

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

HORSE BUTTE FIRE

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

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fire Name	Horse Butte Fire
Fire Number	G61H
District/Field Office	Twin Falls/Jarbridge
Admin Number	LLIDT01000
State	Idaho
County(s)	Owyhee
Ignition Date/Cause	08-26-2012/Lightning
Date Contained	08-27-2012

Jurisdiction	Acres
BLM	738

Total Acres	738
Total Costs	\$301,000
Costs to LF2200000	\$167,000
Costs to LF3200000	\$13,000
Costs to LF3100000	
Costs to Other Funding	\$62,000

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 Horse Butte Fire ignited on the west side of Horse Butte in the central Jarbidge Field Office (JFO) on August 26, 2012, at about 1516 hours. Fire cause was lightning. Storm cells passed through the area, resulting in precipitation, which enabled rapid containment of the fire. The fire was contained at 0900 August 27 and controlled at 1800 August 28. The fire burned 738 acres of public land administered by the BLM. The entire Horse Butte burned area is classified as Sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH). The burned area also contains 206 acres of slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) habitat.

The fire burned portions of the following allotments and pastures:

Allotment	Pasture	BLM Acres Burned	BLM Acres in Pasture	% of BLM Acres in Pasture Burned	AUMs Potentially Affected by Fire
Horse Butte	SW	727	5,748	13	197
Juniper Ranch	#6	11	7,183	<1	13

Digital soil survey data (SSURGO 2008) indicate that the entire burned area occurs on the Loamy 8-12 Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass-Thurbers Needlegrass ecological site. Previous to the fire, the burned area was occupied by a Wyoming big sagebrush community with Sandberg bluegrass, Thurber's needlegrass, and a small amount of bluebunch wheatgrass in the understory. Cheatgrass was scattered throughout and dominant in small disturbed patches.

The Horse Butte fire burned hot, removing all vegetation within the fire perimeter (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Perimeter of the Horse Butte Fire.



LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY

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

Emergency Stabilization

- S2 Ground Seeding
- S5 Weed Control
- S12 Closure (Livestock)
- S13 Monitoring

Burned Area Rehabilitation

- R4 Seedling Planting (Shrubs)
- R5 Weed Control
- R7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard
- R12 Closure (Livestock)

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 located in the West Devil Multiple Use Area (MUA-12).

Resource management objectives for the affected MUAs:

- Improve lands in poor ecological condition (p. II-47).
- Manage big game habitat to support mule deer and antelope (p. II-48).
- Improve sage-grouse habitat (p. II-48).

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 (Noxious Weed EA, #ID100-2005-EA-265) for the Boise District and Jarbidge Field Office, and the Jarbidge Field Office Programmatic Shrub Planting EA (#ID-201-2008-EA-359).

Land Use Plan and Other Existing Consultations for Slickspot Peppergrass

Slickspot peppergrass was listed as threatened under the ESA on October 8, 2009 (50 CFR Part 17 52014-52064). Following the listing, Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter, the Idaho Office of Species Conservation, Theodore Hoffman, Scott Nicholson, and L.G. Davison & Sons, Inc., brought action against the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) challenging the listing under the Administrative Procedures Act and the ESA. On August 8, 2012, Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Candy W. Dale, U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho, ordered that the Secretary of the Interior’s Final Rule listing slickspot peppergrass as a threatened species under the ESA be vacated and remanded the matter for further consideration consistent with the Court’s decision. The status of slickspot peppergrass under ESA is currently ambiguous, pending interpretation of the Court’s decision. However, slickspot peppergrass

remains a BLM sensitive species. BLM will follow conservation measures developed in concert with the Service to ensure ongoing conservation of the species and its habitat until additional information regarding status is available.

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), following the listing decision.

BLM also consulted with the Service regarding programmatic shrub planting activities and received a letter of concurrence on January 27, 2012. The concurrence memorandum for Programmatic Shrub Planting – Jarbidge Field Office – Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls Counties, Idaho and Elko County, Nevada (01EIFW00-2012-I-0084) stated that planting shrubs utilizing hand planting methods and design features included below is not likely to adversely affect slickspot peppergrass (Concurrence Memorandum, p. 5). In addition, the concurrence memorandum states that shrub plantings would have long-term beneficial effects for slickspot peppergrass and its habitat by accelerating native shrub re-establishment and decreasing habitat fragmentation (Concurrence Memorandum, p. 6).

The burned area does not contain known occupied habitat for slickspot peppergrass. However, the burned area contains 206 acres of potential habitat. Examination of the area on August 28, 2012, revealed that slickspot microsites are present. Therefore the potential habitat within the burned area is considered slickspot peppergrass habitat.

Since slickspot peppergrass habitat is located in portions of burned area, project design features that address conservation measures are included to: 1) allow rest from grazing to promote vegetation recovery, 2) reduce the potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds, and 3) restore perennial herbaceous plant and sagebrush cover within 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 and ES&R Conference Report pp. 2-3).
 - a. All wildfires within slickspot peppergrass habitat will be evaluated for ES&R treatments, regardless of size.

