

**PIRU FIRE  
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

**AGENCY/UNIT:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge

**LOCATION:** Ventura County, California

**DATE:** November 4, 2003  
Amended June 1, 2004

**PREPARED BY:** United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
California/Nevada Burned Area Emergency Response Team

**Submitted By:** /s/ Steve Thompson **Date:** June 1, 2004  
Steve Thompson, Manager  
California/Nevada Operations Office

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This plan addresses emergency stabilization for fire effects on Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge as a result of the Piru Fire in Ventura County, California. The plan has been prepared in accordance with the *Department of the Interior, Departmental Manual, Part 620: Wildland Fire Management, Chapter 3: Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation* (May 20, 2004). This document provides emergency stabilization recommendations for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service lands within the Piru Fire. The U.S. Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response Team has addressed U.S. Forest Service lands and other lands impacted by the fire, separately.

The primary objectives of the Piru Fire Burned Area Emergency Response Plan are:

- To prescribe post-fire mitigation measures necessary to protect human life, property, and critical cultural and natural resources.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team has conducted an analysis of fire effects on Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge using ground reconnaissance methods. The plan primarily addresses impacts to minor infrastructure essential to the daily management of the California Condor Recovery Program. While the 2,471 acre Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge represents only a small fraction of the land area utilized by the reintroduced California condor population, the Refuge is a critical management center for the Condor Recovery Program. Captive bred birds are brought to Refuge and are placed in specialized flight pens to get familiar with the area and are introduced to other mature and wild birds. Specialized supplemental feeding stations are located on the Refuge and used on a daily basis to feed wild birds. Feeding stations are tied to specialized condor trapping stations where wild birds are recaptured to replace radio telemetry equipment, collect blood samples, and care for injured or ill birds. Specialized isolation pens are housed at the refuge for care of injured or recovering birds. While no birds and the three main field station buildings were not directly impacted by the wildfire, infrastructure essential to management of the Condor Recovery Program was damaged or destroyed by the Piru Fire. This plan documents that damage and provides specific costs for repairs and replacement of damaged infrastructure items that are appropriate for funding under the Emergency Stabilization fund of the U.S. Department of the Interior. All specifications are fully consistent with the approved management plans for the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and the California Condor Recovery Plan.

### Fire Location

The Piru Fire started on October 23, 2003 at approximately 1:30 PM in the Lake Piru Recreation Area east of Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. The fire suppression effort was managed under a Unified Command with U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Los Angeles County and Ventura County Fire Protection Districts. Fire Management Officer Perry Grissom of Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex was assigned as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representative to the Incident Team. On Saturday October 25, 2003 the Piru Fire was declared 90 percent contained and resources were being released to other major incidents in the Southern California Fire Storm Event. At approximately 3:30 PM Santa Ana winds apparently hit the Piru Fire and it escaped over a major ridgeline. The winds drove the fire down Hopper Canyon and through the refuge. Perry Grissom and two engines crews from the Los Padres National Forest and one crew from Los Angeles County protected the three main buildings of the Hopper Field Station with a combination of hosing down structures and defensible space and by lighting backfires off of this defensible space. Due to suppression tactics used there are no suppression impacts to the refuge. At the time of this plans submission the Piru Fire had consumed 63,991 acres and was not yet fully contained or controlled.

- **ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES**

The BAER Team was assembled on Tuesday October 28, 2003 at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex and with the approval of the Incident Command Team initiated preliminary damage assessments and photo documentation of all impacts to refuge infrastructure. The Team provided daily briefings for the California/Nevada Operations Office, Regional Office, and maintained communications with the Directors Office in Washington, DC.

Issues identified by the Team included:

- Boundary, Entrance, and Refuge Closure Sign Damage
- Water System Repairs
- Radio Repeater Repair/Replacement
- Flight Pen and Blind Replacement
- Removal of Burnt Debris
- Feeding Station Repairs (electric fence system)
- Supplement Feeding Equipment Replacement (freezer, thaw locker)
- Storage Shed Replacement
- Isolation Pen and Blind Repairs
- Gate Repairs
- Trapping Station Repairs
- Monitoring Control of Noxious Weed Population
- Hazardous Tree Mitigation
- Water Buffalo Replacement
- Telephone Line Marker Repairs

Accept for management of noxious weeds, each of the above issues directly relates to mitigating impacts of the Piru Fire to management and recovery of the Federal endangered California condor and is therefore fundable under the U.S. Department of the Interior, Burned Area Emergency Stabilization fund.

