

**BLM IDAHO POST-FIRE RECOVERY PLAN  
EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND BURNED AREA REHABILITATION  
2012 PLAN**

**YALE ROAD FIRE**

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

**FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

<b>Fire Name</b>	<b>Yale Road</b>
<b>Fire Number</b>	<b>G3R5</b>
<b>District/Field Office</b>	<b>Twin Falls/Burley</b>
<b>Admin Number</b>	<b>LLIDT02000</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>Idaho</b>
<b>County(s)</b>	<b>Cassia</b>
<b>Ignition Date/Cause</b>	<b>7/26/2012/Human</b>
<b>Date Contained</b>	<b>7/26/2012</b>

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>BLM</b>	295
<i>State</i>	305
<i>Private</i>	22
<i>Other</i>	0

<b>Total Acres</b>	622
<b>Total Costs</b>	\$41,000
<b>Costs to LF2200000 (2822)</b>	\$0
<b>Costs to LF3200000 (2881)</b>	\$0
<b>Costs to LF3100000</b>	\$41,000

**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 Yale Road Fire started by a downed power pole in the Kunau Allotment approximately 10 miles east of Declo, Idaho. The fire burned a total of 622 acres in Cassia County, Idaho. Of those 622 acres that burned, 295 acres burned on BLM administered lands. The other portions that burned occurred on 305 acres of State administered land and 22 acres of private land. The elevation of the burn is located at approximately 4400 feet. The topography would be characterized as nearly level to hilly slopes. A major gas pipeline and a power line occur through the north end of the burn.

The fire burned within a monoculture of late seral Wyoming big sagebrush steppe community. Because of the high density shrub cover, fire intensity was high and severe. The stand consisted primarily of sagebrush and an understory of Sandberg bluegrass and crested wheatgrass. The majority of the burned area is highly vulnerable to the expansion of cheatgrass as well as other non-native invasive and noxious weeds. State land adjacent to the BLM land has burned in the past 13 years and no records indicate any rehabilitation. The absence of rehabilitation efforts have resulted in an increase in cheatgrass and other invasive annual species. Without stabilization and rehabilitation efforts on the BLM administered land, it is expected that similar invasive and noxious species could result.

### **LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY**

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

#### **Emergency Stabilization**

S2 Drill Seeding

S5 Noxious Weeds

S12 Closures (Livestock)

#### **Burned Area Rehabilitation**

R5 Noxious Weeds

R12 Closures (Livestock)

The applicable land use plan for the Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) project area is the Cassia Resource Management Plan (RMP) 1985. The RMP was amended in 2008 by the Fire, Fuels and Related Vegetation Management Direction Plan Amendment (FMDA). The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatment analyzed in the Burley/Shoshone Field Office Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (#ID-077-2004-008).

**Drill Seeding/S2:** Objectives and management actions from the FMDA state (page 17) that Objective 1 is to make progress towards desired future conditions (DFC) in low-elevation, perennial grass and invasive annual grass areas. Strategically place treatments on a landscape scale to reduce the likelihood of fire spreading into important sagebrush steppe habitat. In addition, management actions for Objective 2 states that following a wildland fire the use of

chemical, mechanical, and seeding treatments will be used to stabilize sites and prevent dominance of invasive annual vegetation and noxious weeds in order to maintain, protect and enhance Sage-grouse habitat. Therefore, the planning for drill seeding treatments and activities that meet these objectives are in conformance with the MFP as amended by the FMDA.

**Noxious Weeds/S5/R5:** Management actions for Objective 1 states (page 17) that to achieve DFC chemical, mechanical and seeding treatments will be used. Also, management actions for Objective 2 states that following wildland fire, wildland fire use and prescribed fire treatments, use of chemical, mechanical, and seeding treatments with appropriate plant material to attempt to stabilize sites and prevent dominance of invasive, annual vegetation, and noxious weeds. Therefore, the planning for weed treatments and activities that meet these objectives are in conformance with the MFP as amended by the FMDA.