- b. 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.
 - c. BLM will initiate and complete ES&R efforts for slickspot peppergrass, such as planting shrubs and forbs, within slickspot peppergrass habitat. BLM will implement the following measures during fire ES&R efforts:
 - i. BLM will use seeding techniques that minimize soil disturbance such as no-till drills and rangeland drills equipped with depth bands when ES&R projects have the potential to impact slickspot peppergrass habitat.
 - ii. BLM will use native plant materials and seed during ES&R activities. BLM will include native forbs in seed mixtures that will benefit slickspot peppergrass insect pollinators.
 - iii. If native plant materials and seed are not available, non-invasive, non-native species may be used for stabilization activities in slickspot peppergrass habitat.
- 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 pp. 70-71).
- a. Apply appropriate spatial and temporal buffers to avoid species' exposure to harmful chemicals.
 - b. Implement appropriate revegetation and weed control measures to reduce risks of non-native invasive plant infestations following ground/soil disturbing actions in slickspot peppergrass habitat.

Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation and Restoration

Proposed 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 also address applicable conservation measures identified in the 2006 Conservation Plan for the Greater Sage-grouse in Idaho, which included rehabilitation and restoration actions. Specifically,

Restoration and Burned Area Rehabilitation Conservation Measures (pp. 4-19 through 4-20):

- Emphasize the use of native plant materials to the greatest extent possible, and as appropriate for site conditions. Seeds should be certified weed free.
- Use proper site-preparation techniques (e.g., seedbed preparation, control of invasives, weed-control), seeding techniques, and seed mixes in designing restoration and burned

area rehabilitation plans. For example, the restoration of annual grasslands may require preparatory chemical treatments and/or an exotic/native seed mix.

- When planting or reseeding sagebrush, favor the sagebrush species, subspecies, that are appropriate for the ecological site. Source identified seed is preferable. To maximize the likelihood of establishment, consider multiple approaches, such as aerial seeding, ground broadcast seeding with harrow or roller, and planting of seedlings in strategic patches or strips. Avoid seeding sagebrush or other shrubs near road margins if the road and road margin might otherwise serve as a fuel break in the event of future fire.
- When using exotic perennial grasses and forbs in restoration use species whose growth form, species, and phenology, most closely mimic native species.
- Provide for noxious weed control in burned area rehabilitation projects.

Land Use Plan and Policy Consistency for Proposed Treatments

Ground Seeding/S2: The proposed ground seeding treatment addresses the RMP objectives to improve lands in poor ecological condition and manage and improve big game and sage-grouse habitat cited above. In addition, the proposed treatment addresses the following RMP Resource Management Guidelines:

- Terrestrial Wildlife (pp. II-83 – II-84)
 - 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.
 - Protect and enhance endangered, threatened, and sensitive species habitats in order to maintain or enhance existing and potential populations within the planning area.
 - Manage all wildlife habitat within the resource area to provide a diversity of vegetation and habitats.
 - Seed mixtures for range improvement projects and fire rehabilitation projects will include a mixture of grasses, forbs, and shrubs that benefit sage-grouse.
- Fire Management (p. II-89): Seedings will include appropriate seed mixtures to replace wildlife habitat that is burned.

Proposed ground seeding would treat the area formerly occupied by a Wyoming big sagebrush community. The ground seeding treatment area is located in Sage-grouse PPH and contains slickspot peppergrass habitat. The proposed ground seeding area is at risk for increased presence of noxious weeds and invasive plants without treatment. Seeded species would be native grass cultivars similar to on-site natives and native and non-native forbs to assist in restoring plant community diversity and structure important for slickspot peppergrass and wildlife, including sage-grouse and other sagebrush-steppe obligate wildlife, while effectively competing with noxious weeds and invasive plants. Seed mixes and project design features are consistent with existing conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass and sage-grouse.

Shrub Planting/R4: The proposed shrub planting treatment would address RMP objectives and Resource Management Guidelines listed above for the seeding treatment. This proposed

treatment is in conformance with the Jarbidge RMP, and consistent with existing conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass and sage-grouse.

Noxious Weeds/S5/R5: The proposed noxious weed treatments address the RMP objectives cited above to improve lands in poor ecological condition, manage big game habitat, and improve sage-grouse habitat. Weed control treatments would enhance seeding success by reducing the potential for noxious weed competition with newly seeded plants. 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). Therefore, the proposed noxious weed treatments are in conformance to the Jarbidge RMP. Proposed noxious weed treatments are also consistent with the treatments analyzed in the NFRP and Noxious Weed EA. Design features are included consistent with existing conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass. These include training weed treatment staff to detect slickspots and slickspot peppergrass, and implementation of treatment buffers should occupied slickspots be found.

