

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

**PLAN TEMPLATE 2010**

**JUNI FIRE (HU9Z)**

**BLM Boise District Office**

**IDAHO STATE OFFICE**

**FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Fire Name	JUNI
Fire Number	LFESHU9Z0000 / LFBRHU9Z0000
District/Field Office	Boise District Office
Admin Number	LLIDB00000
State	IDAHO
County(s)	OWYHEE
Ignition Date/Cause	08/13/2013 Lightning
Date Contained	08/24/2013
Jurisdiction	<i>Acres</i>
State	60
BLM	2165
Total Acres	2225
Total Costs	\$166,000
Costs to LF2200000 (2822)	\$120,000
Costs to LF3200000 (2881)	\$46,000

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

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

## **PART 1 - PLAN SUMMARY**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FIRE.**

The Juni Fire was ignited by lightning on August 13, 2013. The fire burned 2,165 acres on the northwest side of Juniper Mountain in Owyhee County, Idaho, which is located approximately 33 miles south of Jordan Valley, Oregon. Of the total burned, 60 acres were on lands managed by the state of Idaho and the remaining 2,165 acres were on lands managed by the BLM. Portions of three different pastures in the Trout Springs Allotment were impacted by the fire including Pasture 2A (96 acres), Pasture 2B (1,723 acres), and Pasture 06 (154 acres). The fire also burned 250 acres of Pasture 01 in the Pleasant Valley Allotment and less than one acre each in the Squaw Creek FFR and Pleasant Valley FFR allotments (Table 1-1 in Attachments).

The digital soil survey data (SSURGO 2008) indicate three main ecological sites within the burned area. The majority is composed of Loamy 13-16 with mountain big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass – Idaho fescue (1,794 acres). The other main ecological sites include Claypan 12-16 with low sagebrush/Idaho fescue (284 acres) and Very Shallow Stony Loam 10-14 with low sagebrush/Idaho fescue (144 acres). Vegetation communities in the burn area consisted of 53% juniper, 31% big sagebrush, 12% low sagebrush, 3% wet meadow, and 1% aspen.

The fire burned through juniper woodlands and sagebrush communities being encroached upon by juniper. There were 308 acres of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) preliminary general habitat (PGH) consumed by the fire, 87 of which were identified as being encroached upon by juniper. There is one occupied sage-grouse lek and two leks with undetermined status within five miles of the fire perimeter. Multiple sage-grouse seasonal observations have occurred both inside and within five miles of the Juni Fire perimeter (Personal Communication with Brad Jost, Owyhee Field Office Wildlife Biologist).

The headwaters of Cottonwood Creek are within the burned area, including a meadow area with severely down-cut (incised) banks and several headcuts. Cottonwood Creek is a high priority for stabilization because it supports a large population of Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*), a Candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 and a Type 1 BLM Special Status Species. BLM Manual 6840-Special Status Species Management (2008, Section .02) states that “BLM policy regarding Bureau sensitive species is to initiate proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to minimize the likelihood of and need for listing of these species under the ESA.”

The meadow area is extremely fragile and the fire has exacerbated the situation. Habitat for the spotted frog would be degraded by further erosion of the meadow area. Sediment input into Cottonwood Creek would lead to the loss of habitat for spotted frogs by filling pools and slack water areas, decreasing habitat complexity, and would reduce the depth of the water leading to higher water temperatures. The area also provides habitat for Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, golden eagles, and several other species

associated with sagebrush steppe habitats.

## **LAND USE PLAN CONSISTENCY**

### **S5 - Noxious Weeds ES Issue 5**

The applicable Land Use Plan for the Emergency Stabilization (ES) project area is the Owyhee Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Record of Decision (ROD) dated December 30, 1999 as stated in the following management actions. The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatment analyzed in the Boise District/Jarbidge Field Office Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (#ID-090-2004-050) and the Boise District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (#ID100-2005-EA-265).

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Vegetation (VEGE 1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...apply approved noxious weed control methods (including burning, mechanical, manual, biological, and chemical control methods as identified in the Vegetation Management EIS)..." Therefore, the treatment of noxious weeds adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

### **S6 - Soil Stabilization (Other than seedling, planting) ES Issue 3**

The applicable Land Use Plan for the Emergency Stabilization (ES) project area is the Owyhee Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Record of Decision (ROD) dated December 30, 1999 as stated in the following management actions. The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatment analyzed in the Boise District/Jarbidge Field Office Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (#ID-090-2004-050) and the Boise District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (#ID100-2005-EA-265).

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Special Status Species (SPSS 1. P.20-21) directs management to "...protect and enhance habitat for a diversity of special status species through implementation of management actions identified in objectives SOIL 1 and 2, WATR 1 and 2, VEGE 1, RIPN 1, FORS 1 and 2, WDLF 1, FISH 1 and 2, RECT 3, WNES 1 and 2, HAZM 1 and ACEC 1..." and "...protect and enhance key Columbia spotted frog habitats and populations by implementing conservation actions identified in the Conservation Strategy for the Columbia Spotted Frog (*Rana luteiventris*) in Idaho, pending its completion...". While the conservation strategy is not yet been completed, the direction to protect and enhance habitat follows the RMP and BLM direction for management of Special Status Species. Therefore, excluding the meadow area from livestock grazing and installing straw wattles to reduce further degradation and sediment transport would protect downstream Columbia spotted frog habitat from degradation.

### **S7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard ES Issue 2**

The applicable Land Use Plan for the Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area

Rehabilitation (BAR) project area is the Owyhee Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Record of Decision (ROD) dated December 30, 1999 as stated in the following management actions. The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatment analyzed in the Boise District/Jarbridge Field Office Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (#ID-090-2004-050) and the Boise District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (#ID100-2005-EA-265). The following treatments are proposed under this ES and BAR plan.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Soils and Vegetation (SOILS 1, pp. 9-10 and VEGE1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...provide a minimum of two growing seasons rest from livestock grazing and other watershed disturbing activities following fires..." Therefore, the repair of 3 miles existing fence to close the burned area from authorized grazing use occurring in adjacent pastures and grazing allotments adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Wildlife (WDLF 1 p.17) directs management to "...protect and enhance habitat for wildlife at all developed springs and selected undeveloped springs, wet meadows, reservoirs and stream riparian reaches by fencing to exclude livestock. Close all enclosures to livestock grazing for the life of this plan except where it is determined that controlled grazing is necessary to achieve a specific resource objective..." Therefore, the one mile of new fence needed to create a long-term 40 acre enclosure around the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

### **S12 - Closures (area, OHV, livestock) ES Issue 2**

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Vegetation (VEGE 1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...apply approved noxious weed control methods (including burning, mechanical, manual, biological, and chemical control methods as identified in the Vegetation Management EIS)..." Therefore, the treatment of noxious weeds adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Soils (SOIL 1 pp. 9-10) directs management to "...provide a minimum of two growing seasons rest from livestock grazing and other watershed disturbing activities following fires...", and for Fire (FIRE 2, pp. 25-28) directs management to "...decrease soil erosion and sediment yield, restore forage values, and restore upland habitat values and riparian values using fire rehabilitation procedures following a wildfire...". Two growing seasons is the *minimum* period of closure and **this period may be extended** if resource managers feel it is needed to meet recovery objectives. Therefore, the closure of pastures 2B and 06 of the Trout Springs Allotment from livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons or until recovery objectives have been met adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

### **S13 - Monitoring ES Issue 3**

The applicable Land Use Plan for the Emergency Stabilization (ES) project area is the Owyhee Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Record of Decision (ROD) dated December 30, 1999 as stated in the following management actions. The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatment analyzed in the Boise District/Jarbridge Field Office Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (#ID-090-2004-050) and the Boise District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (#ID100-2005-EA-265).

The proposed treatments listed in this plan are in conformance with the Owyhee RMP and associated ROD. In the Monitoring and Assessment Appendix (MONT-1, pp. 75-80) of the RMP it states "...the effects of implementation will be monitored and evaluated on a periodic basis over the life of the plan. Monitoring will be conducted to determine where problems exist with management activities, to evaluate management objectives as to whether or not they are being achieved, to assess the progress toward meeting the standards for rangeland health, and to recommend future actions..." Therefore monitoring activities to determine if proposed treatments, repairs, and closures are accomplishing ESR objectives adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

#### **R5 - Noxious Weeds BAR Issue 2**

The applicable Land Use Plan for the Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) project area is the Owyhee Resource Management Plan (RMP) and associated Record of Decision (ROD) dated December 30, 1999 as stated in the following management actions. The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatment analyzed in the Boise District/Jarbridge Field Office Normal Fire Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (#ID-090-2004-050) and the Boise District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (#ID100-2005-EA-265). The following treatments are proposed under this ES and BAR plan.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Vegetation (VEGE 1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...apply approved noxious weed control methods (including burning, mechanical, manual, biological, and chemical control methods as identified in the Vegetation Management EIS)..." Therefore, the treatment of noxious weeds adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

#### **R7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard BAR Issue 1**

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Vegetation (VEGE 1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...apply approved noxious weed control methods (including burning, mechanical, manual, biological, and chemical control methods as identified in the Vegetation Management EIS)..." Therefore, the treatment of noxious weeds adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Soils and Vegetation (SOILS 1, pp.