Implementation of the repairs to California condor infrastructure damaged by the fire should be initiated as quickly as possible through the Implementation Leader designated for the project. It will be important for the Implementation Leader to coordinate the recommended activities, track budgets, coordinate contracts, and prepare accomplishment reports for the emergency stabilization funding.

This Burned Area Emergency Response Plan is the initial funding request for both Emergency Stabilization funds. Additional supplemental requests may be made after this document has been reviewed and approved. It is recommended that supplemental requests be made on an as needed basis.

The Emergency Stabilization Funds for this plan extends over one year from the date of containment of the fire. At the conclusion of the funding period, a final Accomplishment Report will be due to the approval authority. The Accomplishment Report will document the funding received (initial and supplemental funding), treatments installed, the effectiveness of the installed

treatments, and the results of monitoring activities. This Plan was submitted to the approving official, in accordance with Department and Service policy.

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

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## PART I REVIEW AND APPROVAL

### I. EMERGENCY STABILIZATION CONCURRENCE

- Concur**
- Concur with Revision**
- Disapproved**

Explanation for Revision or Disapproval:

/s/ Dan Walsworth  
Refuge Supervisor

June 1, 2004  
Date

### II. EMERGENCY STABILIZATION CONCURRENCE

- Concur**
- Concur with Revision**
- Disapproved**

Explanation for Revision or Disapproval:

/s/ Pam Ensley  
Region 1, FMO, FWS

June 1, 2004  
Date

### III. EMERGENCY STABILIZATION APPROVAL

- Approved**
- Approved with Revision**
- Disapproved**

Explanation for Revision or Disapproval:

/s/ Steve Thompson  
Manager, California/Nevada Operations, FWS

June 1, 2004  
Date

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Burned Area Emergency Response

### **PART A FIRE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

<b>Fire Name</b>	Piru Fire	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Fire Number</b>	CA-LPF-2142	<b>US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>Agency Unit</b>	FWS, BLM, USFS, Private	<b>U.S. Forest Service</b>	<b>44,000</b>
<b>Region</b>	California/Nevada Operations	<b>Private</b>	<b>17,491</b>
<b>State</b>	California		
<b>County(s)</b>	Ventura		
<b>Ignition Date/Manner</b>	Oct. 23, 2003/Human		<b>4</b>
<b>Zone</b>	South Zone		
<b>Date Contained</b>	Not Known		<b>90% Contained</b>
<b>Date Controlled</b>	Not Known	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63,991</b>

### **PART B Nature of Plan**

	<b>Initial Submission</b>
<b>v</b>	<b>Updating Or Revising The Initial Submission</b>
	<b>Supplying Information For Accomplishment To Date On Work Underway</b>
	<b>Different Phase Of Project Plan</b>
	<b>Final Report (To Comply With The Closure Of The EFR Account</b>

**U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

## **PART C EMERGENCY STABILIZATION ASSESSMENT**

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**I. Emergency Stabilization Objectives:**

- Locate and stabilize severely burned slopes which pose a direct threat to human life, property or critically important cultural and natural resources.
- Conduct immediate post-burn reconnaissance for fire suppression related impacts to threatened and endangered (T&E) species, and cultural sites.

**U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

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**PART D TEAM ORGANIZATIONS, TEAM MEMBERS, RESOURCE ADVISORS**

I. BAER TEAM MEMBERS

POSITION	TEAM MEMBER / AGENCY
Team Leader	Richard Hadley, FWS
Wildlife	Marc Weitzel, Project Leader Hopper Mtn. NWRC Greg Austin, Deputy Project Leader Hopper NWRC Dan Tappe, Wildlife Biologist, Hopper Mtn. NWR Richard Posey, Wildlife Biologist, Hopper Mtn. NWR Mark Hall, Refuge Ops Spec., Hopper Mt. NWR
Environmental Protection & Compliance	Richard Hadley, FWS
GIS	
Computer / Documentation	Denise Stockton, I&E Specialist, Hopper Mtn. NWRC

**Miscellaneous Support Personnel**

Information	Denise Stockton, I&E Specialist, Hopper Mtn. NWRC

**IV. Resource Advisors:** (Note: Resource Advisors are individuals who assisted the BAER Team with the preparation of this plan. See Part H of this plan for a full list of agencies and individuals who were consulted or otherwise contributed to the development of this plan.