Fence/Gate/Cattle Guard/R7: Existing allotment fence would be repaired or replaced to ensure that livestock remain within their area of authorized use and off the burned area until ES&BAR 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 to protect new seedings and natural recovery areas (H-1742-1, p. 31). Therefore, the proposed treatment is consistent with the NFRP and current BLM policy.

Closures (Livestock)/S12/R12: The Jarbidge RMP (p. 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 and 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). Therefore, the proposed treatment conforms to the Jarbidge RMP, NFRP, and current BLM policy.

In addition, the allotments in the burned area are subject to court-ordered conditions. The Horse Butte and Juniper Ranch allotments are subject to Chief Judge Winmill’s Decision and Order of February 26, 2009. The order directed BLM to adjust livestock grazing to maintain and enhance sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit, and slickspot peppergrass habitat.

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 (LF2200000):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY13	FY14	FY15	Total Cost
S1	Planning (Project Mangt)	WM's	2	\$15,000.00	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
S2	Ground Seeding	Acres	738	\$165.31	\$122,000	\$0	\$0	\$122,000
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	738	\$4.07	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
S12	Closures	No.	1	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
S13	Monitoring	Acres	738	\$5.42	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$12,000
TOTAL COSTS					\$139,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$167,000

Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF3200000):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY13	FY14	FY15	Total Cost
R1	Planning (Project Mangt)	WM's	1		\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	738	\$4.07	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
R7	Fence Repair	Miles	0.5	\$6,000.00	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
TOTAL COSTS					\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$13,000
OTHER FUNDING TOTAL COSTS					\$62,000	\$0	\$0	\$62,000

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: *S12/R12 Livestock Closure*

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *The Horse Butte burned area would be rested from livestock grazing until monitoring shows that ES&BAR objectives have been met. Rest would be accomplished in the SW pasture of the Horse Butte allotment (727 acres) through closure of that pasture. Rest of the 11 acres in the #6 pasture of the Juniper Ranch allotment would be accomplished by eliminating water availability in close proximity of the burned area. The closest available water would be approximately 1.5 miles from the burned area. Post-fire grazing agreements would be issued closing the burned area to livestock grazing.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The purpose of this treatment is to provide the opportunity for the drill seeding and shrub planting treatments to become established. Establishment of perennial plant communities would inhibit expansion of noxious weeds and invasive plants and stabilize soils in the burned area.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *No costs under ES are associated with livestock closures.*

ES Issue 3 - Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species. The scope of this issue includes: Seeding or planting to prevent permanent impairment of designated Critical Habitat for Federal and State listed, proposed or candidate threatened and endangered species. The Horse Butte Fire did not burn any known sage-grouse leks. However, there are three

occupied or satellite leks within 2 miles to the southwest of the burned area. A new sage-grouse lek (spring of 2012) was documented about 2.7 miles west of the fire. Another active sage-grouse lek is about 3 miles southwest of the fire. The general area has three status unknown sage-grouse leks located 0.25 mile to the south, 1.5 miles to the northeast, and a little over 2 miles to the north of the fire. Most sage-grouse nest within 3 miles of leks in this area. The entire burned area is mapped as Sage-grouse PPH. The burned area also contained habitat for several Idaho BLM sensitive species which are sagebrush-steppe obligates, including Piute ground squirrel, loggerhead shrike, Brewer’s sparrow, sage sparrow, and pygmy rabbit. The area is used by two Idaho BLM sensitive raptors, prairie falcons and ferruginous hawks, for foraging. Known nest sites for prairie falcon are about 2.5 miles to the west in the East Fork of the Bruneau River canyon, whereas ferruginous hawks nest about 1.3 miles to the west in junipers. Golden eagles nest in the East Fork of the Bruneau River canyon and forage in the general area of the fire for ground squirrels and rabbits. The burned area also contains 206 acres of slickspot peppergrass habitat.

Treatment/Activity: *S2 Ground Seeding*

- A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Approximately 738 acres would be seeded utilizing rangeland or other types of drills. Seeding would occur in fall 2012. Areas containing slickspot peppergrass habitat would be drill seeded using methods that would minimize slickspot disruption to the extent possible. This could include the use of depth bands on conventional rangeland drills, or the use of no-till or minimum till drills. Drilling implementation would occur in fall when soil moisture conditions are likely to be optimal to reduce slickspot disruption by drills. Cultural resource sites would be avoided during seeding operations.*

**Horse Butte Fire
Drill Seed Mix
738 acres**

Species and Variety	Seed Rate in Lbs/Acre (PLS)
Grasses	
‘Anatone’ Bluebunch Wheatgrass*	4.00
‘Sherman’ Big Bluegrass*	0.30
‘Toe Jam’ Bottlebrush Squirreltail*	1.00
Forbs	
‘Eski’ Sainfoin	2.00
Western Yarrow*	0.10
‘Ladak’ Alfalfa	1.00

