

**BURNED AREA EMERGENCY STABILIZATION
MURPHY COMPLEX FIRE WILDHORSE COMPLEX
CULTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT**

I. OBJECTIVES

- Assess effects to known historic and prehistoric cultural resources as the result of fire behavior.
- Assess potential risks to known/documented cultural resources as the result of post-fire effects (e.g.) erosion, flooding, and exposure to looting and/or vandalism.
- Assess potential risks to cultural resources as the result of non-cultural emergency stabilization activities.
- Advance emergency stabilization treatments for cultural resources on Federal lands adversely affected by fire.
- Coordinate with Federally recognized Tribes.

II. ISSUES

- A. Human Health and Safety:** No cultural heritage resources issues were identified for this category.
- B. Soil/Watershed Stabilization:** No cultural heritage resources issues were identified for this category.
- C. T&E Habitat Stabilization and Recovery:** No cultural heritage resources issues were identified for this category.
- D. Cultural Heritage Resources:**
- Twenty eight documented/recorded sites are known on FS lands within the fire area. Another six FS sites were encountered during field inspections to other sites. Of the 34 above, 20 sites have architecture or other features susceptible to fire effects.
 - Non-cultural resources Emergency Stabilization treatments needed within the fire area will require assessment and avoidance of significant resources.
 - Archaeological sites and burials are within the fire boundaries and a possibility exists that other Tribal values are present. The effects emergency stabilization treatments may have on the cultural resources are of interest to the Federally recognized Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and possibly the Elko Band Council of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone.
 - Looting/vandalism is known to occur after fires due to loss of vegetative cover and increased accessibility.
 - Few inventories on FS lands have been done within the fire.

CULTURAL

III. OBSERVATIONS

- A. Background** –Approximately 95,163 acres are within the interior perimeter of the Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex. The fire in this zone involved approximately 91,124 acres of Forest Service land, 245 acres of Elko BLM lands, 2,137 acres of Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) land, and 1,657 acres of private. All lands are within the State of Nevada.

The lightning caused fires making up this complex burned within this area between July 16 and August 2, 2006. The fire complex burned from about 4,902 feet (1,494 meters) to 9,449 feet (2,880 meters) elevation, and through a variety of topographic features ranging from floodplains, steep walled canyons, to ridges and mountainsides. Because of strong and shifting winds and the dominant sage/grassland vegetation, a large amount of acreage was consumed in a short period of time. In higher elevations the fire burned in a mosaic pattern, resulting in various sized patches of unburned vegetation within the fire perimeter. Vegetation was impacted to various degrees depending on the types of fuel available, but averaged out as having moderate mortality. The burn severity (effects on the soil) was relatively uniform throughout the fire, being mostly low with some moderate mostly located in the drainages and their slopes.

The Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex burned in the Bruneau River Watershed. The fire involved the Bruneau River which drains the eastern side of the fire. The western portion of the fire burned to and across Meadow Creek. This creek flows into the Bruneau near the north end of the fire. While there is a small riparian zone of vegetation along the drainages, the flow of water is quite low during summer. The area hosts a number of avian species as well as mammals, including deer, elk, antelope, as well as rabbit and other rodent species.

These waterways, their tributaries, and springs and their associated riparian vegetation would have allowed use of this area for most, if not all, of the area's record of human use. The Wildhorse Zone's available water was limited and the area was not climatically or geographically suitable for winter settlement. A lack of pinyon and other favored vegetative resources, and the distance from winter camps would argue for prehistoric use in this area mainly limited to seasonal hunting and limited gathering until historic times when the availability of processed food and more substantial shelter overcame environmental limitations.

Since the north-central Great Basin contains a nearly continuous record of human occupation, only a brief synopsis will be presented in this assessment. Most information comes from the synthesis found in Fawcett (2004:8-9) and Kumiega (2005; 2007). For specific references, the reader should consult those reports. Because the temporal identifier for non-ceramic sites in the Great Basin is the projectile point, these will be noted in the following discussion. And while much occupation is at open sites, the use of caves and rock shelters were used at different times throughout the archaeological and ethnographic record.

