Blanket Creek/Spruce Lake Fire (High Cascades Complex)

Suppression Repair Plan

Crater Lake National Park

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Approved by:

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Note: Due to the timing of these fires, the P code will need to be held open until August 2018 to allow completion of rehab. These repair actions will be identified during the repair process and reviews by the line officer. See Appendix 1 for repair specifics.

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of this suppression repair plan is to mitigate adverse impacts to natural and cultural resources resulting from fire suppression activities on the Blanket Creek and Spruce Lake fires within Crater Lake National Park (CRLA). The specific objectives of suppression repair are:

- Rehabilitate trails, fireline, helispots, spike camps, etc. to their pre-fire suppression condition
- Minimize erosion and degradation of the soil environment
- Maintain water quality and habitat for aquatic organisms in the headwaters of the Red Blanket Creek and Copeland Creek drainages
- Protect cultural resources
- Maintain habitat for and biodiversity of natural resources
- Prevent the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive plant species
- Protect wilderness character within the Park's recommended wilderness

Within the Park, the Blanket Creek Fire is located in the Red Blanket Creek drainage and spreads north past Union Peak and east to include Bald Crater. The Red Blanket Creek drainage contains steep forested hillslopes and multiple steep headwater streams where large debris flows have occurred following past fires. The fire area includes both Rogue River-Siskiyou and Fremont-Winema National Forests and the southern portion of CRLA. The portion within CRLA occurs primarily within the park's recommended wilderness and contains habitat for ESA-listed northern spotted owl and ESA-candidate species whitebark pine. The rare plants Mt. Shasta arnica (*Arnica viscosa*) and Mt. Mazama collomia (*Collomia mazama*) occur within the fire area.

The Spruce Lake Fire is located almost entirely within Crater Lake National Park, with the western fire edge affecting the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The Spruce Lake Fire area includes the headwaters of Copeland Creek and sensitive riparian, wet meadow, and pumice meadow habitats. Additionally, the Spruce Lake fire encompasses habitat for the ESA-listed northern spotted owl, ESA-candidate species whitebark pine, and the rare plant Mt. Mazama collomia. A majority of the Spruce Lake Fire area is located within the park's recommended wilderness.

Responsibilities

The requirements of suppression repair work were developed by CRLA resource management specialists. The Incident Management Team (IMT) is responsible for implementing the repair activities outlined in Appendix 1. Park resource management specialists, under the direction of the Lead Resource Advisor, monitor and document the quality of repair efforts and provide guidance and direction as needed.

Longer-term rehabilitation efforts beyond suppression repair damage will be the responsibility of CRLA staff and will not be addressed by this plan. It is the responsibility of the IMT and CRLA staff to develop a transition plan to outline completion of suppression repair once IMTs have departed. An organizational structure will be developed and staffed by CRLA personnel to track repair needs and accomplishments. The CRLA Lead Resource Advisor will provide overall coordination of the rehabilitation effort and identify functional area leads to implement key functions of the rehabilitation plan.

Resource Information and Records

The Lead Resource Advisor will work with the Planning Section Chief of the IMT to develop site-specific repair recommendations and provide addenda to this plan as needed. Specific information about access trails, firelines, spike camps, helispots, and other suppression facilities will be inventoried and mapped. The Team will maintain a complete record (spatial data) of suppression facilities and suppression repair treatments and provide this information to CRLA staff prior to the Team's demobilization.

Fire Rehabilitation Standards

Rehabilitation Goals:

- Make areas look as though fire suppression resources were never there.
- Restore all disturbed areas to look as natural as possible.
- Focus rehabilitation efforts on preventing erosion and any features that might alter the flow of streams or water.

Firelines:

- Fill in firelines and cup trenches and obliterate any berms. With hand tools (preferably rakes, shovels, and McCleods), rake soil from the berm back to the original grade so the newly contoured area blends in with surrounding natural topography.
- Where firelines cross or parallel streams, remove line construction soil and debris such as cut log chunks and excess slash and fill from the channel. Place debris sufficiently above the channel so it will not roll back down into the stream.
- Utilize erosion control measures for firelines on slopes > 10% such as scattering woody debris over exposed soil.
- Fireline waterbars are discouraged unless the wash can be directed into a natural drainage.
- Ensure stumps are cut flush with or as low as practical to the ground near trails and in areas near the visitor viewshed. In all other areas, ensure stumps are cut to < 12" from the ground.
- Do not use a chainsaw to score low stumps.
- Trees or large brush cut during fireline construction should be scattered, not piled – preferably on fireline and disturbed areas. Do not bury meadow/wetland vegetation.
- Discourage use of firelines as social trails by blocking with brush, limbs, and logs in as naturally-appearing arrangement as possible.