9-10 and VEGE1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...provide a minimum of two growing seasons rest from livestock grazing and other watershed disturbing activities following fires..." Therefore, the repair of 3 miles existing fence to close the burned area from authorized grazing use occurring in adjacent pastures and grazing allotments adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Wildlife (WDLF 1 p.17) directs management to "...protect and enhance habitat for wildlife at all developed springs and selected undeveloped springs, wet meadows, reservoirs and stream riparian reaches by fencing to exclude livestock. Close all exclosures to livestock grazing for the life of this plan except where it is determined that controlled grazing is necessary to achieve a specific resource objective..." Therefore, the one mile of new fence needed to create a long-term 40 acre exclosure around the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

#### **R7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard BAR Issue 4**

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Vegetation (VEGE 1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...apply approved noxious weed control methods (including burning, mechanical, manual, biological, and chemical control methods as identified in the Vegetation Management EIS)..." Therefore, the treatment of noxious weeds adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Soils and Vegetation (SOILS 1, pp. 9-10 and VEGE1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...provide a minimum of two growing seasons rest from livestock grazing and other watershed disturbing activities following fires..." Therefore, the repair of 3 miles existing fence to close the burned area from authorized grazing use occurring in adjacent pastures and grazing allotments adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Wildlife (WDLF 1 p.17) directs management to "...protect and enhance habitat for wildlife at all developed springs and selected undeveloped springs, wet meadows, reservoirs and stream riparian reaches by fencing to exclude livestock. Close all exclosures to livestock grazing for the life of this plan except where it is determined that controlled grazing is necessary to achieve a specific resource objective..." Therefore, the one mile of new fence needed to create a long-term 40 acre exclosure around the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

#### **R12 - Closures (area, OHV, livestock) BAR Issue 1**

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Vegetation (VEGE 1, pp. 12-13) directs management to "...apply approved noxious weed control methods (including burning, mechanical, manual, biological, and chemical control methods as identified in the Vegetation Management EIS)..." Therefore, the treatment of noxious weeds adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

Management actions outlined in the Owyhee RMP for Soils (SOIL 1 pp. 9-10) directs management to "...provide a minimum of two growing seasons rest from livestock grazing and other watershed disturbing activities following fires...", and for Fire (FIRE 2, pp. 25-28) directs management to "...decrease soil erosion and sediment yield, restore forage values, and restore upland habitat values and riparian values using fire rehabilitation procedures following a wildfire...". Two growing seasons is the *minimum* period of closure and **this period may be extended** if resource managers feel it is needed to meet recovery objectives. Therefore, the closure of pastures 2B and 06 of the Trout Springs Allotment from livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons or until recovery objectives have been met adheres to this direction and is in conformance with the RMP.

**COST SUMMARY TABLES**

**Emergency Stabilization (LF2200000)**

Action/ Spec #	ES Issue #	Planned Action	Unit (Acres, WMs, Number)	# Units	Unit Cost (If Appl.)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Totals by Spec.
S1		Planning (Project Management)	WM'S	6	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00
S2										
S3										
S4										
S5	5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	2,225	\$5.39	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
S6	3	Soil Stabilization (Other than seedling, planting)	#	20	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
S7	2	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	1	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
S8										
S9										
S10										
S11										
S12	2	Closures (area, OHV, livestock)	#	1	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
S13	3	Monitoring	Acres	2,225	\$19.78	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$44,000.00
S14										
<b>TOTAL COSTS (LF2200000)</b>						<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$73,000</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
OTHER FUND CODE TOTALS:										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										

**Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF3200000)**

Action/ Spec #	BAR Issue #	Planned Action	Unit (Acres, WMs, Number)	# Units	Unit Cost (If Appl.)	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Totals by Spec.
R1										
R2										
R3										
R4										
R5	2	Noxious Weeds	Acres	2,225	\$8.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$18,000.00
R6										
R7	1	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	1	\$21,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$21,000.00
R7	4	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	1	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
R8										
R9										
R10										
R11										
R12										
R13										
R14										
<b>TOTAL COSTS (LF3200000)</b>						<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>	<b>\$46,000</b>
OTHER FUND CODE TOTALS:										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										
TOTAL COSTS (???)										

## **PART 2 - POST-FIRE RECOVERY ISSUES**

### **EMERGENCY STABILIZATION ISSUES**

#### **1 - Human Life and Safety**

N/A

#### **2 - Soil/Water Stabilization**

The burned area includes meadows near the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek that are in an extremely degraded condition. Steep, incised cutbanks and several headcuts are prevalent throughout the meadows. The banks are raw with little vegetation growing thereon and the bank's edge is readily susceptible to sloughing into the stream channel. The fire consumed several large willows and other riparian vegetation including that which was growing on the bank's edge. Now there is an increased likelihood of greater levels of erosion before the vegetation recovers and becomes re-established.

Additionally, new growth of the recovering vegetation will be highly sought after by livestock, and the presence of livestock in the meadows would increase bank sloughing and sediment input into the stream channel causing degradation to spotted frog habitat. Closure of the two main pastures burned by the fire (Trout Springs Pastures 2B and 06) to exclude livestock from the meadows would promote recovery of the stream channel and spotted frog habitat, as well as protect upland soils susceptible to erosion. Approximately two miles of allotment boundary and interior fences will need to be repaired to effectively rest these pastures.

A long-term exclosure totaling approximately 40 acres around the headwater meadows of Cottonwood Creek in Pasture 06 will help stabilize this area which has been made increasingly susceptible to accelerated erosion from the fire, and facilitate long-term recovery once regularly scheduled grazing resumes. See BAR Issue 1 for details.

#### **3 - Habitat for Federal/State Listed, Proposed, or Candidate Species**

##### *Columbia Spotted Frog*

The Columbia spotted frog, a Candidate species for listing under the ESA of 1973 as amended, has been documented in one pond upstream of the headwater meadows and in numerous locations downstream of the headwater meadows in Cottonwood Creek. Spotted frogs prefer slow moving water and ponds. Suitable pool habitat has been documented downstream of the degraded meadows. The headwater meadows currently do not provide suitable habitat for this species due to the degraded condition of the channel.

The impacts of the Juni Fire will exacerbate the current condition and increase channel erosion and aquatic habitat degradation. The increased sediment input and channel degradation would lead to a loss of downstream habitat due to increased sediment loads, water temperature, and stream flow.

Installing straw wattles across the channel in several locations within the meadows would prevent further loss of downstream habitat for spotted frog and aid channel stabilization and recovery in the meadows. The wattles in conjunction with the exclusion of livestock grazing would lead to long-term benefits to the spotted frog population in Cottonwood Creek. Straw wattles proved to be effective in catching sediment and reducing downstream transport when they were used as an ESR treatment for the Crowbar Fire (2010) to protect habitat for the endangered Bruneau hot spring snail.

#### *Greater Sage-grouse*

Multiple seasonal observations of the greater sage-grouse, a Candidate species for listing under the ESA of 1973 as amended, occur both inside and within five miles of the Juni Fire perimeter. Sage-grouse habitat within the fire perimeter is marginal due to encroachment by western juniper (personal communication with Brad Jost, Owyhee Office wildlife biologist). Last year's nearby Grasshopper Fire and the Juni Fire have benefitted sage-grouse by reducing the impacts juniper encroachment. Sage-grouse habitat will also be enhanced in the near future by proposed projects to remove seral juniper trees in and around the Juni Fire area. The proposed treatments to stabilize the headwater meadows and reduce further degradation from the impacts of the Juni Fire would benefit sage-grouse by improving important late-brood rearing habitat. Riparian areas have shown marked and relatively rapid recovery when protected from livestock grazing and straw wattles have proven effective in reducing sediment transport.

#### **4 - Critical Heritage Resources**

N/A

#### **5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds**

Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*), Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), and whitetop (*Cardaria draba*) are the primary weeds of concern with high potential to invade the burned area and surrounding rangeland. Treatment of these noxious weeds at the early stage of infestation over the next three years will have a high likelihood of success. Without a noxious weed control effort, these weeds could impact watershed and upland habitat conditions for candidate and other wildlife and special status plant species. All 2,165 acres of the burned public land will be inventoried and treated as needed for noxious weeds in FY 2014. The goal of this treatment is to identify and control the new infestations expected to occur by using spot herbicide spraying and biological control. Weed control would be conducted the first year under ES and years two and three under BAR.