NAME	AFFILIATION, SPECIALTY
See Team Members Above	

**U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

**PART D – SUMMARY OF APPROVAL AUTHORITIES**

<b>ACTIVITIES REQUIRING REGIONAL OFFICE APPROVAL Emergency Stabilization Requests</b>	<b>COST</b>
Replace Fire Hydrant / Hose Station	\$3,770
Hazard Tree Mitigation	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,770</b>

**U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN  
PIRU FIRE**

## **PART E SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

The SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES table identifies *trackable* emergency stabilization. Only trackable expenditures are displayed in the total cost column.

TREATMENT SPECIFICATION	UNIT	UNIT COST	# OF UNITS	IMPLEMENTATION METHOD	SPECIFICATION TOTAL
S-2 Replace Fire Hydrant / Hose Station	Hydrant	\$3,770	1	C	<b>\$3,770</b>
S-3 Hazardous Tree Mitigation	Tree	-	-	C	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>\$13,770</b>

**INTERAGENCY  
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY STABILIZATION & REHABILITATION PLAN**

**PART F - SPECIFICATION**

<b>SPECIFICATION TITLE:</b>	Replace Fire Hydrant / Hose Station	<b>JURSDICTIONS:</b>	FWS
<b>PART E: LINE ITEM:</b>	S-2 Replace Fire Hydrant / Hose Station	<b>FISCAL YEAR:</b>	2004
<b>ESR REFERENCE #:</b>	Safety	<b>SPECIFICATION TYPE:</b>	ES

**I. WORK TO BE DONE**

<b>A. Provide a Brief General Description of Treatment</b>
Replace fire hydrant and hose damaged and now leaking after the fire.
<b>B. Describe Specific Treatment Location or General Description of Suitable Sites for Treatment</b>
Hydrant at fire Hopper Mountain Field Station.
<b>C. Provide and Number Detailed Design/Construction Specifications</b>
1. Purchase hydrant, hose, etc.
2. Contract with plumber for repairs.
3. Contract with carpenter to construct hose box.
<b>D. Describe Purpose of Treatment Specification – What Resource will be Protected</b>
Required for structural protection at the Hopper Mountain NWR field station.
<b>E. Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring</b>
Inspect contracted work prior to acceptance and payment

**II. LABOR, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, AND OTHER COST:**

<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b> (Grade @ Cost/Hours X # Hours X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item Do not include contract personnel costs here (see contractor services below).	<b>COST/ITEM</b>
	N/A
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICE COST</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT PURCHASE, LEASE, OR RENTAL</b> (Item @ Cost/Hours or Cost/Day or # Days X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item) Note: Purchase requires written justification that demonstrates cost/item benefits over lease or rental.	<b>COST/ITEM</b>
	N/A
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE, LEASE, OR RENTAL COST</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES</b> (Item @ Cost/Each X Quantity X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item)	<b>COST/ITEM</b>
Purchase materials necessary to replace hydrant.	<b>\$500</b>
Purchase materials to replace hose box.	<b>\$550</b>
<b>TOTAL MATERIAL AND SUPPLY COST</b>	<b>\$1050</b>
<b>TRAVEL COST</b> (Personnel or Equipment @ Rate X Round Trips X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item)	<b>COST/ITEM</b>
	N/A
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL COST</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>CONTRACT COST</b> (Labor or Equipment @ Cost/Hour X # Hours X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item)	<b>COST /ITEM</b>
Contracted plumber @ \$90/hr x 813.5 hours = \$720	<b>\$1220</b>
Contracted carpenter @ \$75/hr x 20.4 hours = \$375	<b>\$1530</b>
<b>TOTAL CONTRACT COST</b>	<b>\$2750</b>

**SPECIFICATION COST SUMMARY**

FISCAL YEAR	UNIT	UNIT COST	# OF UNITS	COST	FUNDING SOURCE	METHOD
2004	Hydrant	\$3,770	1	\$3,770	ES	C
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$3,770</b>	<b>ES</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>		<b>SPECIFICATION TYPE</b>		<b>METHOD OF COMPLETION</b>		
F= Fire Suppression ESR = Emergency Stabilization & Rehab. OP/O = Agency Operating Fund EWP = Emergency Watershed Program		ES = Emergency Stabilization R = Rehabilitation FS = Fire Suppression		P = Agency Personnel Services C = Contract EFC = Emergency Fire Contract FC = Crew Labor Assigned to Fire		

