BLM IDAHO POST-FIRE RECOVERY PLAN
EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND BURNED AREA REHABILITATION
2013 PLAN

GUINN FIRE

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

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fire Name	**Guinn**
Fire Number	**HPK9**
District/Field Office	**Twin Falls/Burley**
Admin Number	**LLIDT02000**
State	**Idaho**
County(s)	**Cassia**
Ignition Date/Cause	**7/7/2013**
Date Contained	**7/9/2013**

Jurisdiction	**Acres**
BLM	621
State	0
Private	125
Other	0

Total Acres	746
Total Costs	$172,000
Costs to LF2200000	$154,000
Costs to LF3200000	$18,000

Status of Plan Submission (check one box below)

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

PART 1 - PLAN SUMMARY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE FIRE

The Guinn Fire started as a lightning strike on July 7, 2013 around the Skaggs Ranch and burned just south of Guinn Canyon on the Cotterel Mountains. The fire burned a total of 746 acres in Cassia County approximately six miles east of Delco Idaho. Of the 746 acres burned, 621 acres occur on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and 125 acres occurred on private land. The fire burned around, but did not affect, a structure that was located on the private land. Above the structure and private land there are highly erosive soils found on BLM. If no stabilization or rehabilitation is carried out, future issues may arise.

The fire affected the North pasture of the North Cotterel Allotment. The elevation of burned acres in the Guinn Fire varies from 4400 feet to 5200 feet. The burned area's topography is characterized as rocky cliff areas, side slopes and draws. Fire intensities were a mix of high and low intensity across the burn area. The fire burned in low-elevation Wyoming and Mountain big sagebrush habitat. Cheatgrass is found throughout the burned area and dominant in portions. The bulk of the burned area is highly vulnerable to the expansion of cheatgrass and noxious weeds. Past fires on the same mountain range demonstrate there is a high likelihood for success if rehabilitated and poor recovery of natural vegetation if not rehabilitated.

The area burned by the Guinn Fire is a high priority for stabilization and rehabilitation because of the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus).* The majority of the burned area was mapped as sage-grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) in 2012. PPH comprises areas that have been identified as having the highest conservation value to maintaining sustainable greater sage-grouse populations. Of the 621 acres of BLM-managed land burned, 420 acres or 68% is classified as PPH. Also, a portion of the burn area is classified as Preliminary General Habitat (PGH) which comprises of occupied seasonal or year-round habitat outside of priority habitat. Of the 621 acres of BLM-managed land burned, 196 acres or 32% is classified as PGH. To best minimize habitat loss in PPH, the Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-043 states that ES and BAR treatments are to be utilized to: 1). Maintain and enhance unburned intact sagebrush habitat when at risk from adjacent threats; 2). Stabilize soils; 3). Re-establish hydrologic function; 4). Maintain and enhance biological integrity; 5). Promote plant resiliency; 6). Limit expansion or dominance or invasive species; and 7). Re-establish native species.

The proposed treatments are expected to protect adjacent unburned sagebrush habitat which would otherwise be at risk from potential weed invasion and increased wildfire threat that are expected to result from the fire. The proposed treatments are expected to help re-establish hydrologic function by increasing the understory and thereby increasing basil cover, litter, foliar cover, and soil stability. The proposed treatments are expected to increase the diversity of vegetation which will enhance biological integrity. Species proposed are expected to improve plant resiliency. Treatments are expected to limit expansion and dominance of invasive species while re-establishing native like species. Although the proposed treatments do not include an aerial treatment of sagebrush, the Burley Field Office ID team has determined that the smaller fire size and proximity of the burned area to well established sagebrush seed sources negates the need of this type of treatment for the re-establishment of sagebrush on the site (2011 Walker Hollow ESR Monitoring Report).

The proposed treatments will be focused on stabilization of sage grouse PPH that is vulnerable to cheatgrass and noxious weed expansion. This area is priority for Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) efforts.

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
S3 Aerial Seeding
S5 Noxious Weeds
S7 Temporary Protective Fence/Gate
S12 Closures (Livestock)

Burned Area Rehabilitation

R5 Noxious Weeds
R7 Permanent Fence Repair
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-EA-008).

Ground 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 ground seeding treatments and activities that meet these objectives are in conformance with the RMP as amended by the FMDA.

Aerial Seeding/S3: Objective 2 of the FMDA's objective and management actions is to maintain, protect, and expand sage-grouse source habitats. Following wildland fire, use seeding treatments with appropriate plant materials to attempt to stabilize sites and prevent dominance of invasive, annual vegetation, and noxious weeds. Therefore aerial seeding meets this objective and is in conformance with the RMP 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, 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 noxious weed treatments and activities that meet these objectives are in conformance with the RMP as amended by the FMDA.

Fence/S7/R7: Existing pasture and allotment fences will be repaired to ensure that livestock remain within their area of authorized use and off the burned areas until resource objectives are met. Also, temporary protective fence will be installed to ensure the investment of the seeding treatment will be protected. The FMDA states on page 31 that all treatment areas would be rested from livestock grazing until project-specific monitoring identified in site-specific project plans and/or NEPA documents show that resource objectives have been met. Resumption of grazing would be determined on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, fence treatments that ensure livestock will remain in authorized areas of use are in conformance with the RMP as amended by the FMDA.

