

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

**DIAMOND RANCH**

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

**FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

<b>Fire Name</b>	Diamond Ranch
<b>Fire Number</b>	G6D1
<b>District/Field Office</b>	Twin Falls Distric/Jarbidge Field Office
<b>Admin Number</b>	LLIDT001000
<b>State</b>	Idaho
<b>County(s)</b>	Owyhee
<b>Ignition Date/Cause</b>	8.16.2012/Lightning
<b>Date Contained</b>	8.17.2012

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>BLM</b>	3,028
<i>State</i>	0
<i>Private</i>	0
<i>Other</i>	0

<b>Total Acres</b>	3,028
<b>Total Costs</b>	\$100,000
<b>Costs to LF3200000</b>	\$30,000
<b>Costs to LF3100000</b>	\$70,000

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initial Submission of Complete Plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Updating or Revising the Initial Submission

## **PART 1 - PLAN SUMMARY**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE FIRE**

The Diamond Ranch Fire started on August 16, 2012, at approximately 1800 hours. Fire cause was lightning. The fire burned about 3,028 acres of public land administered by the BLM. The fire was contained at 1300 on August 17 and controlled at 2000. The burned area contains 2,943 acres of Sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) and 85 acres of Preliminary General Habitat (PGH; Version 2, April 2012).

The fire burned in portions of two pastures of the Diamond A Allotment.

<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Pasture</b>	<b>BLM Acres Burned</b>	<b>BLM Acres in Pasture</b>	<b>% of BLM Acres in Pasture Burned</b>	<b>AUMs Affected by Fire</b>
Diamond A	Columbet/Dorsey Table	3,013	22,735	13	209
	Horse	15	1,942	<1	<2

Digital soil survey data (SSURGO, 2008) indicate that about 82% of the burned area occurs on the Shallow claypan 12-16 low sagebrush/Idaho fescue ecological site and about 15% of the burned area occurs on the Loamy 10-13 Wyoming big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass ecological site. The remainder of the burned area occurs within rocky canyon breaks. Most of the Diamond Ranch Fire burned in the 2007 Murphy Complex Fire. As a result of ground seeding treatments and natural recovery following the Murphy Complex Fire, the Diamond Ranch Fire burned at light to moderate severity, leaving burned grass crowns standing and lightly burned or unburned patches within the perimeter (Figures 1 and 2).

Examination of the burned area indicated high potential for recovery of the herbaceous plant community components, which include Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, and a variety of forbs. In addition, both green and grey rabbitbrush, both re-sprouting shrubs, were also present and will likely recover. However, low sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush cover were removed in the Murphy Complex Fire. These species were seeded on the burned area following that fire but establishment from seed was low. Shrubs that were established or remained following the Murphy Complex Fire were killed in areas burned in the Diamond Ranch Fire.

Figure 1. Light to moderate severity burn in the Diamond Ranch Fire.



Figure 2. Light fire severity in the Diamond Ranch Fire.



## **LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY**

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

### **Emergency Stabilization**

S12 Closure (Livestock)

### **Burned Area Rehabilitation**

R4 Seedling Planting

R5 Weed Control

The applicable land use plan for the ES&BAR project area is the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Record of Decision (ROD) dated March 23, 1987. The burned area is within the Diamond “A” Multiple Use Area (MUA). Applicable Resource Management Objectives for the Diamond “A” MUA are:

- Improve lands in poor ecological condition (p. II-59).
- Manage big game habitat for mule deer, antelope, and bighorn sheep (p. II-59).
- Maintain current condition of riparian habitat (p. II-60).

Management guidelines contained in the RMP are identified for affected resources under each treatment discussed below.

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 Noxious and Invasive Weed Treatment EA (#ID-100-2005-EA-265) for the Boise District and Jarbidge Field Office (Noxious Weed EA), and the Jarbidge Field Office Shrub Planting EA (#ID-201-2008-EA-359).

