

**Farewell Bend N242 Fire
BURNED AREA EMERGENCY STABILIZATION
AND REHABILITATION (ESR) PLAN**

**AND
FAREWELL BEND ESR EA
NO. OR-030-02-033**

AGENCY/DISTRICT/FIELD OFFICE:

Bureau of Land Management/Vale District/Malheur resource Area

STATE OFFICE: OREGON

Type of Action (check one box below)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Initial Submission
<input type="checkbox"/>	Updating or Revising the Initial Submission
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment

Submitted By: _____ Date: _____
(Authorized Officer)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

I. EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND REHABILITATION PLAN APPROVAL

- Approved**
 - Approved with Revision**
 - Disapproved**
- Explanation for Revision or Disapproval:

FIELD/DISTRIC MANAGER

Date

II. EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND REHABILITATION PLAN CONCURRENCE

- Approved**
 - Approved with Revision**
 - Disapproved**
- Explanation for Revision or Disapproval:

STATE DIRECTOR

Date

III. EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND REHABILITATION PLAN APPROVAL

- Approved**
 - Approved with Revision**
 - Disapproved**
- Explanation for Revision or Disapproval:

WASHINGTON OFFICE (WO 220 & WO 880)

Date

IV. SUPPRESSION RELATED ACTIVITY DAMAGE APPROVAL (OPTIONAL)

- Approved**
 - Approved with Revision**
 - Disapproved**
- Explanation for Revision or Disapproval:

FIELD/DISTRICT MANAGER

Date

PART B: ESR FONSI /DECISION RECORD & ESR TEAM MEMBERS

VALE DISTRICT OR FIELD OFFICE, FAREWELL BEND FIRE #N242 + EA # OR-030-02-033

Applicant None - BLM Proposal	Proposed Action ESR Treatment	Fire # N242	Project No.	E.A. No. OR-030-02-033
State OREGON	County MALHEUR	District VALE	Field Office MALHEUR	Authority FLPMA
Prepared By (signature)	Title Natural Resource Sp.	Field Exam Date(s)	Report Date	

LANDS INVOLVED

Meridian	Township	Range	Section(s)	Subdivision(s)	Acres
Willamette	T.15S.	R.45E.	15, 16		406

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Environmental Assessment No. **OR-030-02-033** for the **Malheur Field Office** adequately analyzes the impacts of the proposed action and indicates there will be no significant adverse affects on the quality of the human environment. The proposed action would improve watershed conditions and reduce the risk of a serious noxious weed infestation. Wildlife habitat would be improved by seeding forbs and seeding and planting shrubs. Livestock forage production would be more stable with the re-establishment of perennial grasses. The short term affects from the drilling and transplanting operations would be minimal and insignificant. Therefore, based on the information within this environmental assessment and in the associated emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plan, no Environmental Impact Statement will be required.

Approving Official

Date

DECISION RECORD

IV. DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Farewell Bend #N242 Rehabilitation Plan. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with an approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

Approving Official

Date

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) Team Members:

Refer to following EA at PART K, Section VII, page 17.

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PART C - FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fire Name	Farewell Bend
Fire Number	N242
District/Field Office	Vale District/Malheur R.A.
Admin Number	OR-034
State	Oregon
County(s)	Malheur
Ignition Date/Cause	July 10 th , 2002 / Freeway Construction activities
Date Controlled	July 12 th , 2002
Jurisdiction	Acres
BLM	255
<i>State</i>	
<i>Private</i>	151
<i>Other</i>	
Total Acres	406

PART D - TYPE OF ESR PLAN

I. Type of Plan (check one box below)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Stabilization
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rehabilitation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Both Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation

PART E - ESR ISSUES AND CONCERNS

1) Vegetation – The need is high to establish perennial vegetation before the site is dominated by cheatgrass, medusahead, and noxious weed species. Rush skeletonweed and perennial pepperweed in particular very likely will establish within the fire perimeter if perennial grass cover is not developed to provide competition.

