

HTNF Burned Area Emergency Response Program Update

John McCann - 10/08/2020



HTNF BAER Program Update

- ▶ What is USFS BAER?
- ▶ How does USFS BAER work?
- ▶ Updates: Selected 2018/ 2019 Fire
- ▶ 2020 Fires



What is BAER?

- ▶ FSM 2500 – Watershed and Air Management
 - ▶ Chapter 2520 – Watershed Protection and Management
 - ▶ § 2523 - Emergency Stabilization - Burned-Area Emergency Response
- ▶ Objective:

“To identify imminent post-wildfire threats to human life and safety, property, and critical natural or cultural resources on National Forest System lands and take immediate actions, as appropriate, to manage unacceptable risks.”



How can BAER funds be used?

Maybe...

- ▶ Erosion/ Runoff Control:
 - ▶ Control devices.
 - ▶ Seeding.
 - ▶ Critical cultural sites.
 - ▶ Upgrade culverts.
- ▶ Temporarily protect recovering areas.
- ▶ Install warning signs.
- ▶ Remove safety hazards.
- ▶ Prevent loss of T&E habitat.
- ▶ Weed prevention.

Nope...

- ▶ Seed for forage.
- ▶ Research cultural sites.
- ▶ Replace pasture fences*.
- ▶ Install interpretive signs.
- ▶ Replace burned buildings, bridges, corrals, etc*.
- ▶ Repair roads damaged by floods after fire.
- ▶ Replace burned wildlife habitat.
- ▶ Monitor fire effects.
- ▶ Treat pre-existing noxious weed infestations.

* Caveat



How can BAER funds be used?

- ▶ Minor Facilities and Infrastructure for BAER Pilot FY2020
 - ▶ USFS testing out use funds for some rehabilitation.
 - ▶ Only for certain roads/ trails, recreation, and range facilities.
 - ▶ Lots of hoops to jump through.



The process...

- ▶ Determine Need – Forest Supervisor
 - ▶ 500 acre threshold.
 - ▶ Threats to human life and safety, property, or critical natural or cultural resources.
- ▶ Select Team – Forest Supervisor
 - ▶ Hydro, soils, engineering, bio, veg, arch, GIS, etc.



The process...

▶ Assessment

- ▶ Critical Value Identification.
- ▶ Threat Identification.
- ▶ Risk Evaluation and Emergency Determination.
- ▶ Response Action Prescription/ Proposal.
- ▶ Funding Request.



The process...

- ▶ Critical Value Identification.
 - ▶ Identify critical values on National Forest System (NFS) lands.



The process...

▶ Critical Values Identification

- ▶ Life and Safety - Human life and safety on NFS lands.
- ▶ Property - Buildings, water systems, utility systems, road and trail prisms, dams, wells or other significant investments on NFS lands.
- ▶ Cultural - Cultural resources which are listed on or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, Traditional Cultural Properties, or Indian Sacred Sites on NFS lands.



The process...

- ▶ Critical Values Identification - Natural Resources
 - ▶ Water used for municipal, domestic, hydropower, or agricultural supply or waters with special Federal or State designations on NFS lands.
 - ▶ Soil productivity and hydrologic function on NFS lands.
 - ▶ Critical habitat or suitable occupied habitat for federally listed threatened or endangered terrestrial, aquatic animal, or plant species on NFS lands.
 - ▶ Native or naturalized communities on NFS lands where invasive species or noxious weeds are absent or present in only minor amounts.



The process...

- ▶ Threat Identification.
 - ▶ What could happen, how likely is it, how bad would it be?
 - ▶ Must be due to fire.
- ▶ Risk Evaluation and Emergency Determination.

Probability of Damage or Loss	Magnitude of Consequences		
	Major	Moderate	Minor
	RISK		
Very Likely	Very High	Very High	Low
Likely	Very High	High	Low
Possible	High	Int.	Low
Unlikely	Int.	Low	Very Low



The process...

- ▶ Response Action Prescription/ Proposal.
 - ▶ Natural Recovery.
 - ▶ No emergency exists or practical/ effective measures are not feasible.
 - ▶ Administrative Closures.
 - ▶ Restrict access to protect life and safety.
 - ▶ Where valid uses will significantly interfere with emergency stabilization.
 - ▶ Other Measures - "Demonstrated effective measures."



The process...

- ▶ Response Action Prescription/ Proposal.
 - ▶ “Undertake response actions or emergency stabilization only when an analysis shows that planned actions are likely to reduce risks substantially within the first year following containment of the fire and are compatible with land and resource management plans.”
 - ▶ “Employ measures that provide sufficient protection at the least cost while meeting risk management objectives.”



2018 Fires

Gance

Range Two

South

Sugarloaf

2019 Fires

Corta

Cherry

▶ BAER Funding

▶ 2018:
\$935,391

▶ 2019:
\$785,283

▶ Join Chiefs' Funding

▶ \$175,000

▶ Program Funds

▶ \$482,000



2018 Fires

Gance

Range Two

South

Sugarloaf

2019 Fires

Corta

Cherry

▶ Road Miles

▶ 20

▶ Fence Miles

▶ 15

▶ Cattle Guards

▶ 2

▶ LCT Stream Miles

▶ 0.33

▶ Weed Treatment
Acres

▶ ±2,900



2020 Fires

- ▶ Taft (Ely)
 - ▶ 1,118 Acres
 - ▶ \$3,514 BAER
 - ▶ All weeds
- ▶ Poeville Road (Carson)
 - ▶ 2,975 Acres
 - ▶ \$206,093 BAER
 - ▶ \$11,916 weeds
- ▶ Mahogany (SMNRA)
 - ▶ 2,758 Acres
 - ▶ \$34,699 BAER
 - ▶ \$15,699 weeds
- ▶ Cottonwood (SMNRA)
 - ▶ 2,817 Acres
 - ▶ \$750 BAER
 - ▶ \$0 weeds
- ▶ Loyalton (Carson)
 - ▶ 47,035 Acres
 - ▶ \$34,942 BAER
 - ▶ \$15,914 weeds
- ▶ Slink (Bridgeport/Carson)
 - ▶ 26,752 Acres
 - ▶ \$85,532 BAER
 - ▶ \$8,608 weeds



Questions?

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