Prehistoric Overview The earliest known, Paleoarchaic, occupation extends from 12,000 to 8,000 years Before Present (BP). Recognized by the presence of fluted (Clovis, Folsom) or Great Basin stemmed points, many made from basalt and other hard rock. In other areas of North America Paleoindians hunted mega fauna such as the extinct bison, mammoth and mastodon. In the Great Basin, however, the people exploited a wider range of plants and animals, especially around the margins of lakes or playas that were present in valley bottoms at that time. These lakes held fish and had a lush wetland around them until the early Holocene, allowing the people to exploit large and small mammals, fish, plant and birds during the Paleoarchaic.

The subsequent Archaic Period has been subdivided into Early (8,000 to 5,000 BP), Middle (5000 to 1300 BP) and Late (1300 to 600 BP). Evidence for Early Archaic in the north-central Great Basin is sparse; sites tend to be concentrated in a relatively limited

number of places compared to the time after 5250 BP. Early Archaic sites are recognized by the presence of distinctive styles of points including Northern-Side-Notched, Humboldt concave base lanceolate and Pinto Shouldered. In the Middle Holocene the lakes, playas and their wetlands began drying up. This resulted in a shift to exploiting upland resources with greater intensity. Few occurrences of settlement in this area of the Great Basin are known for this time.

Beginning in the Middle Archaic, or South Fork and James Creek Phases, human use in this area of the Great Basin becomes more common. These sites can be identified by Gatecliff split-stem, Humboldt lanceolate concave base, Elko eared and Elko corner-notched varieties, and Gypsum points.

During the James Creek Phase, conditions became wetter and pinyon continued its expansion into the central Great Basin from its initial appearance about 7,000 years ago. The presence of sites increases in size and number with the largest number found along springs, wetlands, and around pinyon-juniper, with pinyon becoming a major fall collection resource. Sites during this time are associated with the Elko series points. As pinyon was not found in the Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex, it is hypothesized that sites of this time would reflect hunting and gathering activities rather than pinyon collection.

The beginning of the Late Archaic Period, from 1250 to 600 BP (Maggie Creek Phase), is associated with the introduction of corner-notched arrow points (Rose Spring and Eastgate types). Later, around 600 BP, Desert side-notched and Cottonwood triangular arrow points appear. Brown-ware pottery also appears at this later time. Based on information from the Scorpion Ridge Site located on the BLM Elko District, this pottery may have been preceded by grey-wares and a distinctive side-notched point (Nawthis) associated with the Fremont in eastern Nevada (Hockett and Morgenstein 2003:1-36). Ceramics occur in greater frequency in areas of more concentrated occupation, such as around springs, waterways and the margins of their wetlands. The flat-bottom, thick walled pots of this time were being set directly in cooking fires. At present, pottery has not been located in or near the fire area.

During the Protohistoric Period from 600-150 BP (the Eagle Rock Phase), ancestors of the Numic-speaking Shoshone began using Desert side-notched and Cottonwood triangular arrow points and Brown-ware ceramics. Many anthropologists indicate that Numic peoples began to spread eastward across the Great Basin after 1000 BP from their ancestral homeland in the Death Valley area of California.

Ethnographic Overview – The Western Shoshone occupied the north-central Great Basin by at least the late Prehistoric Period. They were initially mobile hunters-gatherers who took advantage of different seasonal plant and animal resources. While most hunting-gathering activities were associated with a disbursed population, procuring pinyon nuts was a communal fall activity that provided a winter food source. Pinyon, however, is absent within the fire area. Rabbit and antelope drives were also communal activities. More permanent winter camps were located in the foothills near springs, with caches of pine nuts, fuel wood sources and, if available, access to open water. One area of winter camps was along the Humboldt River, probably extending into the lower reach of the South Humboldt Canyon. Another area was to the north, along the South Fork of the Owyhee River.