2) Livestock - Rest from livestock grazing for a minimum of two growing seasons is needed to allow newly seeded vegetation time to establish.

3) Wildlife - This fire has temporarily reduced the amount of forage for wintering mule deer and antelope and habitat for many species of resident and migratory birds, mammals, and reptiles.

4) T&E and Sensitive Species – No known T & E species are known to occupy the burned area. Sage grouse may use the burned site at times. The fire occurred in an area in relatively poor sage grouse habitat condition with little sagebrush cover and few native forbs. Other Special Status Species that may have been affected include ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, western burrowing owl, and desert horned lizard.

5) Cultural Resources – The Oregon Trail route is known to be just west of the fire location. The area within the burn proposed for drilling will be **surveyed** for possible cultural sites prior to implementation. **Disturbance to lithic scatter sites from drilling operations is considered to have little to minimal disturbance because it occurs within the zone of existing disturbance.**

6) Watershed and soils – Most of the ridge top soils within the fire perimeter are fine, powdery alkali dust and prone to both wind and water erosion. Due to the loss of vegetation, there is a potential risk of erosion occurring over the next several months, and longer if perennial vegetation is not established on the site.

7) Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds – This site has significant potential for noxious weed invasion. Weed species known to exist in the immediate vicinity include, rush skeletonweed, perennial pepperweed, and Scotch thistle.

8) Other – none.

PART F: Planning Conformance Documentation

The following statements in the approved 1983 Northern Malheur Management Framework Plan (MFP) support the proposed rehabilitation treatments funded with Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation funds.

Maintain existing range improvements, RM 1.12

Rehabilitate all disturbed areas by seeding appropriate ground cover, L 7.4

Require rest for 2 growing seasons and reduce livestock if necessary to protect resource production and vigor of key species on all burned areas following wildfire, RM 2.6

Attain and/or maintain a vegetative composition of 55% grass, 25% forbs, and 20% shrubs, WL 11.4

Future seedings should include a variety of grass, forbs and shrubs, WL10.2

Additionally, implementation of rehabilitation treatments are consistent with the objectives and proposed management actions identified in the Proposed Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Final EIS (2001) which will lead to a replacement land use plan for the Malheur and Jordan Resource Areas of the Vale District.

PART G - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND COSTS - ATTACHED

The summary of activities and cost table below identifies emergency stabilization and rehabilitation costs charged or proposed for funding from Suppression Operations, Emergency Fire Rehabilitation, agency operation, and other funding sources. Expenditures are displayed in the total cost column. They are coded with the appropriate cost authority. The total cost of the rehabilitation effort to date, excluding the costs absorbed by the fire account (fire crews, labor, and associated overhead) is displayed as either Suppression Operations (F), Emergency Fire Rehabilitation (EFR), Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP), or Agency Operations/Other (O/OP) or other.

PART H – INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT SPECIFICATIONS - ATTACHED

PART I - POST-REHABILITATION REQUIREMENT

The following are post-rehabilitation, implementation, operation, maintenance, monitoring, and evaluation actions **beyond three years** to ensure the effectiveness and maintenance of initial investments. Benefitting activities, not ESR funds, must pay for these actions. Estimated annual cost and funding source is indicated.

Emergency Stabilization/Rehabilitation

1. Continue invasive species monitoring and control (\$500/yr for five years - Weed Funds)
2. Monitor seeded areas to insure that plant diversity is maintained (\$100/yr- 1020 funds)

PART J - CONSULTATIONS - see following EA, section VI, page 17._

PART K –ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OR-030–02-033

I. PURPOSE AND NEED

Freeway construction related activity started a fire just south of Farewell Bend, Oregon on July 10th, 2002. The fire spread to 402 total acres before containment on July 11th, 2002. Much of the 255 acres of public land burned was in relatively fair to poor condition dominated by annual grasses and forbs. Sandberg's bluegrass is the only perennial native grass present in much of the area burned. A few remnant stands of bluebunch wheatgrass are found on some of the higher ridge tops. There are three utility right - of - ways through the burn that have been seeded to crested wheatgrass. The crested wheatgrass is spotty in some places but well established on other portions of the right - of - ways. Although hard to determine the presence of noxious weeds after the fire, the general area has known populations of several weeds on the Oregon and Malheur County weed lists, including rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*), Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), and several others.