**Closures (livestock)/S12/R12:** The management restrictions, conservation measures, and guidelines for livestock grazing on page 31 of the FMDA states that all burned areas would be rested from livestock grazing until project/site-specific monitoring identified in site-specific project plans and/or resource objectives have been met. The resumption of grazing would be determined on case-by-case basis. Therefore, resting the burned area under the rehabilitation plan from grazing would ensure that the area recovers and is in conformance with the RMP as amended by the FMDA.

## COST SUMMARY TABLES

### Emergency Stabilization (LF2200000):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Unit Cost (If Applicable)	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	Totals by Spec.
S1	Planning (Project Mgmt)	WM's	1		\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
S2	Ground Seeding	Acres	295	\$77.97	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$23,000
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	295	\$6.78	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
S12	Closures (area, OHV, livestock)	#	1	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
S13	Monitoring	Acres	295	\$20.34	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
<b>TOTAL COSTS (LF3100000)</b>					<b>\$11,000</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>

**Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF3200000):**

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Unit Cost (If Applicable)	FY13	FY14	FY15	Totals by Spec.
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	295	\$6.78	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
TOTAL COSTS (LF3100000)					\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000

The cost of the Yale Road ES&BAR project is joint funded by ES&BAR and fuels treatment dollars.

**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.

Fire Intensity and Vegetation

The majority of the fire was characterized by moderate to high fire intensity because of the erratic high winds and the above average low fuel moistures. Vegetation in the fire area was primarily Wyoming big sagebrush, Crested wheatgrass and Sandberg bluegrass. Also, the fire burned in topography classified as nearly level to hilly slopes. The higher intensity burn areas were due to the high density sagebrush. The fire removed most of the plant cover and exposed soils to accelerated soil erosion. The lack of deep rooted, cool season perennial bunch grasses is a major concern for the expansion of cheatgrass, and noxious weeds.

Closures (Livestock)

A portion of the Kunau Allotment was affected by the fire. Appropriate rest will be applied to the burned portions of the allotment from livestock under this plan. This will allow newly seeded species to become established. Closures on the seeded area would be implemented by the range program to ensure that objectives are met for the resumption of livestock grazing.

Treatment/Activity: S12 Closures (Livestock)

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *The burned area of the allotment affected by the Yale Road Fire would be rested from livestock grazing until monitoring shows that ES treatments objectives have been met or it is determined to be a failure.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The purpose of this treatment is to rest the burned area from livestock grazing to provide the opportunity for existing vegetation resources to stabilize the burn area and seeding efforts to establish. Establishment of a perennial plant community would reduce the expansion of annual vegetation and stabilize soil resources.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *No cost under ES is associated with closures. It is a reasonable method for attaining vegetation objectives, as compared to implementation of other aspects of the ES plan.*

**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.** Drill seeding will be conducted to help prevent the establishment of invasive plants. Such actions will be specified in the ES 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 invasive plants and noxious weeds within the burned area. When there is an existing approved management plan that addresses invasive species, ES treatments may be used to stabilize the invasive species.

Ecological Site(s):

*Shallow Loamy 8-12" Wyoming big sagebrush/Bluebunch wheatgrass*

Soil-vegetation correlation information indicates 100% of the burn area is located primarily in a Shallow Loamy 8-12" Wyoming big sagebrush/Bluebunch wheatgrass ecological site. The potential natural plant communities on these sites would be comprised of Wyoming Big Sagebrush overstory with principal understory plants dominated by crested wheatgrass and

bluebunch wheatgrass. The majority of the burned area is capable of deep rooted grass species. This is demonstrated by the unburned areas adjacent to the Yale Road Fire with the presence of bluebunch wheatgrass and crested wheatgrass that was seeded in the 1950's and 60's. Also there is a major gas pipeline and a power line that runs through the burned area which has been rehabilitated with a crested wheatgrass seeding. These examples validate that the area is capable of sustaining the proposed grass seed species. Sagebrush and forbs were considered in the seed mix, but because of the size of the fire it is anticipated there will be a viable seed source from the surrounding unburned area. Also, forbs were not included in the seed mix because the ID team believes most forbs will occur naturally within the burned area. Past monitoring results indicate that few forbs were found within the site initially due to the potential of the range site. A Twin Falls District Instruction Memorandum was used in the process of developing the proposed seed mix.

