

**Monument Fire Complex Emergency Stabilization and
Rehabilitation Plan
and Environmental Assessment
EA# OR-054-02-005**

**Bureau of Land Management
Prineville District
Central Oregon Resource Area**

November 2001

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Monument Fire Complex Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan and

Environmental Assessment (EA) OR-054-02-005

Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Central Oregon Resource Area

Summary of Proposed Action and Alternative

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists at the Prineville District BLM has analyzed a proposed action to implement an Emergency Fire Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan consisting of seeding, reforestation, road closures, and fence reconstruction. Both a second alternative and a no-action alternative were considered.

FONSI Determination

Based on information contained in the EA, and other available information, it is my determination that none of the alternatives would constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. My reasons for this determination are:

- There would be no significant irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.
- There would be no significant, adverse impacts to water quality or stream channel morphology.
- There were no identified impacts or issues related to public health or safety.
- Cultural resources would not be expected to be impacted.
- There would be no impact on Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plants or animals within the affected area.
- Wetlands and floodplains would not be expected to be impacted.
- The proposed action is not part of any other action having potential for cumulatively significant impacts to the important or relevant resource values for the area involved.
- The area is not within a Wild and Scenic River boundary or Wilderness Study Area, so no impacts to those resources would occur.

An Environmental Impact Statement is therefore unnecessary and will not be prepared. The proposed action is also consistent with the current land use plans including:

- John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers, John Day and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments, Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision; March 2001.
- John Day Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, August, 1985

Approved:

Field Manager
Central Oregon Resource Area

Date

Environmental Assessment (EA) Number: OR-054-02-005
Title: Monument Fire Complex Emergency Rehabilitation and Stabilization Plan
Serial Number or Project Number: N654
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office: Prineville District
Resource Area: Central Oregon

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**Monument Fire Complex (N654)
Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan
and
Environmental Assessment
OR-054-02-005**

1.0 Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to stabilize and rehabilitate the burned area within the Monument Complex of fires. The primary focus and aim of this project is to address the following objectives:

1. Reduce soil erosion/sedimentation into anadromous fish streams;
2. Retard the invasion and control the spread of noxious weed species;
3. Accelerate the recovery of wildlife habitat;
4. Repair and/or replace fences to allow full recovery of the burned area;
5. Assist adjacent private landowners, through the enactment of the Wyden Amendment, to stabilize and rehabilitate the burned area, in turn, benefitting public land resources (Appendix H.);
6. Maximize the re-establishment of a healthy forest ecosystem.

1.1 Background

The Monument Fire Complex, which started on August 16, 2001, consisted of seven fires: Birch Creek II, Cottonwood Creek, Fern Boneyard, Four Corners, Franklin Mountain, Mallory, and Timber Basin (Table 1.). All of these fires occurred in North-Central Oregon in the general vicinity of Monument. The Fern Boneyard, Mallory, and Birch Creek II fires (See Appendix A. Maps) will be addressed in this Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (ESRP)/ Environmental Assessment (EA). Two of these fires, the Birch Creek II and the Mallory burned together and will be considered as one fire, the Mallory Fire (N654). The Cottonwood Creek, Four Corners, Franklin Mountain, will not be addressed in this ESRP/EA. The Timber Basin Fire, which also occurred on BLM land, is being covered under a separate ESRP/EA.

The majority of the BLM land that burned in the Mallory fire was acquired through the The Oregon Land Exchange Act (OLEA) of 2000, Pub. L. 106-257 (S. 1629).

Table 1. Monument Fire Complex: Affected Acreage by Ownership and Fire

Fire Name	Ownership (Acres / % of Total)				Grand Total
	BLM	Private	State	USFS	
Cottonwood Creek	0 0.0%	474 1.5%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	474 1.5%
Fern Boneyard	0 0.0%	3482 10.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	3,482 10.8%
Four Corners	0 0.0%	52 0.2%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	52 0.2%
Franklin Mountain	0 0.0%	40 0.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	40 0.1%
Timber Basin	1,331 4.1%	980 3.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2,311 7.1%
Mallory/Birch Creek II	11,978 37.0%	9,877 30.5%	39 0.1%	4,099 12.7%	25,993 80.3%
Total Sum of Acres	13,309	14,905	39	4,099	32,352
Total % of Acres	41.1%	46.1%	0.1%	12.7%	100.0%

The fires occurred in the North Fork John Day River drainage, which is the basin's major producer of wild spring chinook and summer steelhead, at approximately 60 and 40 percent, respectively. In recent years, as many as 1,855 adult spring chinook and 8,000 adult summer steelhead have returned annually to the North Fork drainage to spawn.

The North Fork subbasin contains about 72 miles of spring chinook spawning and rearing habitat, and over 700 miles of steelhead habitat. Prime spring chinook spawning habitat occurs between Camas and Baldy Creeks, and in the Granite Creek drainage, mostly on National Forest lands. Major steelhead producing streams in the North Fork basin are Cottonwood, Rudio, Deer, Big Wall, Little Wall, Potamus, Desolation, Granite, Ditch, Mallory, Trout, Meadowbrook, Trail, Olive, Clear, Bull Run, Camas, and Beaver and Big Creeks.

The North Fork also has the best bull trout population strongholds in the basin (Unterwegner 1997). Ratliff and Howell (1992) noted this population was "of special concern," with habitat degradation and angling overharvest as the suppressing factors. In 1993, ODFW eliminated angling harvest of bull trout in the John Day River Basin. Bull trout are found year-round above Desolation Creek in the North Fork and tributaries, and its current winter distribution extends downstream to Wall Creek in the North Fork (Unterwegner 1997).

1.2 Relationship to Planning

The proposed action is consistent with the current land use plans including:

- John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers, John Day and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments, Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision; March 2001.

Consistency with actions and objectives:

- 1) Vegetation Rehabilitation and Resortation
- 2) Noxious Weed Control
- 3) Seeding
- 4) Fisheries
- 5) Wildlife
- 6) Water Quality

- John Day Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, August, 1985

Consistency with objectives:

- 1) Improve and maintain vegetative condition to benefit livestock and wildlife.
- 2) Enhance water quality and manage aquatic resources with particular attention to those watersheds with major downstream uses including native anadromous species, other sports fisheries, and agriculture.
- 3) Manage upland habitat to provide for a diversity of wildlife species

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action

2.1.1 Seeding

The proposed action for the Monument Fire Complex is to seed approximately 1,200 acres of BLM and 200 acres of private land within the Mallory fire perimeter, and 500 acres of private land within the Fern Boneyard fire perimeter. Approximately 1,500 acres would be seeded aurally and 400 acres would be seeded with a rangeland drill. Seeding would be done during the Fall/Winter of 2001/20002. These acres would be seeded with a perennial grass/forb mixture of bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, Sherman big bluegrass, sand dropseed, thickspike wheatgrass, orchardgrass, crested wheatgrass, alfalfa, and small burnet at rates described in Table 2. This mixture is comprised of 67% native species and 33% desirable non-native species (See Appendix F. Native / Non-Native Worksheet). Approximately 150 acres of the 1,500 acre total with deeper soils along toe slopes and alluvial fans would also be seeded with basin wildrye and basin big sagebrush. Other various sites (150 acres scattered throughout the unit)

would be seeded with Wyoming big sagebrush. Both species of sagebrush would only be planted on BLM lands.

All seed purchased for this fire rehabilitation project would be subjected to an all states noxious weed test by a certified seed testing facility. No noxious weed seed would be tolerated. If any noxious weed seed is found the lot would be rejected.

Table 2. Seed mix and rates to be applied to burned area

Species	lbs/acre
*Idaho Fescue (<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>), Joseph	0.5
*Bluebunch Wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron spicatum</i> , cultivars Whitmar, Goldar and Secar)	4.5
*Sherman Big Bluegrass (<i>Poa ampla</i> , cultivar Sherman)	2.0
**Crested Wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron cristatum</i> , cultivars Hycrest, Fairway and Douglas)	1.5
*Western Wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>), cultivar Rosanna	1.0
*Thickspike Wheatgrass (<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i>) cultivars Bannock, Thickspike	1.0
*Sand Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>)	0.25
**Orchardgrass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), Paiute	1.0
**Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i> var. Ladak, Spreador III)	1.0
**Small Burnet (<i>Sanguisorbia minor</i>), Delar	1.0
Total	13.75

* Native Species

** Desirable Non-native Species

2.1.2 Fences:

Most of the fences in the burned area were wooden and were consumed in the fire. Much of the fence wire was damaged. The burned area would require replacement of 27 miles of 4-strand barbed wire fence and repair of 4 miles to provide protection during germination and establishment of seeded species. The majority of fence is needed to protect anadromous fish by keeping cattle off of the North Fork John Day River and

other fish bearing streams outside authorized grazing seasons. Without the fences cattle could not be controlled from adjacent allotments. This could jeopardize the current grazing systems and would be a violation of consultation that has been done with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 31 miles of fence would be on a combination of public land, private land, and on the boundary between both BLM and private land and BLM and U.S. Forest Service land (Note: the U.S. Forest Service is contributing half the cost for the boundary fence between the BLM and USFS). There are approximately 15 miles of fence on BLM land, 11 miles of fence on private land within BLM grazing allotments, 4 miles of fence on BLM/private boundaries, and 1 miles of fence on BLM/USFS boundaries. The BLM would provide the materials and contract for the construction and/or repair of the fence. Two cattleguards would be placed on a roads which pass through the burned area. These would prevent gates from being left open and help keep livestock out of the rehabilitation area.

District standard design specifications would be used for the fence which identify wire spacing measurements and other fence specifications. The reconstruction would include specifications for a four strand fence with considerations for deer and elk movements. The top three wires would be barbed and the bottom wire smooth with a spacing of 18", 23", 28" and 40" respectively, from ground up. Posts would be steel and spaced one rod apart (16.5 feet) with a wire stay inserted halfway between each post. Where possible, prefabricated steel panels would be used for corners and stress panels, because they wouldn't burn in the event of another wildfire. All gates, rock cribs and miscellaneous structures would be constructed in accordance with Bureau standards and specifications.

2.1.3 Road Closure's and Gating

Some road sides, old logging landings, and skid trails on the newly acquired BLM land are infested with noxious weeds, and two of the roads (one up Mallory Creek and one up Graves Creek) are in very close proximity to anadromous fish streams. When the fire burned through the area, the concern for noxious weed spread and sedimentation in upcoming years intensified. At the present time there is no motorized vehicle control in the area. Vehicle control is needed to help control noxious weed spread and potential increased sedimentation. Nine heavy duty steel gates would need to be purchased to keep motorized vehicle traffic (including ATV's) off of existing roads where noxious weed and sedimentation concerns exist. These roads would remain closed until the noxious weeds are controlled and sedimentation concerns diminish.

2.1.4 Reforestation:

Due to the severity of the fire on several heavily forested areas, approximately 400 acres of BLM land within the burned area would be planted with a mixture of desirable tree species based on potential natural vegetation. Species to be planted would be primarily ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Approximately 300 trees per acre would be planted in 2003. Availability of seedlings and coordination with other fire rehabilitation plans on

the District will prevent reforestation from being accomplished at an earlier date. No trees would be planted on private land.