The soils vary from sandy to sodic clay loams but are a predominately a silty clay loam. Soils are slightly to moderately alkaline. Some of the clays have high shrink-swell potential. Annual precipitation is 8 to 10 inches. The ridge top soils have either a high sand content or fine powder alkaline clay. Both are prone to wind erosion when dry and exposed. The deep gullies present in the two main drainages indicate the potential risk of water erosion as well; especially with bare upland soils.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of erosion and the risk of noxious weed invasion by seeding as much of the burn as possible with rangeland drills to perennial grasses. Emergency action is needed to stabilize these sites and to comply with the Northern Malheur Management Framework Plan and Oregon BLM Standards for Rangeland Health.

II. RELATIONSHIP TO PLANNING

The 1983 Northern Malheur Management Framework Plan was reviewed and it was determined that actions proposed in the Farewell Bend ESR Plan are consistent with the objectives, goals and intent of this Land Use Plan.

III. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to seed with a rangeland drill approximately 202 acres with a mixture of native and introduced perennial grasses and native forbs. Aerial seed the steeper hillsides (53 acres) with a mixture of native and introduced perennial grasses and native forbs. Aerially seed the 255 burned acres with sagebrush seed. Plant 100 acres with bitterbrush seedlings. Place several small straw bale structures within two main drainages as sediment traps, and to place a temporary electric fence to allow non-use of the burn for a minimum of two growing seasons.

1. REVEGETATION

a. SPECIES & SEEDING RATES

Secar Snake River Wheatgrass	2 lbs/acre drill ; 4 lbs/ac. aerial
Anatone Bluebunch Wheatgrass	3 lbs/acre drill ; 6 lbs/ac. aerial
Sandberg Bluegrass	2 lbs/acre drill ; 4 lbs/ac. aerial
Hy-crest Crested Wheatgrass	3 lbs/acre drill ; 6 lbs/ac. aerial
Fairway Crested Wheatgrass	2 lbs/acre drill ; 4 lbs/ac. aerial
Wyoming Big Sagebrush	0.5 lbs/acre aerial
Lewis Flax	0.25 lbs/acre drill/aerial
Western Yarrow	0.25 lbs/acre drill/aerial
Antelope Bitterbrush	75 seedlings/acre

b. ACRES and METHOD

202 acres - Drill grass seed and forb seed with rangeland drills

53 acres - Overseed grass seed and forb seed

255 acres - Overseed with sagebrush seed

100 acres - Plant bitterbrush seedlings

c. TIMING

October to December, 2002 before the ground freezes or snow cover stays for the winter. The bitterbrush seedlings would be planted in the fall of 2003.

2. STRUCTURES

a. NEW FENCE

No new permanent fences are proposed. Approximately 2 miles of temporary electric fence would be set up for 2 years to allow for non-use during two growing seasons,

b. PROTECTIVE FENCE REPAIR

Regular fence repair of pasture and allotment boundary fences would be done by the grazing permittees.

c. CATTLE GUARDS

None would be required.

d. WATER DEVELOPMENTS

None would be required.

e. RECREATION FACILITIES

N/A

f. OTHER (repair)?

3. EROSION CONTROL TREATMENTS

a. CHECK DAMS

A total of six small straw bale structures would be placed in two narrow deep drainages that are already gullied on the lower ends to catch sediment and prevent additional gullying downstream on private land. Both drainages are located above I-84 and have some potential to move debris onto the freeway in a significant storm event prior to stabilization.

