

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

POINT WELL FIRE

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

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fire Name	Point Well
Fire Number	J3VD
District/Field Office	Twin Falls/Burley/Shoshone (Craters of the Moon National Monument)
Admin Number	LLIDT02000/LLIDT03100
State	Idaho
County(s)	Blaine
Ignition Date/Cause	9/23/2015/Unknown
Date Contained	9/23/2015
Jurisdiction	<i>Acres</i>
BLM	4,452
State	138
Private	99
NPS	70
Total Acres	4,759
Total Costs	\$354,000
Costs to LF2200000	\$291,000
Costs to LF3200000	\$63,000

Status of Plan Submission (check one box below)

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

PART 1 - PLAN SUMMARY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE FIRE

The Point Well fire started from an unknown ignition source on private ground north east of Minidoka, Idaho. The fire burned a total of 4,759 acres in Blaine County. Of those acres that burned 4,452 were on BLM administered land, 70 acres on National Park Service administered land, 138 acres on Idaho State lands, and 70 acres on private land. Of the 4,452 acres that burned on BLM administrated lands, 993 acres burned within the Craters of the Moon National Monument and 475 acres burned within the Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

Administrative Land	Acres Burned
BLM	4,452
*Crater of the Moon National Monument	*993
*WSA	*475
Private	99
State	138

The fire burned in low-elevation Wyoming big sagebrush habitat. A total of 4,611 acres of Greater sage-grouse General Habitat Management Area (GHMA) burned. The area is also year round pronghorn, mule deer and rocky mountain elk habitat. About 80% of the burn area has been seeded in past rehabilitation efforts and should recover without a seeding effort. However, cheatgrass, an invasive annual grass, threatens to expand from areas not previously seeded, and noxious weeds pose a serious threat across the entire burn area.

The loss of livestock AUMs due to the fire will affect the East Minidoka grazing allotment. The fire burned the Butte pasture and across portions the West, East, North Orton, and East Center pastures. The fire also burned a small portion of the West Center pasture, affecting a total of 566 AUMs.

Allotment	Acres Burned	Acres Unavailable	AUMs Unavailable
East Minidoka	4,452	4,452	<u>FY16 and FY17</u> 566 Cattle AUMs

The remaining 2146 AUMs in the East Minidoka allotment can be used in North Common, South Common, West Center, Rose, Ranch, North Orton and South Orton. Portions of the West and East pastures could still be utilized with temporary fencing.

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 (drill)
S3 Aerial Seeding
S5 Weed Treatments
S7 Protective Fencing
S12 Closures (Livestock)
S13 Monitoring

Burned Area Rehabilitation

R5 Weed Treatments
R7 Fence Repair

There are two applicable land use plans that apply for the ES and BAR project area.

1. The 1985 Monument Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The Monument RMP states that lands administered by the BLM in this area managed in order to:
 - a. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat for crucial mule deer winter range;
 - b. Improve poor or fair condition rangeland;
 - c. Maintain, improve, protect, and restore watershed conditions; and
 - d. Control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands and eradicate them where possible and economically feasible.

The proposed treatments in this ES and BAR plan conform to the Monument RMP. The ID Team developed objectives and treatments which respond to the identified issues and concerns. The BLM would evaluate this plan based on the success or failure in meeting these objectives.

The project is also in conformance with the analysis of Alternative E, the selected alternative, in the 2008 Final Fire, Fuels and Related Vegetation Management Direction Plan Amendment (FMDA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Final FMDA/EIS amends the Monument RMP to provide direction and guidance for fire/fuels and related vegetation management.

2. The 2006 CMNMP Management Plan (Craters of the Moon Monument MP). The proposed activities are in conformance with the Craters of the Moon Monument MP because it specifically provides for:
 - a. In the event of wildland fire, burned areas will be rehabilitated when necessary to restore the appropriate mosaic of sagebrush species and subspecies, along with a diverse perennial understory, and to suppress invasive and noxious weeds.
 - b. Rehabilitating burned areas to restore the appropriate mosaic of sagebrush species, along with a diverse perennial understory.
 - c. Indicates that native plants will be emphasized in rehabilitation and restoration projects.

The Final FMDA/EIS does not amend the Craters of the Moon Monument MP.

The treatments outlined in this plan are also consistent with the treatments analyzed in the Twin Falls District Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental

Assessment, NEPA # DOI-BLM-ID-T000-2011-0001-EA.

COST SUMMARY TABLES

Emergency Stabilization (LF2200000):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY16	FY17	FY18	Total Cost
S1	Planning (Project Mgmt)	WM's	2		\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
S2	Ground Seeding	Acres	1,000	\$159.00	\$159,000	\$0	\$0	\$159,000
S3	Aerial Seeding	Acres	2,500	\$13.60	\$34,000	\$0	\$0	\$34,000
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	4,452	\$2.25	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
S7	Protective Fencing	Miles	4.5	\$7,555.56	\$27,000	\$0	\$7,000	\$34,000
S12	Closures (area, OHV, livestock)	#	1	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
S13	Monitoring	Acres	4,452	\$1.80	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$24,000
TOTAL COSTS (LF2200000)					\$248,000	\$18,000	\$25,000	\$291,000

Burned Area Rehabilitation (LF3200000):

Action/ Spec. #	Planned Action	Unit	# Units	Unit Cost	FY16	FY17	FY18	Total Cost
R1	Planning (Project Mgmt)	WM's	1		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$6,000
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	4,452	\$2.25	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
R7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	5.5	\$6,727.27	\$37,000	\$0	\$0	\$37,000
TOTAL COSTS (LF3200000)					\$39,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$63,000

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

Protection Fences

The Point Well fire burned primarily through the West and East pastures of the East Minidoka allotment. First priority for protection from livestock grazing is the proposed seeding areas in the West and East pastures. The proposed drill seeding is adjacent to unburned areas and would prohibit livestock grazing in the seeded portions and be closed until treatment objectives are met. The proposed protection fence would be critical for protection of the drill seeding and stability of the remaining livestock grazing permits.

Treatment Activity: S7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard

A. *Treatment Activity Description.* The objective of this treatment is to construct approximately 4.50 miles of protection fence in the West and East pastures. The protection fence would be constructed to BLM fence standards.

B. *How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?* The wildfire burned through the West, East, East Center, North Orton, and Butte pastures of the East Minidoka allotment disrupting the future grazing system. Priority for protection was given to proposed drill seedings. A protection fence would be required in the West and East pastures. The protection fence would allow stabilization and recovery of the burn area and drill seeded areas while maintaining the integrity of the livestock grazing system.