2.2 Alternatives

2.2.1 Alternative 1: (No Action; Continue Current Management):

No public or private land would be seeded with perennial seed mix. No reforestation would take place. Natural vegetation reestablishment without seeding or reforestation would be allowed to occur. There would be no protective fence constructed for the burned areas. No road closures or cattleguards would be put in place.

2.2.2 Alternative 2: (No Seeding or Reforestation; Protection Fence and Road Closures Only)

This alternative is the minimum necessary to protect the burned areas of the Monument Fire Complex while natural recovery of vegetation takes place. The mileage of fencing would be the same as stated in the proposed action. The roads closed would be the same as the proposed action.

2.2.3 Common to All Action Alternatives

Grazing:

The majority of the burned area occurs on land that was acquired through the The Oregon Land Exchange Act (OLEA) of 2000, Pub. L. 106-257 (S. 1629), and would not be grazed until a management plan is written for the area. OLEA specifically directs the Bureau of Land Management to manage the lands for fish, wildlife and recreation and states in Section 6 (g): “MANAGEMENT OF LANDS.—(1) Lands acquired by the Secretary of the Interior under this Act shall be administered in accordance with sections 205(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1715(c)), and lands acquired by the Secretary of Agriculture shall be administered in accordance with sections 205(d) of such Act (43 U.S.C. 1715(d)). (2) Lands acquired by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 4 which are within the North Fork of the John Day subwatershed shall be administered in accordance with section 205(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1715(c)), but shall be managed primarily for the protection of native fish and wildlife habitat, and for public recreation. The Secretary may permit other authorized uses within the subwatershed if the Secretary determines, through the appropriate land use planning process, that such uses are consistent with, and do not diminish these management purposes.”

Other burned areas that are not land acquired through OLEA would be rested from livestock grazing for at least two growing seasons (43 CFR 4160) to aid in vegetative recovery. Allotment fences, damaged by the fire, need reconstruction to protect burned areas from livestock grazing during the recovery of existing native, perennial vegetation and establishment of proposed seeded species.

2.3 Monitoring

The objective of monitoring is to determine the efficacy of treatment methods, given environmental conditions, to reestablish vegetation similar to that which was present prior to the wildfire.

2.3.1 Aerial and Drill Seeding

Plots will be set up to monitor seeding success. Unseeded areas will be set aside to act as controls to measure establishment of seeded species. Technique will be a combination of paired photo points and plot measurements. Plot size will be of sufficient dimension to capture the variety and density of species being seeded. Number of plots will be sufficient to be able to make a reasonable assessment of success or failure of the seeding. Plots will be measured for 3 years, however it may take up to 5 years to get a true measure of success.

Success will be measured against site potential for a particular area. In general, on productive sites with deeper soils, drill seeded areas will be considered successful if, after 3 years, there is an average of one plant per linear foot of drill row. Aerial seeding will be considered successful if, after 3 years, there is an average of one plant per square foot of seeded area. Seeded areas will be considered moderately successful if there is one plant per three linear feet of drill rows and one plant per three-to-five square feet of aerial seeded areas.

2.3.2 Big Sagebrush Aerial Seeding

Methodology is the same as for drill seeding.

The standard for success will be one plant per 10 square feet established after 5 years.

2.3.3 Weed Control

Crude baseline weed levels were established immediately following the fire by the observance unburned weed skeletons. Areas of high susceptibility will require repeat inventorying on a periodic basis. Initial surveys for noxious weeds beginning the first spring after a wildfire event will provide for finding small infestations which typically are too small to see immediately following the fire. Weed surveys would occur for three years following the fire. If additional noxious weeds are found, control treatments would occur based on the size of the infestations and treatments necessary. Out year monitoring will observe trend in weed levels and effectiveness of treatment.

2.3.4 Erosion Monitoring

Photo points, visual observations, and field notes will be used to measure erosion in ephemeral draws and anadromous fish streams. Increases in rills and gullies in uplands will also be indicators of increased erosion.

2.3.5 Grazing Compliance

Grazing compliance will be monitored for two growing seasons to insure burned and seeded areas are rested. Monitoring will be done on both BLM land and private land where there are federal monies spent on seeding efforts.

2.3.6 Monitoring Results

The sharing of the monitoring information will be in the form of presentations at fire rehabilitation lessons learned meetings. The results of our ESR monitoring will be coordinated with the WO-220, ESR Coordinator.

3.0 Existing Environment

The following critical elements would not be affected by the proposed action or alternatives: Air Quality, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Prime or Unique Farmlands, Floodplains, American Indian Religious Concerns, Hazardous or Solid Wastes, Environmental Justice, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Wilderness. These resources which are not affected will not be discussed further in this document. The following elements would be affected by the proposed action or alternatives.

3.1 Water Quality and Soil

The North Fork contributes over 60 percent of the average annual discharge of the John Day basin. Average annual discharge at Monument is 945,900 acre-feet (USGS, 1999). Peak discharge generally occurs between March and early June, with lowest flows generally are during July, August, and September.

The North Fork has the best chemical, physical, and biological water quality in the John Day basin. Water quality is adequate for most beneficial uses, though this segment of the river can be subject to temperatures that exceed Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards. These conditions may be partially attributed to historic and present land management practices such as dredge mining, channelization, logging, road construction, irrigation, and improper livestock grazing that occur in upstream segments or local tributaries.

The river flows from an elevation of 2,700 feet at the confluence of Camas Creek to 2,000 feet at Monument. Flow in this segment is augmented by Fox, Big Wall, Ditch, Stony, Potamus, and Camas Creeks, and the Middle Fork John Day River.

Soils for the burned area are formed over two geologic types, one the Picture Gorge basalt which forms the higher plateaus, tables, escarpments and buttes, and two the John Day sedimentary / volcanic complex which forms the lower hills and basins. Soils formed over the basalt are generally shallower in depth and have rockier surfaces than

soils formed over the John Day. All soils in this area are overlain with a highly erosive silty ash surface of varying thickness. Generally the northeast aspects and alluvial flats will have the deepest deposits of ash. Rocky soil surfaces are more common below steep basalt rock escarpments and on ridges tops and shoulders. These rocky surfaces are more resistant to erosion than are the thick silty ash deposits. Soils of the upland slopes are mostly well drained with soil depths between 20 to 60 inches to bedrock. The intermittent drainages and alluvial flats are also well drained with soil depths of greater than 50 inches to bedrock.

3.2 Vegetation

The Monument Complex of fires primarily occurred in what is described as the John Day Ecological Province. The major ecological sites in the area include natural grasslands (less than 10% canopy cover shrubs), shrub-grassland (10% or more canopy cover of shrubs), and coniferous tree (5% or more canopy cover of mature trees).

The natural grassland ecological site includes characteristic vegetation consisting mainly of Sandberg's bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, big bluegrass, and Basin wildrye depending site type and soils.

The shrub-grassland ecological site includes characteristic vegetation consisting mainly of bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber needlegrass, Idaho fescue, sagebrush, low sagebrush, and other mixed shrubs depending on site type and soils.

The coniferous tree ecological site includes characteristic vegetation consisting mainly bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, sedges, juniper, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, bitterbrush, and other mixed shrubs depending on site type and soils.

3.3 Wetland/Riparian

Riparian communities on BLM acquisition lands are diverse; however, some are in poor condition. Logging, road building, and certain grazing practices in the North Fork drainage have reduced vegetative diversity and accelerated erosion of the tributaries and the river. Wildfires have burned portions of the uplands and riparian habitats in the last 50 years. In some areas, natural reforestation following the fires has been poor. Grazing impacts on riparian shrubs and trees have decreased bank stability, hampering recovery on a river that annually experiences ice scour and high flows. High road densities have facilitated the spread of noxious weeds into riparian habitats by opening the river and its tributaries to continued ground disturbance by vehicles and livestock.

A 1995 Properly Functioning Condition (PFC) assessment of riparian/stream habitats identified the North Fork John Day River as Functioning-at-Risk (FR). The tributaries are also estimated to be Functioning-at-Risk, or better.

Potential riparian communities in the North Fork drainage are largely determined by topography, elevation, and aspect. Upper riparian habitats with shady northerly and easterly aspects, which are less prone to drying, are more densely vegetated with greater species diversity of shrubs and sedges. These habitats exhibit high potential for rapid recovery from disturbance. In more arid locations, particularly the lower part of the drainage, ground cover is naturally more sparse and streambanks more vulnerable to erosion. These communities also have high potential for recovery, but at a slower rate than less arid areas.

3.4 Timber

Most of the forestland tracts in the burned area have been harvested in the past. Douglas fir/white fir types were starting to dominate the areas that were heavily logged. In general, however, the past logged areas are maintaining their mixed conifer status of ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and white fir. Timber is mainly present in the draws and drainage bottoms. Generally, these forested stands are located on dry sites usually away from streams, rivers, and wet areas.

3.5 Noxious Weeds

Scotch Thistle, Diffuse Knapweed, and Canada Thistle are known to occur within the boundary of the fire perimeter. These populations have been inventoried and identified for treatment.

The weeds causing the most concern now in the John Day River Basin are diffuse, spotted and Russian knapweeds, Dalmatian toadflax, yellow starthistle, Scotch thistle, purple loosestrife, rush skeletonweed, leafy spurge, poison hemlock and medusahead rye. Some weeds are a special concern in that many are beginning to occupy very small niches with just a few plants along the high water line to small patches on islands (mainly Diffuse Knapweed and Dalmatian Toadflax) that could spread very rapidly. Also, small infestations on the upper sheltered alluvial flats (Russian Knapweed and Dalmatian Toadflax) are becoming more common. Leafy Spurge is found in Grant County in the upper watersheds (Fox Valley and Cottonwood Creek) of the North Fork of the John Day.

3.6 Wildlife Habitat

A variety of nongame mammals, reptiles, raptors, birds, and amphibians common to North-central Oregon can be found throughout the area. The burned area is also used year-long by game species including mule deer, chukar, turkey, elk and pronghorn antelope and is part of a winter range providing habitat for between 1,200 and 1,500 elk and 3,000 to 4,000 mule deer.

3.7 Fisheries

Waterways on BLM lands within the North Fork drainage provide spawning and rearing habitat for summer steelhead trout and resident redband trout. Redband trout are found throughout the area, and bull trout winter habitat extends down the North Fork John Day River to Wall Creek. Adult spring chinook and summer steelhead use resting habitat in this portion of the North Fork while migrating to headwater or tributary spawning grounds. Juvenile salmon and steelhead use the North Fork and portions of tributaries as foraging and rearing habitat while migrating to the ocean. Fish habitat conditions on streams vary, with most streams being rated fair to good and some poor. The majority of stream segments show little vertical or lateral scour and possess good potential for riparian recovery. Channel structure generally is good, although riparian vegetation and streambank stability have been impacted by past grazing management practices.

