	SU 10/18/2011
NEPA Compliance & Planning	Jeff Ross (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JR 10/11/2011
Botanist	Tom Stewart (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	TES 10/13/2011
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Jeff Ross (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JR 10/11/2011
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist	Krystle Pehrson (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	KP 10/12/2011
Rangeland Management Specialist	Dan Strickler (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	DS 10/12/2011
Wildlife Biologist	Jim Klott (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JHK 10-12-2011
Resource Advisor(s) on Fire	Erik Kriwox (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	EJK 10-12-2011

PLAN APPROVAL

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

/s/ Codie Martin, Acting for — 10/27/2011

Brian Davis — DATE
FIELD OFFICE MANAGER

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.