



**Bear Fire Suppression
Repair Plan
Quemado Ranger
District
Gila National Forest
June 17, 2026
NM-GNF-000307 P3SQ98**

Approved by

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Bear Fire Suppression Repair Plan
Quemado Ranger District, GNF
and
New Mexico Forestry Division
June 17, 2026
NM-GNF-000307 P3SQ98

GOAL:

This repair plan is designed to guide the planning and implementation of fire suppression repair measures for the Bear Fire which burned lands managed by the Gila National Forest (GNF). The intent of this fire suppression repair plan is to mitigate or eliminate resource or any other effect/damages that resulted from fire suppression activities. This plan is not to address long-term land rehabilitation/restoration needs or work. All repair work will be done in a safe efficient manner.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

This plan provides fire suppression repair standards in order to provide efficient implementation of repair activities, reduce repair costs, and protect common resource values impacted by suppression activities. Implementation of this plan will be conducted by the Incident Management Team under the authority of resource advisors and/or the Agency Administrator. Uncompleted items will be documented and passed on to the Agency Administrator

General Repair Standards

- Pull and remove all flagging from lines, along roads, draft sites, landing zones, drop points, camps, and associated facilities.
- Collect and remove all trash from control lines, draft sites, landing zones, drop points, camps, and associated facilities.
- Remove signage from fire control efforts.
- Take appropriate actions to reduce/minimize erosion.
- Construct water bars using the standard in **Table 1 below**.
 - a. Water bar height 6 inches to 1 foot
 - b. Angle water bars diagonally (30 to 40 degrees) so water will not drain directly downhill.
 - c. Ensure there are no obstructions or depressions at either end to facilitate flow.
 - d. Do not construct water bars to divert runoff directly into a stream course

Table 1. Suggested distance needed between water bars	
Grade (percent)	Distance (feet)
2	250
5	135
10	80
15	60
20	45
25	40
30	35

Source: Kochenderfer 1970, p. 28

Constructed Fire Lines

Dozer Lines

- Coordinate with Agency Administrator prior to rehabilitation of fire lines to protect archaeological sites.
- To discourage unauthorized vehicle use, camouflage entrances to fire lines by placing boulders, logs trees, and/or slash across them. Use heavy equipment, if possible, to create substantial closure.
- Give special attention to prevent unauthorized vehicular access along suppression features including dozer and handlines.
- Return dozer lines to original/contour spreading displaced materials evenly across the line. Scatter slash, woody debris in random pattern to create a natural appearance.
- Repair should be conducted to eliminate future use by motorized vehicles.
- Install waterbars diagonally (30 to 40 degrees) into unburned side and re-seed with approved native seed mix as necessary.

Hand Lines

- Conceal constructed hand lines by covering with slash or woody debris.
- Install waterbars diagonally (30 to 40 degrees) into unburned side and re-seed with approved native seed mix as necessary.

Hazard Trees, Cut Vegetation, and Debris

- Remove hazard trees and vegetation felled or cut during suppression activities, or other obstructions (such as rocks), from roads, trails, and drainages, which may create post fire safety hazards or impact water flow. On USFS lands, all brush that cannot be chipped will be piled for future prescribed burn.
- Chip slash or cut vegetation that was created by fire fighters and spread into unburned vegetation. Wood rounds that were created can be left along roadway for public use, particularly oak species in areas that border private land.

Roads

- Restore roads, grade, and water control structures to ensure water drains from road, where feasible.
- Lead out ditches, low water crossings, culverts will be clear of slash, debris, woody material, and other obstructions to allow maximum flows.
- Logs, slash, and other debris will be placed away from the road to prevent them from rolling onto the road.
- Any damage created by suppression activities should be repaired
- Where needed, re-grade after suppression activities; stabilize and/or control erosion caused by road activity or upslope suppression activities.
- Chip all slash in areas accessible to chipper. Otherwise, lop and scatter.

Drop Points, Helibase, Safety Zones, Camps, and Associated Facilities

- Scarify and re-seed with an approved native seed mixture.
- Lop and scatter slash and woody debris at all sites to less than 12 inches.
- Return all drop points and landing zones created to pre-fire size by replacing logs and rocks removed from site.
- Report all hazardous waste (chemical, fuel, other) so area can be promptly and properly cleaned up in accordance with Agency protocol.

- Scatter all slash piles higher than 18 inches to a depth of less than 12 inches.
- Place rocks, logs, and slash on all foot paths. Discourage future use and camouflage entrance points – pull slash onto paths and construct water bars where needed.

Cultural Resources (DIV A and P)

- An Archeologist monitor will be present during suppression repair activities involving heavy equipment and work near identified cultural sites.
- For identified cultural resource sites, repair areas where fire suppression activities destabilized slopes near sites.

Range

- Repair range infrastructure used or impacted such as water holes, tanks, cattle guards, gates, and corrals.
- Document fence lines or gates that were damaged during suppression activities.

Campgrounds

- Remove hazard trees, or other obstructions that may create post-fire safety hazards if resulted from suppression activities.
- Chip or remove newly cut trees, boles, slash, that are visible from trails or Campground meadow.
- Reseed if necessary. An approved native seed mix will be used.
- Disperse boulder piles that have accumulated from ground clearing efforts.
- Tio Vincas CXT toilet must be pumped after crews demob from the location.

New Mexico Forestry Division Specific Guidelines

Fire Line Rehabilitation Inspections:

- As soon as it is safe to do so, appointed Forestry Division personnel shall conduct a pre-inspection of the hand line and dozer line to identify areas of rehabilitation concern.
- As soon as it is safe to do so, after rehabilitation has been completed by fire management personnel, appointed Forestry Division personnel shall verify that all rehabilitation has been executed in accordance with the above guidelines.

Special Considerations:

- Additional rehabilitation may be required as the incident develops.