Beginning in the 1840's, increasing numbers of Euro-Americans moved through the general area on the California Trail, following the Humboldt River. With use of the Hastings Cutoff through the South Fork Canyon in 1846, major disruptions in the Shoshone lifeways began. From the 1840's to 1860's, the Shoshone traded with the emigrants, occasionally raiding for cattle and supplies. In part, this was the result of the emigrant displacement of the Shoshone and their competing use of their resources, especially thru grazing. This displacement forced the people to rely more intensively on the uplands for resource hunting-gathering activities.

On October 1, 1863, the United States entered into a treaty with the Western Bands of

Shoshone at Ruby Valley, Nevada Territory. The treaty called for cessation of hostilities with the immigrant Euro-Americans. It also made allowances for permitting telegraph lines; allowing stage lines to run without interference; allowing mining and railroad construction; and the establishment of ranches within their territory. In return the Shoshone would receive specific annuities, have their land boundaries defined, and would have reservations established - when deemed expedient to do so (Library of Congress, 38-39).

The construction of the Central Pacific Railroad in 1868 led to more intensive development of ranching and mining in the region. Elko was founded in 1868 and it, along with the supporting infrastructure of other towns and roads, further forced the Shoshone off of their traditional lands. By 1870, their traditional food resources had been so impacted by grazing that the Western Shoshone began to turn to wage-work at the ranches, mines and in towns.

A number of families attached themselves to ranches and began shifting to a cash economy. This led to an ability to acquire enough supplies to over-winter in areas previously unavailable to them because of inhospitable conditions and lack of available winter food and shelter. It should be noted, however, that a number of the Shoshone in the fire area continued to practice earlier lifeways well into the early 20th Century.

In 1873, a Special Commissioner to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs was sent to investigate the condition of Indians in the area around Elko who were "not yet collected." His report to the Commissioner said, in part, that a reservation would be impractical at that time because there was no area with adequate water and resources that was not already settled by the ranchers (Library of Congress 1964:39).

That year also saw some Western Shoshone begin to farm at what became the Carlin Farm Reserve. Shortly after its creation, however, several settlers filed counter claims and in 1879 the Indians were displaced and the land reverted back to public domain.

In 1877, the Duck Valley Reservation was established for the Western Shoshone. As this reservation was outside their traditional territory few initially chose to settle there. The Shoshone, displaced from the Carlin Farm Reserve, were allowed to settle at the Duck Valley Reservation. Only about 25 percent of the people chose to do so, with the remainder returning to their original territory.

By 1882, a variety of reasons, including a corrupt BIA agent, resulted in over 2/3rds of the Duck Valley residents to leave the reservation with some going to the Jarbidge and North Fork of the Humboldt areas. Two years later only about 300 people still resided on the reservation (Clemmer and Stewart 1986: 534-535).

The shift to wage-work in the Elko area, and the return from people from the Duck Valley Reservation, eventually led to the establishment of Shoshone colonies on the outskirts of most northern Nevada Towns.

Some Western Shoshone continued to use Meadow Creek canyon in traditional ways into the 1920's-1930's. Others worked for ranchers to acquire goods allowing them to over winter in the area. Ranchers would invite these families to camp near their cabins so that the Indian children could attend school and help meet the minimum student requirement for keeping a school open (Kumiega 2007).

At present, the Federally recognized Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone (including the Elko, South Fork, Battle Mountain and Wells bands), the Elko Band Council, and the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation represent tribal interests in this region. Their interests include cultural association to places of cultural and religious significance and represent their continuing cultural ties to the land.