- b. RIPPING, CONTOUR FURROWING/FELLING, ETC.
None planned.
- c. OTHER

4. SITE PREPARATION

- a. CHEMICAL
None planned.
- b. MECHANICAL
None planned.

5. CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A preliminary file search will be conducted to identify probability areas for cultural resources and a Class III cultural resources survey of those areas will be conducted prior to surface disturbing activities. Sites will be flagged and recorded. A single pass with a rangeland drill through the area would be permitted to avoid "islands" without vegetation which could draw unwanted attention. Historic trash dumps would be flagged and avoided to reduce the area impacted by previous dumping activities. Temporary fences are considered casual use and will not require an inventory. A survey for fossil flora and fauna was also conducted at the same time. If paleo resources were located, depending on the nature and extent of the fossil locality, the area will either be flagged and avoided during rehabilitation activities, or the fossils will be recovered prior to rehab efforts.

B. ALTERNATIVES

1. No Action

Doing nothing would be a possible alternative. However, annual non-native grasses and annual weedy forbs would re-establish and dominate the site within a year or two. Allowing the site to return to annuals would continue the risk of repeated frequent wildfire. At least two populations of rush skeletonweed are known to exist within 200 yards of the fire perimeter. It and other noxious weeds would more than likely invade and increase on the burn without competition from perennial grasses.

2. Rest from Livestock Grazing Only

Under this alternative only the electric fence would be placed to rest the burn. Since annuals dominate much of the site little would be gained from rest except increasing some of the vigor of the remnant perennials on the ridge tops.

3. Alternatives Considered But Not Analyzed in Detail

An alternative to use only native grass species was considered but not analyzed further as a mix of native and introduced grass species would best effectively compete with the cheatgrass and annual noxious weeds on this harsh of a site. Native species tend to be slow to establish, if at all, on these soils and in low precipitation zones. The invasive non-native annuals could readily establish before the native grass species.

Only drilling grass seed where feasible and not aerially seeding grass on steeper slopes or aerially seeding sagebrush or planting bitterbrush was considered as an alternative. This alternative, however, was determined to not be sufficient to best meet the watershed or wildlife habitat objectives for the burned area..

IV AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Vegetation

The area is mostly an early seral stage, droughty rolling hills rangeland site dominated by non-native annuals with some remnant population of native grasses, primarily Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*) and bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*). Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* spp. *wyomingensis*) is mostly restricted to ridge tops, probably due to past frequent fire occurrences. The potential vegetation for this site is bluebunch wheatgrass, Wyoming big sagebrush and bitterbrush, with a mixed forb component.

Small populations of three sensitive native plant species, *Astragalus multordiae*, *Hackelia cronquistii*, and *Stanleya conferiflora*, are known to occur in the general area but no known sites are within the fire perimeter. Known populations of *Pyrocoma radiata*, a state of Oregon listed endangered species, are found to the north in Baker County but are not known to exist within the fire perimeter.

This fire occurred within the Road Canyon Pasture of the Alkali Allotment 20101. Much of this allotment was burned in 2000 as part of the large Jackson Fire. The Road Canyon Pasture, after two seasons of deferred use after the Jackson Fire, is scheduled for spring use in 2003. To allow livestock use within the unburned portion of this pasture and rest from grazing on the burned portion, a temporary electric fence is needed to divide the pasture. A small portion of the Farewell Bend fire did overlap a few acres that burned in 2000.

Wildlife

This low elevation location was historically critical deer and antelope winter range. Neotropical migratory birds such as sage sparrows and Brewer's sparrows depended on this community for nesting as well. Past fire occurrences resulted in the conversion of this site to a mostly non-native annual grass dominated community. Use of the area by various wildlife species declined due to the loss of structure (shrubs) and food (forbs).