**SOURCE OF COST ESTIMATES**

<b>Put Letter (P,M,T,C, or F) Next to Appropriate Cost Estimate Source (1-5) Below</b>	
1. Estimate obtained from 2-3 independent contractual sources.	
2. Documented cost figures from similar project work obtained from local agency sources.	M/C
3. Estimate supported by cost guides from independent sources or other federal agencies.	
4. Estimates based upon government wage rates and material cost.	
5. No cost estimate required – cost charged to Fire Suppression Account (not tracked in plan)	
<b>P = Personnel Services      M = Materials/Supplies      T = Travel      C = Contract      F = Suppression</b>	

**I. RELEVANT DETAILS, MAPS, AND DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT**

<b>List Relevant Documentation and Cross-References within ESR Plan</b>
See Photo documentation at end; Figure 2 – Melted PVC Pipe

**INTERAGENCY  
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY STABILIZATION & REHABILITATION PLAN**

**PART F - SPECIFICATION**

<b>SPECIFICATION TITLE:</b>	Hazardous Tree Mitigation	<b>JURISDICTIONS:</b>	FWS
<b>PART E: LINE ITEM:</b>	S-3 Remove Hazardous Snags and Trees	<b>FISCAL YEAR:</b>	2004
<b>ESR REFERENCE #:</b>	Safety	<b>SPECIFICATION TYPE:</b>	ES

**I. WORK TO BE DONE**

<b>A. Provide a Brief General Description of Treatment</b>
This project would remove burnt trees and snags that pose a risk of falling across roadways and other areas on the refuge where people are working.
<b>B. Describe Specific Treatment Location or General Description of Suitable Sites for Treatment</b>
See Hopper Mountain NWR map in appendices.
<b>C. Provide and Number Detailed Design/Construction Specifications</b>
1. Contract for removal of hazardous trees and snags.
<b>D. Describe Purpose of Treatment Specification – What Resource will be Protected</b>
Removal of hazardous trees will provide continued access to the refuge field station and a safe work environment around the flight pens and field station.
<b>E. Describe Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring</b>
Inspect contracted work prior to acceptance and payment.

**II. LABOR, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, AND OTHER COST:**

<b>PERSONNEL SERVICES</b> (Grade @ Cost/Hours X # Hours X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item Do not include contract personnel costs here (see contractor services below).	<b>COST/ITEM</b>
	N/A
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICE COST</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT PURCHASE, LEASE, OR RENTAL</b> (Item @ Cost/Hours or Cost/Day or # Days X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item) Note: Purchase requires written justification that demonstrates cost/item benefits over lease or rental.	<b>COST/ITEM</b>
	N/A
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE, LEASE, OR RENTAL COST</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES</b> (Item @ Cost/Each X Quantity X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item)	<b>COST/ITEM</b>
	N/A
<b>TOTAL MATERIAL AND SUPPLY COST</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>TRAVEL COST</b> (Personnel or Equipment @ Rate X Round Trips X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item)	<b>COST/ITEM</b>
	N/A
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL COST</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>CONTRACT COST</b> (Labor or Equipment @ Cost/Hour X # Hours X # Fiscal Years = Cost/Item)	<b>COST /ITEM</b>
Contract removal of burnt trees and snags where required	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL CONTRACT COST</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

**SPECIFICATION COST SUMMARY**

FISCAL YEAR	UNIT	UNIT COST	# OF UNITS	COST	FUNDING SOURCE	METHOD
2004	Trees	\$10,000		\$10,000	ES	C
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>\$10,000</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>ES</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b> F= Fire Suppression ESR = Emergency Stabilization & Rehab. OP/O = Agency Operating Fund EWP = Emergency Watershed Program			<b>SPECIFICATION TYPE</b> ES = Emergency Stabilization R = Rehabilitation FS = Fire Suppression		<b>METHOD OF COMPLETION</b> P = Agency Personnel Services C = Contract EFC = Emergency Fire Contract FC = Crew Labor Assigned to Fire	

**SOURCE OF COST ESTIMATES**

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2. Documented cost figures from similar project work obtained from local agency sources.	C
3. Estimate supported by cost guides from independent sources or other federal agencies.	
4. Estimates based upon government wage rates and material cost.	
5. No cost estimate required – cost charged to Fire Suppression Account (not tracked in plan)	
<b>P = Personnel Services    M = Materials/Supplies    T = Travel    C = Contract    F = Suppression</b>	

**I. RELEVANT DETAILS, MAPS, AND DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT**

<b>List Relevant Documentation and Cross-References within ESR Plan</b>
No photo documentation