### **BURNED AREA RECOVERY ISSUES**

#### **1 - Lands Unlikely to Recover Naturally**

The Juni Fire burned through the headwater meadows of Cottonwood Creek, an area that is severely degraded with steep cutbanks, incised channel, and several headcuts. As a result of the Juni Fire these meadows will likely see increased erosion and degradation to the banks

and channels, which would lead to negative impacts to Columbia spotted frogs and their habitat downstream of the meadows.

Additionally, sage-grouse use has been documented within the headwater meadows. Sagebrush adjacent riparian areas, like the headwater meadows, become crucial foraging areas for female sage-grouse and their broods during the summer and early fall months. Protecting the meadows from further degradation and aiding their recovery would benefit sage-grouse and Columbia spotted frogs in the long-term. Riparian areas and meadows serve as critical seasonal habitats for a variety of other special status wildlife species and these species would also benefit from the proposed treatments.

Approximately one mile of new fence is necessary to create a 40 acre enclosure excluding the meadows from livestock grazing beyond the proposed pasture closures to protect the fragile banks and aid recovery. The enclosure would be a long-term barrier to livestock to ensure the protection needed for recovery and maintenance of the stream channel. While the fence would be constructed more than five miles from the nearest sage-grouse lek, it would be marked in accordance with designated guidelines for sage-grouse identified in Information Memorandum ID-100-2011-001. Marking the fence is prudent given the importance and high use of such areas by sage-grouse and because sage-grouse have been observed in the general area of the meadows. Marking the fence would also benefit other wildlife species in the area.

## **2 - Weed Treatments**

Control (chemical, mechanical, biological) of noxious weeds helps facilitate establishment of a healthy, stable ecosystem even if this ecosystem cannot fully emulate historical or pre-fire conditions.

Leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, Scotch thistle, and whitetop are the primary weeds of concern with potential to invade the burned area and surrounding rangeland. Treatment of noxious weeds at the early stage of infestation over the next three years will have a high likelihood of success. Without a noxious weed control effort, these species could negatively impact watershed and upland habitat conditions for Candidate and other wildlife and native plant species. All 2,165 acres of the burned public land should be inventoried and treated as needed for noxious weeds. The goal of this treatment is to identify and control the new infestations expected to occur by using spot herbicide spraying and biological control.

## **3 - Tree Planting**

N/A

## **4 - Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities**

Approximately one mile of fence repair is necessary to fix existing fences that were damaged by the Juni Fire. These fences separate pastures within the Trout Springs Allotment, as well as the Trout Springs and Pleasant Valley allotments.



## **PART 3 - DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENTS**

### **Issue 2 - Soil/Water Stabilization**

#### ***S7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard***

##### **A. Treatment/Activity Description**

Approximately two (2) miles fence burned in the fire and would be repaired (portions may be removed and replaced depending on level of damage). The allotment boundary and internal pasture fences necessary to protect the burned area from livestock grazing and movement during the closure period would be repaired. All fencing will be 3-strand barbed wire fence built in accordance with BLM wildlife specifications.

##### **B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?**

The fire burned mainly through the Trout Springs Allotment (00539) disrupting the authorized grazing system. Repair of damaged fences would help to manage vegetation recovery. Both boundary and interior allotment fences damaged by the wildfire need to be repaired in order to rest Trout Springs pastures 2B (Graves Creek) and 06 (Hanley Holding Field) from livestock grazing and trailing until vegetation recovery objectives have been met. These fences would allow livestock use to occur in Pasture 2A (Twin Springs) of Trout Springs Allotment and Pasture 3 (Cottonwood) of the Pleasant Valley Allotment (00546); only a minimal portion of these pastures burned and will remain open to grazing as authorized.

##### **C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?**

Incised channels, headcuts, and channeling in the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek were observed during field visits. Multiple burned willows and alders present an opportunity to implement modest erosion structures. The Boise District Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (EA# ID-090-2004-050) identifies that, "Sediment detention structures, such as straw wattles, interrupt overland flow, reduce runoff energy, minimize rill and gully formation, and trap sediment that may be otherwise be transported downslope."

#### ***S12 Closures (area, OHV, livestock)***

##### **A. Treatment/Activity Description**

Close pastures 2B (Graves Creek) and 06 (Hanley Holding Field) in Trout Springs Allotment to exclude livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons. Further, necessary conditions regarding vegetation recovery must be achieved for grazing resumption to occur consistent with the Juniper Mountain Landscape Restoration Strategy and Trout Springs Grazing Permit Renewal EA (see Part 8 - Monitoring Plan for details).

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?

The fire burned much of the existing perennial vegetation within the burn perimeter (particularly the fire interior which falls within pastures 2B and 06). The upland and riparian remnant vegetation and soils would incur further damage if livestock were permitted to utilize the burned pastures in the Trout Springs Allotment. The purpose of this treatment is to rest the burned area to allow existing upland shrubs, perennial grasses, and forbs to recover, as well as riparian woody and herbaceous plants. Recovery of perennial plant communities would reduce or inhibit the expansion of annual and/or weedy vegetation and stabilize soil resources.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?

The loss of the above-ground portions of the vegetation from fire requires rest from livestock grazing to allow their recovery. Further, exposed soils in uplands and riparian areas as a result of the fire run the risk of further damage or degradation by livestock. The Boise District Office and Jarbidge Field Office Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (EA# ID-090-2004-050) states that natural recovery via rest from livestock grazing would "...contribute to the recovery of the remaining vegetation and would benefit future native plant community structure." The EA also states, "Protective fences and/or deferred livestock grazing would protect recovering sites for at least two growing seasons after the fire, or vegetation is established adequately to withstand grazing."

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

***S6 Soil Stabilization (Other than seedling, planting)***

A. Treatment/Activity Description

Install straw wattles in key areas including erosion "nick points" and top of headcuts/incision points at the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek. Wattles will help stabilize soils in these vulnerable areas and capture sediment to aid in streambank recovery, recovery of riparian vegetation, and protection of Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*) habitat downstream.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?

The wildfire burned the majority of the riparian vegetation, particularly woody vegetation, of the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek. Much of the vegetation is expected to recover over time; however, the wattles are necessary as a short-term measure.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?

Incised channels, headcuts, and channeling in the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek were observed during field visits. Multiple burned willows and alders present an opportunity to implement modest erosion structures. The Boise District Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (EA# ID-090-2004-050)

identifies that, “Sediment detention structures, such as straw wattles, interrupt overland flow, reduce runoff energy, minimize rill and gully formation, and trap sediment that may be otherwise be transported downslope.”

### ***S13 Monitoring***

#### **A. Treatment/Activity Description**

Monitoring and evaluation of ES and BAR treatments would be executed to determine treatment efficacy and ensure that treatments are properly implemented 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 feedback to improve ES and BAR treatment success. Monitoring would mainly be the responsibility of the Boise District ESR, Operations, and field office staff. An evaluation of monitoring data and qualitative assessments will be completed annually. ESR staff will begin compiling monitoring data in early winter each year, documenting as-built treatments, site precipitation, etc. An annual monitoring summary report would be submitted documenting treatment effectiveness.

#### **B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?**

Monitoring will be necessary to determine if plant communities are recovering, noxious weed infestations are present or expanding and require treatment (or contracting as a result of treatment), and fences are functioning effectively to maintain livestock closures.

#### **C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?**

Monitoring of ES and BAR treatments is mandatory per BLM policy.

### **Issue 5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds**

#### ***S5 Noxious Weeds***

##### **A. Treatment/Activity Description**

Noxious weeds identified by the Boise District Noxious Weed program within three miles of the fire perimeter are leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, Scotch thistle, and whitetop. Inventory would focus on areas with a high probability for weed presence and/or invasion (e.g., disturbed areas near roads, fencelines, watering/salting facilities, trailing routes, riparian areas, and other disturbed areas) and cursory where probability for noxious weeds is low (i.e., where conditions do not favor noxious weeds).

These or other noxious weed species found within the burn perimeter would be inventoried, treated chemically (spot herbicide treatment with BLM approved chemicals) or mechanically, monitored, and re-treated if necessary. Infestations may also be treated with biological control agents if warranted.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?

Noxious weed infestations have the potential to invade due to the removal of plant cover by the fire and potentially from equipment used to suppress the fire. Inventory and treatment immediately after the wildfire will prevent expansion and stop new infestations of noxious weeds in the area.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?