Closures (livestock)/S12: The management restrictions, conservation measures, and guidelines for livestock grazing, on page 31of 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)	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Totals by Spec.
S1	**Planning (Project Management)**	**WM's**	1		$0	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$6,000
S2	**Ground Seeding/Chaining**	**Acres**	330	$87.88	$9,000	$20,000	$0	$0	$29,000
S3	**Aerial Seeding**	**Acres**	621	$143.32	$83,000	$6,000	$0	$0	$89,000
S5	**Noxious Weeds**	**Acres**	621	$4.83	$0	$3,000	$0	$0	$3,000
S7	**Temporary Protective Fence**	**Miles**	2	$9,000.00	$0	$15,000	$0	$3,000	$18,000
S12	**Closures (livestock)**	**#**	1	$0.00	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
S13	**Monitoring**	**Acres**	621	$4.83	$0	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$9,000
	TOTAL COSTS (LF2200000)				**$92,000**	**$49,000**	**$5,000**	**$8,000**	**$154,000**

Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF3200000):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Unit Cost (If Applicable)	FY14	FY15	FY16	Totals by Spec.
R1	**Planning (Project Management)**	**WM's**	1		$2,000	$2,000	$2,000	$6,000
R5	**Noxious Weeds**	**Acres**	621	$4.83	$0	$3,000	$3,000	$6,000
R7	**Permanent Fence Repair**	**Mile**	1	$6,000	$6,000	$0	$0	$6,000
	TOTAL COSTS (LF3200000)				**$8,000**	**$5,000**	**$5,000**	**$18,000**

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.

Not Applicable

ES Issue 2 - Soil/Water Stabilization.

Fire Intensity and Vegetation

Due to a combination of topography and terrain, extremely low fuel moisture and hot and dry weather conditions, the fire grew and spread rapidly. The fire removed the vegetation cover across the majority of the burn and was characterized as low to high fire intensity. Approximately 130 acres within the burn area have been identified as highly erosive soils. (Cassia RMP 1985) Because of the loss of vegetation, the burn area is vulnerable to accelerated soil erosion problems through wind and water. If no treatment is completed in the burn area, the lack of vegetation could cause severe erosion problems.

The majority of the burned area had had previously burned in the Gun (Guinn) Canyon fire in 2007. Areas with a dense canopy-cover of late seral sagebrush or shrub step had higher fire intensity and removed most of the plant cover. In the areas of higher elevation (5600 feet), cheatgrass was observed in areas adjacent to the burn area. There is a high potential of the burned area to be dominated by cheatgrass because of the lack of native grass understory and the amount of bare ground. With the combination of the high fire severity and presence of cheatgrass, there is a high possibility of the area being invaded. Lastly, the area is a major concern to the expansion of noxious weeds.

Closures (Livestock)

The North Cotterel Allotment was the only allotment affected by the fire. A portion of the allotment will be temporarily closed to grazing. Because only a small portion (6%) of the allotment burned, grazing will continue as authorized. However, appropriate rest will be applied to the treated area under the ES&R plan. This will allow newly seeded species to become

established and help with reduced soil erosion. The closure on the treated area would be implemented by the Range program to ensure that the area meets objectives (see monitoring section) for the resumption of livestock grazing. The integrity of fences that burned will be restored to their original working structure to keep livestock out of burned areas.

Guinn Fire						
Allotment Name	Allotment Number	Acres	Acres burned	% Acres burned	AUMS burned	% AUMs burned
North Cotterel	05001	10,066	621	6	25*	2

*Approximately due to topography

Treatment/Activity: S12 Closures (Livestock)

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

B. How does the treatment relate to damages or changes caused by the fire? *The fire burned most of the existing vegetation within the burn perimeter so the remnant vegetation and soil surface are highly susceptible to further damage if livestock were allowed to continue grazing within the burn area. The purpose of this treatment is to rest the burn area from livestock grazing to provide the opportunity for existing vegetation resources and seeding efforts to stabilize the burn area. Establishment of a perennial plant community would reduce or inhibit 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.*

Temporary Protective Fence

Approximately two miles of temporary protective fence and one gate will be needed to ensure livestock are kept out of the burned area. This will ensure that objectives are being met and allow livestock to graze the portion of the pasture that were not burned. The North Cotterel Allotment will have temporary protective fence built across a portion of the allotment. All temporary protective fences will be marked to minimize or eliminated potential collision risk to sage-grouse.

Treatment/Activity: S7 Temporary Protective Fence

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Approximately two miles of temporary protective fence and one gate is needed to help protect seeded portions of the burn and areas left for natural recovery without grazing disturbance.* ***Wherever possible, temporary protective fence would be built using existing materials removed from areas burned in 2011 and 2012.*** *The fence would be constructed to BLM fence specifications for wildlife. Temporary protective fence will be in the North Cotterel Allotment. All fences will be tied into existing BLM interior fence or natural barriers.*

B. How does the treatment relate to damages or changes caused by the fire? *The temporary protective fence associated with the livestock management of the affected allotments. Construction of two miles of temporary protective fence and a gate would maintain the future integrity of the existing livestock grazing systems.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *Most of the burned area is protected by existing fences. When possible, temporary protective fence and gate would be constructed from existing materials removed from 2011 and 2012 fires. Construction of two miles of temporary protective fence and a gate would allow livestock grazing to occur in the remaining unburned portions of the pastures during the closure period.*

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

Threatened, Endangered, and/or Candidate species:
Greater sage-grouse inhabit the area. The greater sage-grouse is classified as a Candidate species. There are no other federally listed threatened and/ or endangered terrestrial fauna within Cassia Counties (FWS, 2011).

Greater Sage-grouse

The Guinn Fire negatively impacted Greater sage-grouse PPH habitat. The landscape within the burned area was known to provide breeding, brood-rearing, and potential winter habitat for sage-grouse. IDFG telemetry data corroborates this. There are no known sage-grouse leks within the burned area. However, there are four leks within two miles of the fire perimeter: Two of the four leks are occupied and two are undetermined (IDFG 2012).

A total of 420 acres of preliminary priority sage-grouse habitat burned in the Guinn Fire, refer to **Table 1**. Of the acres burned the most adverse negative impacts to Greater sage-grouse would be the loss of sagebrush. Also, impacting sage-grouse would be the potential increase in noxious and invasive weeds and potential increased wildfire spread.