With Geographic Information Systems (GIS) records showing fire rehabilitation in 1957 and a range improvement project in 1964 within the burned area and no fire activity within the burned area since then, vegetation was then able to establish and persist for the past 48 to 55 years. Due to the fire severity, the surrounding disturbance sites, roads and infrastructure corridors, the presence of cheatgrass makes the burned area susceptible to invasive and noxious weeds.

According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Ecological Site Description for the burned area states; when fires become more frequent than historic levels (50-70 year), Wyoming big sagebrush is reduced significantly. Wyoming big sagebrush can be completely eliminated along with many of the desirable understory species and may be replaced by a variety of noxious and invasive species. Removal of Wyoming big sagebrush without a suitable understory of perennial grasses can result in a significant invasion of cheatgrass. If cheatgrass invades the site, those and other fine fuels will increase the fire frequency. (R011XY004ID). Re-vegetation with desirable, competitive species would provide effective competition against annual vegetation and noxious weeds in the long term and provide a greater chance for native species to recover.

The following is a list of common pre-burn vegetation. The list was developed using field surveys of unburned islands of vegetation and range management trend monitoring plot data.

Common Pre-burn Vegetation in order of dominance:

Wyoming Big Sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata ssp. Wyomingensis*  
Crested Wheatgrass, *Agropyron cristatum*  
Sandberg bluegrass, *Poa secunda*  
Threetip Sagebrush, *Artemisia tripartita*  
Bluebunch Wheatgrass, *Pseudoroegneria spicata*  
Cheatgrass, *Bromus tectorum*  
Prickly pear cactus, *Opuntia polyacantha*

Treatment/Activity: S2 Drill Seeding

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *The entire burned area was identified to be drill seeded with a mixture of native and introduced perennial grass species. The seed will be applied by a rangeland drill pulled by a rubber-tired or tracked tractor in the burn area. The rangeland drill*

will aid in the proper planting depth for the seed. This is proposed to be accomplished in late FY12 or early FY13. Appropriate cultural resource inventories/surveys will be completed prior to implementing these specific projects.

<b>Yale Road Drill Seed Mix 295 Acres</b>	
<b>Species and Variety</b>	<b>Seed Rate Lbs/Acres</b>
<b>Grass</b>	
1. Vavilov II Siberian Wheatgrass	4.00
2. Secar Snake River Wheatgrass	2.00
3. Sherman Big Bluegrass	0.50

B. How does the treatment relate to damages or changes caused by the fire? *This treatment will aid in the establishment of a desirable perennial grass community that closely matches the structure, species composition, and diversity of the potential native plant community to help achieve a healthy functioning rangeland. Accelerating the rate of re-establishment of native and introduced perennial grass species, and reducing the risk of cheatgrass establishment is important to maintaining the value of the area.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *The treatment and activities are reasonable for the type of issues found on the site. Contracting costs for rangeland drill application are typical for the Burley Field Office area. The cost of seed can vary from year to year dependent on availability.*

Noxious Weeds

All 295 acres of the burned public land will be inventoried and treated as needed for noxious weeds in FY2013. The objective of this treatment is to identify and control the expected noxious weed increase using spot herbicide application on the burned area. Noxious weeds could increase due to the removal of existing plant cover by the wildfire.

Treatment Activity: S5 Noxious Weeds

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Scotch thistle and Rush Skeletonweed are the primary noxious weeds found within and adjacent to the burned area. Noxious weed inventory and control within the burned area would be done in the first year following the fire to directly treat the expected weeds. Areas where weeds have been treated in the past will be inventoried first. The weeds will be treated with the BLM approved chemicals.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The objective of this treatment is to identify and control the expected noxious weed increase using spot herbicide application of the burn area. Scotch thistle and Rush Skeletonweed is found adjacent to the burned area. It is expected to increase due to the removal of existing plant cover by the wildfire which has opened up bare ground for the weeds to invade. Treatments would be conducted for the first year under ES.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *Weed treatments in this Field Office typically run about \$6.78 per acre. Field work would be combined with other weed treatments in the area 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.** 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.