Treating weeds immediately after wildfire is an effective means to prevent expansion of existing infestations and establishment of new weeds. Without inventories or treatments it would be reasonable to expect new weed infestations to expand within the burn. If weeds are left to expand and/or invade novel sites, future treatment attempts become more costly and treatment effectiveness is reduced. Field efforts would be combined with other weed inventory and treatment in the vicinity to increase cost efficiency. All actions would be in accordance with the Boise District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (#ID100-2005-EA-265).

**Issue 1 - Lands Unlikely to Recover Naturally**

***R7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard***

A. Treatment/Activity Description

Approximately one (1) mile of long-term enclosure fence would be built around the burned meadow area at the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek in Pasture 06 of the Trout Springs Allotment. The fence would create a 40 acre enclosure to prevent livestock movement into the area from surrounding pastures/allotments.

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?

Recovery of the meadow and stream channel will take many years; therefore, a longer-term closure facilitated by the enclosure is necessary to protect the riparian area once livestock grazing resumes in Trout Springs Pasture 06. The enclosure would allow recovery of riparian vegetation and stream bank and headcut repair, which would protect Columbia spotted frog habitat downstream over the long term. Additionally, improvements to the meadow area would also benefit sage-grouse using the area.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?

Construction of a short stretch of new fence is a cost effective means to rest areas damaged by wildfire during vegetation recovery. Damaged wood stretch points and corners would be replaced with steel pipe increasing both the longevity of the structures and their

resistance to future wildfire damages. If fences were not repaired or constructed livestock movement in the area would be left unchecked and could cause immediate damage to exposed areas. Damage to the spring/creek system at the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek from livestock would further degrade Columbia spotted frog habitat downstream and the riparian system as a whole.

## ***R12 Closures (area, OHV, livestock)***

### **A. Treatment/Activity Description**

#### ***Pasture Closure***

Close pastures 2B (Graves Creek) and 06 (Hanley Holding Field) in Trout Springs Allotment to exclude livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons. Further, necessary conditions regarding vegetation recovery must be achieved for grazing resumption to occur consistent with the Juniper Mountain Landscape Restoration Strategy and Trout Springs Grazing Permit Renewal EA.

#### ***Exclosure***

Additionally, a long-term closure of the burned portion of the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek in Trout Springs Pasture 06 would be implemented.

### **B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?**

#### ***Pasture Closure***

The purpose of this treatment is to rest the burned area to allow existing upland shrubs, perennial grasses, and forbs to recover, as well as riparian woody and herbaceous plants. Recovery of perennial plant communities would reduce or inhibit the expansion of annual and/or weedy vegetation and stabilize soil resources.

#### ***Exclosure***

The 40 acre exclosure will be necessary to protect the riparian area once livestock grazing resumes in Trout Springs Pasture 06. A long-term closure of these 40 acres would allow recovery of riparian vegetation and stream bank and headcut repair, which would protect Columbia spotted frog habitat downstream and enhance meadow habitat for sage-grouse.

### **C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?**

The loss of the above-ground portions of the vegetation from fire requires rest from livestock grazing to allow their recovery. Further, exposed soils in uplands and riparian areas as a result of the fire run the risk of further damage or degradation by livestock. The Boise District Office and Jarbidge Field Office Normal Fire Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan Environmental Assessment (EA# ID-090-2004-050) states that natural recovery via rest from livestock grazing would "...contribute to the recovery of the remaining vegetation and would benefit future native plant community structure." The EA also states, "Protective fences and/or deferred livestock grazing would protect recovering sites for at least two growing seasons after the fire, or vegetation is established adequately to withstand grazing."

Costs associated with the proposed livestock grazing closure are minimal relative to the benefits of natural recovery of native plant communities. Livestock closure compliance monitoring would be conducted in conjunction with other treatment activities (e.g., fence repair and construction) and other field efforts to increase cost efficiency.

## **Issue 2 - Weed Treatments**

### ***R5 Noxious Weeds***

#### **A. Treatment/Activity Description**

Noxious weeds designated for treatment as a result of ES inventory would be treated. Areas where weed treatment took place previously (under ES) would be monitored, treated, and re-treated if necessary in years two and three. Noxious weed infestations and treatments would be documented over three years to track population size and treatment effectiveness. Weed control and monitoring will be turned over to the Boise District Noxious Weed program after the three year period.

#### **B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?**

Removal of and disturbance to existing vegetation caused by the wildfire has left bare areas susceptible to weed invasion. Continued inventory and treatment of noxious weeds during the vegetation recovery period is important to control expansion and/or establishment within the burn area and beyond. Controlling noxious weeds, in turn, would promote recovery of native vegetation by minimizing competition for resources (i.e., water, nutrients, and space).

#### **C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?**

Treating weeds immediately after wildfire and monitoring treatments over the life of an ESR Plan (3 years) is an effective means to prevent expansion of existing infestations and establishment of new weeds. Without inventories or treatments it would be reasonable to expect new weed infestations to expand within the burn. If weeds are left to expand and/or invade novel sites, future treatment attempts become more costly and treatment effectiveness is reduced. Field efforts would be combined with other weed inventory and treatment in the vicinity to increase cost efficiency. All actions would be in accordance with the Boise District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment (#ID100-2005-EA-265).

## **Issue 4 - Repair/Replace Fire Damage to Minor Facilities**

### ***R7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard***

#### **A. Treatment/Activity Description**

Approximately one mile of interior fence would be repaired (portions may be removed and replaced depending on level of damage).

B. How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?

Repair of management fences damaged by the fire would maintain the future integrity of the existing livestock grazing systems.

C. Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?

Fence repair is a cost effective means to rest areas damaged by wildfire during vegetation recovery. Damaged wood stretch points and corners would be replaced with steel pipe increasing both the longevity of the structures and their resistance to future wildfire damages. If fences were not repaired or constructed livestock movement in the area would be left unchecked and could cause immediate damage to exposed areas. Damage to the spring/creek system at the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek from livestock would further degrade Columbia spotted frog habitat downstream and the riparian system as a whole.

## **PART 4 - DETAILED TREATMENT COST TABLE**

<b>Action / Spec #</b>	<b>Action Description</b>	<b>Unit Type</b>	<b># Units</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>S1</b>	<b>Planning (Project Management)</b>								
1	Project Management	Total	6	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
<b>S5</b>	<b>Noxious Weeds ES Issue 5</b>								
1	NOXIOUS WEEDS	Total	12	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>
<b>S6</b>	<b>Soil Stabilization (Other than seedling, planting) ES Issue 3</b>								
1	SOIL STABILIZATION	Total	13	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>
<b>S7</b>	<b>Fence/Gate/Cattleguard ES Issue 2</b>								
1	FENCE CONST/REPAIR	Total	18	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18,000.00</b>
<b>S12</b>	<b>Closures (area, OHV, livestock) ES Issue 2</b>								
1	CLOSURES	Total	3	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>S13</b>	<b>Monitoring ES Issue 3</b>								
1	MONITORING	Total	44	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$44,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>	<b>\$13,000.00</b>	<b>\$44,000.00</b>
<b>ES</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$73,000.00</b>	<b>\$24,000.00</b>	<b>\$23,000.00</b>	<b>\$120,000.00</b>
<b>Action / Spec #</b>	<b>Action Description</b>	<b>Unit Type</b>	<b># Units</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>R5</b>	<b>Noxious Weeds BAR Issue 2</b>								
1	NOXIOUS WEEDS	Total	18	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$18,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>	<b>\$18,000.00</b>
<b>R7</b>	<b>Fence/Gate/Cattleguard BAR Issue 1</b>								
1	FENCE REPAIR	Total	21	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$21,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$21,000.00</b>
<b>R7</b>	<b>Fence/Gate/Cattleguard BAR Issue 4</b>								
1	FENCE REPAIR	Total	7	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>
<b>BAR</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$19,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$46,000.00</b>
<b>Project</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$13,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$92,000.00</b>	<b>\$34,000.00</b>	<b>\$40,000.00</b>	<b>\$166,000.00</b>

**PART 5 - SEED LISTS**

**DRILL SEED**

**AERIAL SEED**

**SEEDLINGS**

<b>Seedling Species</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Acres of Seedlings planted.</b>	<b># of Seedlings per Acre</b>	<b>Total # of Seedlings</b>	<b>Cost / Seedling</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
TOTALS:		0.0	0	0		\$ 0.00

## **PART 6 - 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  No  Rationale:

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

Yes  No  Rationale:

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

Yes  No  Rationale:

**4. Will the native plants establish and survive given the environmental conditions and the current or future competition from other species in the seed mix or from exotic plants?**

Yes  No  Rationale:

**5. Will the existing or proposed land management practices (e.g. wildlife populations, recreation use, livestock, etc.) maintain the seeded native plants in the seed mixture when the burned area is re-opened?**