- Where firelines cross hiking trails, block off access to the fireline by placing a row of rocks or downed woody debris along the trail edge and obscure fireline/fire trail with existing woody debris. Make the trail appear as the only travel option.
- Where bucking of heavy fuels has occurred near or along a trail corridor, please align cut ends of bucked pieces so that they look like an entire log, or roll rounds away from sight.

Sling sites and helispots:

- Ensure cut debris is scattered not piled.
- Do not scatter woody debris in meadows. Scatter woody debris on forest litter and duff (do not bury living herbaceous vegetation).
- When these sites are visible from trails, take extra effort to make sure that cut ends are aligned away from trails, stumps are cut flush with the ground, and cut debris is scattered widely (not piled) away from herbaceous vegetation.

Camps:

- Restore campsites to natural conditions (pick up trash, rake or spread needle litter and duff over bare ground, and cover with nearby slash and debris).
- Scatter fireplace rocks and charcoal from fire, cover fire ring with soil, and blend area with natural ground cover.
- Rehabilitate latrine sites. Fill in hole and cover area with woody debris to blend into surroundings.
- Rehabilitate any social trails.

Flagging and trash:

- Ensure all flagging is pulled, packed out, and disposed of properly.
- Ensure no trash remains on site.

Structure protection:

- Ensure all slash and piled material generated by structure protection activities have been removed and disposed of according to agreed-upon standards.
- Rake out any areas with ground disturbance and restore back to natural conditions.

General:

- Remove all signs of human activity.
- Restore any flag lines or trails out to firelines – follow fireline rehabilitation standards (above).
- Before heading out off-pavement, ensure all tools, clothing, boots, gear, and equipment are clean and free of organic debris or soil to prevent spreading invasive plant species.

Appendix 1

CRLA – 2017 Blanket Creek Fire Suppression Repair Tracking Sheet

Map ID	Task	Responsibility for Completion (Team/Next Team/CRLA)	If CRLA – date task to be completed	Date Task Completed (Fire Ops)	Date Task Approved (READ)	Name of Approving READ	Photos (Y/N)	Notes
Northern Control Efforts								
Fireline, escape routes	Repair per standards; pull flagging							
Helispot H-31	Repair per standards							
Helispot H-28	Repair per standards							
Helispot H-25	Repair per standards							
Spike Camp (Charlie)	Repair per standards							
Water Sources	Inventory, map, repair impacts							
Whitebark Pine near Union Peak	Document and record impacts, if any							
Mt. Shasta arnica near Union Peak	Document and record impacts, if any							
PCT Prep: Highway 62 to Union Peak Trail								
Trail corridor	Repair per standards							
Panhandle Fireline								
Fireline	Repair per standards							
Water Sources	Inventory, map, repair impacts							

CRLA – 2017 Spruce Lake Fire Suppression Repair Tracking Sheet

Map ID	Task	Responsibility for Completion (Team/Next Team/CRLA)	If CRLA – date task to be completed	Date Task Completed (Fire Ops)	Date Task Approved (READ)	Name of Approving READ	Photos (Y/N)	Notes
Northwestern Control Efforts (west of PCT)								
Fireline	Repair per standards							
Slash Piles	Repair per standards							
Helispot H-82	Repair per standards							
Helispot H-83	Repair per standards							
Helispot H-84	Repair per standards							
Spike Camp	Repair per standards							
Water Sources	Inventory, map, repair impacts							
Disguise suppression activity near PCT	Repair per standards							
Northeastern Control Efforts (east of PCT)								
Fireline to PCT	Repair per standards							
PCT corridor	Repair per standards							
Southeastern Control Efforts (east of PCT)								
Fireline/ access trails/hot spots	Repair per standards							
Slash Piles	Repair per standards							
Disguise suppression activity near PCT	Repair per standards							
Helispot H-78	Repair per standards							

Helispot H-79	Repair per standards							
Drop Point 90	Remove any flagging/trash							
Spike Camp	Repair per standards							
Southwestern Fire Control Efforts (west of PCT)								
Fireline/ access trails	Repair per standards							
Slash Piles	Scatter/repair per standards							
Trail into/out of Copeland Creek	Repair per standards to minimize erosion potential							
Disguise suppression activity near PCT	Repair per standards							
Helispot H-71	Repair per standards							
Sling Spot S-73	Repair per standards							
Sling Spot S-74	Repair per standards							
Sling Spot S-75	Repair per standards							
Spike Camp	Repair per standards							
Structure Protection								
Slash and piled material at Mazama Dorms	All debris removed and chipped/hauled to park standards							
Slash and piled material at NPS Permanent Housing	All debris removed and chipped/hauled to park standards							
Watchman Lookout	All fire suppression supplies and equipment removed from site							