### Noxious Weeds

All 295 acres of the burned public land will be inventoried and treated as needed for noxious weeds in FY2014 -2015. The objective of this treatment is to identify and control the expected noxious weed increase using spot herbicide application on the burned area. Noxious weeds could increase due to the removal of existing plant cover by the wildfire.

### Treatment Activity: R5 Noxious Weeds

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Scotch thistle and Rush Skeletonweed are the primary noxious weeds found adjacent to the burn area. Noxious weed inventory and control within the burned area would be done in the first year following the fire to directly treat the expected weeds. Areas where weeds have been treated in the past will be inventoried first. The weeds will be treated with the BLM approved chemicals. Any noxious weeds discovered will be re-inventoried and re-treated in FY14 and FY15 through funding of the plan.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The objective of this treatment is to identify and control the expected noxious weed increase using spot herbicide application of the burned area. Scotch thistle and Rush Skeletonweed is found within and adjacent to the burned area. It is expected to increase due to the removal of existing plant cover by the wildfire which has opened up bare ground for the weeds to invade. Treatments would be conducted for the second and third year under BAR.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *Weed treatments in this Field Office typically run about \$6.78 per acre. Field work would be combined with other weed treatments in the area for cost efficiency.*

**BAR Issue 3 - Tree Planting. N/A**

**BAR Issue 4 - Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities. N/A**

**PART 3 – DETAILED TREATMENT COST TABLE**

Emergency Stabilization		Units	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	Total Costs
<b>S1</b>	<b>Planning (Plan Prep/Project Mgmt)</b>						
	Project Management Field Office	WM's		2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
	<b>Total</b>		0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
<b>S2</b>	<b>Ground Seeding (drill)</b>						
	Labor	WM's		3,000			3,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		2,000			2,000
	Equipment Rental	Total		3,000			3,000
	Equipment Mobilization	Total		2,000			2,000
	Vale Drill Use Rate & FOR	Total		2,000			2,000
	Seed	Total	9,000				9,000
cultural	Clearances	Total	2,000				2,000
	<b>Total</b>		11,000	12,000	0	0	23,000
<b>S5</b>	<b>Noxious Weeds</b>						
	Labor	Acres		1,000			1,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		500			500
	Supplies/Materials	Total		500			500
	<b>Total</b>		0	2,000	0	0	2,000
<b>S13</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>						
	Labor	WM's		1,500	1,500	1,500	4,500
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		500	500	500	1,500
	<b>Total</b>		0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
	<b>EMERGENCY STABILIZATION TOTALS</b>		\$11,000	\$18,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$37,000

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY13	FY14	FY15	Total Cost
R5	<b>Noxious Weeds</b>	Acres	295	\$6.78	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>					\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000

**PART 4 – SEED LISTS**

**DRILL SEED**

Species	% PLS	PLS Seeds/sq.ft	PLS Seeds/ac.	Seeds/lb (bulk)	Total Seeds/Acre (Bulk)	Drill Seeding [Acres]	Lbs / Acre	Total Lbs.	Cost / Lb.	Total Cost
Vavilov II Siberian WG	80%	16.16	704,000	220,000	880,000	295	4	1,200	4.00	4,800.00
Secar Snakeriver WG	76%	5.93	258,400	170,000	340,000	295	2	600	5.20	3,120.00
Sherman Big Bluegrass	63%	6.63	288,855	917,000	458,500	295	0.5	150	5.00	750.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>28.72</b>					<b>6.50</b>	<b>1,950</b>		<b>8,670.00</b>

**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 adapted to the ecological sites within the proposed treatment areas. These species have been extensively utilized in similar ecological sites within the Burley Field Office.*