Yes  No  Rationale:

### **B. Proposed Non-native Plants in Seed Mixtures (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  No  Rationale:

**2. Will non-native plants meet the objective(s) for which they are planted without unacceptably diminishing diversity and disrupting ecological processes (nutrient cycling, water infiltration, energy flow, etc.) in the plant community?**

Yes  No  Rationale:

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

Yes  No  Rationale:

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

## **PART 7 - COST-RISK ANALYSIS**

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

<b>Action/ Spec #</b>	<b>ES Issue #</b>	<b>Planned ES Action (LF2200000)</b>	<b>Unit (acres, WMs, Number)</b>	<b># Units</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>% Probability of Success</b>
S5	5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	2225	\$12,000.00	90%
S6	3	Soil Stabilization (Other than seedling, planting)	#	20	\$13,000.00	85%
S7	2	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	1	\$18,000.00	100%
S12	2	Closures (area, OHV, livestock)	#	1	\$3,000.00	100%
S13	3	Monitoring	Acres	2225	\$44,000.00	100%
					<b>\$90,000.00</b>	
<b>Action/ Spec #</b>	<b>BAR Issue #</b>	<b>Planned BAR Action (LF3200000)</b>	<b>Unit (acres, WMs, Number)</b>	<b># Units</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>% Probability of Success</b>
R5	2	Noxious Weeds	Acres	2225	\$18,000.00	90%
R7	1	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	1	\$21,000.00	100%
R7	4	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	1	\$7,000.00	100%
					<b>\$46,000.00</b>	

## B. Cost Risk Summary

1. Are the risks to natural resources and private property acceptable as a result of the fire if the following actions are taken?

Proposed Action Yes  No  Rationale for Answer:

The enclosure fence and straw wattles would protect habitat for the Columbia spotted frog, a Candidate species for listing under the ESA of 1973 as amended, from further degradation. By maintaining habitat and protecting spotted frog populations we decrease the likelihood of the species being listed which would lead to management issues costing much more than the proposed treatments. Protecting and augmenting the recovery of the meadows would also benefit greater sage-grouse and lead to the same cost benefits identified for spotted frog. The noxious weed treatments will help protect adjacent private and BLM lands against further expansion of noxious weeds. The fence repair will ensure that livestock from the Pleasant Valley Allotment cannot enter into the Trout Springs Allotment.

No Action Yes  No  Rationale for Answer:

Habitat conditions for Columbia spotted frog, sage-grouse, and other wildlife species would be degraded. Soils erosion and degradation of Cottonwood Creek would continue to occur, negatively impacting the watershed and downstream resources. Noxious weeds could establish and become well established impacting rangeland health in the burned area and in adjacent rangelands.

Alternative(s) Yes  No  Rationale for Answer:

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

Proposed Action Yes  No  Rationale for Answer:

Recovery of riparian areas and meadows through exclusion of livestock has been shown to be very effective across the west and enclosure fencing is a practical approach to improving highly sensitive riparian areas such as those in the headwater meadows of Cottonwood Creek (USDI 2006). Straw wattles used on the Crowbar Fire ESR treatments proved to be effective at catching sediment and reducing downstream transport to habitat of the endangered Bruneau hot spring snail. Constructing the enclosure fence and installing the straw wattles would have a high likelihood of reducing negative impacts to Columbia spotted frog and augment the recovery of the stream channels. Monitoring and observation of

recent weed control efforts in similar soils and precipitation zones indicate that success would be high.

No Action Yes  No  Rationale for Answer:

The headwater meadows of Cottonwood Creek have a high potential for increased loss of soil from bank erosion and negative impacts to downstream resources including spotted frog habitat. Use of the area by livestock would greatly exacerbate the degradation to the stream channel and level of sediment introduced to the stream. The burned area has potential for invasion by noxious weeds which would also lead to impacts to adjacent lands.

Alternative(s) Yes  No  Rationale for Answer:

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 will cost effectively meet the objectives outlined in the plan and mitigate the ESR issues identified.

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

#### No Action - Treatments not Implemented

Resource Value	N/A	None	Low	Med	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

Resource Value	N/A	None	Low	Med	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 8 - MONITORING PLAN**

### **S5 - Noxious Weeds - ES Issue 5**

#### **Identify the objective of the treatment:**

Infestations of four noxious weed species were/are mapped within three miles of the burn area. Since these weed species are not uniformly distributed and none is presently mapped within the burn area, qualitative objectives were assigned.

Conduct an inventory of noxious weeds in the burned area. Noxious weeds detected during the inventory would be treated when possible.

#### **Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

Inventory and treatment data will be recorded in the NISIMS database, in Pesticide Application Records, and using GPS/GIS. Data will include information on species, location and size of infestation, chemicals applied, amount of chemicals applied, weather, plant phenology, and other factors.

#### **Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:**

Size and abundance of noxious weed infestations would be inventoried and treatments would be designed for implementation in years two (2) and three (3).

### **S6 - Soil Stabilization (Other than seedling, planting) - ES Issue 3**

#### **Identify the objective of the treatment:**

Install erosion structures (straw wattles/check dams) in Cottonwood Creek to limit head cutting, stream channel incision, and sedimentation. The overall goal is to protect Columbia spotted frog habitat downstream and augment recovery of the riparian area at the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek.

#### **Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

A Boise District BLM hydrologist will identify key locations for erosion structures. District ESR personnel will flag these locations and return with a field crew to install structures. Experienced ESR personnel will be on site to direct and inspect installation activities to ensure structures are properly installed.

#### **Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:**

Boise District ESR personnel will visit the site annually from FY2014 through 2016 to qualitatively measure capture of sediment by erosion structures, recovery of riparian vegetation, and stream bank and headcut repair. Photo plots will be installed at key locations to track progress and trends.

## **S7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard - ES Issue 2**

### **Identify the objective of the treatment:**

Repair 2 miles of boundary fence to BLM standards to exclude livestock from pastures 2B and 06 of the Trout Springs Allotment during the grazing closure.

### **Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

Boise District ESR and/or Operations personnel will serve as project inspectors during fence construction and repair to ensure fences meet BLM standards.

### **Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:**

Boise District ESR and Owyhee Field Office personnel will occasionally perform compliance checks to ensure fences are keeping livestock where authorized during the livestock closure period.

## **S12 - Closures (area, OHV, livestock) - ES Issue 2**

### **Identify the objective of the treatment:**

Livestock Closure Areas (not including the “long-term enclosure” area) would be considered adequately recovered and available for grazing when the following grazing resumption objectives are met:

1. Canopy and ground cover of herbaceous vegetation is no less than 80% of what is found in the unburned islands and adjacent areas after the second growing season.
2. Aspen leaders reach an average height of no less than four feet on areas accessible to livestock.
3. In addition to the above objectives, a qualitative assessment of the following conditions will also occur to determine the level of grazing that can resume based upon:
  - Perennial plant vigor
  - Desirable perennial plant seed production
  - Precipitation information during the non-growing (winter) and growing (spring through early summer) seasons.
  - Erosion potential

**Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

Closure areas would be monitored by Owyhee Field Office and Boise District Operations personnel during the regularly scheduled grazing season to ensure the pasture closures and protective fences are functioning to keep livestock where authorized.

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

Vegetation recovery will be monitored by Boise District ESR monitoring staff annually for three consecutive years following fire containment (FY 2014 – FY 2016).

Recommendations for livestock grazing resumption in the burned area will be made by an ESR/Field Office interdisciplinary team based on monitoring results.

- Monitoring methods include line-point intercept, gap intercept, photo plots, and qualitative site assessments.
- Data collection will occur between April and July of each year.
- An ESR Monitoring Report which includes results, conclusions, and recommendations will be submitted in September of each year for three years to the Washington Office and shared with the Field Office; the final report will be submitted on the third year after fire containment.
- Monitoring methods include line-point intercept, gap intercept, photo plots, and qualitative site assessments.
- Data collection will occur between April and July of each year.
- An ESR Monitoring Report which includes results, conclusions, and recommendations will be submitted in September of each year for three years to the Washington Office; the final report will be submitted on the third year after fire containment.

**S13 - Monitoring - ES Issue 3**

**Identify the objective of the treatment:**

To determine efficacy and success of treatments. See individual treatments for details.

**Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

N/A

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

N/A

## **R5 - Noxious Weeds - BAR Issue 2**

**Identify the objective of the treatment:**

Decrease the size and abundance of noxious weed infestations within the burned area compared to the previous year.

**Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

Inventory and treatment data will be recorded in the NISIMS database, in Pesticide Application Records, and using GPS/GIS. Data will include information on species, location and size of infestation, chemicals applied, amount of chemicals applied, weather, plant phenology, and other factors.