Table 1. Approximate acreage of Preliminary Priority/General Habitat burned.

	CATEGORIES	TOTAL ACRES	BLM ADMINISTERED ACRES
PRELIMINARY PRIORITY SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT	Perennial grassland	420	420
PRELIMINARY GENERAL SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT	General	**297**	**196**

Guinn Fire Potential Native Plant Communities:

Loamy 8-13" Wyoming big sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass – 50% of burned area

North Slope Stony 12-16"Mountain big sagebrush/Idaho Fescue – 31% of burned area

Shallow Calcareous Loam 10-16" Black sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass – 11% of burned area

Steep South Slope 12-16" Mountain big sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass – 1% of burned area

The majority of the burned area is capable of deep rooted grass species with the exception of the rocky outcroppings. This is demonstrated by data and photos collected from past stabilization and rehabilitation projects north of the burned area on the same soil type (2007 Gun Canyon ESR Monitoring Report). This data validates that the area is capable of sustaining the proposed grass seed species. Forbs were considered in the seed mix but were left out because of the high return of natural recovery forbs observed during monitoring (2007 Gun Canyon ESR Monitoring Report) and the expert knowledge and observation of Specialists in the Field Office. Also, there is a viable seed source for natural recovery from the surrounding unburned area and in small islands of unburned vegetation within the fire perimeter. The Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Seed Mixture Development Instruction Memorandum No. ID200-2008-003 was used in process of developing the proposed seed mix.

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. This list is for vegetation determined to be in the burn areas not previously treated.

Common Pre-burn Vegetation:

Wyoming big sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis*
Mountain big sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata ssp. Vaseyana*
Black sagebrush, *Artemisia nova*
Idaho fescue, *Festuca idahoensis*
Sandberg bluegrass, *Poa secunda*
Bluebunch Wheatgrass, *Pseudoroegneria spicata*
Cheatgrass, *Bromus tectorum*
Crested wheatgrass, *Agropyron cristatum*

Treatment/Activity: S2 Chaining

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Identified areas totaling approximately 330 acres will be Dixie harrowed following the aerial seeding to cover the grass seed in portions of the burn area. The areas that will be Dixie harrowed are identified on the map. The area that is identified as high erosive soils will be Dixie harrowed with the contours of the slope to help mitigate erosion potential. The majority of the burn area is not accessible by a rangeland drill due to steepness of the terrain. A Dixie harrow will be pulled by a tractor dozer. The harrow will aid in covering the*

seed giving it a better soil to seed contact for future growth. In past treatments where a Dixie harrow has been used to cover seed, monitoring has shown successful results. (2007 Gun Canyon Fire ESR Monitoring Report) This is proposed to be accomplished in late FY13 or early FY14. Appropriate cultural resource and wildlife inventories/surveys will be complete prior to implementing these specific projects.

B. How does the treatment relate to damages or changes caused by the fire? *This treatment will help restore perennial grass habitat that was consumed by the fire. The harrowing will aid in the establishment of a desirable perennial grass community. This area is identified as greater sage-grouse PPH and PGH. The greater sage-grouse are identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a candidate species. The wildfire that burned the high intensity areas killed the majority of the remnant seed bank making the burn area less likely to support sage-grouse due to lack of cover and forage.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *This treatment and activity is reasonable for the type of issues found on the site. Past monitoring and field observations have shown a success rate with the seeding of perennial grasses. The cost of this treatment is relatively less expensive than drill seeding because the use of a dozer in conjunction with the harrowing treatment.*

Treatment/Activity: S3 Aerial Seeding

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *All of the burned BLM land (621 acres) was identified to be aerial seeded with a native and non-native perennial grass mix. The perennial grass mix is proposed to be accomplished in late FY13 or early FY14. Appropriate wildlife and cultural resource inventories/surveys will be complete prior to implementing these specific projects. Although not all of the burn areas is being proposed to chain, past ESR monitoring data has shown that seeding steep slopes without chaining is successful in the re-establishment of seeded perennial grass species (2010 Emery Fire ESR Monitoring Report).*

Guinn Aerial Seed Mix 621 Acres	
Species and Variety	**Seed Rate Lbs/Acres**
Grass/Shrub Mix	
1. Secar Snake River Wheatgrass	4.0
2. Vavilov II Siberian Wheatgrass	4.0
3. Anatone Bluebunch Wheatgrass	3.0
4. Sherman big bluegrass	0.3

B. How does the treatment relate to damages or changes caused by the fire? *The objective of this treatment is to re-establish a desirable native and non-native perennial grass community that more closely matches the structural and species composition and diversity of the plant community to help achieve a healthy functioning rangeland. Establishment of a perennial plant community would inhibit the expansion of annual vegetation and noxious weeds (USDA Forest Service, 2004). Accelerating the rate of re-establishment of native and non-native grasses is*

important to maintaining the value of the area as sage-grouse. The seed mix is designed to provide species and structural diversity important to sage-grouse and other sagebrush-steppe obligate wildlife.

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. Qualitative monitoring in the Burley Field Office in areas similar to the Guinn fire that have not been treated has shown a higher chance of dominance by noxious weed and invasive plants such as cheatgrass (2007 Gun Fire ESR Monitoring Report). This dominance could alter fire regimes and result in landscape scale changes in vegetation composition and structure. This change would have a higher economic cost of controlling noxious weeds and invasive plants as opposed to treating the fire with stabilization and rehabilitation funds. Contracting costs for aerial application are typical for the Burley Field Office area. The cost of seed can vary from year to year dependent on availability.*

ES Issue 4 - Critical Heritage Resources.

Not Applicable

ES Issue 5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds.