The North Fork subbasin contains about 72 miles of spring chinook spawning and rearing habitat, and over 700 miles of steelhead habitat. Prime spring chinook spawning habitat occurs between Camas and Baldy Creeks, and in the Granite Creek drainage, mostly on National Forest lands. Major steelhead producing streams in the North Fork basin are Cottonwood, Rudio, Deer, Big Wall, Little Wall, Potamus, Desolation, Granite, Ditch, Mallory, Trout, Meadowbrook, Trail, Olive, Clear, Bull Run, Camas, and Beaver and Big Creeks.

The North Fork also has the best bull trout population strongholds in the basin (Unterwegner 1997). Ratliff and Howell (1992) noted this population was “of special concern,” with habitat degradation and angling overharvest as the suppressing factors. In 1993, ODFW eliminated angling harvest of bull trout in the John Day River Basin. Bull trout are found year-round above Desolation Creek in the North Fork and tributaries, and its current winter distribution extends downstream to Wall Creek in the North Fork (Unterwegner 1997).

3.8 Special Status Species

3.8.1 Wildlife

The North Fork provides wintering habitat for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), a Federally listed Threatened species.

See Appendix B. for a summary on listed and special status species.

3.8.2 Fisheries

Steelhead trout in the John Day Basin have been genetically grouped into what is named the Middle Columbia Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU). This inland steelhead ESU encompasses the Columbia River Basin from Mosier Creek, Oregon, upstream to the Yakima River, Washington, inclusive. Steelhead of the Snake River Basin are excluded. In August of 1996, the National Marine Fisheries Service designated the Middle Columbia ESU steelhead trout as a Candidate Species. In February of 1998, the National

Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposed listing the Middle Columbia ESU steelhead trout population as Threatened, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Middle Columbia ESU includes both the John Day and Umatilla River Basins.

In April of 1997, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to propose listing the bull trout under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Two populations were included in the proposal, bull trout in the Columbia River Basin, and the Klamath River Basin. On June 10, 1997 the USFWS proposed listing the Columbia River population segment as Threatened, and the Klamath River Basin population segment as Endangered. No management actions will be implemented that adversely affect or may contribute to the need to formally list this species.

The status of bull trout populations in the John Day Basin ranges from “moderate risk of extinction” in the Upper John Day, to “high risk” or “probably extinct” in the Middle Fork and tributaries, to “of special concern” in the North Fork John Day (Ratliff and Howell 1992).

Westslope cutthroat and redband trout in the John Day Basin are both BLM Sensitive species. In Oregon, Westslope cutthroat trout are found only in small headwater tributaries of the upper mainstem John Day River and the North Fork John Day River. Westslope cutthroat trout are believed to have occupied approximately 179 miles in the two drainages, but currently occupy about 73 miles (41 percent) of their historic habitat (Duff 1996). Redband trout are widely distributed east of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon, and are found in all counties within this EIS analysis area (Marshall et al. 1996).

3.8.3 Plants

Based on the habitat mix and nearby known populations, there is potential for five special status plant species to occur in the project area. These include: Henderson’s Ricegrass (*Achnatherum hendersonii*), Wallowa Ricegrass (*Achnatherum wallowensis*), Porcupine Sedge (*Carex hystericina*), Hepatic Monkeyflower (*Mimulus jungermanniodes*), and Arrowleaf Thelypody (*Thelypodium eucosmum*).

Henderson’s and Wallowa ricegrasses, both Bureau Sensitive, occur on rocky scab flats dominated by low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*) and/or stiff sagebrush (*Artemisia rigida*). In the Prineville District, only Henderson’s ricegrass is known, from a site near Shaniko and from ridgetops above the North Fork of the Crooked River. Porcupine sedge, an Assessment Species, grows sporadically throughout the Prineville District in riparian areas, generally in higher ecological condition.

Hepatic monkeyflower, also a Bureau Sensitive species, inhabits steep, generally vertical basalt cliffs where moisture is available almost season-long. It is not known from Grant County.

Arrowleaf thelypody, a Bureau Sensitive and Oregon Threatened species known from along the North Fork John Day, has a high probability in the project area. This plant prefers moist drainages, often in association with ash. Livestock grazing has extirpated Arrowleaf thelypody from much of its former habitat, making it one of the county's rare species.

3.9 Livestock Grazing

Allotments that were affected by the Mallory Fire include: North Fork (4029), Neal Butte (4028), Boneyard (4139), Slicear Mountain (4003), and Johnny Cake Mountain (4042)..

3.10 Cultural Resources

No formal inventories of cultural values have been conducted on public lands in this area. In 1992, however, an informal examination of selected public lands within the North Fork corridor did discover one small pit house village. Much of the public land within this corridor exhibits landforms not conducive to a high probability for significant cultural resources. Therefore, no significant cultural resources are known to occur on BLM land within the geographic area being considered for the ESR plan.

Traditional subsistence areas for fishing, hunting, and gathering roots and berries are known for tributaries of the North Fork John Day River on BLM lands. These usual and accustomed areas were used by the tribes of the Warm Springs and Umatilla reservations, the Columbia River, and the Paiute.

The recorded history of the geographic area dates to the 1860s with gold discovery in the Canyon City area and later the North Fork John Day. The influx of miners brought merchants, loggers, and homesteaders who were needed to supply the gold camps with food, goods, and building material. Although the gold rush was short-lived, mining continues to play a small role in the area's economy. Sheep/cattle grazing and logging have been the area's main economic activities since its early settlement.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

See Appendix E. Risk of Resource Value Loss or Damage for comparison of Alternatives..

4.1 Proposed Action (Preferred Alternative)

4.1.1 Water Quality and Soil

The important aspects of post-fire hydrology are typically water retention and water quality. High intensity burns associated with heavy fuel loads result in hydrophobic soil conditions, which may decrease infiltration rate and limit water holding capacity. The

alteration of these parameters result in the inability of the burned area to absorb rainfall and overland flow may increase.

The mix of species proposed for seeding would provide for the capture and release of precipitation and snowmelt which would help in preventing future soil erosion. These perennial species would provide developed rooting systems and community structure lacking in an annual dominated plant communities or areas that burned excessively hot, killing vegetation that was present. Perennial grasses will intercept water droplets and decrease their potential energy and erosive power. As the grasses grow, infiltration and evapo-transpiration will increase. Controlling erosion throughout the watershed maintains natural erosional patterns and results in healthy stream channels. Once perennial species are established, overall watershed health would be improved.

Noxious weeds impart interception, transpiration, infiltration, and erosion patterns to watersheds that are not consistent with those patterns imparted by the natural vegetation. This alters the overall channel geometry, bedload, and flow regimes away from the natural potential from which the surrounding ecology developed. Therefore, decreasing potential expansion of noxious weeds in a watershed will benefit hydrologic and ecological resources.

Closing roads would decrease the probability of noxious weed spread and aid in controlling erosion into nearby anadromous fish streams.

Cumulative Impacts - Increasing infiltration, decreasing erosion, and controlling noxious weeds would provide for a healthier watershed and potentially decrease the impacts to other areas lower in the watershed.

4.1.2 Vegetation (Including Wetland/Riparian, Timber, and Noxious Weeds)

The proposed action would accelerate vegetative recovery through seeding, road closures, reforestation, controlling noxious weeds and two seasons rest from livestock grazing. Seeding the project areas would ensure the establishment of a perennial vegetation cover with varied species of shrubs, grasses, and forbs providing structural diversity and improve overall rangeland health. Annual cheatgrass, other annuals, and possibly noxious weeds would compete strongly during the first 3 years following seeding of the areas. The plant species mix, using primarily native species, provides for drought tolerance and germination characteristics with the potential to outcompete annual cheatgrass, other introduced annuals, and noxious weeds. The non-native species proposed in the seed mix would insure improved vegetative cover faster than seeding with natives only. All of the proposed introduced species tend to establish more quickly and efficiently, yet wouldn't out compete or curb the establishment of seeded native species. Eventually, many of the seeded non-natives would die out.

The predominantly native seeded mix would provide a perennial vegetative cover for soil protection, varied plant community structure, and palatability for wildlife and livestock.

Included in the seeding mix are fire-tolerant species which would lessen the influence of future wildfires on this landscape and promote historical fire return intervals.

As described in the John Day River Management Plan, Two Rivers, John Day and Baker Resource Management Plan Amendments, Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision; March 2001, “the BLM does not generally seed desirable non-native species where ecosystems are in tact, there is no reason to do so if a site is properly functioning. Desirable non-natives are given consideration when trying to restore degraded sites (i.e. rangeland infested with weeds or annual grasses, abandoned agriculture fields, areas with high probability of weed infestation after some form of disturbance such as wildfire, and areas where noxious weed infestations are being treated and competitive species are needed to aid in restoration/rehabilitation). Even in these cases the site would not be seeded to 100% desirable non-natives, a mixture of natives and desirable non-natives would be used (generally at least 50% natives) so that when those desirable non-natives that will eventually go out of the stand no longer persist, the seed source is there for native species regeneration. Some desirable non-native species will, however, persist indefinitely in open conditions. Ideally, seeding with non-natives should be a short-term measure to protect resource values until natives can re-establish.”

This alternative would move the burned area toward meeting BLM Standard and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

Reforestation would speed up the forest ecosystem recovery process and increase the likelihood that desirable forest species would occupy the planting sites.

Fencing activities would cause slight, short term disturbance to vegetation during construction but would provide protection from unauthorized livestock grazing increasing the potential for to seeded species and natural vegetation recovery. Impacts to riparian areas by unauthorized grazing activities would be greatly reduced by replacing/repairing damaged fences.

Road closures would decrease the potential of noxious weed expansion via motorized vehicles.

Cumulative Impacts - Establishing perennial species in burned areas should improve overall health of vegetation and have the potential to lessen the fire return intervals in these areas. Longer fire return intervals would allow improved ecosystem function and stability.

4.1.3 Wildlife Habitat

Seeding with a mixture of native grasses and shrub species with limited amounts of desirable non-native species would be consistent with wildlife values. Rehabilitation of plant populations and communities would likely provide the structure and forage needed by wildlife. Rehabilitation which attempts to move toward the potential natural plant

populations and communities should provide habitat needed for a diversity of wildlife species.

Reforestation activities would speed up the forest ecosystem recovery process and increase the likelihood that wildlife species that occupy these types of habitats would utilize those habitats sooner than if no reforestation occurred.

Grazing impacts to wildlife habitat would be reduced by fencing and controlling unauthorized livestock.

Road closures would decrease the potential for noxious weeds to expand to surrounding wildlife habitat and would decrease the amount of direct disturbance to wildlife species.

Cumulative Impacts - The proposed action would maintain the diversity of habitat types for wildlife and reduce the potential for noxious weed and annual vegetation expansion.

4.1.4 Special Status Species

4.1.4.1 Wildlife:

See Appendix B. for a summary of effects on listed and special status species.

Cumulative Impacts - The proposed action would maintain the diversity of habitat types for wildlife and reduce the potential for noxious weed and annual vegetation expansion.

4.1.4.2 Fisheries:

The seeding of perennial vegetation would be likely to reduce potential sediment into fish bearing streams. The disturbed soils in the fire area are subject to erosion from winter precipitation as well as infrequent heavy summer storm events.

The fence reconstruction would ensure livestock would not likely trespass on BLM lands.