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

Size and abundance of noxious weed infestations as well as any necessary treatments would be compared between years one (1), two (2), and three (3) to determine treatment effectiveness. If noxious weed populations remain in the burned area beyond the third year, responsibility would be transferred to the Boise District Noxious Weed Program for ongoing inventory, treatment and monitoring using funding sources other than ESR.

## **R7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard - BAR Issue 1**

**Identify the objective of the treatment:**

Construct one mile of fence to BLM standards creating a 40 acre long-term enclosure around the burned riparian area at the meadow headwaters of Cottonwood Creek to exclude livestock. The enclosure will protect soil stabilization treatments, promote riparian area recovery in the degraded channel, and protect Columbia spotted frog habitat over the long-term .

**Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

Boise District ESR and/or Operations personnel will serve as project inspectors during fence construction and repair to ensure fences meet BLM standards.

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

Boise District ESR and Field Office personnel will occasionally perform compliance checks to ensure fences are keeping livestock where authorized.

## **R7 - Fence/Gate/Cattleguard - BAR Issue 4**

### **Identify the objective of the treatment:**

Repair one mile of fence to BLM standards to facilitate authorized grazing following the closure period.

### **Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

Boise District ESR and/or Operations personnel will serve as project inspectors during fence construction and repair to ensure fences meet BLM standards.

### **Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:**

Boise District ESR and Owyhee Field Office personnel will occasionally perform compliance checks to ensure fences are keeping livestock where authorized.

## **R12 - Closures (area, OHV, livestock) - BAR Issue 1**

### **Identify the objective of the treatment:**

Same as ES, but will also incorporate S6 Soil Stabilization results in evaluation of treatment.

### **Describe how implementation will be monitored:**

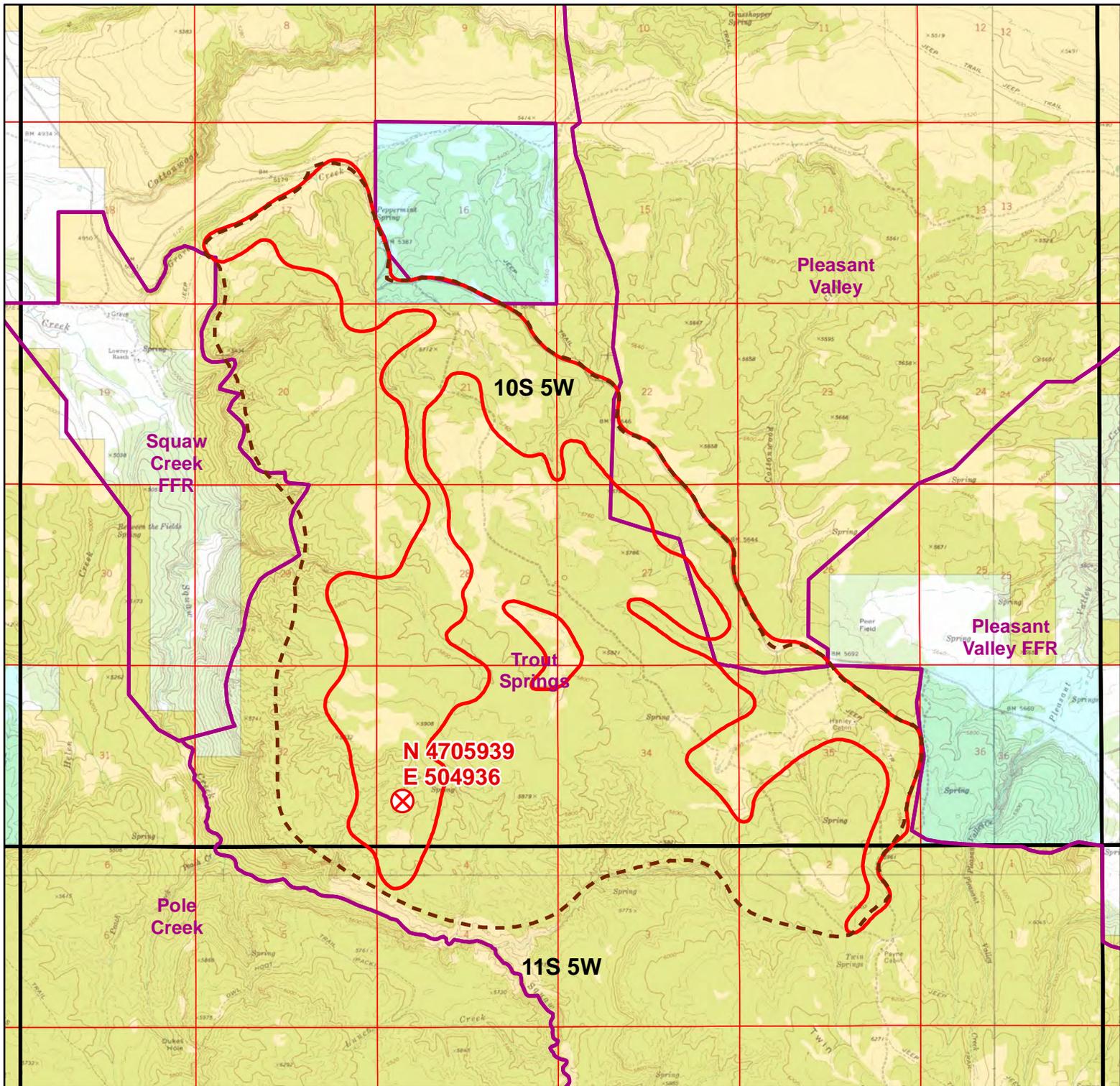
Same as ES. Closure areas would be monitored by Owyhee Field Office and Boise District Operations personnel during the regularly scheduled grazing season to ensure the pasture closures and protective fences are functioning to keep livestock where authorized.

### **Describe how effectiveness will be monitored, how it will be measured, and within what time period:**

Same as ES. Long-term monitoring (after FY 2016) and evaluation of treatment would be conducted by Owyhee Field Office personnel.

## **PART 9 - MAPS**

1. - Map 1 - HU9Z JUNI Perimeter
2. - Map 2 - HU9Z JUNI Soil Stabilization
3. - Map 3 - HU9Z JUNI TS Spotted Frog
4. - Map 4 - HU9Z JUNI Fence Construction Fence Repair
5. - Map 5 - HU9Z JUNI Livestock Closures
6. - Map 6 - HU9Z JUNI Noxious Weeds



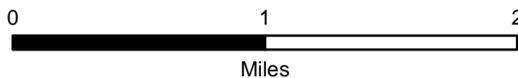
Fire Origin:  
T10S R05W, Sec 33

**Total fire acres: 2,225**  
BLM 2,165 acres  
State 60 acres

**Total contingency acres: 6,028**  
BLM 5,969 acres  
State 59 acres

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 projection: UTM 11, NAD 1983, meters