Noxious Weeds

Scotch thistle and leafy spurge are the primary weeds of concern with high potential to increase within the burned area and surrounding rangeland. These weeds were documented during the fire reconnaissance and in field visits prior to the fire. Additional concerns include knapweed and rush skeleton weed.

The current state of the infestation is treatable if done within the next three growing seasons. Without a noxious weed control effort, these noxious weeds will significantly increase negatively affecting sage-grouse PPH and PGH and livestock forage capabilities. If an emergency treatment is not implemented the economic impact to natural resources and the local economy will be significant. All 621 acres of the burned public land will be inventoried and treated as needed for noxious weeds in FY14. The objective of this treatment is to identify and control the expected noxious weed increase using spot herbicide spraying and biological control. This would be proposed under the rehabilitation to suppress the expansion of these weeds. Weed control would be conducted the first year under ES.

Treatment Activity: S5 Noxious Weeds

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Over five species of noxious weeds have been identified and recorded within or around the burned area. The primary weeds of concern are scotch thistle and leafy spurge. Additional concerns include knapweed and rush skeleton weed. 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. It is expected that noxious weeds will 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 the Burley Field Office typically run about $4.83 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.

Not Applicable

BAR Issue 2 - Weed Treatments.

Noxious Weeds

Scotch thistle and leafy spurge are the primary weeds of concern with high potential to increase within the burned area and surrounding rangeland. These weeds were documented during the fire reconnaissance and in field visits prior to the fire. Additional concerns include knapweed and rush skeleton weed.

The current state of the infestation is treatable if done within the next three growing seasons. Without a noxious weed control effort, these noxious weeds will significantly increase negatively affecting sage-grouse PPH and PGH and livestock forage capabilities. If an emergency treatment is not implemented the economic impact to natural resources and the local economy will be significant. All 621 acres of the burned public land will be inventoried and treated as needed for noxious weeds in FY14 -15. The objective of this treatment is to identify and control the expected noxious weed increase using spot herbicide spraying and biological control. This would be proposed under the rehabilitation to suppress the expansion of these

weeds. Weed control would be conducted the second and third years under BAR.

Treatment Activity: R5 Noxious Weeds

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *Over five species of noxious weeds have been identified and recorded within the burned area. The primary weeds of concern are scotch thistle and leafy spurge. Additional concerns include knapweed and rush skeleton weed. Noxious weed inventory and control within the burned area would be done in the second and third 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 control the identified and expected noxious weed increase using spot herbicide application of the burn area. In addition, biological control agents for knapweed would be utilized in areas not easily accessible to spraying equipment (rocky outcrops). It is expected that noxious weeds will 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 the Burley Field Office typically run about $4.83 per acre. 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 weed treatments in the area for cost efficiency.*

BAR Issue 3 - Tree Planting.

Not Applicable

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

Livestock Management Fences

Approximately one mile of permanent interior pasture fence were damaged or destroyed by the fire. Damaged wire, corners, and braces would be repaired or replaced by steel posts. The repairs would be needed to maintain the integrity of the grazing system and keep adjacent livestock grazing from entering the burn area during the rest period. Where possible, materials will be used from previous fences that were salvaged or material that was left over from previous projects. Horse Butte Fence (BLM project # 5757), Guinn Fence (BLM project # 3954).

Treatment/Activity: R7 Permanent Fence Repair

A. Treatment/Activity Description. *The objective of this treatment is to repair and/or replace approximately one mile of interior livestock management fence damaged by the fire. Damaged wood corners and braces would be replaced with galvanized steel posts.* ***Wherever possible, permanent fence would be repaired using existing materials removed from areas burned in 2011 and 2012.*** *Damaged wire would also be repaired. The management fences would be*

constructed to BLM wildlife specifications for fences.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire? *The wildfire damaged fences associated with the livestock management of the affected allotments. Reconstruction and repair of management fences damaged by the fire would maintain the future integrity of the existing livestock grazing systems. Repair of damaged management fences would also help to manage vegetation recovery.*

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective? *Fence repair contracts typically run $6,000 per mile. This cost is typically lower than new fence construction. This treatment is reasonable and cost effective because it would utilize fences and gates to the greatest extent possible, while allowing unburned areas to be available to grazing. Damaged wood stretch points and corners would be replaced with galvanized steel pipe thus increasing the longevity of the structures and resistance of future wildfire damages.*

PART 3 – DETAILED TREATMENT COST TABLE

Emergency Stabilization		Units	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**	**Total Costs**
S1	***Planning (Plan Prep/Project Management)***						
	Project Management Field Office	WM's		2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
	Total		0	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
S2	***Ground Seeding (Dixie harrow)***						
	Equipment/Rental	Total		10,000			10,000
	Equipment Mobilization	Total		1,000			1,000
	Contract/Labor	Total		7,000			7,000
	Equipment repairs	Total		2,000			2,000
cultural	Clearances	Total	9,000				9,000
	Total		9,000	20,000	0	0	29,000
S3	***Aerial Seeding***						
grass	Contract	Total	5,000				5,000
	Contract Administration	WM's		700			700
	Seed	Total	83,000				83,000
	Vehicle			300			300
	Total		83,000	6,000	0	0	89,000
S5	***Noxious Weeds***						
	Labor	Acres		2,000			2,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		500			500
	Supplies/Materials	Total		500			500
	Total		0	3,000	0	0	3,000
S7	***Protective Fence/Gate***						
	Fence Removal	Total				3,000	3,000
	Fence Material	Total		6,000			6,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		1,000			1,000
	Contract	Total		6,000			6,000
	Contract Administration	WM's		2,000			2,000
	Total		0	15,000	0	3,000	18,000
S13	***Monitoring***						
	Labor	WM's		2,500	2,500	2,500	7,500
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		500	500	500	1,500
	Total		0	3,000	3,000	3,000	9,000
	EMERGENCY STABILIZATION TOTALS		$92,000	$49,000	$5,000	$8,000	$154,000