C. *Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?* New fence construction contracts typically run \$6,500 per mile, including removal. The cost of damage to the vegetation resource from livestock grazing adjacent unburned areas during the recovery period would be much higher.

Livestock Closure

The Point Well burn area would be rested from livestock grazing until monitoring shows that treatment objectives have been met. This rest would provide the opportunity for existing vegetation resources to stabilize the burn area and seeding efforts to establish. The burn area primarily affected the West, East, East Center and Butte pastures of the East Minidoka grazing allotment.

Treatment/Activity: S12 Livestock Closure

A. *Treatment/Activity Description.* The Point Well burn area would be rested from livestock grazing until monitoring shows that ES/BAR rehabilitation objectives have been met.

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

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

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

The fire burned in low-elevation Wyoming big sagebrush habitat. A total of 4,611 acres of Greater sage-grouse GHMA burned. The Point Well fire is not within a FIAT planning unit or focal area. At this time, no treatments are proposed for listed, proposed or candidate species.

ES Issue 4 - Critical Heritage Resources.

Not Applicable.

ES Issue 5 - Invasive Plants and Weeds.

The following is a list of common pre-burn vegetation in order of dominance. 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 that either have not been treated or it has been seeded and the existing grass seeding is in declining condition reflected by a lack of midsize perennial bunchgrass presence, abundance or vigor.

Common Pre-burn Vegetation in Order of Dominance:

Sandberg bluegrass, *Poa secunda*
Tumblemustard, *Sisymbrium altissimum*
Crested wheatgrass, *Agropyron cristatum*
Tall wheatgrass, *Thinopyrum ponticum*
Cheatgrass, *Bromus tectorum*
Yellow rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*
Wyoming big sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata ssp. wyomingensis*

Noxious weeds:

Scotch thistle, *Onopordum acanthium*
Rush skeletonweed, *Chondrilla juncea*
Diffuse knapweed, *Centaurea diffusa*

Ecological Site(s):

Shallow Loamy 8-12", Basin Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch wheatgrass
Loamy 8-12", Wyoming Big Sagebrush/Bluebunch wheatgrass-Thurber's needlegrass

Soil-vegetation correlation information indicates that the burn area is located primarily on a Shallow Loamy 8-12", Basin big sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass and a Loamy 8-12", Wyoming big sagebrush/Bluebunch Wheatgrass-Thurber's needlegrass ecological site. The potential natural plant community on this site would be comprised of a Wyoming or Basin big sagebrush shrub overstory with principal understory plants dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass and Thurber's needlegrass.

Scotch thistle and rush skeletonweed are the two most common noxious weeds, and can dominate areas following a burn without treatment. Diffuse knapweed is also scattered around the burn area.

Fire Intensity and Vegetation

The majority of the fire was characterized by moderate to high fire intensity. Vegetation in the western portion of the fire was primarily crested wheatgrass from past seedings, sagebrush and scattered native herbaceous grasses. The understory in the eastern portion of the burn is dominated by native perennial grasses with areas of cheatgrass. Cheatgrass will continue to expand and threaten soil stability and biological integrity, if not treated by drill seeding. The entire area would be susceptible to the expansion of cheatgrass and noxious weeds without treatment.

Scotch thistle, rush skeletonweed and diffuse knapweed are the primary noxious weeds of concern with high potential to increase within the burned area and surrounding rangeland. These weeds were documented during the fire reconnaissance surveys, as well as data from ongoing weed treatments. The current state of the infestation is treatable if done within the next three growing seasons. Without a noxious weed control effort, Scotch thistle and rush skeletonweed will significantly increase negatively affecting pronghorn, mule deer, rocky mountain elk habitat and livestock forage capabilities. If an emergency treatment is not implemented the economic impact to natural resources and the local economy will be significant. The costs to suppress noxious weeds after a significant expansion has occurred increases exponentially. Spot herbicide spraying and biological control would be proposed under rehabilitation to suppress the expansion of these weeds. Initial mapping and reconnaissance would be completed in 2016, and weed control would be conducted in 2016-2018.

A primary objective of ES and BAR is to restore structure and function to fire damaged ecosystems. Carbon sequestration is one of many ecological functions provided by healthy diverse plant communities.

Left untreated, the burned area would become dominated by cheatgrass, an invasive annuals, and noxious weeds. The minimal root systems of these annuals accumulate little if any organic matter into the soil profile. Additionally, their flammability substantially increases fire frequency, thereby moving carbon from the soil profile and releasing it into the atmosphere.

Conversely, reestablishing perennial vegetation through natural recovery and noxious weed treatments within the burned area will have a positive benefit to climate change by the ability of these plants to sequester carbon. Deep rooted grasses in particular contribute substantial organic material into the soil profile both from their extensive root systems and recycle approximately ½ of their root mass annually, thereby moving carbon from the atmosphere into the soil profile, providing long term carbon storage.

Treatment/Activity: S2 Ground Seeding

A. *Treatment/Activity Description.* Approximately 1,000 acres in the East Minidoka allotment would be drill seeded with a mixture of native grasses and forbs. Seed would be applied at the rates shown in the following table.

Point Well Drill Seed Mix

Species and Variety	Seed Rate Lbs/Acre
Grasses	
	4.00
2. Columbia Bluebunch Wheatgrass	1.50
	1.00
4. 'Craters' Bluegrass	0.30
	0.10
Forbs	
	0.10
2. 'Maple Grove' Lewis Flax	0.10
1. Antelope Bitterbrush	0.30

B. *How does the treatment relate to damage or changes caused by the fire?* The objective of this treatment is to reestablish a desirable herbaceous perennial plant community that more closely matches the structural and species composition and diversity of the native 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 FS 2004). The seed mix is designed to provide species and structural diversity important to wildlife.

C. *Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?* Prior to the fire, the proposed drill seed areas contained a native to native like sagebrush plant community with an annual vegetation understory. The proposed drill seed areas are at high risk for degradation by noxious weeds and invasive plants if left untreated. The majority of the proposed treatment is within the Craters of the Moon National Monument. The treatment is consistent with current policy for fuels management and wildlife habitat management. The use of native seed is strongly encouraged within the Monument boundary. Review of past archaeological surveys indicates that there are no previously recorded historic properties located within the drill seed areas and no new cultural surveys are required. The species selected are adapted to low elevation (8-12" ppt.) zones (USDI 2008). The ground seeding costs can vary year to year (approximately \$50-\$100/acre) but are typical for projects of this type.