* **Native Cultivar**

- B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The proposed drill seed area contained a native sagebrush plant community prior to the fire. This proposed drill seed area is at risk for degradation by noxious weeds and invasive plants if left untreated. The proposed seed mix contains plant materials that have been effective in past treatments in the Jarbidge Field Office. The seed mix is designed to provide species and structural diversity*

important to sage-grouse and other sagebrush-steppe obligate wildlife and slickspot peppergrass. In addition, the seed mix contains species that are not expected to establish in or invade slickspots and forbs which would support pollinators and provide compositional diversity to decrease fine fuel continuity.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *The area proposed for drill seeding treatment is entirely within Sage-grouse PPH and contains slickspot peppergrass habitat. The proposed seed mix utilizes taxa that are expected to be available at a reasonable cost while meeting resource objectives for sage-grouse and other sagebrush-steppe obligate wildlife, big game, and slickspot peppergrass.*

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. *Scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed, and rush skeletonweed are noxious weeds that have potential for introduction and spread 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 (EO), 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.*
- *Herbicide applications will be implemented in a manner to avoid off-site movement of herbicides either through the air, soil, or along the soil surface. Project site terrain, soil type, and vegetation will be taken into consideration when selecting herbicide type, application method, and application timing. Weed treatments using persistent herbicides will not occur within 150 feet of slickspot peppergrass EOs to avoid potential adverse impacts to the species associated with movement of persistent herbicides into slickspot habitat through wind or water erosion.*

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. 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.

The fire burned a portion of a large, intact sagebrush stand that has escaped burning in large wildfires that occurred over the last decade. The burned area contains Sage-grouse PPH, slickspot peppergrass habitat, and habitat for sagebrush-steppe obligate wildlife. The burned area is entirely surrounded by sagebrush communities.

Treatment Activity: R4 Seedling Planting

A. Treatment/Activity Description. **Funding for this treatment would be from non-ESR sources.** *The objective of the seedling planting treatment is to supplement natural recruitment by re-establishing shrub patches in the interior of the burned area. Up to 7,000 containerized or bare-root Wyoming big sagebrush seedlings would be hand planted within the burned area in early spring or late fall. If possible, plants would be contract grown using seed collected from a local source.*

Design Features for Shrub Planting:

Shrub seedlings would be planted in patches of about 200-500 plants throughout the burned area. 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 of any two-track road or fence line, or during saturated soil conditions. Planting would not occur in slickspot microsites, but should occur adjacent to these areas. 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? *The entire burned area is classified as Sage-grouse PPH and contains slickspot peppergrass habitat. The burned area is surrounded by sagebrush and some natural recruitment can be expected. However, sagebrush recovery can take decades to return to a pre-burn level. The proposed plantings would supplement natural dispersal from surrounding sagebrush plants and provide additional seed sources in the burn area to speed recovery of habitat for slickspot peppergrass, sage-grouse, big-game, and sagebrush-steppe obligate 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 conservation measure for slickspot peppergrass and sage-grouse habitat restoration.*

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. *Scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed, and rush skeletonweed are noxious weeds that have potential for introduction and spread in the burned area. Noxious weed inventory and spot herbicide treatment would occur the second and third years following the fire within the burned area under BAR. 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 (EO), 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.*
 - *Herbicide applications will be implemented in a manner to avoid off-site movement of herbicides either through the air, soil, or along the soil surface. Project site terrain, soil type, and vegetation will be taken into consideration when selecting herbicide type, application method, and application timing. Weed treatments using persistent herbicides will not occur within 150 feet of slickspot peppergrass EOs to avoid potential adverse impacts to the species associated with movement of persistent herbicides into slickspot habitat through wind or water erosion.*

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 0.5 mile of allotment fence damaged or destroyed by the fire. Damaged wood corners and braces would be replaced with galvanized steel posts. Damaged wire would also be replaced. 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 a portion of the fence associated with the livestock management of the affected allotments. Reconstruction and repair of management fence damaged by the fire would maintain the future integrity of the existing livestock grazing system. Repair of damaged management fences would also help to promote seeding establishment.*

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, and only a small portion of the existing allotment fence was affected. 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	FY13	FY14	FY15	Total Costs
S1	<i>Planning (Plan Prep/Project Mangt)</i>					
	National Administrative Support Fee	WM's	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
	Project Management Field Office	WM's	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
	Total		10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
S2	<i>Ground Seeding (drill)</i>					
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	1,000			1,000
	Equipment Mobilization	Total	3,000			3,000
	Contract	Total	9,000			9,000
	Contract Administration	WM's	2,000			2,000
	Vale Drill Use Rate & FOR	Total	4,000			4,000
	Seed	Total	77,000			77,000
	Seed Mixing, testing, storage	WM's	3,000			3,000
	Clearances	Total	23,000			23,000
	Total		122,000	0	0	122,000
S5	<i>Noxious Weeds</i>					
	Labor	Acres	2,000			2,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	500			500
	Supplies/Materials	Total	500			500
	Total		3,000	0	0	3,000
S13	<i>Monitoring</i>					
	Labor	WM's	3,500	3,500	3,500	10,500
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	500	500	500	1,500
	Total		4,000	4,000	4,000	12,000
	EMERGENCY STABILIZATION TOTALS		\$139,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$167,000