Treatments are consistent with current Bureau policy (Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-043) for enhancement and restoration of sage-grouse habitat, specifically:

- In Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation plans, prioritize re-vegetation projects to (1) maintain and enhance unburned intact sagebrush habitat when at risk from adjacent threats; (2) stabilize soils; (3) reestablish hydrologic function; (4) maintain and enhance biological integrity; (5) promote plant resiliency; (6) limit expansion or dominance of invasive species; and (7) reestablish native species.

The proposed treatments address also conservation measures identified in the 2006 Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho, which recommended seeding or planting the appropriate species and subspecies of sagebrush as part of restoration or burned area rehabilitation treatments (pp. 4-19 through 4-20), re-establishing sagebrush in seeded perennial grasslands (pp. 4-85 through 4-87), and noxious weed control in burned areas (p. 4-20).

## Land Use Plan Consistency for Proposed Treatments

**Shrub Planting/R4:** The proposed treatment addresses the following RMP Resource Management Guidelines:

- Terrestrial Wildlife (p. II-83)
  - Manage all ecological sites on mule deer, pronghorn, elk, bighorn sheep and sage-grouse habitat currently in fair or poor ecological condition, for good ecological condition.
  - Manage all wildlife habitat within the resource area to provide a diversity of vegetation and habitats.

This proposed treatment is in conformance with the Jarbidge RMP and consistent BLM sage-grouse conservation policy. The treatment and associated design features were analyzed in the Jarbidge Field Office Shrub Planting EA.

**Noxious Weeds/R5:** The proposed noxious weed treatments address the RMP objectives cited above to improve lands in poor ecological condition. 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 native plant communities and 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 Noxious Weed EA.

**Closures (Livestock)/S12:** 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 native vegetation and 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

### Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF3200000):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY13	FY14	FY15	Total Cost
R1	<b>Planning (Project Mangt)</b>		1		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
R5	<b>Noxious Weeds</b>		3,028		\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$24,000
<b>TOTAL COSTS LF3200000</b>								
<b>TOTAL COSTSF3100000</b>								

### 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.** Not Applicable.

**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: *S12 Livestock Closure*

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *The Diamond Ranch burned area would be rested from livestock grazing until monitoring shows that ES&BAR objectives have been met. Rest would be*

*accomplished by controlling water availability. Natural water is not available within the burned area. Water is typically hauled to Columbet Table for livestock use. Water hauling would not occur during the closure period; use supervision would occur to ensure that livestock are not present in the burned area.*

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 introduction and spread 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.** See treatment R4/Seedling Planting below.

**ES Issue 4 - Critical Heritage Resources.** Not Applicable.

**ES Issue 5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds.** See treatment R5/Noxious Weeds below

## **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.** The scope of this issue includes: Repair or improve lands unlikely to recover naturally from wildland fire damage by emulating historical or pre-fire ecosystem structure, function, diversity, and dynamics consistent with existing land management plans.

### Wildlife Habitat

The burned area is classified predominantly as Sage-grouse PPH. There is one occupied and one status undetermined lek within the fire perimeter, one occupied lek within about 0.25 mile of the burned area, and one occupied lek within about 1 mile of the burned area. The area is also classified as crucial mule deer winter range and adjacent to the Bruneau-Jarbidge River Area of

Critical Environmental Concern for bighorn sheep habitat. The fire re-burned an area that burned in the 2007 Murphy Complex Fire and removed some remnant low and Wyoming big sagebrush islands and plants that resulted from that ES&BAR effort. Due to the low severity of the fire, it is anticipated that sagebrush re-establishment from seed would have low success due to residual plant cover and competition. However, wildlife habitat conditions are not expected to recover naturally and supplemental planting is proposed to re-establish shrub cover.