Cultural Resources

Prehistoric and Historic Pathways:

Pre-European contact Native American peoples were extremely well adapted to their environment. The subsistence economy was strongly oriented toward gathering and collecting because plant foods were more abundant and dependable than fowl, fish or mammals. Mammals provided skins, furs, tools and many other by-products of aesthetic and practical value. Insects were often eaten. beetles, grasshoppers, locusts, crickets, ants and caterpillars were consumed, as well as most eggs and larva. Historic documents indicate that several hundred plants were used by the Indians of the Great Basin for medicinal purposes, fiber sources and food. The Native people of the Great Basin, who practiced the ancestral lifeways into the 19th century were heirs to an extremely ancient

cultural tradition with a technology both effective and efficient, with many multi-functional, light-weight and expendable tools.

Exploration into this area during the Historic period began with the expeditions of John Jacob Astor, after he heard the stories from the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806. The first written observations of southeastern Oregon can be found in journals kept by men involved in the expansion of fur trapping territory. Trapping occurred along the major and minor tributaries in the area: Owyhee, Snake, Malheur, North Fork Malheur and South Fork Malheur Rivers. The era of the fur trade provided the basis for American families to travel west. The most famous of trails in this area is the Oregon Trail, the main corridor to travel from the early 1800s. The Trail crosses into Oregon at Nyssa and turns north passing the western side of Rhinehart Butte, and crossing the Malheur River at Vale. From Vale the Trail heads north for several miles before turning east and then north, passing Alkali Spring and Tub Mountain. The Trail crosses Birch Creek and heads downhill into Farewell Bend across rolling grass covered hills. The Trail was a corridor of travel, widened with each crossing as livestock needed grass and water for the journey. For Native Americans, increased use of the Oregon Trail, burdened grazing resource, killed off game, and displaced resident bands.

To the north of this project area, in Section 9 the Oregon Trail crosses a small ridge and winds down through a gently sloping swale into Farewell Bend. The Oregon National Historic Trail-Birch Creek Segment has been designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. An enclosure fence protects the remnants of the Trail, one Interpretative panel and a small parking area.

In 1989 a cultural resource survey of 1120 acres for a proposed gold mine location conducted on public lands immediately to the west and south of the Farewell Bend fire location. The survey was conducted in sections 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, and 28, T. 15 S., R. 45 E. by Sagebrush Archaeological Consultants. No cultural resources, either prehistoric or historic were located as a result of that survey.

Paleontology

Fossil flora and faunal resources have been documented in the area adjacent to the Snake River. The remains of a mammoth were located north of Farewell Bend. However no fossil flora or fauna have been located within one mile of the project location. During the Miocene, this area was the western most extent of Lake Idaho which covered the Western Snake River Plain from Glenns Ferry, Idaho.

Other Resources

There is a gravel quarry in the vicinity of the fire location but not in it. There are no known commercial mineral deposits present.

Scenic values are low, with a VRM rating of IV.

There is no live water within the burn perimeter except in the ephemeral drainages in late winter or early spring. There are no water quality issues except for the small risk of some potential silt deposition into Brownlee Reservoir on the Snake River in the event of a major storm event.

V ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

	Absent/ Unknown	Present, No Impact	Present, Discussed in EA
AIR QUALITY		X	
CULTURAL	X		
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	X		
FLOODPLAINS	X		
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES OR SOLID WASTE	X		
NATIVE AMERICAN CONCERNS	X		
NOXIOUS WEEDS			X
PRIME & UNIQUE FARMLANDS	X		
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES			X
VISUAL RESOURCES			X
WATER QUALITY			X
WETLANDS/RIPARIAN, FLOOD PLAINS	X		
WILD & SCENIC RIVERS	X		
WILDERNESS/WSAs	X		
WILD HORSE/BURRO MANAGEMENT	X		
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	X		

A. Proposed Action

Implementing the proposed action, if successful, would do the most to minimize the risk of soil erosion and the risk of increased noxious weed infestations by providing competition from perennial grasses. Seeding would stabilize the soil, increase plant diversity, and reduce the risk of repeated wildfire.