Rehabilitation

		Units	FY13	FY14	FY15	Total Costs
R1	<i>Planning (Plan Prep/Project Mangt)</i>					
	Project Management Field Office	WM's		2,000	2,000	4,000
	Total		0	2,000	2,000	4,000
R5	<i>Noxious Weeds</i>					
	Labor	WM's		2,000	2,000	4,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		500	500	1,000
	Supplies/Materials	Total		500	500	1,000
	Total		0	3,000	3,000	6,000
R7	<i>Fence/Gate/Cattle Guard</i>					
	Fence Material	Total	1,000			1,000
	Labor	WM's	2,000			2,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total				0
	Supplies/Materials	Total				0
	Contract	Total				0
	Contract Administration	WM's				0
	Total		3,000	0	0	3,000
	BURNED AREA REHABILITATION TOTALS		\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$13,000

	<i>Seedling Planting (Shrub/Tree) – Non-ESR Funded</i>					
	Seedling Cost	Total	25,000			25,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	2,000			2,000
	Contract	Total	32,000			32,000
	Contract Administration	WM's	3,000			3,000
	OTHER FUNDED TOTALS		\$62,000	\$0	\$0	\$62,000

PART 4 – SEED LISTS

Species	% PLS	Seeds/lb. (bulk)	Total Seeds/Acre (bulk)	PLS Seeds/ac.	PLS Seeds/sq. ft.	Drill Seeding (acres)	Lbs/Acre	Total Pounds	Cost per lb	Total Costs
Anatone Bluebunch WG	76%	170,000	680,000	516,800	11.86	738	4	3,000	15.00	45,000.00
Sherman Big Bluegrass	80%	220,000	66,000	52,800	1.21	738	0.3	250	10.00	2,500.00
Toe Jam Bottlebrush Squirreltail	72%	192,000	192,000	138,240	3.17	738	1	750	26.00	19,500.00
Eski Sainfoin	80%	28,000	56,000	44,800	1.03	738	2	1,500	3.00	4,500.00
Western Yarrow	84%	2,700,000	270,000	226,800	5.21	738	0.1	50	30.00	1,500.00
Ladak Alfalfa	80%	230,000	230,000	184,000	4.22	738	1	750	5.00	3,750.00
TOTALS					26.71		8.40	6,300		76,750.00

PART 5 - 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 Rationale: *The proposed native species are all adapted to the ecological sites within the proposed seeding area. All of these species have been successfully utilized in similar ecological sites within the Jarbidge Field Office area.*

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

Yes Rationale: *The proposed native seed is generally available in the required quantities. The drill seeding treatment would not occur until fall/winter 2012/2013, which should allow seed quantities to increase following this year's harvest.*

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 Rationale: *The native seed proposed for use has been increasingly utilized in recent years for stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration projects. The demand has resulted in increased production and decreased price. The proposed drill seed area is relatively small (738 acres), but contains habitat for several special status species, including sage-grouse and slickspot peppergrass.*

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 Rationale: *Based on past treatment monitoring and observations, the native taxa proposed for seeding have established and persisted in similar ecological sites in the Jarbidge Field Office.*

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 Rationale: *The proposed seeding areas will receive rest from livestock grazing until monitoring shows that ES&BAR objectives have been met. The current livestock management system should maintain the plant community over the long term. This would be consistent with meeting Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and requirements of current court orders.*

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?

Yes Rationale: *The use of proposed non-native plants is in conformance with resource management objectives, goals, and guidelines contained in the 1987 Jarbidge RMP, the NFRP, and conservation measures for slickspot peppergrass. Non-native forbs were proposed to provide plant community diversity and food for sage-grouse when no natives were commercially available in the quantity required and at a reasonable cost.*

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 Rationale: *The proposed treatment area is within a large sagebrush stand and is at risk of alteration by the introduction and spread of invasive annual grasses and noxious weeds. Establishing a competitive perennial plant community with a mixture of native and non-native species would promote a greater degree of resiliency to future disturbance, including introduction of non-native invasive plants and noxious weeds. The proposed non-native forbs are expected to establish well in the burned area and are included in the drill seed mix to provide species and structural diversity important to sage-grouse and other sagebrush-steppe obligate wildlife and slickspot peppergrass. However, monitoring from past use indicates that these forbs will not disrupt ecological processes in the plant community. In addition, these forbs are not expected to invade slickspots and should support pollinators.*