Historic Overview – While Euro-American fur trappers passed through the Humboldt and Snake Rivers and their tributaries in the 1820's in search of beaver, the Historic Period

really begins in the mid-19th Century. Beginning in the 1840's, overland emigrant trails to Oregon and California passed through the region. As mentioned, the Hastings Cutoff ran through one of the wintering areas of the Shoshone. The construction of the Central (now Union) Pacific railroad along the Humboldt River in 1868 led to the establishment of permanent Euro-American settlements, such as Elko and Carlin, and associated transportation systems that provided goods and services from the railhead to the developing ranching and mining industries. In 1908 the Western Pacific Railroad also laid down track through Elko.

The ranching development in Northeast Nevada has been summarized in Murphy (2001). Specific to Forest Service lands, the overviews of Kumiega (2005; 2007) will be used.

While cattle were a component part of many early emigrant parties passing through this area, cattle drives also used the Humboldt Trail in the 1850's-60's. Ranch development in Nevada is associated with the end of the Civil War. At that time, cattlemen began seeking out-of-state markets. And with the completion of the railroad terminal at Elko in 1868/69, cattle could then be shipped to a wider market. Then, as other areas suffered drought, harsh winters, or overgrazing, many of the cattle ended up in Northern Nevada. By 1873, most of the irrigable land had been acquired under the Preemption and Homestead Acts. This led to overgrazing on the remaining public lands although a severe winter in 1879 reduced Nevada's herds by about a third. From then to 1886 there was a regrowth in the industry but after that period seasonal extremes in the weather became a limiting factor on the industry's growth. Following the devastating winter of 1889-90 ranchers began putting land into hay fields to provide for winter feed.

The sheep industry somewhat paralleled the development of cattle, and their introduction caused conflicts between the two industries. Again, the first sheep that passed through the area were associated with the emigrants on their way to California. Between the California Gold Rush and 1860, over 500,000 sheep were driven through the state to the California markets. Later, as the Nevada mining communities developed, the demand for sheep increased. It has been estimated that 2 to 3 million sheep were moved through Nevada to market from 1860 to 1910.

Development of resident flocks in the Elko area began slowly, due in large part by the opposition of the Cattle Industry. The first local flocks date to the 1870's. But given the abundance of forage and potential profits, it was only a matter of time until Elko became the largest sheep producer in Nevada. This was aided by the harsh winter of 1889/90 that resulted in a large die off of cattle. As the ranchers noticed that sheep had a greater survival rate, some switched to raising sheep. Later, water rights and grazing allotments developed into an on-going issue as itinerant sheepherders free grazed on lands the cattlemen had traditionally used.

The cattlemen's opposition took an interesting turn when they lobbied for land to become National Forest. This was done so that a Federal agency would regulate the numbers of sheep grazing on those lands and it ultimately led to the creation of the National Forest.

The Utah Construction Company, who built the Western Pacific Railroad owned or leased 300,000 acres in Northern Elko County and had 50,000 cattle and 42,000 head of sheep. But it appears the smaller, primarily cattle, ranches were in the Meadow and Bruneau creek areas. This area was also used to graze sheep and this tension led, in part, to the creation of the Humboldt and Ruby Forest Reserves, now part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (Kumiega 2005, 2007).

While the valleys and uplands of this area have been used for ranching and farming since the start of the ranches, mining has been more of a boom and decline type of industry. The heavily mineralized nature of much of the central-northern Great Basin provided a wide number of resources that could be mined. The first mining districts developed as gold and silver was found. Since then a variety of other minerals were mined as their presence was known (LaPointe, Tingley and Jones 1991; Tingley 1992). The Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex burned through parts of the Rowland (Gold Basin)

Mining District, the Telephone Mining District, a small part of the Tennessee (Alder) Mining District. The southernmost portion of the fire burned into the peripheral edge of the Mardis (Charleston) Mining District that is on BLM lands and possibly touched the Hicks Mining District.

The upper reaches of Tennessee gulch were placer and lode mined and there may have been a small number of Chinese miners in this district. The Bruneau River was also placer mined but the miners later shifted to more productive lode mining near Rowland.