Treatment/Activity: S3 Aerial Seeding

A. *Treatment/Activity Description.* The majority of the burned BLM land was identified to be

aerial seeded with Wyoming big sagebrush. The Wyoming big sagebrush is proposed to be aerial seeded in early FY16 in strip like patterns and when there is adequate moisture on the ground (snow cover). Appropriate wildlife inventories/surveys will be complete prior to implementing these specific projects.

Point Well Aerial Seed Mix

Species and Variety	Seed Rate Lbs/Acres
Shrub	
1. Wyoming big sagebrush	0.50

B. *How does the treatment relate to damages or changes caused by the fire?* The objective of this treatment is to re-establish desirable sagebrush that more closely matches the structural and species composition and diversity of the native plant community to help achieve a healthy functioning rangeland. Accelerating the rate of re-establishment of sagebrush is important to maintaining the value of the area as sage-grouse and mule deer winter habitat. The wildfire intensity impacted existing sagebrush cover which would not recover naturally without providing an additional seed source.

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 within areas similar to the Point Well Fire that have not been treated has shown a higher chance of dominance by noxious weed and invasive plants such as cheatgrass. 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 emergency stabilization and rehabilitation funds. This treatment is within policy and takes into account the WSA policy which states utilization of species native to the area and impacts from the equipment used for seeding must not impair wilderness suitability. 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.

Treatment Activity: S5 Noxious Weeds

A. *Treatment/Activity Description.* 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. All actions would be in accordance with the Burley District Noxious Weed Management Plan, Environmental Assessment #ID020-88-16. Scotch thistle, rush skeletonweed, and diffuse knapweed are the primary noxious weeds targeted.

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 on the burned area. In addition, biological control agents for knapweed would be utilized in areas not easily accessible to spraying equipment (rocky outcrops). Rush skeletonweed, diffuse knapweed, and scotch thistle infestations are present in the area and are expected to increase due to the removal of existing plant cover by the wildfire. Treatments would be conducted for one year under ES.

C. *Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?* Weed treatments in this Field Office typically run about \$2.00 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

Rush skeletonweed, scotch thistle, and diffuse knapweed are the primary noxious weeds of concern with high potential to increase within the burned area and surrounding rangeland. These weeds were documented during the fire reconnaissance surveys, as well as data from ongoing weed treatments. The current state of the infestation is treatable if done within the next three growing seasons. Without a noxious weed control effort, rush skeletonweed and diffuse knapweed will significantly increase negatively affecting year round big game habitat and livestock forage capabilities. If an emergency treatment is not implemented the economic impact to natural resources and the local economy will be significant. The costs to suppress noxious weeds after a significant expansion has occurred increases exponentially. Spot herbicide spraying and biological control would be proposed under rehabilitation to suppress the expansion of these weeds. Initial mapping and reconnaissance would be completed in 2016, and weed control would be conducted in 2016-2018.

Treatment Activity: R5 Noxious Weeds

A. *Treatment/Activity Description.* Noxious weed inventory and control within the burned area would be done the second and third year following the fire to directly treat the expected weeds. All actions would be in accordance with the Burley District Noxious Weed Management Plan, Environmental Assessment #ID020-88-16. Rush skeleton, scotch thistle,

and diffuse knapweed are the primary noxious weeds targeted.

- 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 on the burned area. In addition, biological control agents for knapweed would be utilized in areas not easily accessible to spraying equipment (rocky outcrops). Rush skeleton, scotch thistle, and diffuse knapweed infestations are present in the burn area and are expected to increase due to the removal of existing plant cover by the wildfire. Noxious weed control would be conducted the second and third year under BAR.
- C. *Why is the treatment/activity reasonable, within policy, and cost effective?* Weed treatments in this Field Office typically run about \$2.00 per acre. 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 5.50 miles of interior pasture fence was damaged or destroyed by the fire. Damaged wire, corners and braces would be repaired or replaced. The repairs would be needed to maintain the integrity of the grazing systems and keep adjacent livestock grazing from entering the burn area during the rest period.

R7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard

- A. *Treatment/Activity Description.* The objective of this treatment is to repair or replace approximately 5.50 miles of interior livestock management fence damaged by the fire. Damaged wood corners and braces would be replaced with steel posts. Damaged wire would also be repaired. The management fences would be constructed to BLM fence standards.
- 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 allotment. Reconstruction and repair of management fences damaged by the fire would maintain the future integrity of the existing livestock grazing system. 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 \$5,000 per mile. This cost is typically lower than construction of new fence. Damaged wood stretch points and corners would be replaced with steel pipe thus increasing the longevity of the structures and would be resistant to future wildfire damages.

PART 3 – DETAILED TREATMENT COST TABLE

Emergency Stabilization		Units	FY16	FY17	FY18	Total Costs
S1	<i>Planning (Plan Prep/Project Mangt)</i>					
	Project Management Field Office	WM's	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
	Project Management State Office	WM's	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
	Total		10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
S2	<i>Ground Seeding (drill)</i>					
	Equipment Mobilization	Total	4,000			4,000
	Supplies/Materials/Repairs	Total	2,000			2,000
	Contract	Total	20,000			20,000
	Contract/Project Administration	WM's	3,750			3,750
	Drill FOR/Use Rate/Mobility	Total	7,250			7,250
	Seed mobility, mixing & handling	Total	2,000			2,000
	Cultural Clearances	Total	28,000			28,000
RSW	Seed	Total	90,000			90,000
RSW	Seed Surcharge	Total	2,000			2,000
	Total		159,000	0	0	159,000
S3	<i>Aerial Seeding</i>					
	Contract	Total	15,000			15,000
	Contract Administration	WM's	800			800
	Seed mobility, mixing & handling	Total	500			500
RSW	Seed	Total	17,400			17,400
RSW	Seed Surcharge	Total	300			300
	Total		34,000	0	0	34,000
S5	<i>Noxious Weeds</i>					
	Labor	Acres	6,000			6,000
	Travel/Vehicles	Total	2,000			2,000
	Supplies/Materials	Total	2,000			2,000
	Contract	Total				0
	Contract Administration	WM's				0
	Total		10,000	0	0	10,000
S7	<i>Protective Fence/Cattleguard</i>					
	Fence Removal	Total			7,000	7,000
	Fence Material	Total	13,500			13,500
	Contract	Total	13,500			13,500
	Total		27,000	0	7,000	34,000
S13	<i>Monitoring</i>					
	Labor	WM's	8,000	8,000	8,000	24,000
	Total		8,000	8,000	8,000	24,000
	EMERGENCY STABILIZATION TOTALS		\$248,000	\$18,000	\$25,000	\$291,000