This Proposed Action was determined to be a May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect to either individuals or habitat because of its beneficial nature. None of the proposed actions would improve or degrade any of the pathways and indicators for bull trout or summer steelhead or impact “essential fish habitat” for spring chinook salmon.

See Appendix E., a Biological Assessment prepared for regulatory agencies concerning listed fish species. Actions would not proceed without concurrence from the regulatory agencies.

Cumulative Impacts - The proposed action would likely decrease sediment flow into waterways used by anadromous fish which could potentially effect an undetermined amount of habitat below the burned area.

4.1.4.3 Plants:

Reestablishment of perennial vegetation would aid in preventing the increase of noxious weeds and improve habitat which was in a deteriorated condition. Fencing would allow recovery of any plants present in the area by keeping livestock from grazing for at least two growing seasons.

Cumulative Impacts - The cumulative impacts of the proposed action would be to maintain and/or improve existing Special Status species habitat and prevent increased loss of habitat from noxious weed invasion.

4.1.5 Livestock Grazing

Proposed Action implementation would benefit the livestock operators similarly to wildlife, through increased forage, clean water for their cattle and overall improved vegetative condition.

Resting for two growing seasons would reduce the number of Animal Unit Months (AUM's) available for operators on those allotments where grazing is allowed. Allotment fences, damaged by the fire, that are reconstructed would protect burned areas from livestock grazing during the recovery of existing native, perennial vegetation and establishment of proposed seeded species. Fences would also allow for continuation of grazing systems associated with BLM grazing allotments once the two growing season rest period is over.

4.1.6 Cultural Resources

Frequently, fire will expose cultural sites that were previously unknown. Once vegetation is removed, those sites are more obvious and often more susceptible to vandalism or theft. Revegetation would help to blend cultural sites in with the surrounding environment, reducing potential for vandalism or theft.

Rangeland drilling can cause minor shallow surface disturbance to prehistoric archaeological sites and cause impacts to prehistoric and historic sites with features. It can result in impacts to archaeological sites in areas with fragile sediments such as dunes. In the case of surface archaeological sites in nonfragile sediments, rangeland drilling (if successful) would have a net positive affect because it would stabilize the sediment surface and diminish or halt site damage through erosion.

Aerial seeding would have a positive affect on cultural resources as it would aid in erosion control.

Fence reconstruction can have negative impact to cultural resources by temporarily increasing vehicle traffic along existing fencelines.

Road closures would decrease the likelihood of vandalism or theft of cultural sites by decreasing the amount of human activity along those roads.

In order to mitigate potential negative impacts caused by rangeland seeding, reforestation, and fencing operations, significant cultural properties, if found, would be avoided.

Cumulative Impacts - There would be no cumulative impacts from this action.

4.2 Alternative 1: (No Action; Continue Current Management):

4.2.1 Water Quality and Soil

The association of low seral stage perennial and annual grasses, which would occupy the site, would not provide sufficient vegetation cover or root mass to maintain stable soil conditions. Accelerated erosion and deteriorated watershed condition would be expected on this site.

The important aspects of post-fire soil protection are typically prevention of water and wind erosion. If immediate efforts to re-vegetate exposed soils are not made, the effects of wind and water energy, coupled with fine soils surface textures, slope and a lack of soil surface fragments can result in erosion. The resulting loss of soil, especially top soil, can result in a decrease in ecological site potential in the form of reduced soil fertility, reduced resistance to the erosive energy generated by slope, reduced moisture holding capacity, reduced moisture infiltration rates, increased moisture runoff, higher soil surface temperature, and a decrease in vegetative rooting depths. Other concerns can be effects to water and air quality, flooding potential, and invasion of weed species suited to early seral sites.

In some areas, annual cheatgrass, noxious weeds, and other annuals would reestablish with few to no perennial species. The root systems of these annual species are not sufficient to hold the soil in place which would increase the probability of accelerated soil erosion.

Not closing roads would increase the probability of noxious weed spread into the watershed and potentially increase soil erosion into nearby anadromous fish streams.

Cumulative Impacts - This would allow for increased areas susceptible to erosion.

4.2.2 Vegetation (Including Wetland/Riparian, Timber, and Noxious Weeds)

If the proposed rehabilitation efforts were not completed, areas currently in early seral condition most likely would remain that way indefinitely. Domination of annual grasses or noxious weeds cause the lack of a seed source for more desirable types of vegetation. The No Action alternative would result in increased potential for erosion and lowered

infiltration. This alternative would not move the burned area toward meeting BLM Standard and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

Timbered areas that burned very intense would have a higher probability of noxious weed invasion.

Without reconstruction/repair of fences livestock would be able to wander into the burned area from adjacent public and private lands where grazing is still authorized.

Vehicles would be allowed to drive in areas where noxious weed problems are present increasing the potential expansion of noxious weed populations.

Cumulative Impacts - Overall vegetation diversity would decline. Noxious weed expansion into areas not revegetated with perennial species likely potentially infesting other areas.

4.2.3 Wildlife Habitat

No seeding would increase the potential for establishment of invasive plants, such as cheatgrass and noxious weeds, with potential to have direct and indirect adverse impacts on wildlife habitats. Areas dominated by noxious weeds would cause a reduction in wildlife habitat diversity.

With no action, improvement of wildlife habitat would be slow. Livestock would be able to access the burned area and compete with wildlife for forage.

4.2.4 Special Status Species

4.2.4.1 Wildlife:

See Appendix B. for a summary of effects on listed and special status species.

Cumulative Impacts - Diversity of habitat types for wildlife would be reduced. The potential for noxious weed and annual vegetation expansion would decrease the availability of wildlife habitat.

4.2.4.2 Fisheries:

The disturbed soils in the fire area are subject to erosion from winter precipitation as well as infrequent heavy summer storm events. This alternative would increase the likelihood of erosion and sedimentation into fish bearing streams.

Without reconstruction/repair of fences livestock would be able to wander into the burned area from adjacent public and private lands where grazing is still authorized, potentially negatively impacting fish habitat.

Cumulative Impacts - The No Action Alternative would allow for increased sediment flow into waterways used by anadromous fish which could potentially effect an undetermined amount of habitat below the burned area.

4.2.4.3 Plants:

Without seeding, nonnative invasive species would have the potential to dominate the burned areas eliminating habitat for the known and suspected Special Status species in this area.

Cumulative Impacts - A decrease in available habitat for Special Status species would be observed.

4.2.5 Livestock Grazing

Although standard policy for burn recovery and vegetation reestablishment on burned areas is two growing seasons of rest, the no action alternative would leave the burned area open to grazing during the germination and establishment period.

The new green growth on burned areas is attractive to grazing animals and they tend to forage on them until available vegetation is depleted.

4.2.6 Cultural Resources

In general, not seeding by various means would have a negative affect on archaeological sites because wind and water erosion could result in partial or total destruction of buried cultural materials.

Cumulative Impacts - Unknown archaeological sites could be exposed to erosion and illegal collection.

4.3 Alternative 2: (No Seeding or Reforestation: Protection Fence and Road Closure Only)

4.3.1 Water Quality and Soil

Same as Alternative 1 for seeding and reforestation. Same as the Proposed Action for fencing and road closure. This Alternative would allow for natural recovery of vegetation by providing protection from grazing with fencing, however, no seeding or reforestation would occur to inhibit erosion and noxious weed expansion.

4.3.2 Vegetation (Including Wetland/Riparian, Timber, and Noxious Weeds)

Same as Alternative 1 for seeding and reforestation, same as the Proposed Action for fencing and road closure.

4.3.3 Wildlife Habitat

Same as Alternative 1 for seeding and reforestation, same as the Proposed Action for fencing and road closure.

4.3.4. Special Status Species

4.3.4.1 Wildlife:

Same as Alternative 1 for seeding and reforestation, same as the Proposed Action for fencing and road closure.

4.3.4.2 Fisheries

Same as Alternative 1 for seeding and reforestation, same as the Proposed Action for fencing and road closure.

4.3.4.3 Plants:

Same as Alternative 1 for seeding and reforestation, same as the Proposed Action for fencing and road closure.

4.3.5 Livestock Grazing

Same as Alternative 1 for seeding and reforestation, same as the Proposed Action for fencing and road closure.

4.3.6 Cultural Resources

Same as Alternative 1 for seeding and reforestation, same as the Proposed Action for fencing and road closure.

5.0 MITIGATION AND STIPULATIONS

None other than those already listed above.

6.0 NO IMPACT ITEMS

The following critical elements were considered, but will not be addressed because they will either not be affected or do not exist in the project areas.

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
6. Native American Religious

2. Air Quality
3. Environmental Justice
4. Floodplains
5. Hazardous Materials

7. Prime/Unique Farmland
8. Solid Waste
9. Wilderness
10. Wild and Scenic Rivers

7.0 RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts of the proposed action would include vegetative improvements (establishment of non-invasive quality forage plants) and soil stability on public and private lands within the project areas. Other than those items already addressed in this document, no mitigating measures would be required for implementation of the proposed action.

8.0 CONSULTATION/COORDINATION

External:

CiCi Brooks, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jack Cavender, Monument Soil and Water Conservation District
Robert Stubblefield, North Fork John Day Watershed Council

Internal:

Colleen Wyllie, Range Technician
Ken Primrose, Range Conservationist
Scott Cooke, Wildlife Biologist
Mike Crumrine, Natural Resource Specialist
Ron Halvorson, T&E Plants
John Morris, Fisheries Biologist
Anna Smith, Hydrologist
John Zancanella, Archeologist

NEPA Requirements met:

Dan Tippy

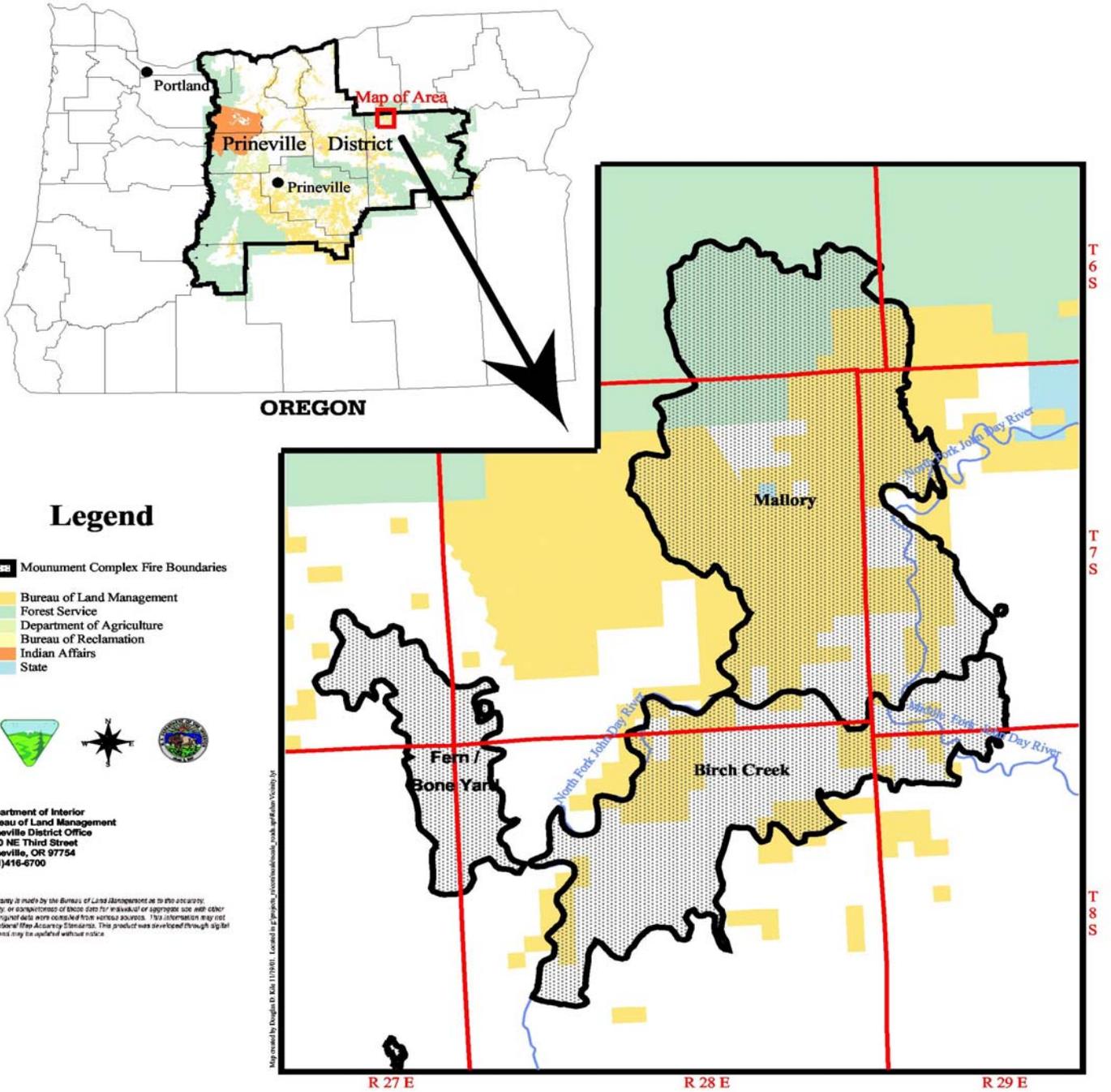
Date

Environmental Coordinator
Central Oregon Resource Area

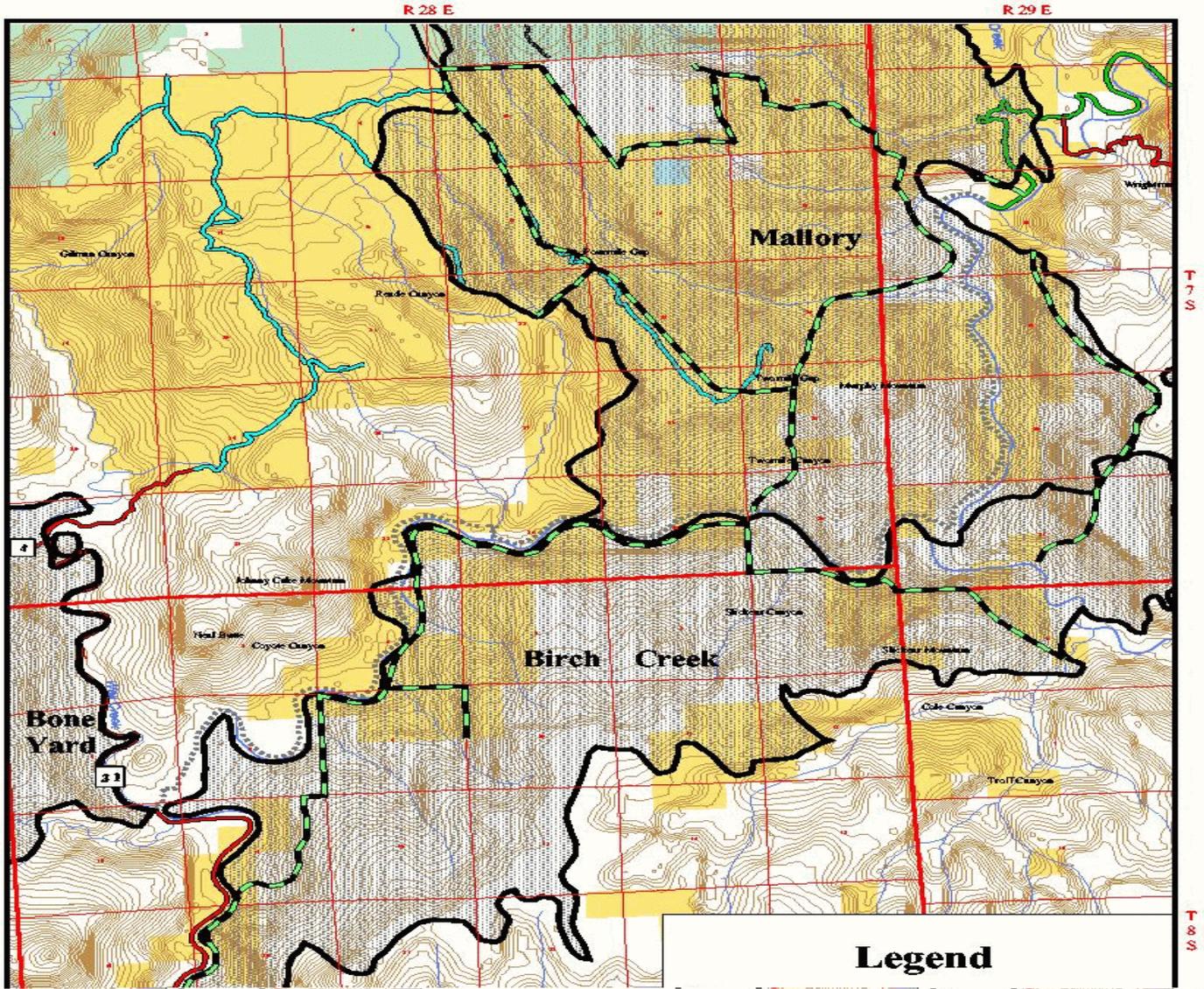
Appendix A: Maps

Monument Fire Complex Location Map

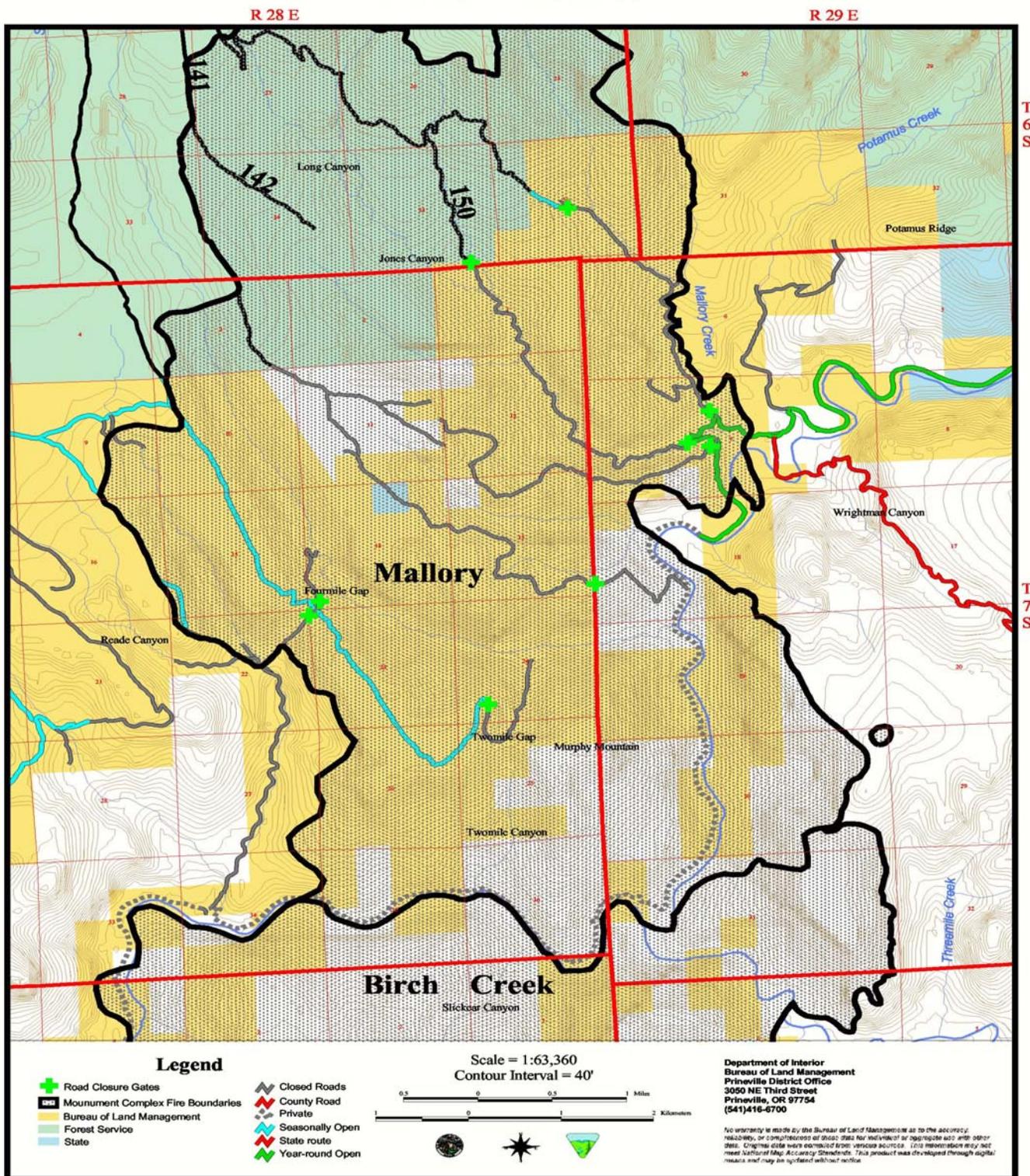
Mallory, Birch Creek II, Fern / Boneyard Fires



Mounument Complex Fence Rehab



Mounument Complex Road Closures



Appendix B.

