

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Turnbull NWR
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To: Regional Fire Management Coordinator
Subject: Burned Area Rehabilitation Request.
From: Refuge Manager

8-30-00

In accordance with the Fire Management Handbook, 5.1.1. This Project is a non-emergency request for fire damage restoration funding for FY 2001.

1. Background. The fire was started on August 11, 2000 at or around 2400 and initial attacked by our cooperators, Spokane County Fire District 3 and W A DNR. The refuge engine responded on August 12, 2000 at or about 0200. Unified command was established at that time and the fire was contained at 0600 on August 12,2000. Due to the equipment used, there are a lot of roads that were established and fireline constructed that need rehabilitation.

2. The fire is located along Mullinex road in T 22 N, R 41 E, Section 4, NW of SE, adjacent to Campbell Lake. The fire is Approximately 12 acres. The soils are thin silty loam's on top of Basalt bed rock in the channeled scab land of Spokane County. This area is a bench extending East from the road bed down to the lake. The elevation is about 2250'. This flat broken area has an elevation difference of 20 feet. The climate here is cold dry winters with wet spring and long hot summers and falls. Our annual precipitation is about 16 inches per year with most coming between October and May. The fire occurred in a mixture of Fuel model 2 and 9. The Ponderosa pine/Snowberry association and Ponderosa Pine/Fescue associations are the dominate vegetation types. This was a low intensity fire that did very little torching and killed 80% of the reprod that was less than 10 feet tall. This fire occurred entirely on FWS owned lands.

3. This area was a Non-Public use area managed for the benefit of the wildlife. Several bird, mammal and herptile species utilize the habitat within the burn area and would benefit from rehabilitation. The forest component host several breeding cavity using bird and mammal species including the hairy and downy woodpecker, northern flicker, pygmy, white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches, black-capped and mountain chickadees, western bluebirds, tree swallows, northern pygmy owls, northern flying squirrels, red squirrels, and ten species of bats. The litter, herbaceous and woody ground cover provide year-round habitat for several terrestrial mammals and herptiles including deer mouse, western jumping mouse, yellow-pine chipmunk, northern pocket gopher, long-toed and tiger salamanders and yellow-bellied racer. Rehabilitation of burned areas and areas disturbed by fire control measures will benefit the ground dwelling component of

the wildlife community by minimizing soil loss and accelerating the establishment of native ground cover.

4. Due to the removal of the duff layer and soil disturbance 60% of the area is exposed to wind and water erosion. The boundary fence along Mullinex road was cut in two places and 3 fence support structures were damaged. The benefit of rehabilitation should stabilize the soil and reduce the invasion of noxious weed present on or near the site. If nothing is done to re-vegetate the site then more or new noxious weeds will become further established on this site.

5. There are no environmental review considerations for this site.

6. There are only two alternatives to rehabilitate this site.

A. No Action. Leaving nature to re-vegetate this site over time with no human influence.

B. Preferred Alternative. Rehabilitating this site and repairing the damage to the boundary fence. This would include raking in the fire line and roads and re-seeding the exposed soil with a native seed mix.

7. The monitoring and evaluation of this site will involve establishment of 10 permanent photo points within the burn area. Photographs will be taken of a 1-meter radius plot at each point and an oblique view into the burn area with a surveying pole for scale in the foreground. Photographs will be taken before rehabilitation, post 1 growing season, post 3 years and post 5 years.

8. This site will be considered as one whole area. The treatment will be raking and seeding of the roads and fireline and reseeding of larger patches of bare soil (> 1 m square). The refuge staff will provide the labor for this project.

A. Labor for rehab work =	\$ 2,300.00
B. Fuel for equipment =	\$ 100.00
C. Seed for area @ 12lb./ac =	\$ 1,000.00
D. New Fence posts =	\$ 300.00
E. Barbed wire for fence repair =	\$ 300.00
Total Estimated cost =	\$ 4,000.00