2. Is seed or seedlings of native plants available in sufficient quantity for the proposed project?  
*Yes* Rationale: *The native seed proposed for the estimated 295 acres in the treatment area is generally available in the required quantities. Drill seeding would not occur until the fall of FY2013 which should allow seed quantities to be more available.*

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. The demand has resulted in increased production and decreased price.*

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: *The native taxa proposed for seeding have exhibited the ability to establish and persist in similar ecological sites within the Burley 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 area will be rested from livestock grazing until resource objectives listed in this ES and BAR plan are met. This will help the new herbaceous seeding treatments become established. Prior to the resumption of livestock grazing the treatment areas will have to meet minimum criteria (see monitoring plan) before livestock grazing may resume.*

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

**General Note:** The likelihood of introducing a non-native plant species into a plant community without altering the present competitive interaction among remnant native and non-native species is remote. The inclusion of non-native species is to enhance the probability of re-establishment of a perennial plant community in an environment where normal plant successional processes have been altered by invasion of exotic annual grasses and forbs, along with noxious weeds, and difficult site conditions (i.e. late seral communities). Establishing a stable, diverse, multi-layered perennial plant community utilizing both native and non-native cultivars is expected to restore resource values that might not recover naturally, considering the pre-fire plant community and site conditions.

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 the proposed non-native plant species is in conformance with the goals and objectives outlined in the 2005 Shoshone and Burley Field Office Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan. The proposed use of non-native plants is not located within a Wilderness Study Area.*

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 supported a sagebrush community with an herbaceous understory of remnant native grasses and forbs. The proposed non-native plants can effectively compete with cheatgrass which is expected to dominate the site following the fire. Establishing a competitive perennial plant species with a mixture of native and non-native species will promote a greater degree of resiliency within the plant community and restore more natural successional processes.*

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 introduced plant species have been used in seedings in the Burley Field Office area for over 40 years. The seedings have occurred in range sites similar to those which were burned. Incidental establishment of the proposed species may occur outside of the treatment area by the seasonal movement of various 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.*

**A "no" response requires additional analysis in the Environmental Assessment (EA) or selection of an alternate species in the seed mixture.**

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

<b>Non-native Plants</b>	<b>Native Plants</b>
“Vavilov” II Siberian Wheatgrass Agropyron fragile	“Secar” Snakeriver Wheatgrass <i>Elymus wawawaiensis</i>
	“Sherman” big bluegrass Poa ampla

**PART 6. – COST-RISK ANALYSIS**

**A. Probability of Treatments Successfully Meeting Objectives**

<b>Action/ Spec. #</b>	<b>Planned ES Action (LF20000ES)</b>	<b>Unit (acres, WMs, number)</b>	<b># Units</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>% Probability of Success</b>
S2	Ground Seeding	Acres	295	\$23,000	80
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	295	\$2,000	90
S12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	#	1	\$0	100
<b>TOTAL COSTS:</b>				\$25,000	

<b>Action/ Spec. #</b>	<b>Planned BAR Action (LF32000BR)</b>	<b>Unit (acres, WMs, number)</b>	<b># Units</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>% Probability of Success</b>
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	295	\$4,000	90
R12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	#	1	\$0	100
<b>TOTAL COSTS:</b>				\$4,000	

**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 drill seeding of perennial grass will help with the establishment and recruitment of future grass and shrub cover. The noxious weed treatments will help protect adjacent private, State and BLM lands against further expansion of noxious weeds.*

**No Action** *No, Rationale for answer: Wildlife habitat on adjacent unburned land would be compromised with the expansion of noxious weeds. The burned area will have a high chance of invasion of cheatgrass and noxious weeds due to the bare soil.*

**Alternative(s)** 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, Rationale for answer: Monitoring and observation of recent weed control efforts in similar soils and precipitation zones indicate that success would be high. Normal climatic conditions and the exclusion of livestock grazing for the period of seeding establishment and/or on-site vegetation recovery would increase the probability of success.*

**No Action** *No, Rationale for answer: The burned area has a high potential for expansion of noxious weeds. There is high potential for adjacent unburned areas becoming dominated by invasive and noxious weeds.*