PART 4 – SEED LISTS

Point Well Seed List

DRILL SEED

Species	% PLS	Seeds/lb. (bulk)	Total Seeds/Acre (bulk)	PLS Seeds/ac.	PLS Seeds/sq. ft.	Drill Seeding (acres)	Lbs/Acre	Total Pounds	Cost per lb	Total Costs
Anatone Bluebunch WG	0.76	140,000	560,000	425,600	9.77	1,000	4.0	4,000	10.00	40,000.00
Columbia Bluebunch WG	0.76	140,000	210,000	159,600	3.66	1,000	1.5	1,500	13.00	19,500.00
Trailhead Basin Wildrye	0.76	150,000	150,000	114,000	2.62	1,000	1.0	1,000	12.00	12,000.00
Craters Bluegrass	0.70	917,000	275,100	192,570	4.42	1,000	0.3	300	12.00	3,600.00
Toe Jam Bottlebrush Squirreltail	0.72	190,000	19,000	13,680	0.31	1,000	0.1	100	12.00	1,200.00
Dark Blue Penstemon	0.76	600,000	60,000	45,600	1.05	1,000	0.1	100	28.50	2,850.00
Maple Grove Lewis Flax	0.78	420,000	42,000	32,760	0.75	1,000	0.1	100	10.00	1,000.00
Antelope Bitterbrush	0.85	15,000	4,500	3,825	0.09	1,000	0.3	300	32.25	9,675.00
TOTALS					22.67		7.4	7,400		89,825.00

AERIAL SEED

Species	% PLS	Seeds/lb. (bulk)	Total Seeds/Acre (bulk)	PLS Seeds/ac.	PLS Seeds/sq. ft.	Aerial Seeding (acres)	Lbs/Acre	Total Pounds	Cost per lb	Total Costs
Wyoming Sage	0.12	2,500,000	1,250,000	150,000	3.44	2,500	0.5	1,240	14.00	17,360.00
TOTALS					3.44		0.50	1,240		17,360.00

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 No

Rationale: The proposed native species are all adapted to the ecological sites within the proposed seeding area. All of these species have been extensively utilized in similar ecological sites within the Burley Field Office management area and the Craters of the Moon National Monument.

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

Yes No

Rationale: Native seed proposed for use is generally available in the required quantities. Drill seeding would not occur until the fall of 2015 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 No

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 No

Rationale: The native taxa proposed for seeding have exhibited the ability to establish and persist in similar ecological sites in the Burley Field Office and Craters of the Moon National Monument.

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: The use of the proposed non-native plant species is in conformance with the goals and objectives outlined in the 2013 Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan. The proposed use of non-native plants is not located within a Wilderness Study Area.

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

1. *Is the use of non-native plants necessary to meet objectives, e.g., consistent with applicable approved field unit management plans?*

Yes No

Rationale: N/A

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: N/A

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

Yes No

Rationale: N/A

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

Non-native Plants	Native Plants
	‘Anatone’ Bluebunch Wheatgrass
	Columbia Bluebunch Wheatgrass
	‘Trailhead’ Basin Wildrye
	‘Craters’ Bluegrass
	‘Toe Jam’ Bottlebrush Squirreltail
	Dark Blue Penstemon
	‘Maple Grove’ Lewis Flax
	Antelope Bitterbrush
	Wyoming big sagebrush

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	956	\$159,000	80
S3	Aerial Seeding	Acres	2,500	\$34,000	80
S5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	4,452	\$10,000	90
S7	Protective Fencing	Miles	4.5	\$34,000	100
S12	Closures (OHV, livestock, area)	#	1	\$0	100
S13	Monitoring	Acres	4,452	\$24,000	100
TOTAL COSTS:				\$261,000	

Action/ Spec. #	Planned BAR Action (LF32000BR)	Unit (acres, WMs, number)	# Units	Total Cost	% Probability of Success
R5	Noxious Weeds	Acres	4,452	\$20,000	90
R7	Fence/Gate/Cattleguard	Miles	5.5	\$37,000	100
TOTAL COSTS:				\$57,000	

B. Cost Risk Summary

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

Proposed Action Yes No *Rationale for answer:* The noxious weed treatments and drill seeding/aerial seeding treatments would protect the burn area and adjacent BLM lands against further expansion of noxious weeds, as well as stabilize soils and replace lost wildlife habitat. Repairing fences and infrastructure is necessary to maintain the integrity of the grazing system in the allotment and to keep livestock from the burned area. Carbon sequestration functionality would also be improved through establishment of a diverse perennial plant community.

No Action Yes No *Rationale for answer:* Wildlife habitat on adjacent unburned lands would be compromised with the expansion of noxious weeds and complete loss of pre-burn vegetation cover. Carbon sequestration functionality and consistency is reduced through increased noxious weeds and invasive annual grasses, and reduced perennial vegetation composition.

Alternative(s) Yes No *Rationale for answer:* N/A

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

Proposed Action Yes No *Rationale for answer:* Monitoring and observations of recent weed control efforts and seedings in similar soils and precipitation zones indicate that success would be high. Normal climatic conditions and the exclusion of livestock grazing for on-site vegetation recovery and establishment would increase the probability of success.

No Action Yes No *Rationale for answer:* The burned area has a high potential for expansion of invasive plants and noxious weeds. There is also high potential for invasion of invasive plants and noxious weeds into adjacent unburned areas.

Alternative(s) Yes No *Rationale for answer:* N/A

3. Which approach will most cost-effectively and successfully attain the objectives and therefore is recommended for implementation from a Cost/Risk Analysis standpoint?

Proposed Action ,

Alternative(s) ,

No Action

Comments: The proposed action is the most cost effective way to attain the objectives identified in the plan, and therefore is recommended for implementation from a Cost/Risk Analysis standpoint.

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 ESR 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 ESR 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 Ground Seeding

1) Treatment Objectives:

The objective of the seeding treatment is to establish a perennial dominated plant community within 3 years. The following grass, forb, and shrub density objectives are based on ecological site potential.