Drilling would temporarily disturb the soil surface and possibly displace existing perennial vegetation. By drilling in the fall, these disturbances would be reduced because of increased soil moisture.

Resting the area for two growing seasons from livestock grazing would allow the new grass seedlings an opportunity to establish without disturbance or the risk of being uprooted or trampled by hoof action.

The accumulative effects of this action would be the most beneficial for the burned area over the long term. Successful establishment of perennial grasses and shrubs should hold the soil the best, thereby reducing the risk of soil erosion. Perennial grasses and shrubs would do the best job of competing with noxious weeds for moisture and nutrients. These species would also reduce the risk of repeated frequent wildfire and would reduce the potential for resource damage should a fire occur.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

There would be no adverse impacts to Prehistoric or Historic cultural resources or Paleontological resources as a result of drilling and seeding operations. Prehistoric and Historic sites such as rock cairns, rock alignments and trash dump sites would be flagged and avoided. Fossil flora and faunal localities would also be flagged for avoidance.

A single pass with the rangeland drill would be allowed through lithic scatter sites to avoid islands devoid of vegetation which serve as magnets to illegal collectors of Native American and Early Historic period artifacts. The top 10 centimeters of surface is considered the existing zone of disturbance where the processes of bioturbation actively move lithic artifacts up, down and sideways in the sediment.

B. No Action Alternative

The environmental consequences of this action would be to allow the site to be dominated by undesirable non-native annual species, and perennials like rush skeletonweed. This would result in a higher risk of erosion to the site than is acceptable given the opportunity to establish better ground cover. Noxious weeds would increase both in area covered and density due to the lack of competition.

The accumulative effects of no action would be to allow the whole area to convert to a monoculture of annuals that would be prone to repeated wildfire, perpetuating poor watershed conditions and not meeting resource objectives. Over time, rush skeletonweed could dominate the site making restoration very difficult.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Cultural resources exposed by fire would be visible for unauthorized collecting until vegetation recovers. Potential conversion to annual grasses would compromise the integrity of cultural sites and artifacts.

Paleontology

The management of fossil localities would continue as at present. unidentified localities are subject to vandalism through lack of monitoring of identified locations.

C. Rest From Livestock Only

This alternative would give the remnant population of native species an opportunity to recover from the fire and regain vigor without the physiological stress of grazing the area too soon. It would do little to prevent the reestablishment of the less desirable non native annual grasses and forbs or to reduce the risk of noxious weed increases.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Same as the No Action Alternative Above

The accumulative affects of this alternative would be similar to the No Action Alternative.

VI. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Grazing permittees
Oregon Department of Transportation

VII. LIST OF PREPARERS/REVIEWERS

NEPA Compliance & Planning	Tom Hilken
Hydrology and Soils	Shaney Rockefeller
Cultural Resources	Diane Prtichard
Rangeland Management	Ron Rembowski
Wildlife Biology	Al Bammann
Botany	Jean Findley
Weed Management	Lynne Silva
Wildhorses	N/A

Outdoor Recreation	Bob Alward
Project Leader	Mike Woods

PART L - MAPS

A map is attached showing the fire perimeter, proposed seeding location, straw structures and temporary electric fence location.

PART M - INITIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT/ESR PROJECT SUMMARY

This report is required with all new BLM ESR plan/NFRP supplement **submissions** (bolded items only) and is required to be completed at the end of the second growing season (all items completed) to request monitoring funds for the third growing season.