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

Yes Rationale: *The proposed non-native plants have been used in the Jarbidge Field Office for at least 20 years. The plants have been used in range sites similar to those which were burned. Incidental establishment of the proposed species may occur outside of the treatment area by seasonal movement of various wildlife or domestic animals, but this occurrence is not common nor has it been observed to result in the long-term displacement and dominance of native plant species or communities.*

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

Native	Non-native
‘Anatone’ Bluebunch Wheatgrass <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	‘Ladak’ Alfalfa <i>Medicago sativa</i>
‘Sherman’ Big Bluegrass <i>Poa secunda</i> (syn. <i>Poa ampla</i>)	‘Eski’ Sainfoin <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>
‘Toe Jam’ Bottlebrush Squirreltail <i>Elymus elymoides</i>	
Western Yarrow <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	

PART 6. – COST-RISK ANALYSIS

A. Probability of Treatments Successfully Meeting Objectives

Action/ Spec. #	Planned ES Action (LF2200000)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
S2	Ground Seeding	Acres	738	\$122,000	80
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	738	\$3,000	90
S12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	#	1	\$0	100
TOTAL COSTS:				\$125,000	

Action/ Spec. #	Planned BAR Action (LF3200000)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	738	\$6,000	90
R7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	0.5	\$3,000	100
R12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	#	1	\$0	100
TOTAL COSTS:				\$9,000	

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 Rationale for answer: *The ground seeding treatment would establish a perennial plant community which would reduce the potential for spread and dominance of noxious weeds and invasive plants in the seeded area. Noxious weed treatments would further protect the burned area and adjacent BLM-managed lands against expansion of noxious weeds.*

No Action No Rationale for answer: *Habitat within and adjacent to the burned area for sage-grouse and other sagebrush-steppe obligate wildlife and slickspot peppergrass would be compromised if treatment did not occur.*

Alternative(s) N/A

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

Proposed Action Yes Rationale for answer: *Monitoring and observations of treatments similar or identical to those proposed indicate that probability of success is high. Normal climatic conditions and exclusion of livestock to allow for seeding establishment would increase the probability of success.*

No Action No Rationale for answer: *The proposed treatment areas have potential for introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants. There is also high potential for spread of noxious weeds into adjacent unburned areas.*

Alternative(s) 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: *The proposed action is the approach most likely to reduce the potential for degradation of special status species habitat within and adjacent to the burned area.*

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: *S2 Ground Seeding*

1) Treatment Objectives: *The objective of the ground seeding treatment is to establish a perennial-dominated plant community within 3 years. The following grass and forb density objectives are based on ecological site potential.*

The drill seed treatments would be considered successful if:

The seeded grass and forb species reach densities of:

- *3 plants per square meter for grasses*
- *0.25 plants per square meter for forbs*

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 treated areas would include field observations, photo plots, cover transects utilizing the line-point intercept, and density plots. Plots would be*

randomly established in treated areas. Effectiveness monitoring of the ground seedings would be done for a period of three growing seasons.

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 in the treated area.

Treatment/Activity: S5/R5 Noxious Weed Treatments

1) Treatment Objectives: Scotch thistle, diffuse knapweed, and rush skeletonweed are noxious weeds that have potential for introduction and spread in the burned area. It is expected that these weeds could 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: *R7 Fence/Gate/Cattle Guard*

- 1) Treatment Objectives: *The objective of this treatment is to repair or replace about 0.5 mile of interior livestock management 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. All fences would be constructed according to BLM fence standards for wildlife.*
- 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. *Construction, repair and replacement of damaged fence would be monitored through contract administration. Construction and repairs would be documented in a project file “as built” and filed in the project file. Construction and repairs would be completed within the first year after the fire.*

Treatment/Activity: *S12/R12 Livestock Closure*

- 1) Treatment Objectives: *Exclusion of livestock is critical for seeding establishment. The burned area would be closed to promote establishment of seeded species until monitoring results, documented in writing, show that ES&BAR objectives have been met, as specified in the BLM ES&BAR Handbook (H-1732-1) and consistent with the 2005 Boise District Office and Jarbidge Field Office Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (#ID-090-2004-050). Rest would be accomplished in the SW pasture of the Horse Butte allotment (727 acres) through closure of that pasture. Rest of the 11 acres in the #6 pasture of the Juniper Ranch allotment would be accomplished by eliminating water availability in close proximity to the burned area. The closest available water would be approximately 1.5 miles from the burned area. Post-fire grazing agreements would be issued closing the burned area to livestock grazing.*
- 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 burned area to livestock would be the responsibility of an interdisciplinary team. Implementation is monitored through rangeland management administration.*
- 3) Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:

The drill seed treatment area would be considered recovered and available for grazing when:

- *The amount of bare mineral soil (lacking cover of plants, litter, or biological soil crusts) is within 10% of what would be expected for early seral stages of the ecological sites found within the treated area,*
- *Desirable herbaceous perennial plants are producing seed, and*
- *Desirable perennial vegetation have developed extensive root and shoot systems to provide for soil stabilization and are sustainable under livestock grazing.*