The drill seed treatment would be considered successful if:

The seeded grass, forb, and shrub species reach densities of:

- 1) 3 plants per square meter for grasses;
- 2) 0.5 plants per square meter for forbs.
- 3) 0.1 plants per square meter for shrubs (bitterbrush).

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Implementation is monitored through contract administration. Any changes from the planned implementation would be noted in the project file “as built” discussion.

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

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

Treatment/Activity: S3 Aerial Seeding

1) Treatment Objectives:

The objective of the seeding treatment is to establish a dominate shrub community within three years. The following shrub density objectives are based on ecological site potential.

The aerial seeding treatment of sagebrush would be considered effective if:

The seeded shrub species reach densities of:

- 1) Sagebrush seedlings average 0.1 seedlings per square meter across all density plots; or
- 2) In qualitative surveys they are found to be common.

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Implementation is monitored through contract administration. Any changes from the planned implementation would be noted in the project file “as built” discussion.

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

The methods used to monitor the treated area would include field observations, photo plots, and cover transects utilizing the line-point intercept and density plot methods. Plots would be randomly established through the treated area. Effectiveness monitoring of the ground and aerial seeding will be done for a period of three growing seasons.

Treatment/Activity: S5 and R5 Noxious Weed Treatments

1) Treatment Objectives:

Diffuse knapweed, scotch thistle, and rush skeleton weed are the primary weeds of concern in the burn area. It is expected that these weeds would 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 and treat any noxious weeds discovered on the burn area.

The objective for the second and third years is to decrease the acreage needing treatment as determined by the first year inventory.

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored:

During the first growing season treatment, a detailed map of location, weed species sprayed, and the amount of herbicide utilized would be documented. The second and third year objective would be measured by the number and size of locations sprayed and the amount of herbicide utilized.

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

At the end of three years of treatment, the herbicide spray data would be summarized. If further treatment is required beyond the third year then the responsibility for treatment would be forwarded to the Twin Falls District normal weed spraying program.

Treatment Activity: S7 and R7 Fence/Gate/Cattleguard

1) Treatment Objectives:

The objective of this treatment is to construct approximately 4.50 miles of protective fencing for treatment protection and repair or replace approximately 5.50 miles of interior livestock management fence damaged by the fire. Damaged wood corners and braces would be replaced with steel posts. Damaged wire would also be repaired. The management 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 will be monitored through contract administration. Repairs will be documented in a project file “as built” and filed in the project file. Repairs will be completed within the first year of the fire.

Treatment/Activity: S12 Livestock Closure

1) Treatment Objectives:

Exclusion of livestock is critical for the recovery of burned vegetation or establishment. The burn area would be closed to livestock grazing to promote recovery of burned vegetation as specified in the 2013 Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (NEPA # DOI-BLM-ID-T000-2011-0001-EA), until treatment and natural recovery objectives are met. Rotation and/or rest would close the burn areas in the West pasture until natural recovery objectives are met.

2) Describe how implementation will be monitored:

Resumption of livestock grazing would ultimately depend on monitoring and meeting of ESR plan objectives. Recovery of the treated area would be monitored for availability to grazing on a yearly basis. Natural recovery objectives are listed below. The monitoring for grazing availability and recommendations for opening the burn area to livestock would be the responsibility of an interdisciplinary team.

Implementation is monitored through rangeland management administration. The burned area will be closed to grazing.

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

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

- Recovered herbaceous vegetation is providing sufficient ground cover to protect the site

- from accelerated erosion and expansion/conversion to annual grasses and noxious weeds.
- The amount of bare mineral soil (lacking cover of plants, litter, or biological soil crust) is within 10% of what would be expected for the site. Recommended study methods include line-point intercept or step point cover methods and photo points.

A qualitative visual assessment of the following would also consider:

- Plant vigor (perennial plants)
- Precipitation information during the non-growing (winter) and growing (spring through early summer) seasons
- Competition with invasive annual plants and noxious weed species

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

- 1) 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,
- 2) The majority of desired herbaceous perennial plants are producing seed, and
- 3) The plants must also have a developed root system extensive enough to provide for soil stabilization and prevent uprooting when grazed, especially when soils are moist.

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

References Cited

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. (2004). *Restoring western ranges and wildlands* (General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-136). Fort Collins, CO: Rocky Mountain Research Station.

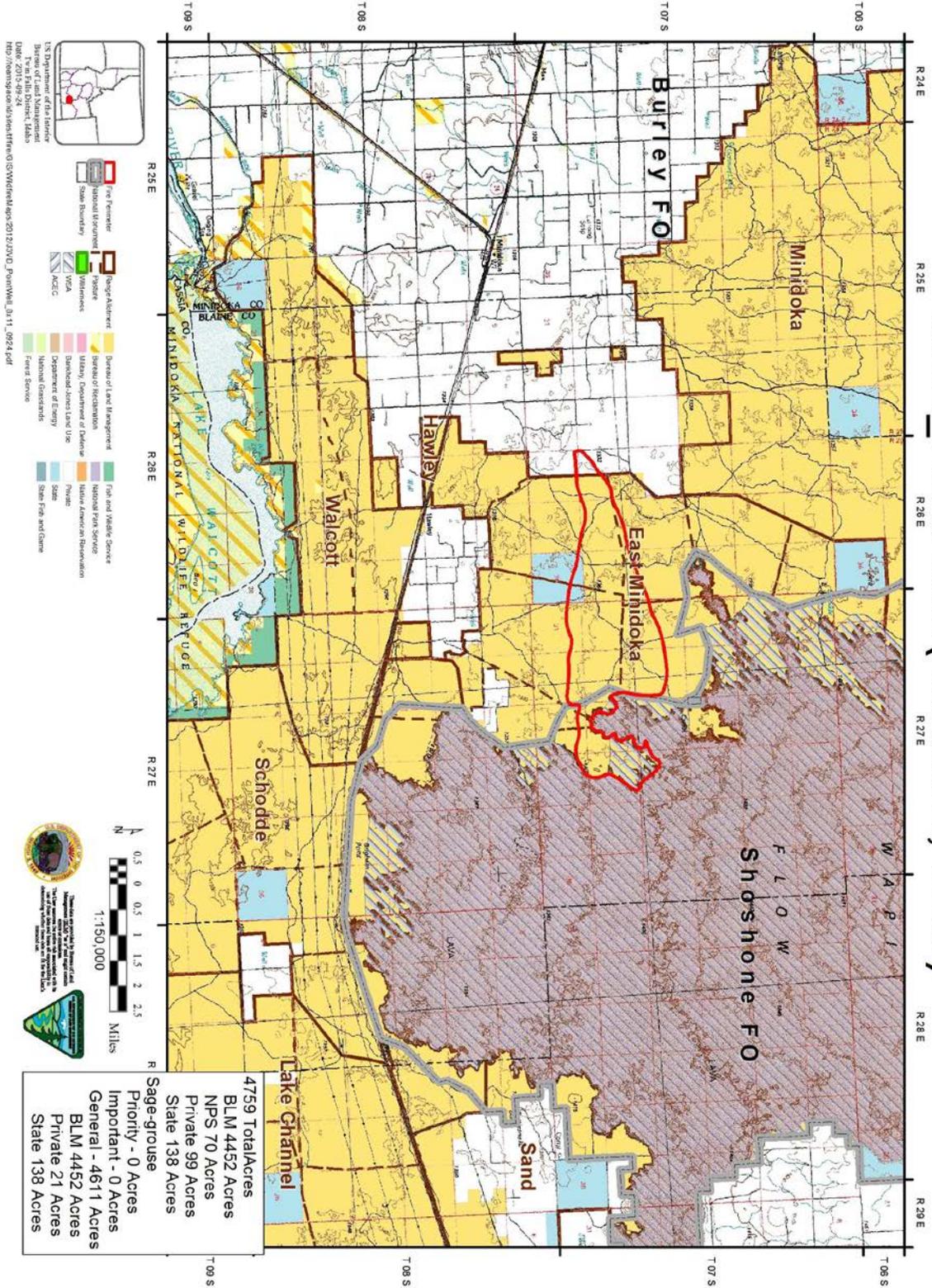
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. (2008). *Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Seed Mixture Development Instruction Memorandum No. ID200-2008-003*. Twin Falls, ID: Twin Falls District Office.