B. Reconnaissance Methodology and Results

The purpose of this assessment is to discuss the potential fire effects on significant cultural resources. – Base line information for the Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex assessment came from a records search of FS and BLM cultural resource reports and site files. Information about the fire area was also provided by the FS Zone archaeologist from July 31-August 8, 2007.

BAER Archaeologist, Chuck James, and FS Archaeological Resource Advisor Karen Kumiega were in the field from August 1-3, 2007 to assess sites for fire effects and emergency stabilization needs. A helicopter reconnaissance of the fire was made on August 3, 2007. During this flight, features observable from the air, such as mining sites and prehistoric use (rock shelters and stone alignments) were searched for and known sites were viewed for fire effects. From the air, both recent mudslides and earlier episodes of mass wasting were seen.

Discussions with the USFS Elko Archaeologist and BLM, Elko Native American Coordinator indicated the Federally recognized Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and the Elko Band Council of the Te-Moak Tribe have an on-going interest in the area. At present the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes have expressed specific interests in this area and will continue to be apprised during proposed treatments that may affect cultural resources of importance to the Tribe.

Discussions with FS staff indicate a concern with looters, especially following ground cover removal in fire areas. Both illegal surface collection and digging are known to have occurred in this area in the past and at more recent times. It appears the illegal digging is directed to select high value sites at this time.

While most of the land within the Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Complex has not been surveyed, the records search did locate 28 sites within the fire perimeter on FS lands. Many of these sites were the result of “drive bys” with old timers who pointed out sites. These locations and a brief description of what was said about the site were put on site records and were to be more fully recorded at a later date. Of the sites, two were in unburned islands. Of the remainder, 20 are wood structures, prehistoric sites, and ethnographic sites that may have been burned over. General Land Office (GLO) maps of the period also indicate the location of historic houses that may still have some physical evidence of the structure remaining. Many FS site records are incomplete though as explained above, and were recorded regardless of land ownership. Field collected GPS points were used to help resolve the issue of land ownership. This lack of baseline data within the records, however, did not allow a true comparison of what the fire effects on the sites were.

In considering prehistoric use of this area, attention needs to be given to the fact that land involved in the Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex represents higher elevation resource procurement activities. In other areas of Western Shoshone territory some small surface area sites have been found to have significant subsurface data, especially if 20 or more obsidian flakes are present, so attention should be given to this possibility in the fire area (Bill Fawcett and Bryan Hockett, Personal Communication, BLM Elko District Office, August 6-16, 2006).

This assessment is not intended to definitively answer questions about the presence of

cultural resources on Federal lands within the fire line. Since a large portion of Federal land has not been surveyed and Emergency Stabilization does not assess burned lands not involved in treatment plans, there may well be a large number of undocumented/unrecorded cultural resources remaining within the interior boundaries of the Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex.

The BLM lands involved at the southeastern end of the fire had not been surveyed. No sites were noted from the air or on GLO maps. These lands will not be mentioned further.