Fire Name: Farewell Bend
Fire Number: N242
Fire Control Date: July 12, 2002
BLM Acres Burned: 255
Start of ESR Plan Implementation (Mo./Yr): October 2002
 Initial Accomplishment Report Date (Mo./Yr):
 ESR Plan Specifications Completed (list):
 ESR Plan Specifications Not Completed (list):
 ESR Plan Specifications Ignored (list):
Facilities Repaired or Replaced (list): None
Miles of New Fence Constructed: 2 (temp. electric)
Miles of Fence Rebuilt: None
Number of Soil/Watershed Structures Built: 6
 Acres of Watershed Protected by Management Treatments (e.g., ripping) :
 Acres of Non-native Invasive Species Monitored:
 Acres of Non-native Invasive Species Treated:
Acres Reforested: N/A
Acres of Revegetation¹: 255
Acres of Burned Area Protected for Natural Regeneration²
Total Acres Rehabilitated³: 255
Estimated ESR funds expended First Year: \$4,000
Estimated ESR funds expended Second Year: \$63,010
Estimated ESR (rehabilitation only) funds expended Third Year: \$1,600
Total Cost of ESR project: \$70,210

Treatments Successful

:Treatments Unsuccessful (Why):

Acres of Revegetation¹ refers to the acres of the burn that is drilled, aerial seeded (with or without follow-up seed covering), seedlings transplanted, etc. Do not double count acreage with multiple revegetation treatments. For example, burned acreage that is drill seeded (100 acres) and aerial seeded (same 100 acres) is only counted as 100 acres of revegetation.

Acres of Burned Area Protected for Natural Regeneration² refers to burned areas that will recover to satisfactory vegetation by grazing or human use exclusion. Protection measures include closures, fencing, herding, etc. This designation does not refer to burned areas that will recover to unacceptable vegetation, e.g., weeds or to revegetated areas already accounted for in **Acres of Revegetation¹**.

Total Acres Rehabilitated³ equals the acres of revegetation plus acres of burned areas protected for natural regeneration.

Required narrative for report at the end of the second growing season:

Seed mixtures, dates and actual rates of application.

- Results of actual Seed Lab tests for purity, germination and noxious weed content. Labels on seed bags are not always an accurate source of information for purity and germination, especially when shrubs with low germination or purity are used (examples: big sagebrush, winterfat).
- Describe the soil, plant and climatic conditions during the seeding operation that would affect the establishment or success of the seeding (examples: frozen ground, heavy weed competition, rodent populations, dry soils, etc.).
- Describe type and condition of equipment used and its effectiveness in doing the intended job.
- Briefly describe the performance of the contractor or force account work (examples: delays in getting work done, did they actually seed all of the intended area or not, did they maintain the equipment in good working order, etc.).
- Include a map if needed to show different treatment areas described above.

Part N - Cost/Risk Analysis

Treatment (add all categories)

Cost

Revegetation.....\$
 Protection Fence.....\$
 All Other Costs.....\$
 TOTAL.....\$

Probability of Rehabilitation Treatments Successfully Meeting ESR Objectives (List all treatments)

Treatments	Units	NA	%
REVEGETATION (overall rating)			75
DRILL SEEDING (acres)	202	77	75
AERIAL SEEDING (acres)	255		50
TRANSPLANT SEEDLINGS (acres)	100		35
SEED AND HARROW (acres)			
PROTECTIVE FENCE TO EXCLUDE GRAZING (miles)	2	9	95
FENCE REPAIR TO EXCLUDE GRAZING			
SOIL WATERSHED STRUCTURES (overall rating)			80
RETENTION DAMS/STRUCTURES (numbers)	6		80
RIPPING, CONTOUR FURROWS, ETC.			
MATTING,WATERSHED COVER, ETC.			
OTHER – CLEAN CULVERTS, ETC.			

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.