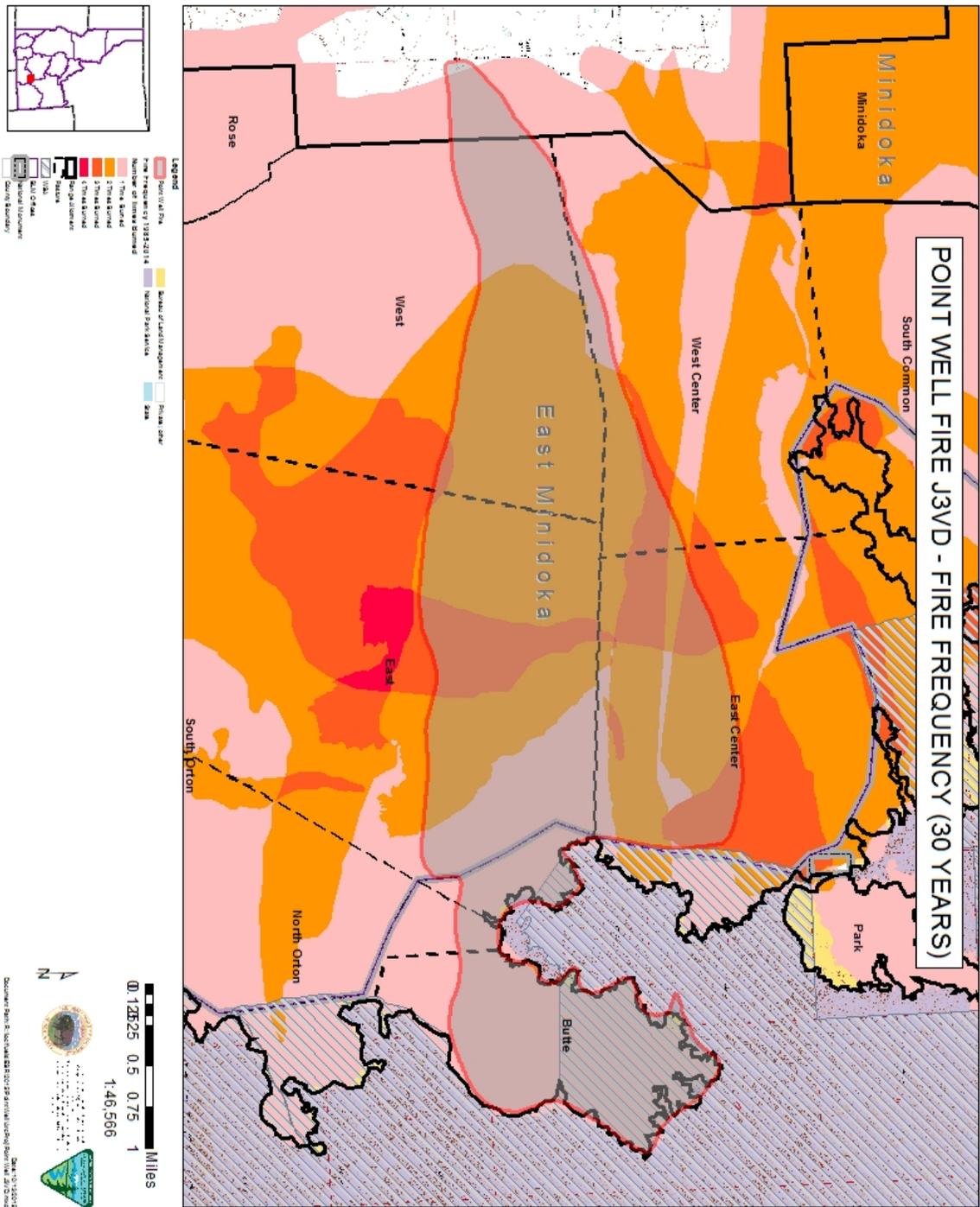
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. (2013). *Twin Falls District Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Twin Falls, ID: Twin Falls District Office.