**Monument Fire Complex Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation EA
Summary of Conclusions of Effects of Listed and Special Status Wildlife Species**

	Wildlife	Listing	Proposed	Alt. 1	Alt. 2
1	Northern Bald Eagle	threatened	NE	NE	NE
2	Canada Lynx	threatened	NE	NE	NE
3	Washington Ground Squirrel	federal candidate	NE	NE	NE
4	Oregon Spotted Frog	federal candidate	NE	NE	NE
5	Northern Goshawk	sensitive	BI	NI	NI
6	Ferruginous Hawk	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
7	Yellow Rail	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
8	American Perigrine Falcon	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
9	Flammulated Owl (BM)	sensitive	BI	NI	NI
10	White-headed Woodpecker	sensitive	BI	NI	NI
11	Black-backed Woodpecker (BM)	sensitive	BI	NI	NI
12	Three-Toed Woodpecker (BM)	sensitive	BI	NI	NI
13	Pygmy Nuthatch (BM)	sensitive	BI	NI	NI
14	Burrowing Owl	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
15	Streaked Horned Lark	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
16	Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
17	Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
18	Townsend's Big-eared Bat	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
19	Fisher	sensitive	BI	NI	NI
20	Upland Sandpiper	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
21	Arctic Peregrine Falcon	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
22	Northern Pygmy owl (BM)	sensitive	BI	NI	NI
23	Painted Turtle	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
24	Western Pond Turtle	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
25	Northern Leopard Frog	sensitive	NI	NI	NI
26	Cope's Giant Salamander	assessment	NI	NI	NI
27	Tricolored Blackbird (HP)	assessment	NI	NI	NI
28	Western Sage Grouse	assessment	NI	NI	NI
29	Pygmy Rabbit	assessment	NI	NI	NI
30	Brazilian Free-Tailed Bat	assessment	NI	NI	NI
31	Spotted Bat	assessment	NI	NI	NI

(BM) = Blue Mountains Area only (HP) = High Lava Plains Area only

Determination for Federally Listed & Proposed Species

- NE** No Effect
- NLAA** May Effect - Not Likely to Adversely Affect
- LAA** May Effect - Likely to Adversely Affect
- BE** Beneficial Effect

Determination for Special Status Species

- NI** No Impact
- MIH** May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but will not likely contribute to a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species
- WIFV*** Will Impact Individuals or habitat with a consequence that the action may contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species
- BI** Beneficial Impact

*Trigger for a Significant Action As Defined In NEPA

** Note: Rationale For Conclusion Of Effects Is Contained In The NEPA Document.

Appendix C. EMERGENCY FIRE REHABILITATION FORMS

EMERGENCY FIRE REHAB PROJECT SUMMARY

Monument Fire Complex ESR Plan N654

Fire Name	Monument Fire Complex
Fire Number	N654
Fire Control Date	August 26, 2001
Acres BLM Burned	11,978 acres
Start of Rehab (Mo/Yr)	December 2001
Completion of Rehab (Mo/Yr)	August 2004
Miles of New Fence	miles
Miles of Fence Rebuilt	31 miles
Acres of Re-forestation	400
Acres of Re-vegetation	1900 acres
Acres of Burned Area Protected for Natural Regeneration	12,000 acres
Total Acres Rehabilitated	14,300 acres
Estimated Funding Current Year (FY02)	375,000
Estimated Funding Second Year (FY03)	100,000
Estimated Funding Third Year (FY04)	16,000
TOTAL REHAB COSTS	491,000

 Responsible Official
 Central Oregon Resource Area

 Date

Review and Concurrence:

 Field Manager
 Central Oregon Resource Area

 Date

EMERGENCY FIRE REHAB PROCUREMENT INFORMATION
 Monument Fire Complex ESR Plan N654

Aerial / Rangeland Drill Seeding

Approximate acreage to be seeded	1900 acres
Approximate starting date	December, 2001
Number of days to complete the work	21 days
Location of seed	Prineville Seed Warehouse
Start of Rehab (Mo/Yr)	December 2001
Completion of Rehab (Mo/Yr)	August 2004
Miles of Reconstructed Fence	27
Miles of Fence Repaired	4
No. of Soil/Watershed Structures	0
Acres Reforestation	400
Acres of Revegetation	1900
Acres of Burned Area Protected for Natural Regeneration	12,000
Total Acres Rehabilitated	14,300
Estimated Funding Current Year (FY02)	375,000
Estimated Funding Second Year (FY03)	100,000
Estimated Funding Third Year (FY04)	16,000
TOTAL REHAB COSTS	491,000

Appendix D. Cost / Risk Analysis
Monument Fire Complex ESR Plan N654

Cost Analysis

Treatment	Cost
Re-vegetation (seed)	111,000
Re-vegetation (aerial/tractor/labor/seed hauling/seed testing)	48,000
Reforestation (seedlings and labor)	84,000
Protective Fence (reconstruction)	174,000
Protective Fence (repair)	12,000
Weed Control (herbicide application)	25,000
Monitoring	12,000
Road Closures (gates and labor)	9,000
All Other Costs (admin., clearances, monitoring, etc.)	16,000
TOTAL	491,000

Risk Analysis

Probability of Rehabilitation Treatments Successfully Meeting ESR Objectives

Treatments	Units	NA	%
Revegetation (overall rating)	1900		75
Drill Seeding (acres)	400		80
Aerial Seeding (acres)	1500		70
Transplant Seedlings (acres)	400		65
Other: Broadcast seeding, ATV (acres)		✓	
Protective Fence to Exclude Livestock (miles)	27		95
Fence Repair to Exclude Livestock (miles)	4		95
Weed Control (acres)	70		80
Road Closures	9		95
Retention dams/structures (number)		✓	
Ripping, contour furrows, etc.		✓	
Matting, watershed cover, etc.		✓	
Other		✓	

Appendix E. Risk of Resource Value Loss or Damage

Identify the risk (high, medium, low, none or not applicable (NA)) of unacceptable impacts or loss of resources.

Alternative 1 No Action - Treatments Not Implemented (check one)					
Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Mid	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil					✓
Weed Invasion					✓
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity				✓	
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure				✓	
Unacceptable Disruption of Ecological Processes			✓		
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property				✓	
Off-site Threats to Human Life		✓			
Other -	✓				

Alternative 2					
Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Mid	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil					✓
Weed Invasion				✓	
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity				✓	
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure				✓	
Unacceptable Disruption of Ecological Processes			✓		
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property				✓	
Off-site Threats to Human Life		✓			
Other -	✓				

Proposed Action - Treatments Successfully Implemented (check one)					
Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Mid	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil			✓		
Weed Invasion			✓		
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity			✓		
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure			✓		
Unacceptable Disruption of Ecological Processes			✓		
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property			✓		
Off-site Threats to Human Life		✓			
Other -	✓				

Summary of Risks

The costs of the project and probability of success of the proposed treatments are compared with the risks to resource values if: 1) no action is taken, and 2) the proposed action is successfully implemented. Alternatives may be included in this analysis to assist in the selection of the treatments that will cost effectively achieve the ESR objectives. Answer the following questions to determine which proposed ESR treatments should be selected and implemented.

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

Rational for answer:

The risks of seeding would be minimal to existing natural resources on public land and private lands. The major concerns are the erosion/sedimentation into anadromous fish streams, noxious weed expansion, and fencing to protect riparian areas along anadromous fish streams from unauthorized grazing. These concerns would be mitigated by implementing the proposed action.

Alternative 1 No Action Yes , No

Rational for answer:

The lack of any weed control or seeding would allow for the potential rapid reestablishment and possible expansion of noxious weeds in the burned area, which may accelerate the spread to adjacent federal and private lands. The reconstruction of damaged fences is needed to protect the burned area by excluding livestock from adjacent private lands BLM allotments. No action, may create greater future costs in trying to control the weeds, loss of riparian habitat, sedimentation problems into anadromous fish streams, and reductions of wildlife habitat.

Alternative 2 Yes , No

Rational for answer:

Reconstructing the damaged fences would protect the area from grazing for natural regeneration, however as stated in the No Action alternative, the lack of any seeding would potentially allow a rapid expansion of noxious weeds, to adjacent federal and private lands. No seeding and reforestation may create greater future costs in trying to control the weeds, loss of riparian habitat, sedimentation problems into anadromous fish streams, and reductions of wildlife habitat.

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

Proposed Action Yes , No

Rational for answer:

If the seed can be broadcast before the end of February there is a very good chance it would establish and retard the expansion of noxious weeds and control sedimentation into anadromous fish streams. Fencing, although high in cost, would be essential to protect not only the seeding but riparian areas along anadromous fish streams. Reforestation would allow for more rapid forest and wildlife habitat recovery.

Alternative 1 No Action Yes , No

Rational for answer:

This alternative would save money now, but may cost more in the future for weed control and loss of wildlife habitat.. Also, this may encourage a more rapid spread to adjacent public and private lands.

Alternative 2 Yes , No

Rational for answer:

Same as the No Action Alternative. Fencing and road closure costs would remain acceptable to protect resources.

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

Proposed Action , Alternative , or No Action

Comments: As explained under numbers 1. and 2. above, if the seeding can be implemented this winter, road closures implemented next spring, fencing completed next spring, weed control conducted over the next 3 years, and reforestation implemented in FY03.

Responsible Official
Central Oregon Resource Area

Date

Review and Concurrence:

Field Manager
Central Oregon Resource Area

Date

Appendix F. Native / Non-Native Plant Worksheet
Monument Fire Complex ESR Plan N654

Proposed Native Plants in Seed Mixture

1. Are the native plants proposed for seeding adapted to the ecological sites in the burned area?
Yes , No

Rationale: All plants are known to grow within the precipitation zone and soil types that occur in the rehabilitation area.

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

Yes , No

Rationale: Limited availability of some native seed species have caused prices to rise somewhat as compared to earlier in the year. The quantity needed for this fire rehabilitation plan does not appear to be a concern at this time.

3. Is the cost and/or quality of the native seed reasonable given the project size and Land Use and Rehabilitation Plan objectives and the guidance in BLM Manual 1745?

Yes , No

Rationale: The quality of the some of the seed has already been determined to be satisfactory by the Regional Seed Warehouse in Boise, ID. Those species that are not available from seed warehouse will be purchased from other vendors. Once seed is received from vendors and additional seed test will be performed to determine purity and germination. Prices of native species are modestly high, but reasonable.

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: Depending on environmental conditions during the spring and early summer, native plants should become established. Future competition from exotic plants will occur but similar seedings have shown positive results.

5. Will the current or proposed land management (livestock, recreation use, wildlife populations, etc.) after the seeding establishment period maintain the seeded native plants in the seed mixture?

Yes , No

Rationale: Grazing would not be allowed for at least two growing seasons, and until completion of a management plan for the newly acquired BLM. Recreational use would be controlled to aid in suppressing the spread of noxious weeds. is minimal, although use from large ungulates, such as elk, may be moderate to high.

Proposed Non-native Plants in Seed Mixture

1. Is the use of non-native plants necessary to meet objectives, e.g., consistent with applicable land use/activity plans?

Yes , No

Rationale: A mixture of natives and non-natives can work well when competing with weed species and providing watershed stability. Many non-native species are more aggressive, establish better, and provide watershed stability and available forage for wildlife as good if not better than native species.

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: These species will actually increase the ecosystem processes mentioned and increase the diversity of the area.

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

Yes , No

Rationale: Non-natives that will be planted have not been shown to displace or interbreed with native plants and some should actually be replaced by natives as they die out.