Rehabilitation		Units	FY14	FY15	FY16	Total Costs
R1	***Planning (Plan Prep/Project Management)***					
	Project Management State Office	WM's				0
	Project Management Field Office	WM's	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
	Total		2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
R5	***Noxious Weeds***					
	Labor	WM's		2,000	2,000	8,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total		500	500	1,000
	Supplies/Materials	Total		500	500	1,000
	Total		0	3,000	3,000	6,000
R7	***Fence***					
	Fence Material	Total	1,500			1,500
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	500			500
	Contract	Total	3,500			3,500
	Contract Administration	WM's	500			500
	Total		6,000	0	0	6,000
	BURNED AREA REHABILITATION TOTALS		$8,000	$5,000	$5,000	$18,000

PART 4 – SEED LISTS

AERIAL SEED

Species	% PLS	PLS Seeds/sq.ft	PLS Seeds/ac.	Seeds/lb (bulk)	Total Seeds/Acre (Bulk)	Aerial Seeding [Acres]	Lbs / Acre	Total Pounds	Cost per Lb.	Total Cost
Vavilov II Siberian WG	80%	16.16	704,000	220,000	880,000	621	4.0	2,500	5.00	12,500.00
Secar Snake River Wheatgrass	76%	11.86	516,800	170,000	680,000	621	4.0	2,500	16.00	40,000.00
Anatone Bluebunch Wheatgrass	76%	7.33	319,200	140,000	420,000	621	3.0	1,850	15.00	27,750.00
Sherman big bluegrass	63%	3.98	173,313	917,000	275,100	621	0.3	200	10.00	2,000.00
TOTALS		**39.33**					**11.30**	**7,050**		**82,250.00**

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 treatment areas. The proposed native species were selected utilizing guidance from the Shoshone/Burley Normal Fire Rehabilitation and Environmental Assessment (EA #ID-077-2004-008) and the Twin Falls District Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Seed Mixture Development Instruction Memorandum (IM #ID200-2008-003). The native taxa were selected form the low elevation (8-10" ppt.) zone species list. This was developed utilizing field experience and success in similar ecological sites within the Twin Falls District management area.*

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 600 acres in the treatment area is generally available in the required quantities. Aerial seeding would not occur until the winter and spring of FY14 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 proposed native species were selected from the low elevation (8-10" ppt.) zone species list contained in the Twin Falls District Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Seed Mixture Development Instruction Memorandum (IM #ID200-2008-003). The native taxa provided in the Seed Mixture Development IM have exhibited the ability to establish and persist in similar ecological sites in the Twin Falls District management area.*

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 areas 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. clay soils). 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 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.*

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

Non-native Plants	Native Plants
Vavilov ' II Siberian Wheatgrass *Agropyron fragile*	'Secar' Bluebunch Wheatgrass *Elymus wawawaiensis*
	'Anatone' Bluebunch Wheatgrass *Psuedoroegneria spicata*
	'Sherman' big bluegrass *Poa ampla ssp. ampla*

PART 6. – COST-RISK ANALYSIS

A. Probability of Treatments Successfully Meeting Objectives

Action/ Spec. #	Planned ES Action (LF20000ES)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
S2	Ground Seeding	Acres	330	$29,000	80
S3	Aerial Seeding	Acres	621	$89,000	85
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	621	$3,000	90
S7	Temporary Protective Fence/Gate	Miles	2	$18,000	100
S12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	#	1	0	100
			TOTAL COSTS:	$139,000	

Action/ Spec. #	Planned BAR Action (LF32000BR)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
R5	Noxious Weeds	**Acres**	621	$6,000	90
R7	Permanent Fence	**Mile**	1	$6,000	100
			TOTAL COSTS:	$12,000	

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 aerial seeding of perennial grass will help with the establishment and recruitment of future perennial grasses. The noxious weed treatments will help protect adjacent private and BLM lands against further expansion of noxious weeds. The temporary protective fence will ensure no disturbance to the newly seeded area.*

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, the use of competitive adapted species, the exclusion of livestock grazing for on-site vegetation recovery and establishment, qualitative observations of successful past efforts have contributed to the relatively high probability of seeding treatment success.

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

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 |_X_|,
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			
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/S3 Ground and Aerial 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 aerial seed treatment would be considered successful if:

The seeded grass species reach densities of:

1) *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 for the ground and aerial seeding will be carried out for a period of three growing seasons.*

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

1) Treatment Objectives: *Over five species of noxious weeds have been identified and recorded within the burned area. It is expected that these weeds will expand their range as a result of the fire. Since these weed species 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 burn 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: *During the first growing season treatment, locations of noxious weed populations (by species), treatment type, and the amount of herbicide used would be documented using GPS and GIS. 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. *Size and location of noxious weed populations and needed treatments would be*

compared between years one, two and three 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&R.

Treatment/Activity: **S7/R7 Temporary Protective Fence/Gate**

1) Treatment Objectives: *The objective of this treatment is to repair or replace approximately one mile of existing interior livestock management fence and to build approximately two miles of temporary protective fence. This will help to ensure natural recovery of the burned area with no disturbances and help maintain grazing allotment integrity. The fences would be constructed to BLM fence standards.*

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. *Repair and replacement of damaged fences and the temporary protective fence will be monitored through contract administration. Repairs and completion will be documented in a project file "as built" and filed in the project file. Construction of temporary protective fence will be completed within the first year of the fire. Repairs will be completed within the second or third year of the fire.*

Treatment/Activity: ***S12 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-EA-008).*

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored: *Resumption of livestock grazing would ultimately depend on monitoring and meeting of ES&R plan 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 seed treatment area would be considered recovered and available for grazing when:*