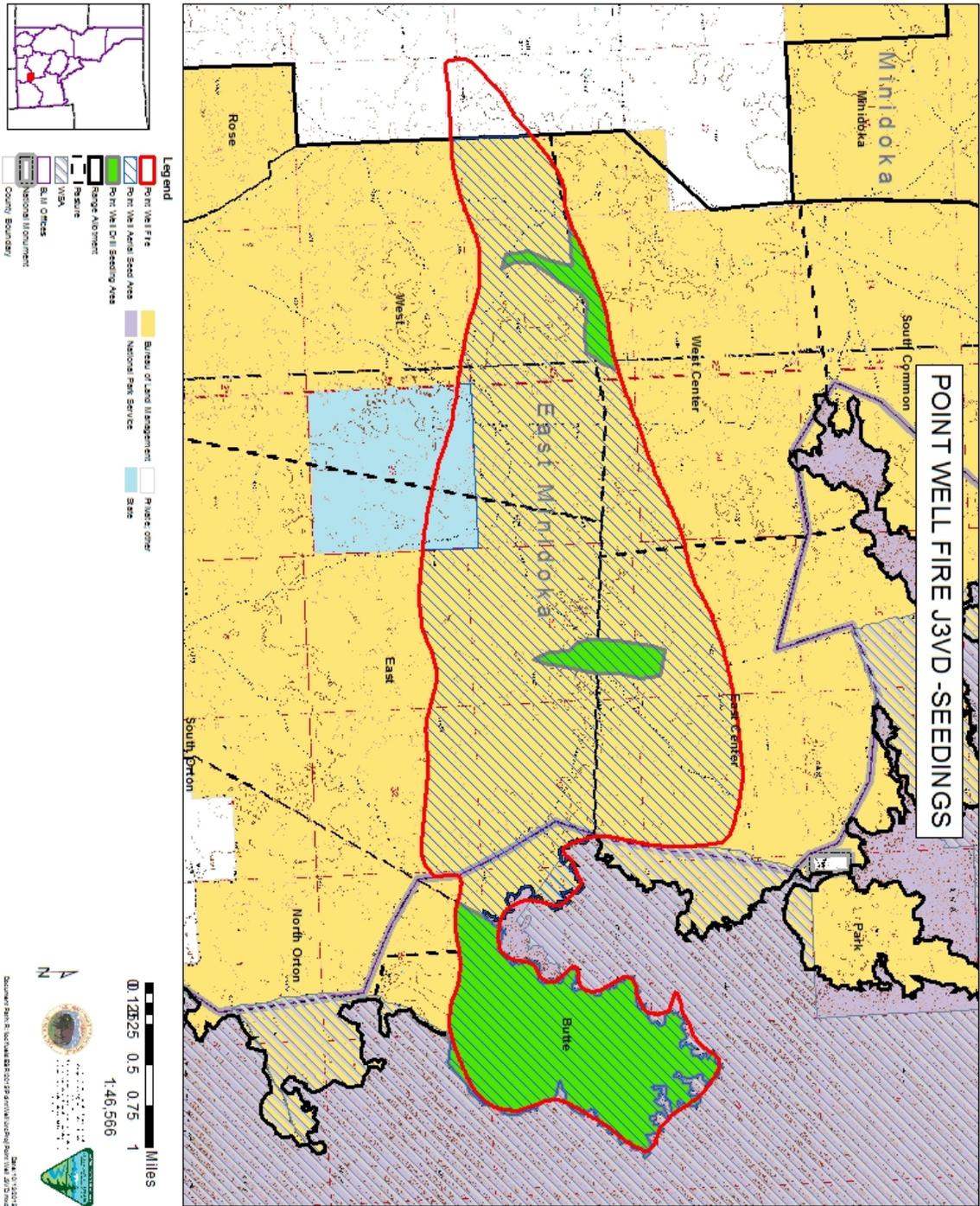
PART 8 - MAPS

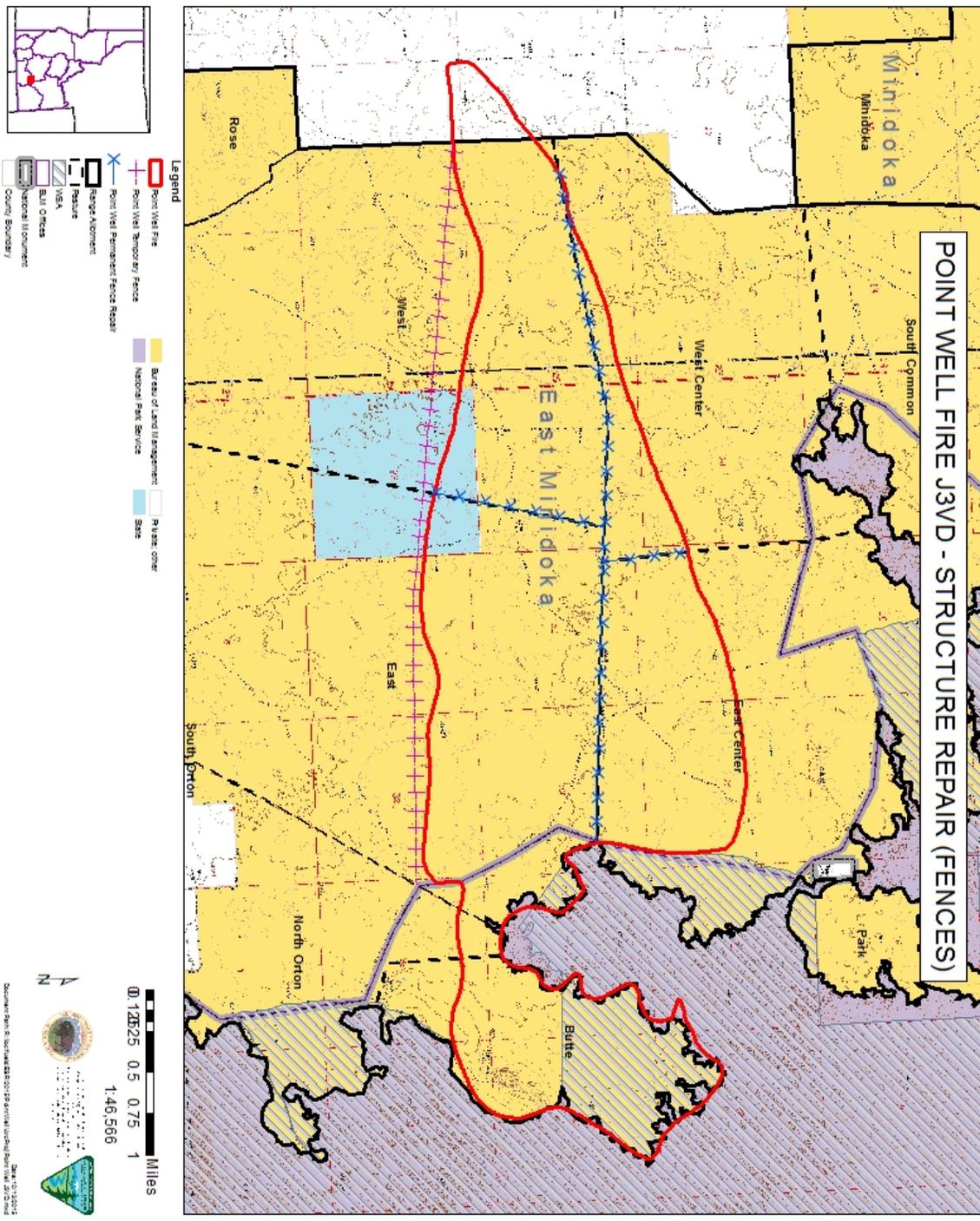
1. Fire Perimeter
2. Colored Land Status Map
3. Burned Management Fences
4. Seeding or Seedling Treatment areas
5. Protective Fences/cattleguards and the Adjoining Pasture Fences That They Tie Into
6. Invasive Species