**Alternative(s)** 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: *None*

**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			

Resource Value	N/A	None	Low	Medium	High
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: ***S2 Drill Seeding***

1) Treatment Objectives: *The objective of the seeding treatments is to establish a perennial dominated plant community within three years. The results are based on site potential.*

*The drill seed treatment would be considered successful if:*

*1) the seeded grass species reach densities of three plants per square meter for grasses.*

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 area would include field observations, photo plots, and cover transects utilizing the line-point intercept and density plot methods. Plots would be randomly established through the treated area. Effectiveness monitoring of the drill seeding will be completed for a period of three growing seasons.*

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

1) Treatment Objectives: *Scotch thistle and Rush Skeletonweed are the primary weeds of concern in the burned area. It is expected that these weeds would expand their range as a result of the fire. Since this weed species is 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 burn area and treat any noxious weeds discovered in the burn area. The objective for the second and third years is to decrease the acreage needing treatment as determined by the first year inventory.*

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored: *During the first growing season treatment, a detailed map of location, weeds species sprayed, and the amount of herbicide utilized would be documented. The second and third year objective would be measured by the number and size of locations sprayed and the amount of herbicide utilized.*

3) Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period. *At the end of three years of treatment, the herbicide spray data would be summarized. If*

*further treatment is required beyond the third year then the responsibility for treatment would be forwarded to the Twin Falls District normal weed spraying program.*

**Treatment/Activity: *S12/R12 Closures (Livestock grazing)***

1) Treatment Objectives: *Exclusion of livestock is critical for the recovery of burned vegetation or establishment and protection of new seeding. The seed treatment area would be closed to livestock grazing for a minimum period of two growing seasons to promote recovery of burned vegetation and to facilitate the establishment of seeded species as specified in the 2005 Shoshone and Burley Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan (#ID-077-2004-008).*

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored: *Resumption of livestock grazing would ultimately depend on monitoring and meeting of ES plan ground seeding and natural recovery objectives. Recovery of the treated area would be monitored for availability to grazing on a yearly basis. 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 ground 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 crust) is within 10% of what would be expected for the site,*
- *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.*

## **PART 8 - MAPS**

1. Fire Perimeter and Unburned Islands of Vegetation over 40 acres
2. Colored Land Status Map
3. Seeding Treatment Areas
4. Vegetation Communities
5. Invasive Species

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

**TEAM MEMBERS**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Team Member (Agency/Office)</b>	<b>Initial and Date</b>
Team Leader	Dustin Smith	DS 8/09/2012
Operations	Scott Uhrig	SU 8/02/2012
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Suzann Henrikson	LSH 8/09/2012
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Dan Patten	DP 8/09/2012
Wildlife Biologist	Jeremy Bisson	JRB 8/09/2012
Resource Advisor(s) on Fire	Steve Lubinski	SL 8/09/2012