Treatment Activity: *R4 Seedling Planting*

A. Treatment/Activity Description. **Funding for this treatment would be from non-ESR funding sources.** *The objective of the seedling planting treatment is to establish shrub patches in the burned area to provide a seed source for natural recruitment. Up to 25,000 containerized or bare-root low sagebrush seedlings and 5,000 Wyoming big sagebrush seedlings would be hand planted within the burned area in fall 2013. Plants would be contract grown using seed collected from a local source, if possible.*

**Design Features for Shrub Planting:**

*Shrub seedlings would be planted in patches of about 100-500 plants throughout the burned area on appropriate ecological sites. Patches would generally be oriented in a north-south arrangement to facilitate natural dispersal of seed by wind. Shrub seedlings would be spaced no closer than 3 feet from each other, and placed at least 3 feet from existing, live mature or seedling shrubs. Shrubs could be placed less than 3 feet from dead sagebrush for sun and wind protection and to access soil nutrients and mycorrhizal fungi that are associated with areas under sagebrush canopies.*

*Vehicles would be restricted to existing roads. Planting would not occur within 0.25 mile of livestock water or supplement locations, within 50 feet any two-track road or fence line, or during saturated soil conditions. Under agreement between the Bureau and the State Historic Preservation Officer, cultural resource inventory is not required for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for hand planting projects. However, the Jarbidge Field Office Archeologist would be notified immediately should artifacts be found during implementation of the planting project. Fuels program specialists would be on-site the first day of planting to provide guidance to the contractor regarding planting restrictions.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *Some remnant sagebrush patches and shrubs established following past ES&BAR seedings were burned in the fire. Sagebrush recovery can take decades to return to a pre-burn level. The proposed plantings would re-establish shrub patches and provide seed sources in the burn area to speed recovery of habitat for sage-grouse and other wildlife.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *Monitoring of sagebrush plantings in the Jarbidge Field Office following recent fires has determined that these projects are effective in re-establishing scattered shrub patches to assist in natural recruitment and spread. Planting shrubs in patches in locations selected to maximize potential for dispersal reduces the number of seedlings required to cover the burned area. Shrub planting is an accepted method for shrub re-establishment according to BLM policy and sage-grouse conservation planning.*

**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. *Canada thistle, rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed are state-listed noxious weeds that have potential to establish in the burned area. Noxious weed inventory and spot herbicide treatment would occur the first through third years following the fire within the burned area under BAR. Noxious weeds would be treated with 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.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *Soil surface disturbance and vegetation removal associated with the fire and fire suppression increases the potential for invasion and spread of noxious weeds. 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.** Not Applicable.

**BAR Issue 4 - Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities.** Not Applicable.

**PART 3 – DETAILED TREATMENT COST TABLE**

Rehabilitation		Units	FY13	FY14	FY15	Total Costs
<b>R1</b>	<b>Planning (Plan Prep/Project Mangt)</b>					
	Project Management Field Office	WM's	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
	<b>Total</b>		2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
<b>R5</b>	<b>Noxious Weeds</b>					
	Labor	WM's	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	1,000	1,000	1,000	3,000
	Supplies/Materials	Total	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
	<b>Total</b>		8,000	8,000	8,000	24,000
	<b>BURNED AREA REHABILITATION TOTALS</b>		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
	<b>Seedling Planting (Shrub/Tree)</b>					
	Seedling Cost	Total	30,000			30,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	4,000			4,000
	Contract	Total	30,000			30,000
	Contract Administration	WM's	6,000			6,000
	<b>OTHER FUNDED TOTALS</b>		\$70,000	\$0	\$0	\$70,000

**PART 5 - NATIVE/NON-NATIVE PLANT WORKSHEET**

*Not Applicable.*

**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?

*Enter Yes or No* Rationale:

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

*Enter Yes or No* Rationale:

3. Is the cost and/or quality of the native seed reasonable given the project size and approved field unit management and Plan objectives?

*Enter Yes or No* Rationale:

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?

*Enter Yes or No* Rationale:

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?

*Enter Yes or No* Rationale:

**B. Proposed Non-native Plants in Seed Mixture (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?

Enter Yes or No Rationale:

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?

