

**File Code:** 2520; 5180; 6520**Date:** August 4, 2022**Route To:****Subject:** Sheep Fire, Burned Area Emergency Response, Initial Request Approval**To:** Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest

Your BAER 2500-8 Initial request for the Sheep Fire on the Angeles National Forest has been received and reviewed. The fire burned 865 total acres including 790 acres on National Forest System lands. The fire began on June 11 and was contained on June 19, 2022.

The standards for approving emergency actions are found in FSM 2523. Our Regional BAER Program Manager has conferred with the BAER Team Leader and Forest BAER Coordinator regarding this request. I agree with the BAER Assessment that unacceptable risks to BAER critical values exist on NFS lands, and emergency response treatments are warranted to manage those risks.

You are approved to expend up to \$29,400 for this project. This is an authorization of emergency expenditures, not an appropriation, and emergency spending is authorized only on the treatments as approved. Any changes to this plan must be approved by the Regional Office. Notably some of the request items were re-categorized as appropriate. Your request is approved for the following treatments and activities:

Treatment Category	Initial Request	Authorization
Land Treatments		
Botany EDRR – Suppression-related	\$21,000	\$21,000
Botany EDRR – BAER-traditional	\$13,900	\$6,900
Road and Trail Treatments		
Road Storm Inspection and Response	\$1,240	\$0
Protection and Safety Treatments		
Road Closure (boulders)	\$6,000	\$0
Hazard warning signage	\$0	\$1,500
Monitoring	\$2,500	\$0
Total	\$44,640	\$29,400

This initial request is not supported by the size and complexity of this fire or the risk assessments provided for justification of treatments, which is key to the BAER program. Adjustments were made based upon conversations with the Forest BAER Coordinator/TL and review of supporting documentation and treatment maps provided. Of note, road closure with boulders for safety is not a road stabilization treatment, and thus is not eligible for storm inspection and response; also



boulders are not effective for hiker and mountain bike closure, which is the purpose, so hazard warning signage is suggested and funded as a more effective risk-management substitute.

BAER projects are emergency projects which should be prioritized and implemented before the first damaging storms, with the exception of EDRR treatments which occur the following growing season. Priority should be placed on implementing those measures that protect human life and safety. Per policy, all approved BAER treatments must be installed & completed within one year of fire containment, which is by June 19, 2023 for the Sheep Fire. Any work performed under contract or agreement must reflect this performance completion date. Some extension leniency may be granted if needed for EDRR treatments (only) due to the early-season nature of this fire relative to target weed phenology.

A BAER implementation jobcode H5PP6U22 with override code 0501 will be established for this project ASAP. The Forest is responsible for implementation and financial oversight for this project. An accomplishment status report is due March 1 of the year following containment, and a final accomplishment report is due within 60 days of all treatments including EDRR being completed. The accomplishment report form can be found on the BAER website at: [Templates, Forms and Tools \(sharepoint.com\)](#). A separate detailed EDRR accomplishment report is also requested.

If there are any questions please contact Dave Young, Regional BAER Program Manager, at david.young1@usda.gov or (530) 768-4760.

Alan D. Olson for

JENNIFER EBERLIEN
Regional Forester

Enclosures

cc: Cara Farr, Dave Callery, Diana Craig, Rick Hopson, Dave Young, Brendan Waterman, Gustavo Macias, Connie Pallin, Julie "Jamie" Uyehara