Native Plants:

Idaho Fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), Joseph

Sand Dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*)

Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicata* var. Whitmar, Secar, Goldar)

Thickspike Wheatgrass (*Agropyron dasystachyum*, cultivar Bannock, Thickspike)

Sherman Big Bluegrass (*Poa ampla*, cultivar Sherman)

Basin Wildrye (*Elymus cinereus*, cultivar Magnar and/or Trailhead)

Western Wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), cultivar Rosanna

Wyoming Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*)

Basin Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata tridentata*)

Non-native Plants:

Crested Wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum* var. Hycrest, Fairway, Douglas)

Orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*, cultivar Paiute)

Small Burnett (*Sanguisorbia minor*)

Dryland Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* var. Ladak, Spreador III)

Appendix G. Biological Assessment

Bull Trout North Fork John Day River Metapopulation

Summer Steelhead Mid Columbia Evolutionary Significant Unit

Biological Assessment

Monument Fire Complex Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan

Project Description: PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

1.0 Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to stabilize and rehabilitate the burned area within the Monument Complex of fires. The primary focus and aim of this project is to address the following objectives:

1. Reduce soil erosion/sedimentation into anadromous fish streams;
2. Retard the invasion and control the spread of noxious weed species;
3. Accelerate the recovery of wildlife habitat;
4. Repair and/or replace fences to allow full recovery of the burned area;
5. Assist adjacent private landowners, through the enactment of the Wyden Amendment, to stabilize and rehabilitate the burned area, in turn, benefitting public land resources;
6. Maximize the re-establishment of a healthy forest ecosystem.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Proposed Action

2.1.1 Seeding

The proposed action for the Monument Fire Complex is to seed approximately 1,200 acres of BLM and 200 acres of private land within the Mallory fire perimeter, and 500 acres of private land within the Fern Boneyard fire perimeter. Approximately 1,500 acres would be seeded aurally and 400 acres would be seeded with a rangeland drill. Seeding would be done during the Fall/Winter of 2001/20002. These acres would be seeded with a perennial grass/forb mixture of bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, Sherman big bluegrass, sand dropseed, thickspike wheatgrass, orchardgrass, crested wheatgrass, alfalfa, and small burnet at rates described in Table 2. This

mixture is comprised of 67% native species and 33% desirable non-native species. Approximately 150 acres of the 1,500 acre total with deeper soils along toe slopes and alluvial fans would also be seeded with basin wildrye and basin big sagebrush. Other various sites (150 acres scattered throughout the unit) would be seeded with Wyoming big sagebrush. Both species of sagebrush would only be planted on BLM lands.

All seed purchased for this fire rehabilitation project would be subjected to an all states noxious weed test by a certified seed testing facility. No noxious weed seed would be tolerated. If any noxious weed seed is found the lot would be rejected.

2.1.2 Fences:

Most of the fences in the burned area were wooden and were consumed in the fire. Much of the fence wire was damaged. The burned area would require replacement of 27 miles of 4-strand barbed wire fence and repair of 4 miles to provide protection during germination and establishment of seeded species. The majority of fence is needed to protect anadromous fish by keeping cattle off of the North Fork John Day River and other fish bearing streams outside authorized grazing seasons. Without the fences cattle could not be controlled from adjacent allotments. This could jeopardize the current grazing systems and would be a violation of consultation that has been done with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The 31 miles of fence would be on a combination of public land, private land, and on the boundary between both BLM and private land and BLM and U.S. Forest Service land (Note: the U.S. Forest Service is contributing half the cost for the boundary fence between the BLM and USFS). There are approximately 15 miles of fence on BLM land, 11 miles of fence on private land within BLM grazing allotments, 4 miles of fence on BLM/private boundaries, and 1 miles of fence on BLM/USFS boundaries. The BLM would provide the materials and contract for the construction and/or repair of the fence. Two cattleguards would be placed on a roads which pass through the burned area. These would prevent gates from being left open and help keep livestock out of the rehabilitation area.

District standard design specifications would be used for the fence which identify wire spacing measurements and other fence specifications. The reconstruction would include specifications for a four strand fence with considerations for deer and elk movements. The top three wires would be barbed and the bottom wire smooth with a spacing of 18", 23", 28" and 40" respectively, from ground up. Posts would be steel and spaced one rod apart (16.5 feet) with a wire stay inserted halfway between each post. Where possible, prefabricated steel panels would be used for corners and stress panels, because they wouldn't burn in the event of another wildfire. All gates, rock cribs and miscellaneous structures would be constructed in accordance with Bureau standards and specifications.

Table 2. Seed mix and rates to be applied to burned area

Species	lbs/acre
*Idaho Fescue (<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>), Joseph	0.5
*Bluebunch Wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron spicatum</i> , cultivars Whitmar, Goldar and Secar)	4.5
*Sherman Big Bluegrass (<i>Poa ampla</i> , cultivar Sherman)	2.0
**Crested Wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron cristatum</i> , cultivars Hycrest, Fairway and Douglas)	1.5
*Western Wheatgrass (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>), cultivar Rosanna	1.0
*Thickspike Wheatgrass (<i>Elymus lanceolatus</i>) cultivars Bannock, Thickspike	1.0
*Sand Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>)	0.25
**Orchardgrass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), Paiute	1.0
**Alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i> var. Ladak, Spreador III)	1.0
**Small Burnet (<i>Sanguisorbia minor</i>), Delar	1.0
Total	13.75

* Native Species

** Desirable Non-native Species

2.1.3 Road Closure's and Gating

Some road sides, old logging landings, and skid trails on the newly acquired BLM land are infested with noxious weeds, and two of the roads (one up Mallory Creek and one up Graves Creek) are in very close proximity to anadromous fish streams. When the fire burned through the area, the concern for noxious weed spread and sedimentation in upcoming years intensified. At the present time there is no motorized vehicle control in the area. Vehicle control is needed to help control noxious weed spread and potential increased sedimentation. Eight heavy duty steel gates would need to be purchased to keep motorized vehicle traffic (including ATV's) off of existing roads where noxious weed and sedimentation concerns exist.

These roads would remain closed until the noxious weeds are controlled and sedimentation concerns diminish.

2.1.4 Reforestation:

Due to the severity of the fire on several heavily forested areas, approximately 400 acres of BLM land within the burned area would be planted with a mixture of desirable tree species based on potential natural vegetation. Species to be planted would be primarily ponderosa pine and Douglas fir. Approximately 300 trees per acre would be planted in 2003. Availability of seedlings and coordination with other fire rehabilitation plans on the District will prevent reforestation from being accomplished at an earlier date. No trees would be planted on private land.

2.2 Alternatives

2.2.1 Alternative 1: (No Action; Continue Current Management):

No public or private land would be seeded with perennial seed mix. No reforestation would take place. Natural vegetation reestablishment without seeding or reforestation would be allowed to occur. There would be no protective fence constructed for the burned areas. No road closures or cattleguards would be put in place.

2.2.2 Alternative 2: (No Seeding or Reforestation; Protection Fence and Road Closures Only)

This alternative is the minimum necessary to protect the burned areas of the Monument Fire Complex while natural recovery of vegetation takes place. The mileage of fencing would be the same as stated in the proposed action. The roads closed would be the same as the proposed action.

2.2.3 Common to All Action Alternatives

Grazing:

The majority of the burned area occurs on land that was acquired through the The Oregon Land Exchange Act (OLEA) of 2000, Pub. L. 106-257 (S. 1629), and would not be grazed until a management plan is written for the area. OLEA specifically directs the Bureau of Land Management to manage the lands for fish, wildlife and recreation and states in Section 6 (g): "MANAGEMENT OF LANDS.—(1) Lands acquired by the Secretary of the Interior under this Act shall be administered in accordance with sections 205(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1715(c)), and lands acquired by the Secretary of Agriculture shall be administered in accordance with sections 205(d) of such Act (43 U.S.C. 1715(d)). (2) Lands acquired by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 4 which are within

the North Fork of the John Day subwatershed shall be administered in accordance with section 205(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1715(c)), but shall be managed primarily for the protection of native fish and wildlife habitat, and for public recreation. The Secretary may permit other authorized uses within the subwatershed if the Secretary determines, through the appropriate land use planning process, that such uses are consistent with, and do not diminish these management purposes.”

Other burned areas that are not land acquired through OLEA would be rested from livestock grazing for at least two growing seasons (43 CFR 4160) to aid in vegetative recovery. Allotment fences, damaged by the fire, need reconstruction to protect burned areas from livestock grazing during the recovery of existing native, perennial vegetation and establishment of proposed seeded species.

Species Status:

Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)

Bull trout are reduced in both numbers and distribution in the North Fork John Day sub-basin from historic levels. Currently spawning and rearing occurs in headwater reaches and tributaries of the North Fork above the confluence of Camas Creek at River Mile 56.7. The river within BLM lands (River Mile 25 to 38) is winter migratory habitat. Summer water temperatures preclude any rearing below Camas Creek confluence. Winter migrants have been documented by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in the mainstem John Day River near Spray, Oregon at River Mile 170. The North Fork /mainstem confluence is at River Mile 184.5. It is unknown if these bull trout are of North Fork, Middle Fork or Mainstem origin. No critical habitat is located within the fire area.

Mid Columbia ESU Summer Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Summer steelhead utilize the North Fork John Day river for migration and spring/early summer rearing before water temperatures get high. Several tributaries within the fire perimeter are also used for spawning and rearing. These fish bearing tributaries with their confluence include: Cabin Creek (Rm 28), Ditch Creek (Rm 35.4) and Mallory Creek (Rm 37.6). No estimate of production from these tributaries is available, however, redd counts have been 3 or less per stream the last 2 years. This year, 2001, was a drought year and all three streams became intermittent in early August and remained without surface flow into mid October. Salmonid fish were observed in several residual pools but it could not be determined if these were redband trout or steelhead juveniles.

Yearling returning adults to the John Day basin are estimated between 4,000 to 25,000 based on index redd counts by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. However, record numbers are currently being counted over Bonneville Dam on the

Columbia River and estimates during the early fall project 65% of these fish are destined for the John Day system.

Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Chinook salmon utilize the North Fork John Day reaches above Camas Creek for spawning and rearing. These reaches are addressed under the essential fish habitat as required. Migratory habitat would include the portion of the North Fork in the fire area. No activities are proposed that would alter this migratory habitat.

Scope of Federal Activities

The emphasis of this assessment is to evaluate the restoration and recovery activities of the Mallory/Birch II fire. Rehabilitation of dozer fire lines were completed in mid September as the fire was controlled under the direction of Oregon Department of Forestry. This work consisted of recontouring and waterbarring of dozer and hand control lines. None of the rehabilitated lines were seeded. The proposed action is to aerial seed approximately 1,500 acres and rangeland drill 400 acres to a perennial grass mixture to reduce potential of soil movement into streams during the winter/spring precipitation period. No additional soil disturbance will occur during this action. The helicopter landing site will be at the end of Grant County Road 15 on private land, disturbed during the suppression activities for a safety zone. This site is greater than 300 feet from the North Fork John Day River and on a ridge top. Travel to the site will be over improved county roads from U.S. Highway 395.

Fence reconstruction will occur on existing fences that wood structure material was damaged or completely burned by the fire. Steel posts will be used to replace some wood material and wood stays will be replaced where needed. The majority of the fencing is on upland hill slopes and only crosses the tributary streams. The steepness of the terrain will require manual transport of material from staging sites on ridge tops and existing roads. Motor vehicles will use existing roads to transport material to the various sites. No fences cross the North Fork John Day River.