Enter Yes or No Rationale:

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

Enter Yes or No Rationale:

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

**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
S12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	#	1	0.00	100
<b>TOTAL COSTS:</b>					

Action/ Spec. #	Planned BAR Action (LF32000BR)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	3,028	\$24,000	90
R12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	#	1	0.00	100
<b>TOTAL ES&amp;BAR COSTS:</b>				\$94,000	

**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  No  Rationale for answer: *Noxious weed treatments would reduce potential for expansion of noxious weeds into the burned area. Resting the burned area would reduce the potential for noxious weed introduction and allow for natural recovery.*

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

**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  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  Rationale for answer: *The burned area and surrounding lands have moderate 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** ,  
**Alternative(s)** ,  
**No Action**

Comments:

**C. Risk of Resource Value Loss or Damage**

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

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

**Proposed Action - Treatments Successfully Implemented (check one)**

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

**PART 7 – MONITORING PLAN**

Treatment/Activity: *R4 Seedling Planting*

1) Treatment Objectives: *The objective of the seedling planting treatment is to re-establish sagebrush cover within the burned area. The seedling planting treatment would be considered successful if the planted sagebrush seedlings have survival rates of:*

- 1) 40% or greater – fully successful*
- 2) 20-40% – partially successful*
- 3) <20% – poor survival or a failure.*

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored: *Implementation is monitored through contract administration. Any changes from the planned implementation would be noted in the project file “as built” discussion.*

3) Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period: *The methods used to monitor the plantings would include field observations, photo plots, and belt transects. Belt transects would record presence/absence and survival. Transects would be randomly established through the treated area.*

Treatment/Activity: *R5 Noxious Weed Treatments*

1) Treatment Objectives: *Canada thistle, rush skeletonweed, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed are state-listed noxious weeds that have potential to establish in the burned area. It is expected that these weeds could expand their range as a result of the fire. Since distribution of weeds within the burned area is not currently known, 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: *S12 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 native vegetation and existing seedings, consistent with the NFRP. Livestock would be excluded from the burned area until monitoring results, documented in writing, show that ES&BAR objectives have been met (BLM Handbook H-1742-1, p. 35).*

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. A post-fire grazing agreement would be issued closing the burned area to livestock grazing.*

