



Policy, Prescriptions, Procurements, and Procedures under Pressure: Opportunities for Effectiveness

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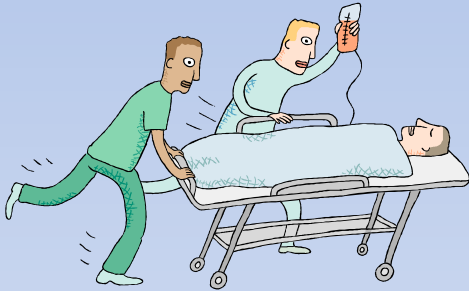
Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR)

- Two programs that address post fire issues. Difference between the two deals with urgency of need and threats to human health and safety or natural and cultural resources.
- Has also been referred to as Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER).

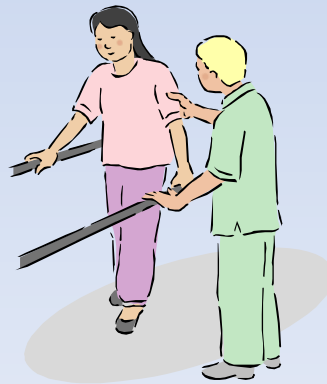


Triage

- Emergency Stabilization (within 1 year of the fire).



- Burned Area Rehabilitation (within 3 years of the fire).





Mud and Debris Flows



Threats to life and property.

Threats to health and safety.





Spur Natural Recovery





Policy

- Established by the “Berry” Memo in April of 1998
 - Need for DOI wide consistency of post fire programs.
 - Outlined appropriate actions.
 - Instructed Bureaus to do additional work on program policy and development of Departmental manual section, with handbook guidance.



Policy

- 2000 National Fire Plan
 - Incorporated “Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation” (BAER).
- 2004 revision of DOI manual section
 - Split programs into Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation.
 - Made distinction between immediate needs and longer term actions for the recovery of the fire area.



Policy

- 2005 , 2006, and 2007 fire seasons were very active for DOI lands, especially in the American Deserts.
- August 2007 – March 2008
 - Discussions on program policy and investigating project effectiveness.
- May 2008
 - Interim direction set for ES expenditures.



Policy

- September 2008
 - Procedures put in place to prioritize BAR projects when resources are limited.
 - Recent work has expanded program scope brought the ES and BAR programs closer and created potential for greater local management flexibility.
 - A finer focus has been brought into budget procedures by establishing detailed prioritization and decision support tools to direct funds to highest needs within the Department.



Policy

- Additional policy adaptations are needed before significant fire activity begins in 2009.
 - Issue: Finding the balance between natural/cultural resources and fiscal control.
 - Issue: Understanding of how, when and where treatments could and should be undertaken.
 - Issue: How to create Inter/Intra government to private partnerships for pooled funding resources and accomplishment of common goals.
 - Issue: How to integrate landscape level efforts with the strengths of individuals to create a comprehensive, cohesive whole.





Planning

Time Lines

- An Initial Fire Plan must be submitted within **7 days** after the containment date.
- Final Drafts Emergency Stabilization plans must be completed within 21 days of the containment date.
- Approval or denial of funding within 6 days.
- Rehabilitation plans need to be submitted before end of fiscal year, but for efficiency, should be done at the same time as the ES plan.



Planning

- Assessment team
 - After containment of the fire an Interdisciplinary team evaluates the land to identify damages and issues that need to be addressed to prevent threats to human life and safety, and degradation to public lands resources.
- Forestry
- Historic Properties
- Cultural Resources
- Infrastructure/Safety
- Range
- Watersheds
- Wildlife
- Botany
- Soil Science
- Fire Ecology
- Engineering
- Geographic Information Specialist
- Team Leader





Planning

- Tools for expedited review and approval for Post fire recovery work.
 - Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation plans – w/ Environmental Assessment.
 - Site specific Determination of NEPA Adequacy
 - Planning templates, common formats
 - Consultation and coordination with State ES and BAR program leads.
 - National Seed Coordinator.



Planning

- Prescribed treatments are issue driven.
 - Standard treatments are to be used that have been validated by monitoring data from previous projects, or when there is documented research establishing the effectiveness of such actions.
 - Site characteristics such as, aspect, slope, soil type, topography, moisture regime, climate, and non-native invasive plant competition, are considered.