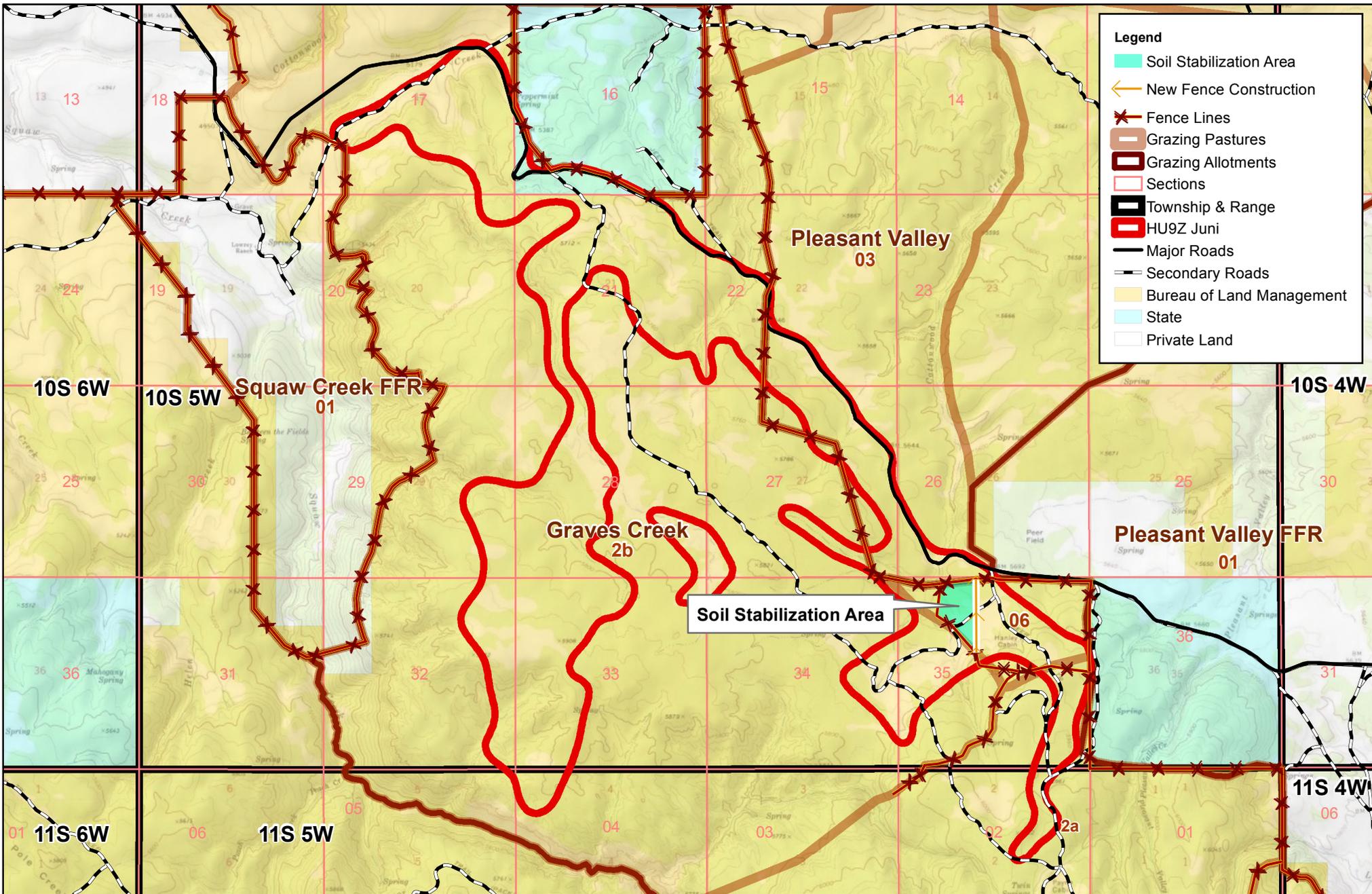
## Boise District 2013 Owyhee Field Office Fire: HU9Z Juni



	Fire Origin
	Fire Perimeter
	Contingency Perimeter
	Grazing Allotments
	BLM
	State
	Private
	Township
	Section

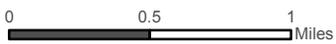
Map Date: August 22, 2013

# Boise District BLM HU9Z Juni Fire ES&R S6 Soil Stabilization

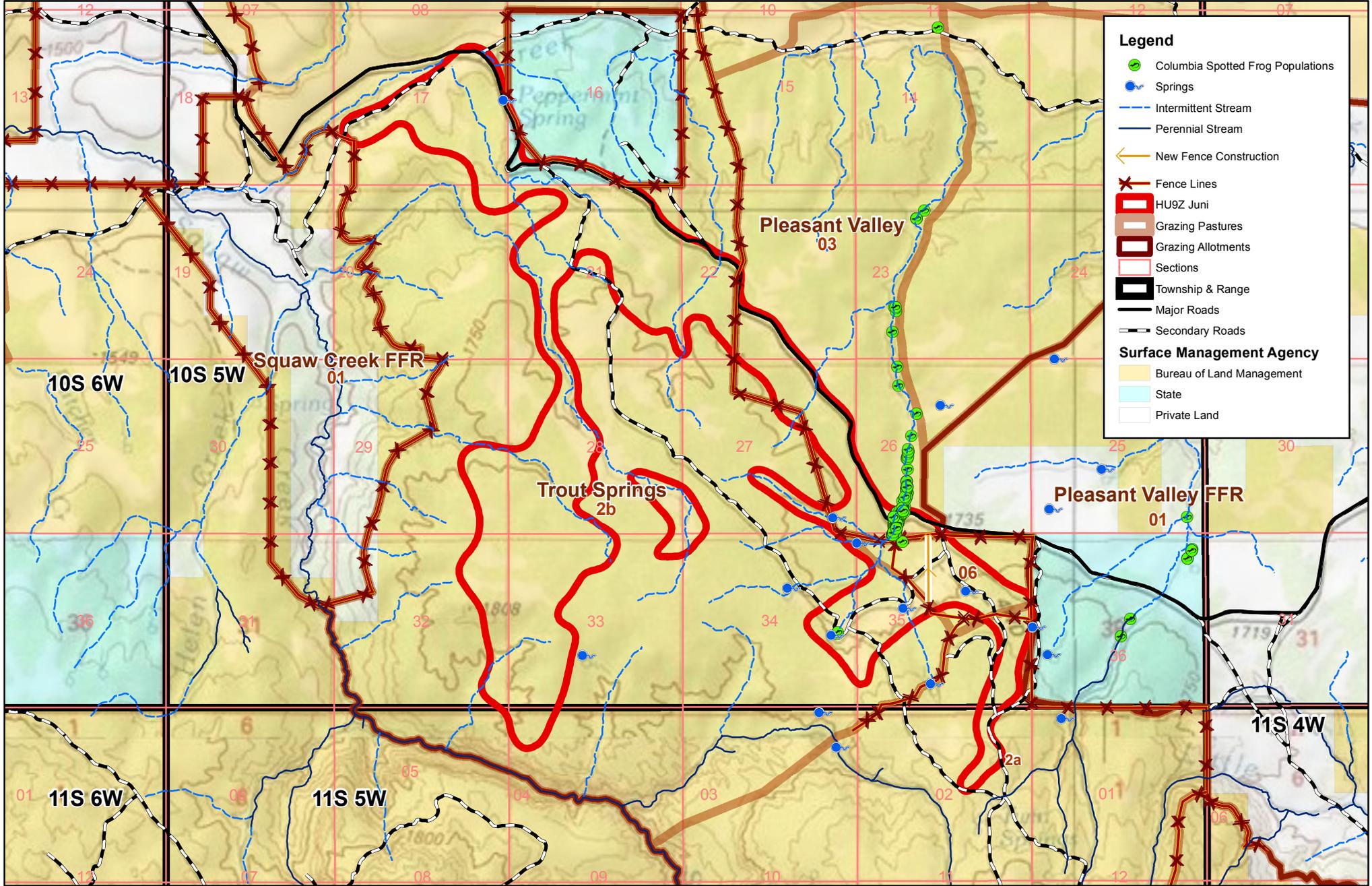


**Legend**

- Soil Stabilization Area
- New Fence Construction
- Fence Lines
- Grazing Pastures
- Grazing Allotments
- Sections
- Township & Range
- HU9Z Juni
- Major Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private Land



# Boise District BLM HU9Z Juni Fire ES&R T&E Species



**Legend**

- Columbia Spotted Frog Populations
- Springs
- Intermittent Stream
- Perennial Stream
- ← New Fence Construction
- x Fence Lines
- HU9Z Juni
- Grazing Pastures
- Grazing Allotments
- Sections
- Township & Range
- Major Roads
- Secondary Roads

**Surface Management Agency**

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private Land

# Boise District BLM HU9Z Juni Fire ES&R S7 Fence Repair/R7 Repair and Construction



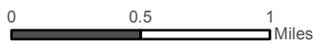
**Legend**

- S7 - Repair
- R7 - Repair/Construction
- Fence Lines
- Grazing Pastures
- Grazing Allotments
- Sections
- Township & Range
- HU9Z Juni
- Major Roads
- Secondary Roads