Livestock grazing on existing allotments within the fire perimeter will be suspended for 2 years to allow recovery of vegetation.

Reforestation will occur to provide wildlife cover and future large wood for streams. Tree species also help to stabilize slopes on disturbed sites and reduce potential for mass wasting as well as providing shade to stream channels.

Effects of the action

The effects of this rehabilitation action is designed as a beneficial effect. The seeding of control lines is to reduce potential sediment into fish bearing streams. The disturbed soils in the fire area are subject to erosion from winter precipitation as well as infrequent heavy summer storm events. By aerial application of seed no additional ground disturbance will occur. Mechanical seeding will occur on fire lines with slopes less than 2% suitable for tractor and rangeland drill.

The fence reconstruction is likewise a beneficial effect. Although allotments within the fire are not scheduled for grazing, some boundary fences were damaged that were adjacent to private lands. The reconstruction will ensure livestock are not likely to trespass on Bureau of Land Management lands. The reconstruction will not require soil disturbance or mechanized equipment.

Road closures and gating will require a minimal amount of soil disturbance at the specific site for setting gate posts. Access control will reduce road use during wet periods that could produce sediment to streams or damage newly seeded control lines. Noxious weeds can also be spread on vehicle tires that could increase ifestation.

Reforestation would require soil disturbance at each individual tree planting site and the use of roads to access the planting area.

Determination

This action is determined to be a May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect to either individuals or habitat because of the beneficial nature. None of the proposed actions will improve or degrade any of the pathways and indicators for bull trout or summer steelhead or impact “essential fish habitat” for spring chinook salmon.

Appendix H. Wyden Amendment Agreement

MONUMENT FIRE COMPLEX **WATERSHED RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT**

between

**North Fork John Day Watershed Council,
Monument Soil and Water Conservation District
and
Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District**

THIS AGREEMENT, authorized under Section 124 of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997, is made and entered into between the North Fork John Day Watershed Council and the Monument Soil and Water Conservation District, hereinafter called the Watershed Council and SWCD, the Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter called the BLM, and private landowners, their successors and assigns, hereinafter call Landowners. The Agreement is for the purpose of facilitating cooperation between Landowners and the BLM for specific rehabilitation, stabilization, and protection efforts as a result of wildfires involved in the Monument Complex of 2001. The parties have a common interest in protecting the North Fork John Day Watershed after the subject fires. This agreement provides for the interchange of services, equipment, and funds as specifically outlined below to meet the agreed upon objectives of the activities.

1. PROJECT AREA

This agreement applies to activities conducted on private lands within the North Fork John Day Watershed. Specifically the area consisting of portions of Townships 6, 7 and 8 South, Ranges 27, 28, and 29 East in the general vicinity of Monument, Oregon (See attached map)

2. DURATION OF AGREEMENT

The term of this Agreement shall be from the date of acceptance by all parties until terminated in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

3. OBJECTIVES

The North Fork drainage is the John Day Basin's major producer of wild spring chinook and summer steelhead, at approximately 60 and 40 percent, respectively. In recent years, as many as 1,855 adult spring chinook and 8,000 adult summer steelhead have returned annually to the North Fork drainage to spawn.

The North Fork watershed contains about 72 miles of spring chinook spawning and rearing habitat, and over 700 miles of steelhead habitat. Prime spring chinook spawning habitat occurs between Camas and Baldy Creeks, and in the Granite Creek drainage, mostly on National Forest lands. Major steelhead producing streams in the North Fork basin are Cottonwood, Rudio, Deer, Big Wall, Little Wall, Potamus,

Desolation, Granite, Ditch, Mallory, Trout, Meadowbrook, Trail, Olive, Clear, Bull Run, Camas, and Beaver and Big Creeks.

In order to protect anadromous fish habitat, stabilize the watershed, and protect other natural resource values on public land, the objectives of this project are to actively stabilize and rehabilitate some portions private land in the burned area by:

- planting desirable perennial grass and forb species on sites that burned excessively hot and monitoring the success of those plantings
- planting desirable perennial grass and forb species on sites dominated by annual vegetation and monitoring the success of those plantings
- retarding the invasion and controlling the spread of noxious weed species
- repairing and/or replacing minor improvements (fences) to allow full recovery of the burned area

The proposed action for the Monument Fire Complex is to seed approximately 1,200 acres of BLM and 200 acres of private land within the Mallory/Birch Creek fire perimeter, and 500 acres of private land within the Fern Boneyard fire perimeter. Approximately 1,500 acres would be seeded aurally and 400 acres would be seeded with a rangeland drill. Seeding would be done during the Fall/Winter of 2001/20002.

The burned area would require 30 miles of 4-strand barbed wire fence (bottom strand smooth) to be replaced and/or repaired to provide protection during germination and establishment of seeded species. The majority of this fence is also needed to protect anadromous fish habitat by keeping cattle off of the North Fork John Day River and other fish bearing streams outside authorized grazing seasons. Without the fences that were burned up during the fire there would be no way to control cattle from neighboring allotments.

The fence would be on a combination of public land, private land, and on the boundary between both BLM and private land. There are approximately 15 miles of fence on BLM land, 11 miles of fence on private land, and 4 miles of fence on BLM/private boundaries. See attached map for proposed fence locations.

BLM standard design specifications would be used for the fence which identify wire spacing measurements and other fence specifications. The reconstruction would include specifications for a four strand fence with considerations for deer and elk movements. The top three wires would be barbed and the bottom wire smooth with a spacing of 18", 23", 28" and 40" respectively, from ground up. Posts would be steel and spaced one rod apart (16.5 feet) with a wire stay inserted halfway between each post. Where possible, prefabricated steel panels would be used for corners and stress panels, because they wouldn't burn in the event of another wildfire. All gates, rock cribs and miscellaneous structures would be constructed in accordance with BLM standards and specifications.

4. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES (Pending Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Plan approval and funding):

The Landowner Shall:

1. Protect the taxpayer's investment by subsequently managing the private land in a manner that maintains or promotes the planted vegetation. At a minimum, private land that has been seeded will be rested from livestock grazing for at least two growing seasons, which is consistent with BLM policy and guidance (43 CFR 4160), to aid in vegetative establishment of proposed seeded species.
2. Allow the BLM, its employees, agents, and cooperators access to the project area for purposes relating to the objectives of this Agreement. Examples include access to contractors for the purpose of fence building, and access to BLM employees for monitoring of seeding success, and grazing compliance (under number 1 above).
3. Protect the taxpayer's investment by maintaining fences according to the fence specifications described under Project Objectives above. Fence maintenance will be binding for the life of the fence and it will be the responsibility of future lessees, heirs, and property owners to honor this Agreement unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing. Maintenance is defined as the "timely repair of an improvement in useable condition to extend its useful life for the purpose intended. Such repair is performed as needed."

Fences associated with BLM grazing allotments will be maintained in accordance with the maintenance responsibility described for that allotment. If there is no maintenance agreement, the grazing lessee for which the fence benefits will be responsible for maintenance, and if two or more grazing lessees benefit, it will be their mutual responsibility for maintenance. BLM will not be responsible for maintenance or future reconstruction of fence.

The Watershed Council and SWCD Shall:

1. Ensure each landowner associated with this agreement agrees to the terms and conditions of this agreement and SIGNS a copy of this agreement for the record BEFORE federal monies are spent on that landowner's land.
2. Assist the BLM in accomplishing the objectives of the Agreement by providing a liason between Landowners and the BLM.
3. Provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers of each landowner associated with this agreement to the BLM and provide BLM with a copy of each signed agreement..

THE BLM Shall:

1. Provide perennial grass and forb seed for 700 acres of private land. All seed purchased for this fire rehabilitation project would be subjected to an all states noxious weed test by a certified seed testing facility. No noxious weed seed would be tolerated or knowingly accepted. If any noxious weed seed is found the lot would be rejected. The specific areas, rates, mix, and methods of seeding on private land would be mutually agreed upon between the Watershed Council, SWCD, and the BLM.

2. Provide aerial seeding contract to distribute seed. If an area of private land is to be drilled with a rangeland drill, the BLM will provide the rangeland drill, but not the means of pulling the drill.

3. Provide materials and labor for the reconstruction / repair of fence. Only fence that is determined to directly benefit public land resources will be constructed on private land or on private/BLM boundaries. This determination will be made by BLM officials. See attached Map for proposed fence locations.

5. MODIFICATIONS

Any modification to the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing upon the mutual consent of the parties. Such written consent shall be obtained prior to performing any changed work.

6. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement may be terminated for cause, for convenience, or because of acts of nature beyond either party's control.

If this Agreement is terminated or breached by the Landowner, the Landowner shall pay the BLM damages equal to the full expenditures incurred by the BLM relating to the terminated or breached portion of this Agreement.

7. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

In the event the Landowner transfers any of the land where federal expenditures were made, the Landowner shall inform the purchaser of the existence of this Agreement and the fact that it is binding on successors and assigns, and shall notify the Watershed Council, SWCD, and BLM, in writing, of any change in ownership.

8. LIABILITY

BLM will assume no liability for work performed as a result of this agreement. The parties agree to indemnify and hold BLM harmless for work performed on their land.

THIS AGREEMENT becomes effective as of the last date signed below.

North Fork John Day Watershed Council:

By: _____ Date: _____

Monument Soil and Water Conservation District:

By: _____ Date: _____

Prineville District BLM:

By: _____ Date: _____

THIS AGREEMENT becomes binding with the Landowner as of the date signed below.

By: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Appendix I. Seed Cost for BLM and Private Land

Monument Complex ESR	1200 acres	700 acres		
Seed Type	BLM	Private	Current Price Per Pound	Total Cost
Hycrest Crested WG	600	800	\$1.03	\$1,442.00
Fairway Crested WG	600		\$1.36	\$816.00
Douglas Crested WG	600	250	\$1.72	\$1,462.00
Critana Thickspike WG	600	350	\$5.24	\$4,978.00
Bannock Thickspike WG	600	350	\$2.97	\$2,821.50
Rosanna Western WG	1,200	700	\$1.76	\$3,344.00
Snakeriver WG-Secar	1,800	1,050	\$5.97	\$17,014.50
Bluebunch WG-Goldar	1,800	1,050	\$6.60	\$18,810.00
Whitmar Bluebunch WG	1,800	1,050	\$7.54	\$21,489.00
Trailhead Great Basin WR	600		\$14.43	\$8,658.00
Idaho Fescue-Joseph or Nez Perce	600		\$9.19	\$5,514.00
Paiute Orchardgrass	1,200		\$0.95	\$1,140.00
Sherman Big Bluegrass	2,400	2,100	\$1.87	\$8,415.00
Sand Dropseed-VNS	300	100	\$4.65	\$1,860.00
Alfalfa-Ladak	600	350	\$1.44	\$1,368.00
Alfalfa-Spredor 3PVP	600	350	\$2.45	\$2,327.50
Small Burnett-Delar	1,200	700	\$1.35	\$2,565.00
Wyoming Big Sagebrush	600		\$4.70	\$2,820.00
Basin Big Sagebrush	600		\$6.23	\$3,738.00
Totals	18,300	9,200		\$110,582.50