Wildlife Habitat		Facility & Infrastructure		Protection & Warning	
	Lake Habitat Improvement				Flood Warning System
	Stabilize/Secure/Protect Critical Habitat		Facility Closure		Protective Fence/Barriers
	Stream Habitat Improvement		Fence Repair		Toxic Substance Mitigation
	Terrestrial Habitat Improvement		Fence Replacement		Warning Signs
	Terrestrial Habitat Structure		Repair Administrative Facility	Heritage Resources	
Trails			Repair Recreation Facility		Protect Heritage Sites
	Hazard Removal		Replace Administrative Facility		Site Stabilization
	Infrastructure		Replace Recreation Facility		Site Treatment
	Trail Reconstruction		Stabilize/Secure/Protect Structures		
	Trail Repair		Water System Reconstruction	Invasive Species	
					Biological Treatment
					Chemical Treatment
Roads		Erosion/Sedimentation			Hand Treatment
	Culverts		Build Impoundments or Flow Control Structures		Mechanical Treatment
	Hazard Removal		Catchment Basin Cleanout		Native Seed Collection
	Planting/Seeding		Channel Debris Removal		Prevention/Mulching
	Prism		Channel Stabilization		Prevention/Seeding
	Road Closure		Erosion Control	Monitoring	
	Road Obliteration		Hillslope Protection		Ecosystem Recovery Monitoring
	Signs		Hydrophobicity Treatment		Treatment Effectiveness Monitoring
	Structures		Repair Impoundments, Trenches, or Control Structures		
Reforestation			Revegetation		
	Cone Collection		Riparian Restoration		
	Nursery Stock		Seeding - Aerial		
	Plantation Maintenance		Seeding - Drill		
	Plantation Protection		Seeding - Hand		
	Planting				
	Seeding				
	Site Preparation	Abandon Mines			
Range			Abandon Mine Stabilization		
	Animal Roundup/Control				
	Range Improvement				
	Repair Grazing Management Facility				



Planning Pressure

- Implementation scheduling and time lines.
- Before the first rainfall.
 - Early warning systems placement.
 - Erosion control barriers, point protection.
- Fall Seeding window.
 - Clearances.
 - Equipment Mobilization.
 - Plant Materials.
 - Procurement plans.



Procurements

- Large dollar amounts, within short time frames, working within the Federal acquisition regulations as well as proactive measures to be prepared in the event of a disaster.





Service Contracts

- Aerial Seeding/Mulching applications.
- Drill Seed applications.
- Weed treatments.
- Fencing contracts.
- Range improvements and wildlife structures repairs.
- Erosion control structure placement.
- Cultural clearance contracts.



Plant Materials Purchasing

- BLM Consolidated Seed Buy
 - Since 2000
 - Multiple programs
 - Multiple offices
- Seedlings





Work Force

- Local unit staff.
- Term, Seasonal, and Wildland firefighters.
- In some cases, an Implementation Leader is required.
 - Contracting Officers Representatives. (COR)
 - Project inspectors. (PI)
 - Equipment operators.





Procedures

- Implementation tracking
 - Was the treatment applied as planned?





Procedures

- Effectiveness monitoring
 - Was the treatment successful at reaching the objectives identified.





Procedures

- Reporting
 - Yearly progress reports
 - National Fire Plan Operations Reporting System (NFPORS)





Opportunities

- Challenge

- Post fire work will always present the resource manager with unique problems that will evolve and change over time. This is about the only certainty, but provides for constant learning.



Opportunities

- Be Proactive!
 - Plant Materials Storage.
 - Specialized Equipment needs.
 - Rangeland Drills.
 - Seed collections and cleaning.
 - Seed Mixers.
 - Indefinite Delivery/ Indefinite Quantity Service Contracts for seed applications, and seedling plantings.



Opportunities

- Data sharing
 - By Bureau, there is a network of people that are key resources for experiential information.
 - Prototypes available for electronic database to capture Land Treatment Data.
 - Future plans to host information in a user friendly, publically available format.

GIS



Opportunities

- Partnerships
 - Coordination between all stakeholders
 - Knowing each individuals roles, authorities, and strengths.
 - Pooled funding \$\$\$\$.
- Utah Partnerships for Conservation & Development.
 - <http://www.utahpcd.info/index.html>