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

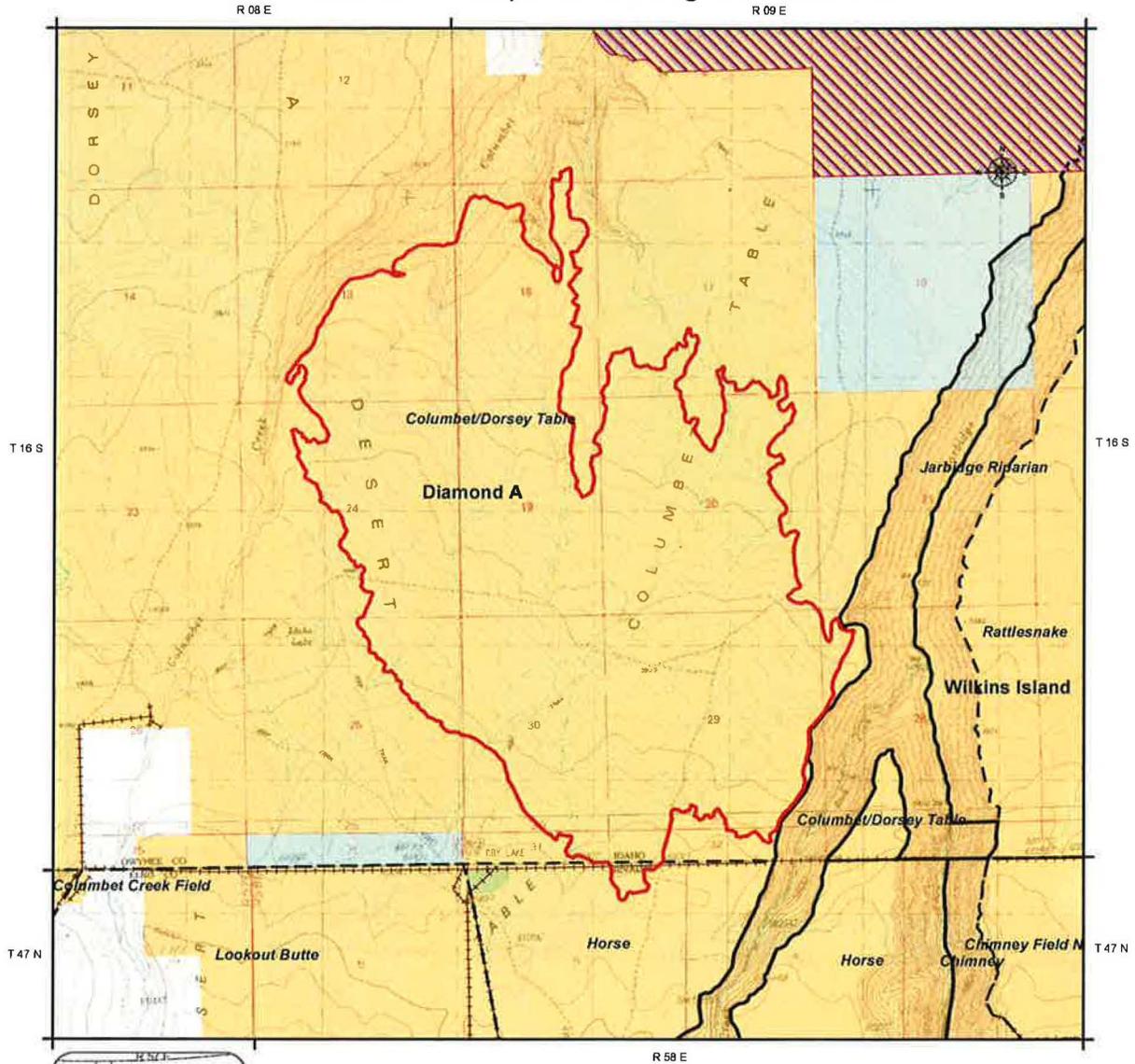
*Natural recovery areas would be considered recovered and available for grazing when:*

- 1) *Recovered herbaceous vegetation is providing sufficient ground cover to protect the site from accelerated erosion and expansion/conversion to annual invasive 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 and Colored Land Status Map
2. Seedling Treatment areas

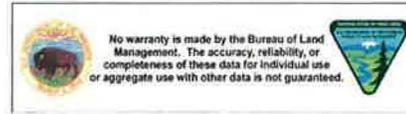
# Diamond Ranch Fire (G6D1) Land Ownership and Grazing Allotment