**PLAN APPROVAL**

/s/ Scott Sayer for Michael Courtney

8/10/2012

---

FIELD MANAGER

DATE

**FUNDING APPROVAL**

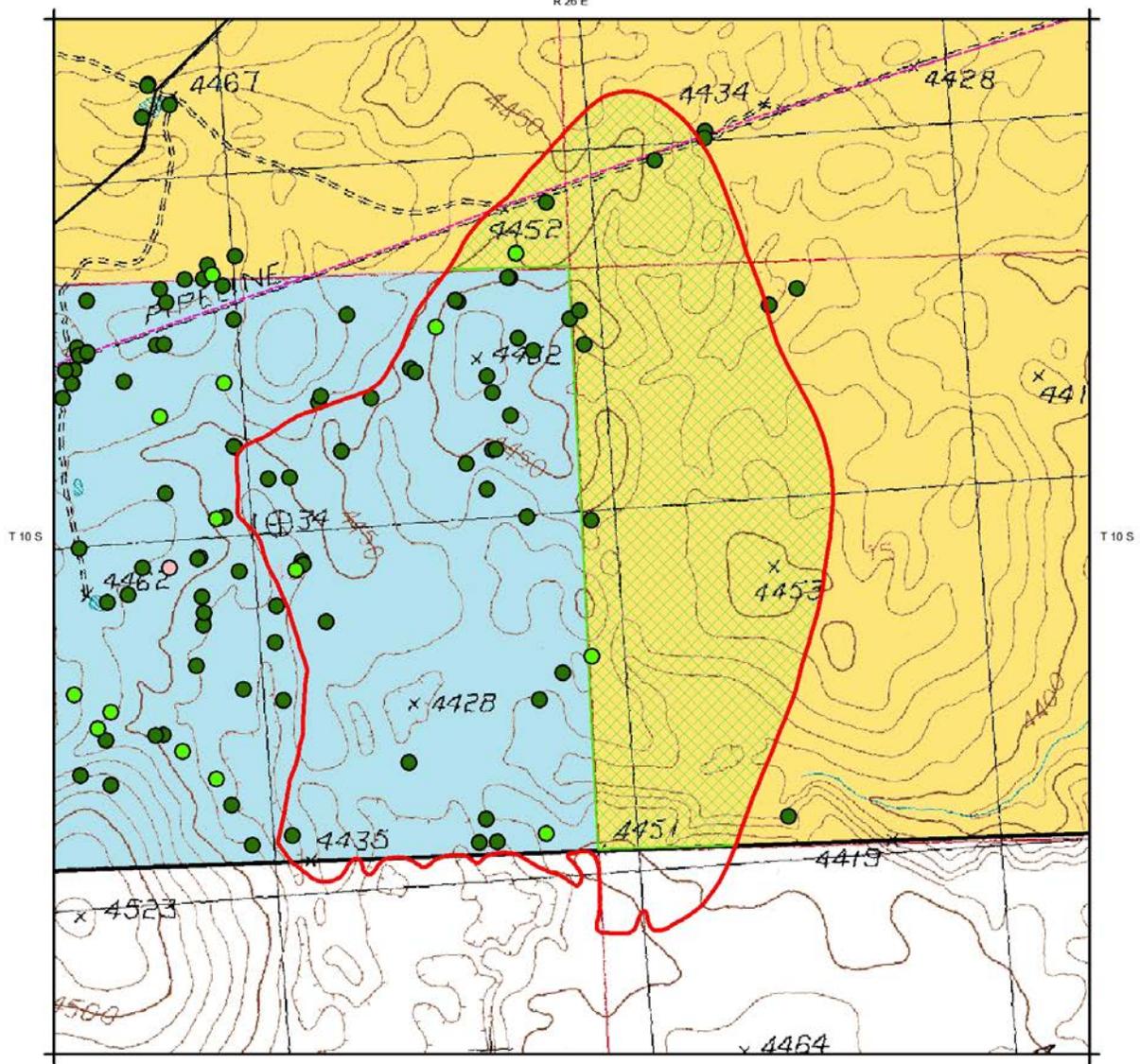
*The funding of ES treatments is approved through the appropriate administrative approval level in coordination with the National Office Budget Shop. As funding is available, ES funding requested within a plan that totals below \$100,000 may be approved by the State Director, while ES funding of \$100,000 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.*

*Works Cited*

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Ecological Site Description, Site ID: R011XY004ID

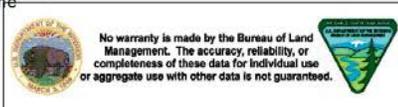
Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Seed Mixture Development Instruction  
Memorandum No. ID200-2008-003

# G3R5 - YALE ROAD



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

- Yale Road
- Musk Thistle
- Black Henbane
- Rush Skeletonweed
- Scotch Thistle
- Spotted Knapweed
- Power transmission line
- Gas, oil underground pipeline
- Yale Road Drill Seeding
- Range Allotment
- Pasture
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private; other
- State



Map Created on: August 1, 2012  
Data Displayed in NAD\_1983\_UTM\_Zone\_11N Projection  
R:\loc\fields\ESR\2012\Yale Road\Mapo\Yale Road.mxd  
Author: davisnsmith