- *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*
- *An evaluation of collected monitoring data is completed documenting that reintroducing grazing to the area would not cause a downward trend in vegetation recovery.*

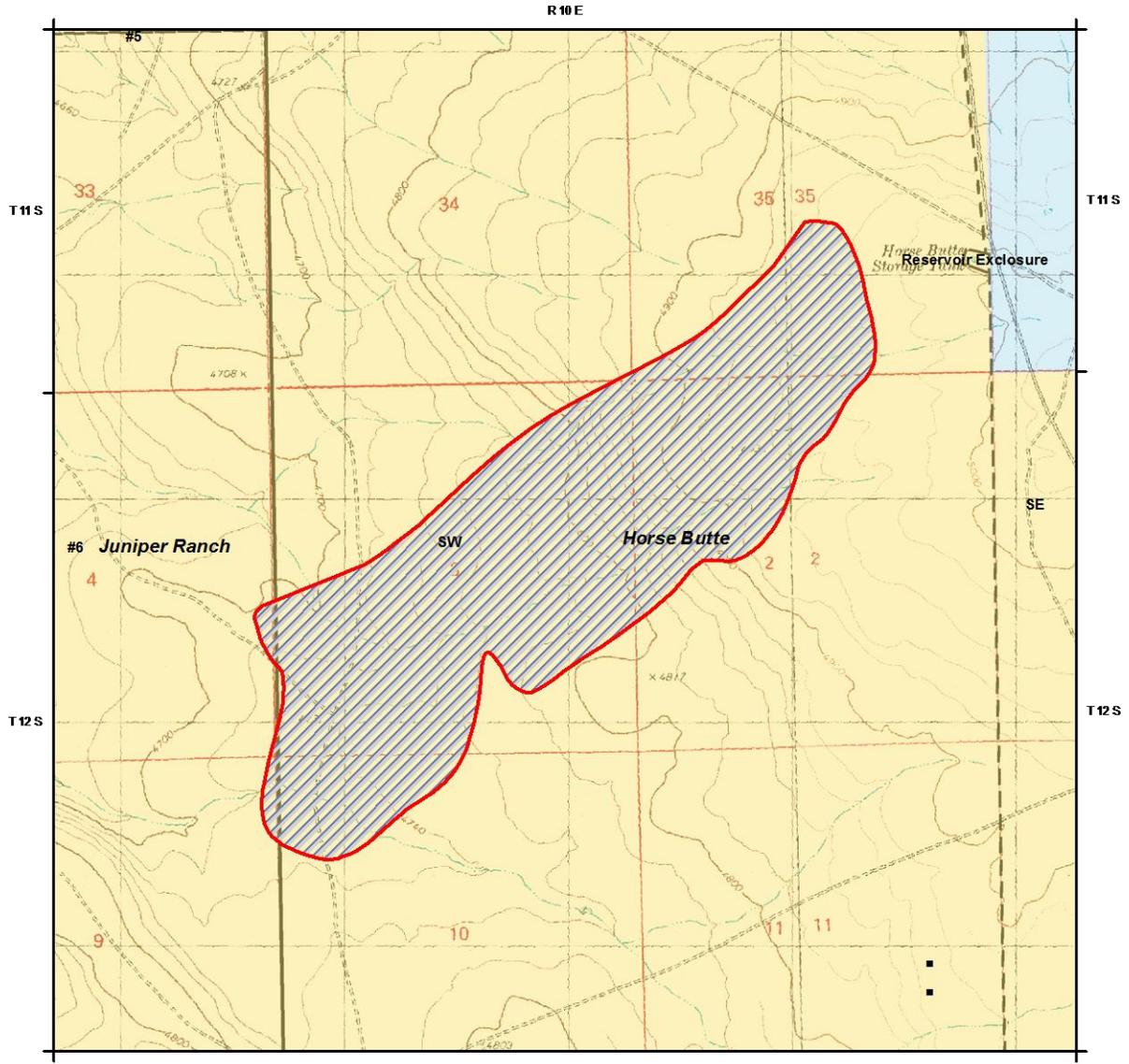
References Cited

Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. 2008. Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database for portions of Elmore, Owyhee, and Twin Falls counties, Idaho. Available online at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov>. Accessed July 13, 2012.