No Action-Treatments Not Implemented (check one)

Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Medium	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil					X
Weed Invasion					X
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity					X
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure					X
Unacceptable Disruption of Ecological Processes					X
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property				X	
Off-site Threats to Human Life		X			
Other-Loss of Access Road Due to Plugged Culverts	X				

Proposed Action-Treatments Successfully Implemented (check one)

Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Medium	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil				X	
Weed Invasion				X	
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity				X	
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure				X	
Unacceptable Loss of Ecological Processes				X	
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property			X		

Off-site Threats to Human Life		X			
Other-Loss of Access Road Due to Plugged Culverts	X				

ALTERNATIVE 1 – Limited Rehabilitation (check one)

Resource Value	NA	None	Low	Medium	High
Unacceptable Loss of Topsoil					X
Weed Invasion					X
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Diversity					X
Unacceptable Loss of Vegetation Structure					X
Unacceptable Loss of Ecological Processes					X
Off-site Sediment Damage to Private Property				X	
Off-site Threats to Human Life		X			
Other-Loss of Access Road Due to Plugged Culverts	X				

COST RISK SUMMARY

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 Rationale for answer: The risk of noxious weed invasion and soil erosion would be greatly reduced.

No Action Yes No Rationale for answer: The risk of noxious weed invasion and soil erosion would be increase to an unacceptable level The risk of repeated fire would increase as well..

Alternative(s) Yes No Rationale for answer: Resting from livestock grazing for two years would do little to reduce the risks from noxious weeds and erosion and repeated fire.

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

Proposed Action Yes No Rationale for answer: Seedings within the burn on the 3 right of ways have been partly successful

No Action Yes No Rationale for answer: This site would return to being a monoculture of annuals once more but now with an increased probability of rush skeletonweed invading and dominating the site.

Alternative(s) Yes No Rationale for answer: This site would return to being a monoculture of annuals once more with an invasion of rush skeletonweed that would eventually dominate the site; even with some rest but no other rehabilitation efforts.

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

Proposed Action , Alternative(s) , or No Action

Comments: Although a relative small fire the risk of erosion and noxious weed infestations should justify the expense of seeding perennial grass species to help meet resource objectives for the area.

PART O - NEPA CHECKLIST – see EA, page 14

PART P - NATIVE/NON-NATIVE PLANT WORKSHEET

This worksheet is required for all ESR Plans. These criteria will be evaluated by the interdisciplinary team preparing the ESR Plan. Each element requires a short narrative/rationale.

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: The 3 native grass species in the seed mix are found in this area and are climax species for the site.

2. Is seed or seedlings of native plants available in sufficient quantity for the proposed project?
 Yes No Rationale: The seed supply for all three should be adequate for this small of a project.

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

Yes No Rationale: Prices for these species are more expensive compared to nonnatives but not excessively so and would follow direction in BLM Manual 1725 and 1745.

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: This is a comparably harsh site but these species have the potential to establish as they are native to the area. However, to help insure the establishment of some perennial grass for watershed protection, based on the existing composition present, some introduced species will be included in the seed mix.

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

Yes No Rationale: Grazing utilization levels should be proper to allow for maintenance of the seeded species if they establish.

Use of native species for rehabilitation projects is required if all the answers to this portion of the worksheet are yes (assuming that the native plant species are available).

Proposed Non-native Plants in Seed Mixture

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

Yes No Rationale: Due to the present high composition of cheatgrass annual weeds, and the presence of previously seeded nonnative grass species, prudence indicates the best success of meeting objectives would be met by including non-natives in the seed mix.

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: The proposed seed mix is approximately 50 : 50 native to non-native to optimize the chance of establishing perennial vegetation.

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

Yes No Rationale: Neither species is known for spreading far or if at all by wind or other natural means.

A "no" response requires additional analysis in the environmental assessment or selection of an alternate species in the seed mixture.

PROPOSED SEED MIXTURE

Non-native Plants	Native Plants
Hy-crest Crested Wheatgrass	Secar Snake River Wheatgrass

Fairway Crested Wheatgrass	Anatone Bluebunch Wheatgrass
	Sandberg's Bluegrass
	Lewis Flax
	Western Yarrow