

3.3.8. Appendix H: Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation:

The federal agencies will operate within the guidelines of the Interagency Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation Handbook (Interpretation of Department of the Interior 620 DM 3 and USDA Forest Service Manual 2523) found [here](#)

For Federal Agencies the budgeting structure of the programs have been separated so that emergency stabilization is covered under the suppression activities and funds and the site rehabilitation activities are applied for in a separate process.

Emergency stabilization projects are “planned actions to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effects of a fire, or repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources.” Pertinent time frames and procedures to acquire funding to accomplish emergency stabilization funds are listed below.

- Emergency stabilization actions must be taken within one year following containment of a wildland fire.
- For BLM, Department Manual (620 DM 3) requires an initial report or plan to be submitted within seven days from containment of the fire.
- Final Emergency Stabilization Plan is due within 21 days from the date of fire containment. Plans less than \$100,000 are submitted to the State Office. Plans for review of approval over that amount are submitted to the National Office. Both the State and National Offices are involved in the reviews and determinations will be made within six days.
- If funding is approved for emergency stabilization it must be spent within 1 year, although monitoring of the projects may be funded up to 3 years. Each year monitoring project funds are requested separately and an “end of 3-year lifecycle” closeout document is required.
- On the Medford District emergency stabilization projects are reported through the NFPORS databases, as appropriate.

Rehabilitation is defined as “Efforts undertaken within three years of containment of a wildland fire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover naturally to a management approved condition, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire.

- Rehabilitation Plans should be written concurrently with Emergency Stabilization Plans and submitted just after the due date for the ES Plan.
- Ongoing rehabilitation activities from previous year’s fires in their second and third year of rehabilitation require submission of Monitoring Summary Form before the end of the fiscal year to be considered for funding the following year. They will also be required to submit an “end of 3-year lifecycle” closeout report.

- On the Medford District All Rehabilitation projects must be entered into the NFPORS database.
- For Federal Agencies, Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plans require documentation to provide them NEPA adequacy. A site-specific plan is developed for each fire ESR project after fire containment. Typical activities that are involved include seeding, planting, water bars, hazard tree removal, fence replacement, and monitoring of effects of the fire and the activities. In many instances these activities can be categorically excluded, in other situations they may require an EA or an EIS.

Each Resource Area on the Medford District has an ESR coordinator. This person, along with resource specialist, resource advisors from the fire, and fire specialist, assess what the needs are for stabilization and rehabilitation projects after a fire incident. The Resource Area coordinators are led at the district level by the unit FMO, who advises them of changes in policy, procedures, budget, and requirements for their projects. Some of the monitoring projects are coordinated through the District Fire Ecologist. The annual workload involved with the ESR programs for the District as a whole is quite variable dependent on fire season activities. Over the past decade an average of one work month a year is spent by the Medford Resource Area Coordinators and unit FMO on ESR projects plans, requests, implementation, and documentation. This amount of time may increase with the new requesting formats for these programs. Yearly accomplishment and requesting procedures rather than a 3-year request for rehabilitation and monitoring of stabilization will increase the workload at this level. Resource Specialist spends approximately the same amount of time per project that they are responsible for. All the salary charges accrued from these projects are cycled back to the fire number as the project code.