PART 8 - MAPS

1. Fire Perimeter, Colored Land Status Map, and the Proposed Drill Seeding Area
2. Slickspot Peppergrass Habitat in the Burned Area

Map 1. Horse Butte Fire (G61H) Land Status and Proposed Drill Seeding



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

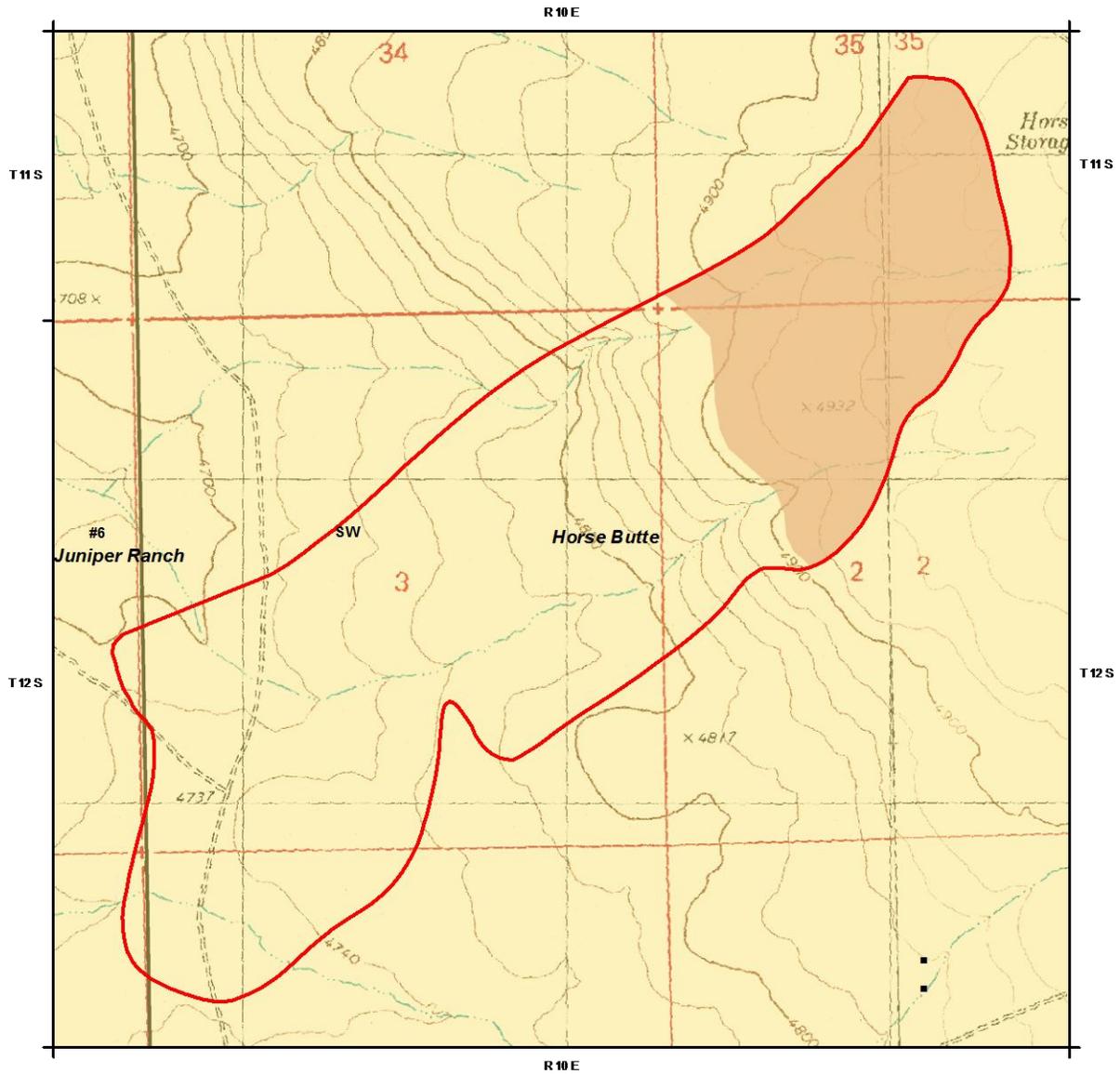
	Horse Butte fire perimeter
	Horse Butte Drill Seed (738 acres)
	Range Allotment
	Pasture
Land Ownership	
	Bureau of Land Management
	State



	No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.	
--	---	--

Map Created by: BLM, Jarbidge Field Office
Date: August 2012
Datum: NAD 1983
Projection: UTM Zone 11N

Map 2. Horse Butte Fire (G61H) Slickspot peppergrass habitat in the burned area



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



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 by: BLM, Jarbidge Field Office
Date: August 2012
Datum: NAD 1983
Projection: UTM Zone 11N

PART 9 – REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS

TEAM MEMBERS

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial and Date
Team Leader/Fire Ecologist	Julie Hilty (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JH 8/31/2012
Operations	Scott Uhrig (BLM, Twin Falls DO)	SU 9/04/2012
NEPA Compliance & Planning	Krystle Pehrson (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	KP 09/04/2012
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Jeff Ross (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JR 09/06/2012
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Dan Strickler (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	DS 9/4/2012
Wildlife Biologist	Jim Klott (BLM, Jarbidge FO)	JHK 8/31/2012

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

9/6/2012

Brian W. Davis
Jarbidge Field 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.