

Mesa Ranger District BAER Fence Request

Explanation of request.

The Bush Fire started on Saturday June 13th, from a vehicle fire on the side of the SR-87. Due to the alignment of the winds and speed of the fire, multiple grazing permits within two districts were instructed to start moving livestock out from the head of the fire. All of the allotments had structural range improvements that were damaged from the fire, including but not limited to, pipelines, fences, historic cowboy cabins and loss of forage. Further assessment of the allotments is needed to determine scope of damage and time needed for repairing infrastructure while providing rest to pastures prior to designing a new grazing plan for the rest of this year and next.

There are three active grazing allotments that were impacted by the Bush Fire on Mesa Ranger District.

Sunflower Allotment: 156,134 acres

Diamond Allotment: 28,926 acres

Cross F Allotment: 28,990 acres

Total acres burned within MRD according to burn severity are:

High Severity: 5,941 acres

Moderate Severity: 80,638 acres

Low Severity: 63,568 acres

Unburned: 10,162 acres

Sunflower and Diamond Allotments had the biggest impact with all pastures east of SR-87 burned. The fire burned for a total of 193,455 acres between 2 districts on the Tonto National Forest. Fences were assessed according to severity of fire ratings. The BAER funding request is focusing on fences that were located within moderate to high severity only. There were approximately 90 miles of fence that were in moderate to severe fire severity within the Mesa Ranger District alone. All 3 allotments have had recent NEPA that authorized numerous projects and current grazing standards. This request is a top-priority for Mesa Ranger District Range Program specifically the division fence between Mesa and Tonto Basin Ranger Districts. Cost of contracted installation is listed on Overall Request Form to show general IDIQ contract items already set in place. Mesa Ranger District is requesting \$270,000 in replacement goods for fences that were damaged from the Bush Fire.