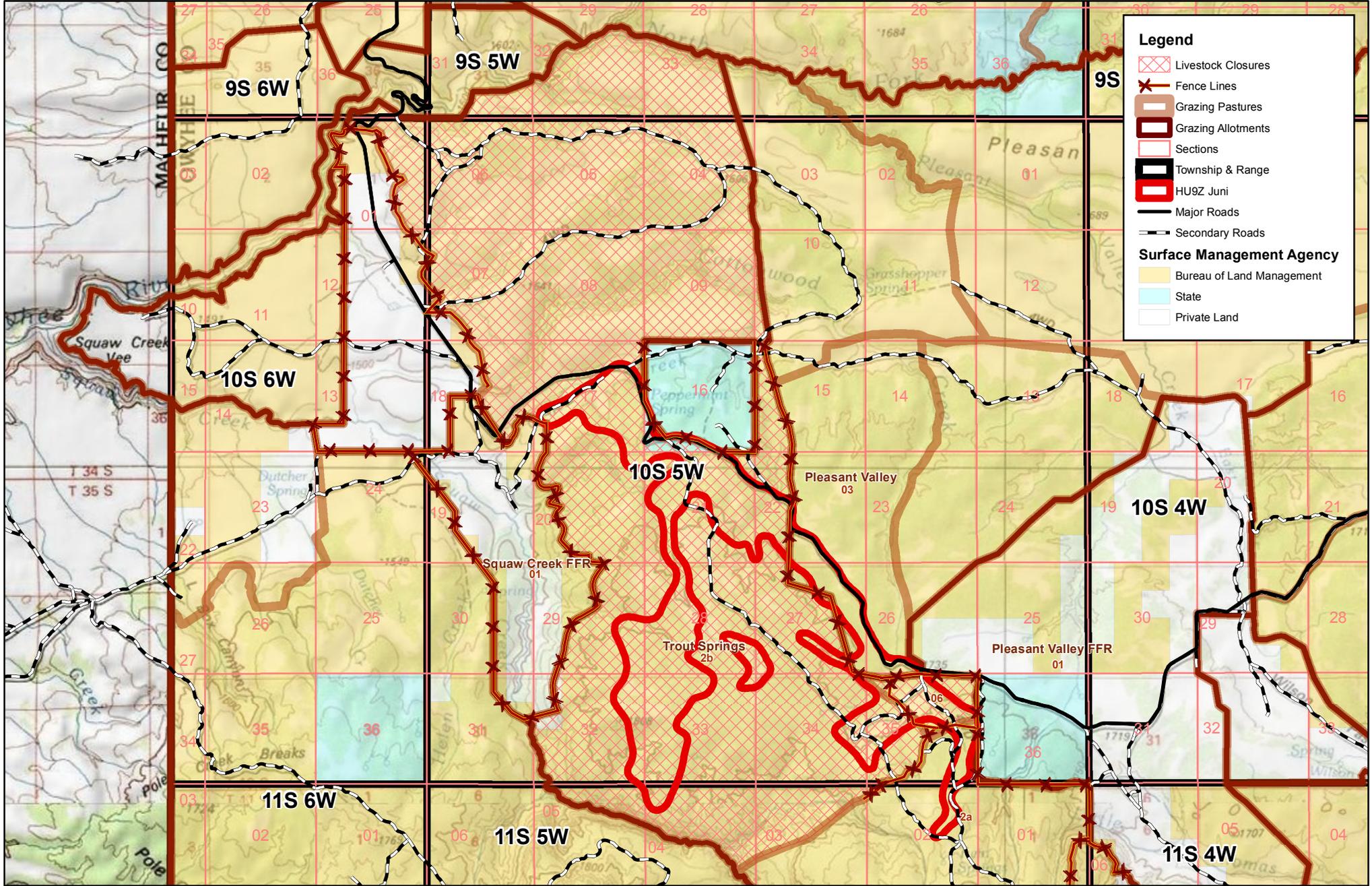
**Surface Management Agency**

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private Land

Fence Construction



# Boise District BLM HU9Z Juni Fire ES&R S13 Livestock Closures

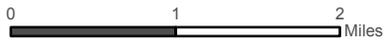


**Legend**

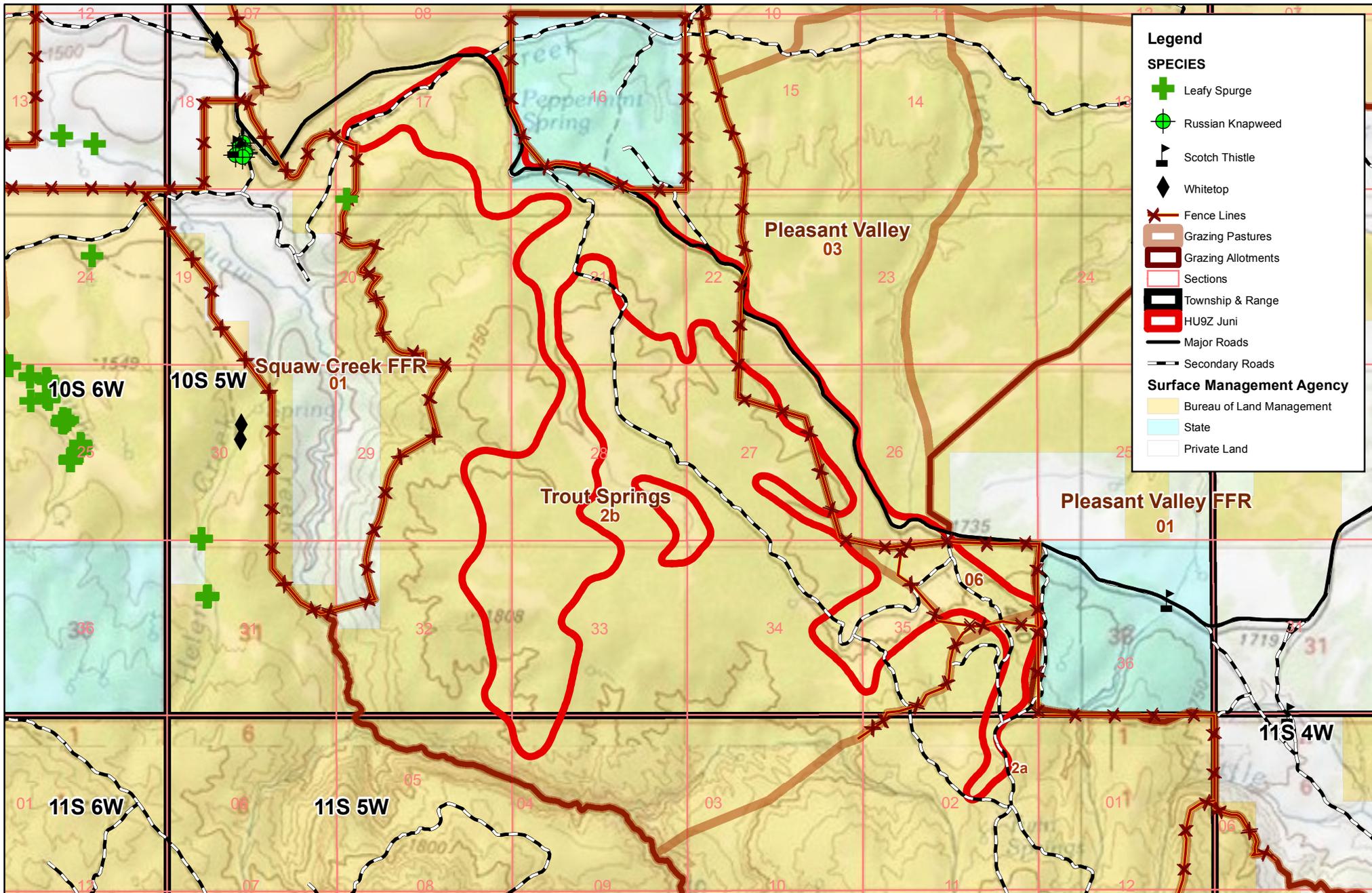
- Livestock Closures
- Fence Lines
- Grazing Pastures
- Grazing Allotments
- Sections
- Township & Range
- HU9Z Juni
- Major Roads
- Secondary Roads

**Surface Management Agency**

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private Land



# Boise District BLM HU9Z Juni Fire ES&R S5/R5 Noxious Weeds



**Legend**

**SPECIES**

- + Leafy Spurge
- Russian Knapweed
- ▲ Scotch Thistle
- ◆ Whitetop

**Boundary & Infrastructure**

- Fence Lines
- Grazing Pastures
- Grazing Allotments
- Sections
- Township & Range
- HU9Z Juni
- Major Roads
- Secondary Roads

**Surface Management Agency**

- Bureau of Land Management
- State
- Private Land

## **PART 10 - REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS**

### **TEAM MEMBERS**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Team Member (Agency/Office)</b>	<b>Initial</b>	<b>Date</b>
Team Leader	Mike McGee (BLM Boise District)	Initialed	09/12/2013
Team Leader	Lara Hannon (BLM Boise District)	Initialed	09/12/2013
Resource Advisor(s) on Fire	Raul Trevino (BLM Boise District Owyhee)	Initialed	09/12/2013
Operations	Cindy Fritz (BLM Boise District)	Initialed	09/12/2013
Botanist	Beth Corbin (BLM Boise District Owyhee)	Initialed	09/12/2013
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Kelli Barnes (BLM Boise District Owyhee)	Initialed	09/12/2013
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Peter Torma (BLM Boise District Owyhee)	Initialed	09/12/2013
Outdoor Recreation Planner	Ryan Homan (BLM Boise District Owyhee)	Initialed	09/12/2013
Wildlife Biologist	Brad Jost (BLM Boise District Owyhee)	Initialed	09/12/2013
GIS Specialist	Alex Webb (BLM Boise District)	Initialed	09/12/2013

### **PLAN APPROVAL**

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

/s/ Loretta V. Chandler

9/12/13

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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.