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

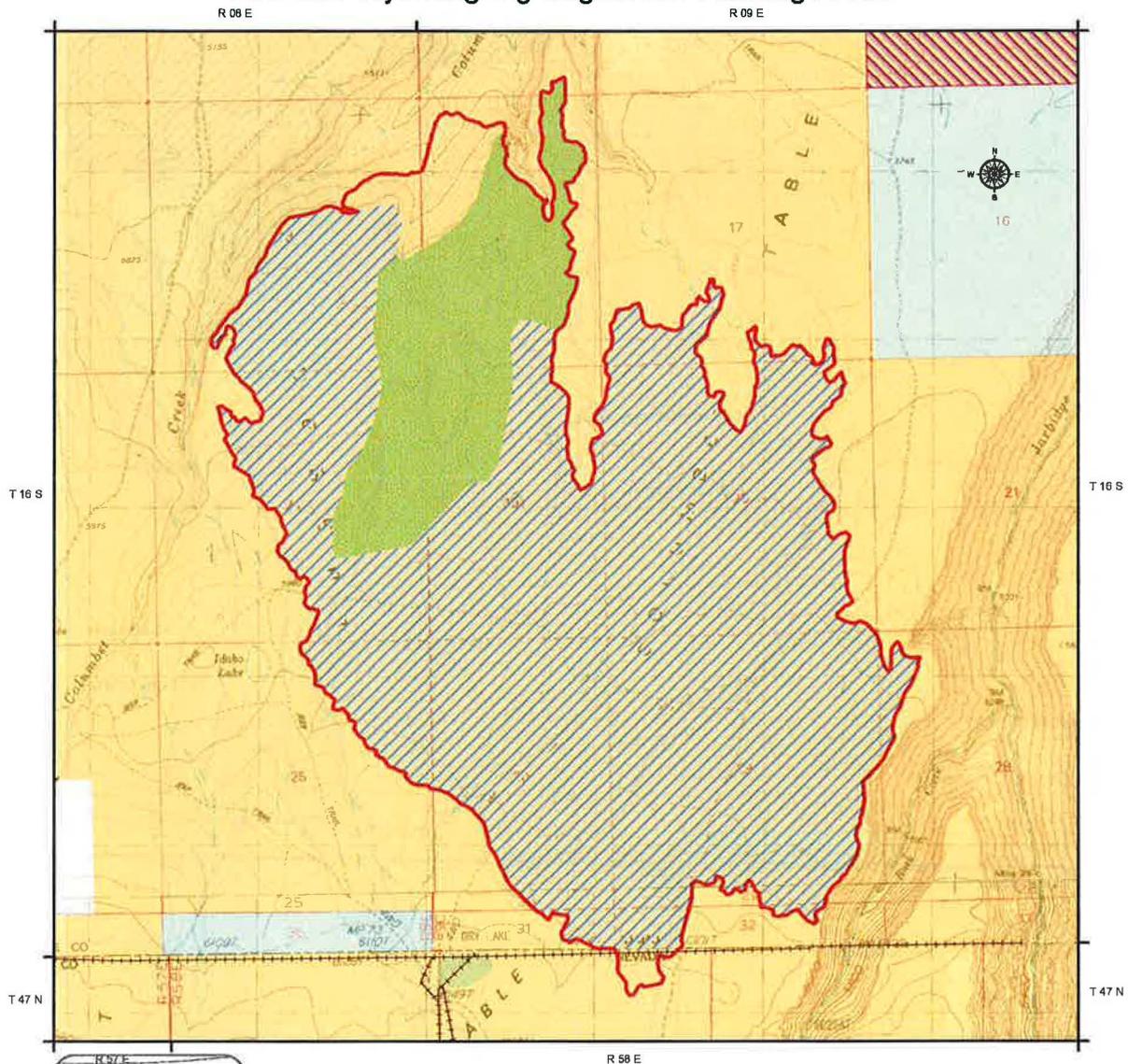
- Diamond Ranch Fire Perimeter
- Bruneau-Jarbidge Wilderness
- Range Allotment
- Pasture
- Land Ownership**
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private; other
- State

0 0.5 1 Miles



Map Created on: August 21, 2012  
Map Created by: Twin Falls District Fuels Program  
Datum: NAD 1983  
Projection: UTM Zone 11N

# Diamond Ranch Fire (G6D1) Low and Wyoming Big Sagebrush Planting Areas



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

- Diamond Ranch Fire Perimeter
- Sagebrush Planting Areas**
- Wyoming big sagebrush
- Low sagebrush



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.

Map Created on: August 21, 2012  
Map Created by: Twin Falls District Fuels Program  
Datum: NAD 1983  
Projection: UTM Zone 11N

**PART 9 – REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS**

**TEAM MEMBERS**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Team Member (Agency/Office)</b>	<b>Initial and Date</b>
Team Leader and Botany	Julie Hilty (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JH 8/21/2012
Operations	Scott Uhrig (BLM, Twin Falls District)	SU 8/21/2012
NEPA Compliance & Planning	Krystle Pehrson (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	KP 8/24/2012
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Jeff Ross (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JR 8/22/2012
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Erik Kriwox (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	EK 8/24/2012
Wildlife Biologist	Michael Haney (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	MH 8/22/2012
Fisheries Biologist	Darek Elverud (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	DE 8/22/2012
Outdoor Recreation Planner	Max Yingst (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	MY 8/24/2012

**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/ Brian W. Davis

8/26/2012

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.*