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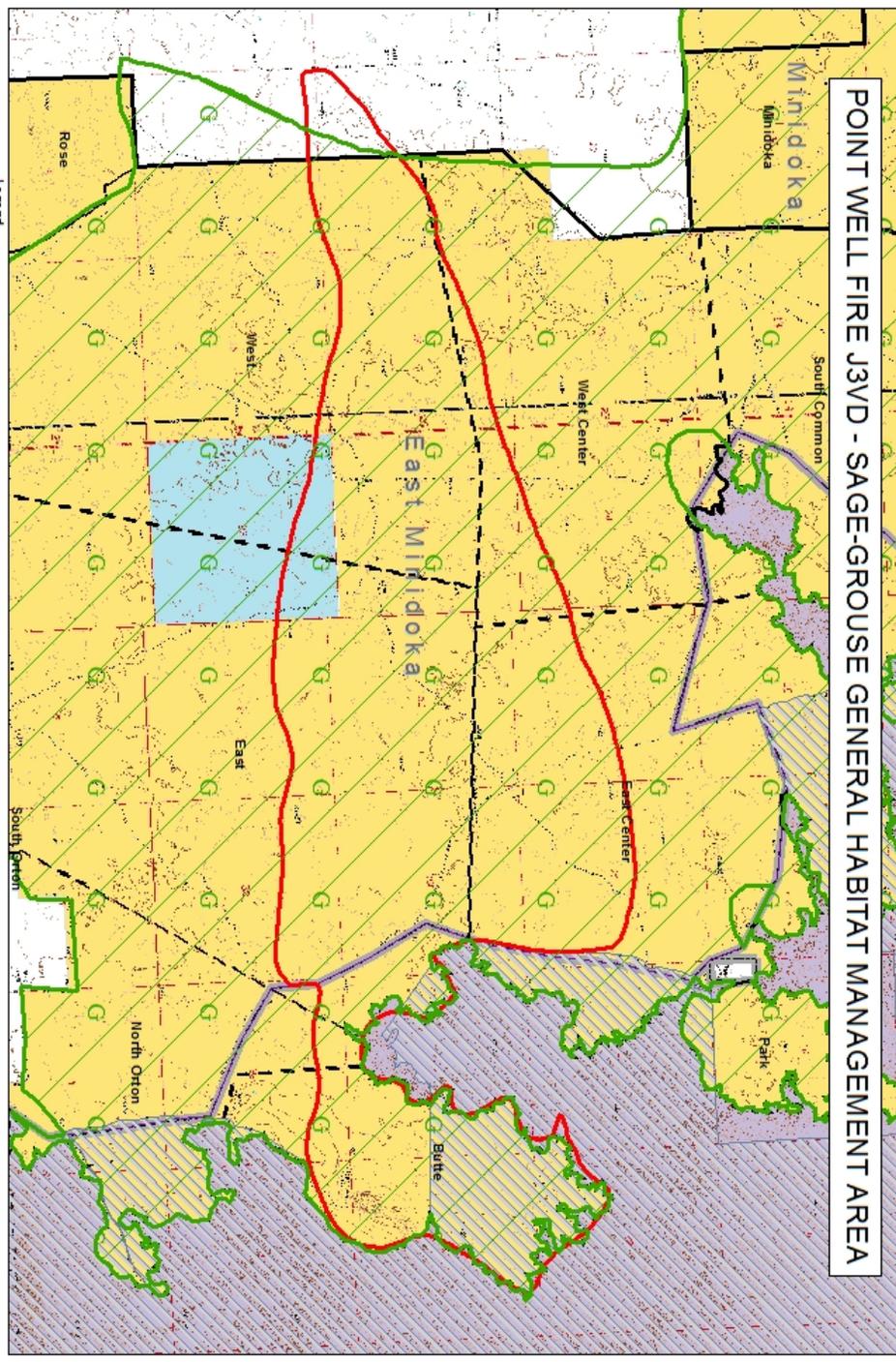








POINT WELL FIRE J3VD - SAGE-GROUSE GENERAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA



Legend

- Point Well Fire
- Habitat Management Areas
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- Private Land
- Other
- Range Allotment
- Shawnee
- WESA
- State Parks
- Various Ownership
- County Boundary

Scale: 0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles
 0 12525 0.5 0.75 1
 1:46,566

North Arrow

Document Path: C:\Users\j3vd\Documents\Point Well Fire\Map\Map_10-15-2015

Focal Area (FIAT) (DRAFT)	FIAT planning area name	Focal Area Name	Focal Area PRIORITY	
No	NA	NA	NA	
GRSG Sagebrush Focal Area	None			
GRSG Habitat Management Areas	Total Acres	BLM Acres	State Acres	Private Acres
PHMA- Priority 1	0	0	0	0
IHMA- Priority 2	0	0	0	0
GHMA – Priority 3	4,611	4,452	138	21
Total	4,611	4,452	138	21

PART 9 – REVIEW, APPROVALS, and PREPARERS

TEAM MEMBERS

Position	Team Member (Agency/Office)	Initial and Date
Team Leader	Dustin Smith	DS 10/6/2015
Operations	Scott Uhrig	SU 9/27/2015
Cultural Resources/Archeologist	Suzann Henrikson	LH 10/1/2015
Rangeland Mgt. Specialist	Dan Patten	DP 10/1/2015
Wildlife Biologist	Jeremy Bisson	JB 10/6/2015
Craters of the Moon National Monument Manager	Holly Crawford	HC 10/6/2015

PLAN APPROVAL

/s/Kenneth J. Crane 10/26/15

BURLEY FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DATE

/s/Codie Martin 10/26/15

SHOSHONE 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.