- *Recommended monitoring would include both qualitative and quantitative methods (e.g. line-point intercept or step point cover methods, density quadrates, photos points).*

- *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.*
- *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, Colored Land Status Map
2. Potential Native Plant Communities
3. Threatened and Endangered Species Areas
4. Protective Fences and the Adjoining Pasture Fences That They Tie Into, Invasive Species
5. Seeding Treatment areas

PART 9 – REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS

TEAM MEMBERS

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial and Date
Team Leader	Dustin Smith (BLM/Burley)	
Operations	Scott Uhrig (BLM/Shoshone)	
Botanist	Jason Theodozio (BLM/Burley)	
Cultural Resources/Archaeologist	Suzann Henrikson (BLM/Burley)	
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Nancy Ady (BLM/Burley)	
Wildlife Biologist	Jeremy Bisson (BLM/Burley)	
Resource Advisor(s) on Fire	Steve Lubinski (BLM/Burley)	

PLAN APPROVAL

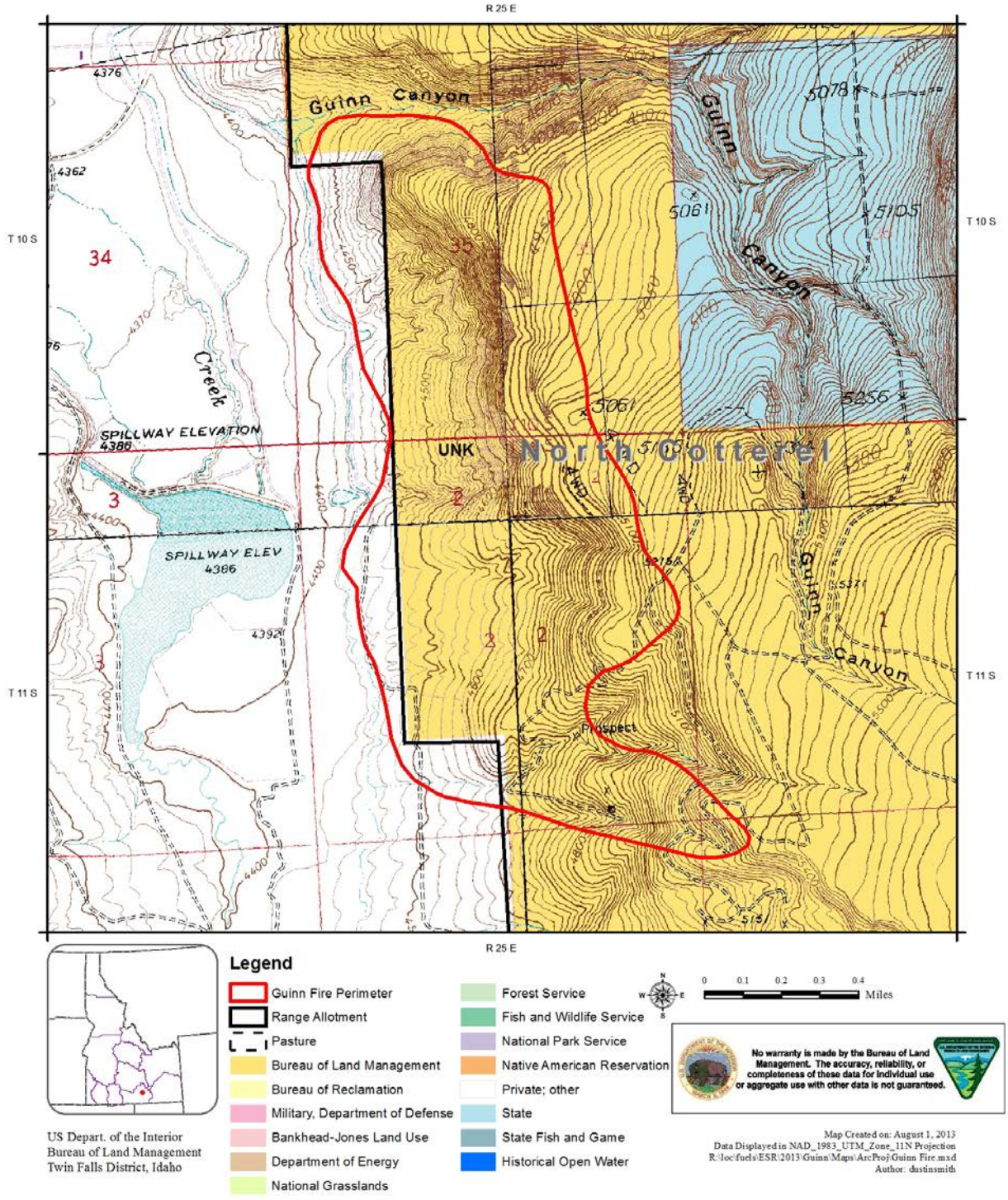
/s/ Michael C. Courtney 8/02/2013

Michael Courtney
FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DATE

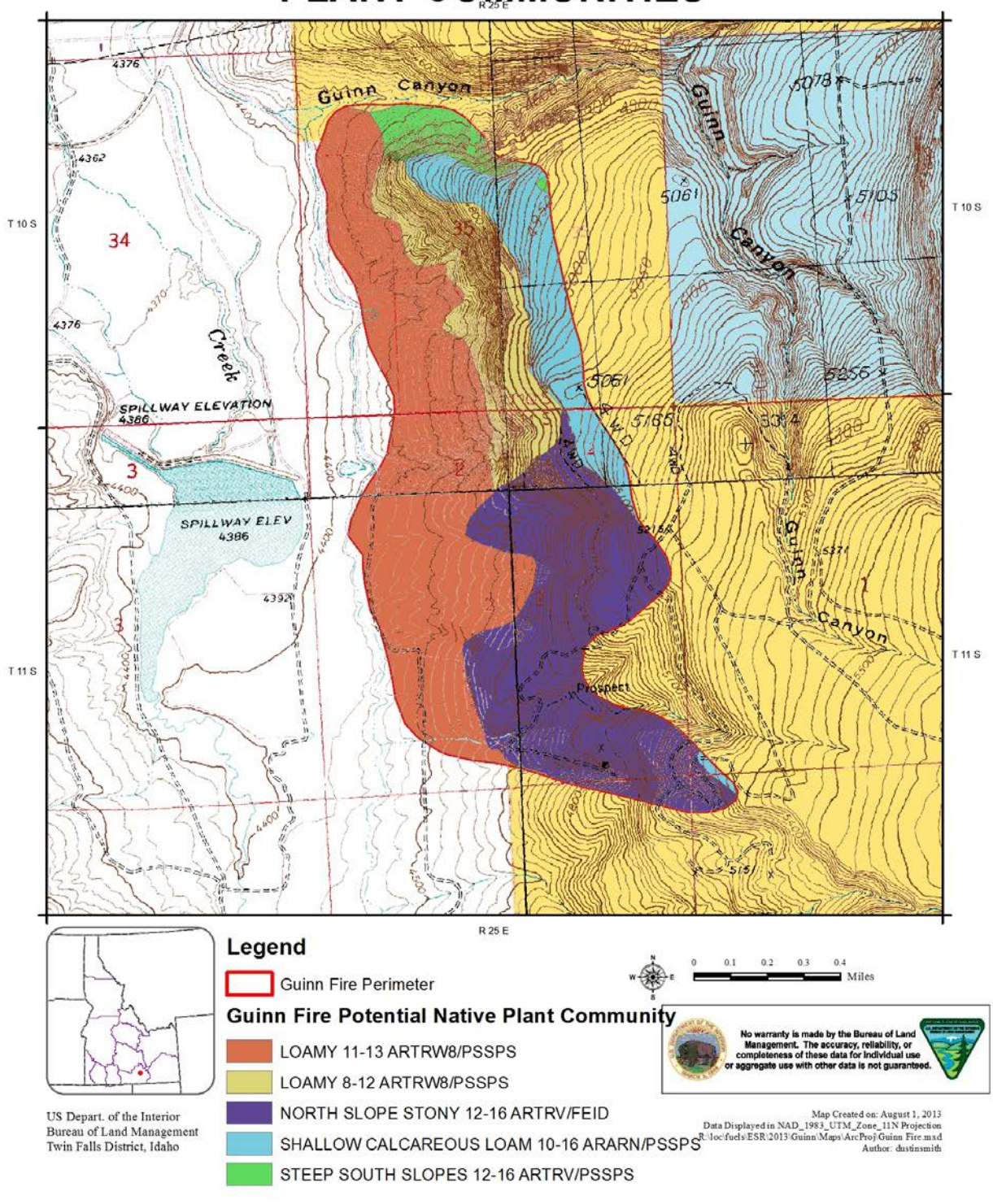
FUNDING APPROVAL

The funding of ES treatments is approved through the appropriate administrative approval level in coordination with the National Office Budget Shop. As funding is available, ES funding requested within a plan that totals below $100,000 may be approved by the State Director, while ES funding of $100,000 and above must be approved by the WO. If the ES funding cap is reached, all ES funding will be approved through the National Office in coordination with State ES&R Coordinators to determine highest priority projects. Funding of all BAR treatments is accomplished through a scoring process and is dependent on accurate entries into NFPORS. All funding is approved and allocated on a year-by-year basis.

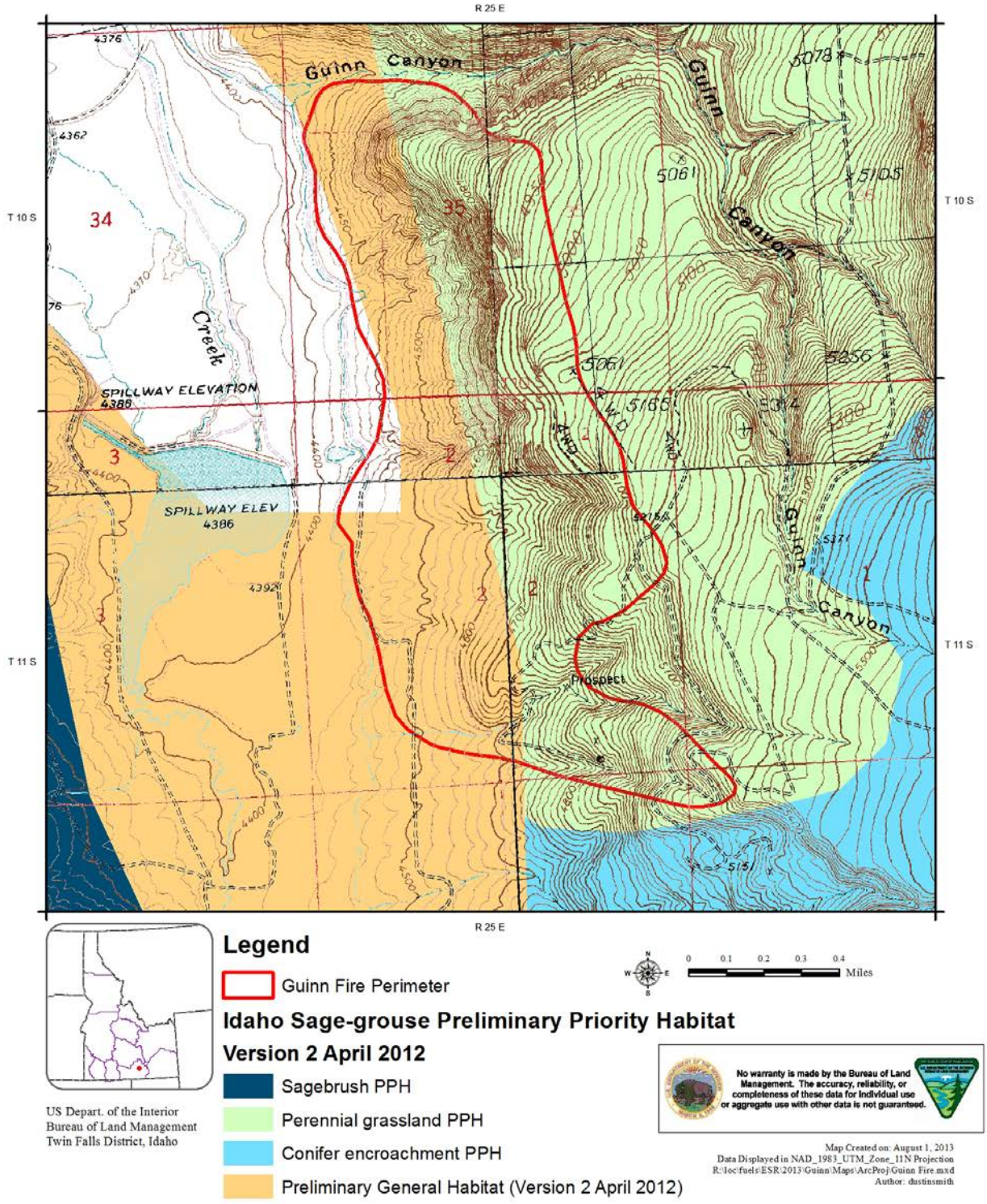
GUINN FIRE RANGE ALLOTMENT AND PASTURE



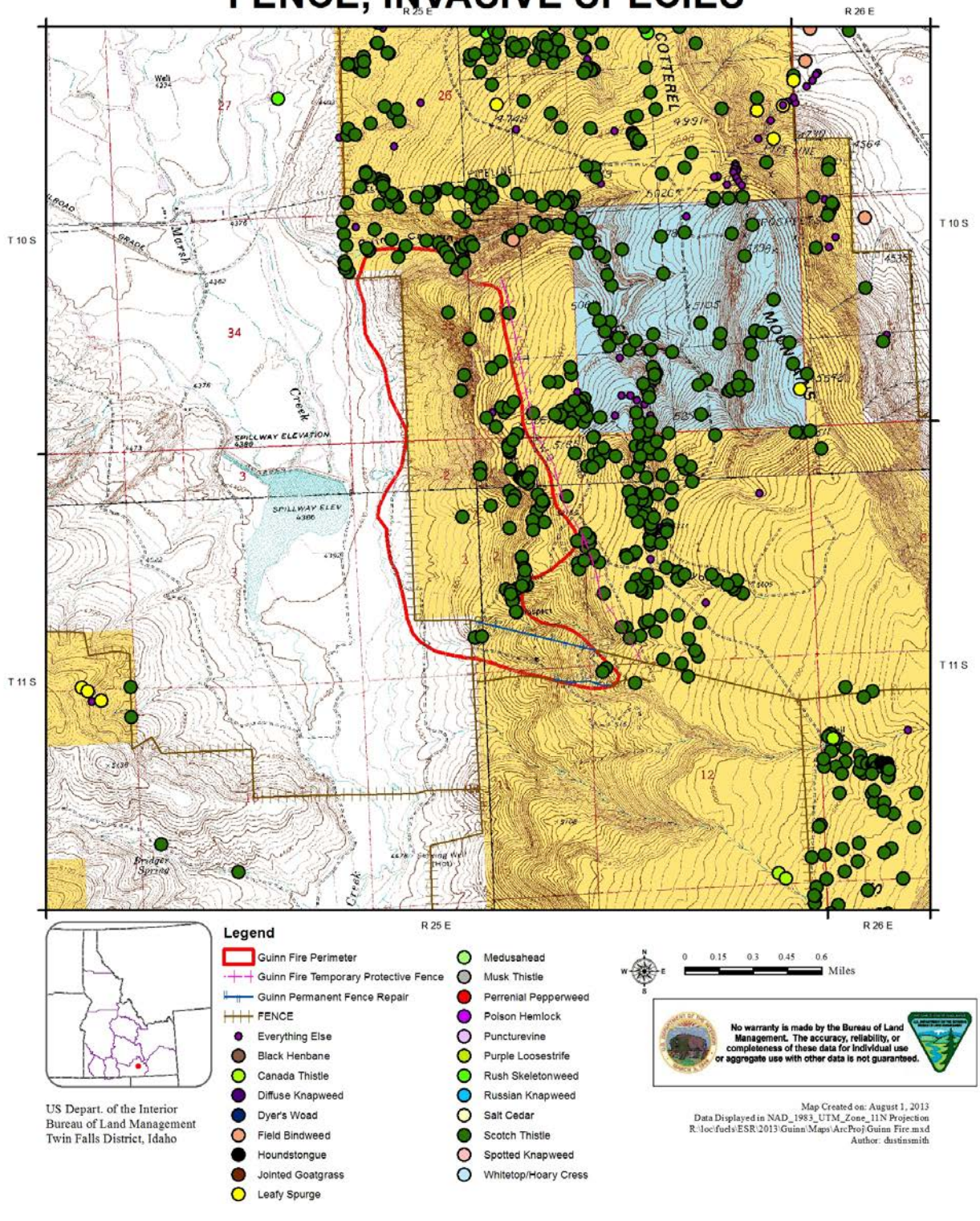
GUINN FIRE POTENTIAL NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES



GUINN FIRE SAGE GROUSE PPH AND PGH



GUINN FIRE TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT FENCE, INVASIVE SPECIES



GUINN FIRE TREATMENT AREAS