PREVIOUSLY DOCUMENTED/RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES

| Site No. | Land | Burned | Verify | Field Description | Comments |
|------------|-------|--------|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| HM-00393 | FS | N | Y | Rock shelter east | |
| HM-00394 | FS | Part | Y | Rock shelter west | Also HM-02000 |
| HM-01224 | FS | Y | N | Lithic scatter | |
| HM-01480 | FS | unkn | N | Isolated flake | no record |
| HM-01483 | FS | Y | Y | Stone circle | From air |
| HM-01488 | FS/NV | Y | Y | Jack Scott ranch, 3 bldgs | cabin, dugout, log cabin |
| HM-01490 | FS | Y | Y | Lithic scatter/feature | From air |
| HM-01491 | FS | unkn | N | Rock shelter? | no cult. Material |
| HM-01492 | FS | unkn | N | Rock Shelter? | no cult. Material |
| HM-01493 | FS | N | Y | Pre-1944 power line cabin | From air |
| HM-01494 | FS | part | N | Burned in Coffee Pot Fire | prev. burned |
| HM-02001 | FS | unkn | N | Reported site, unrecorded | |
| HM-02052 | FS | Y | N | Taylor Ranch | Prev. burned |
| HM-02057 | FS | Y | Y | Reported graves | Native American |
| HM-02058 | FS | Y | Y | Taguero Dips, cabin | Nat. Am. Camp |
| HM-02060 | FS | N | N | Mink cabin & arrastra | |
| HM-02061 | FS | part | Y | Owyhee camp | no evidence |
| HM-02063 | FS | Y | Y | Meadow Creek Guard Station | culvert in site |
| HM-2064 | FS | Y | Y | Joyal Cabin, Owyhee camp | Also HM-2343 |
| HM-02065 | FS | Y | Y | Owyhee winter camp | |
| HM-02067 | FS | part | T | Meadow Creek School | not located |
| HM-02068 | FS | Y | Y | Grave | Native American |
| HM-09602 | FS | N | Y | Lithic Scatter | |
| HM-02906 | FS | unkn | N | Lithic scatter | |
| 4170605999 | FS | Y | N | Lithic scatter | |
| 4170606000 | FS | Y | N | Prospect Pits | |
| Cabin nr-2 | FS | unk | N | Cabin Site | |

CULTURAL

During a reconnaissance flight over the Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex, a number of sites were observable from the air and later plotted on a map. At that time their land status was able to be determined.

NEWLY DISCOVERED FS CULTURAL RESOURCES

| Site No. | Land | Burned | Verify | Field Description | Comments |
|----------|------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|----------|
| NS#1 | FS | Y | Y | Historic artifact scatter | |
| NS#2 | FS | Y | Y | Poss. Power line work cabin | |
| NS#4 | FS | Part | Y | Cabin with mining features | From air |
| NS#5 | FS | Y | Y | 1930-40's hist. artifact scatter | |
| NS#6 | FS | N | Y | Historic auto repair location | |
| NS#7 | FS | Y | Y | Cabin site | From air |

NDOW AND PRIVATE LANDS CULTURAL RESOURCES

| Site No. | Land | Burned | Verify | Field Description | Comments |
|------------|---------|--------|--------|---|---------------------|
| HM-01484 | NDOW | UNK | N | Stone structure | |
| HM-01485 | NDOW | | | 3 rock circles, lithic scatter | |
| HM-01486 | NDOW | Y | Y | Mink Ranch, cabin, corral | |
| HM-01487 | NDOW | Part. | Y | Wooden Trestle, aqueduct Concrete headgate | |
| HM-01489 | NDOW | Y | Y | Alvarea Ranch, structures | |
| HM-0149 | NDOW | Y | N | Ranch, structures | |
| HM-02053 | NDOW | Unk | N | Lila Wilsons Ranch | Cabin, barn, corral |
| HM-02066 | Private | N | Y | Tennile Ranch, 1920's | Drive by |
| Cabin nr-3 | NDOW | Unk | N | Unrecorded cabin | |
| NS#3 | NDOW | Y | Y | Poss. mining camp | tent/cabin flats |
| Rowland | Private | Part | Y | Town site, mines | |

- C. Findings** – The Wildhorse Zone of the Murphy Fire Complex burned across an area that includes portions of the Meadow Creek and Bruneau River drainages from north of Sunflower Flat to where FS lands abut BLM lands south of the Nevada/Idaho border line. These perennial waterways would have allowed travel into the mountains to access seasonal resources and game as well as provide resources gathered from the riparian habitat. The upland areas may have been exploited over the full period of human occupation. Paleoindian use, if present, would have been ephemeral as information to date indicates they concentrated around the marshes, and used the uplands more for hunting.

Kumiega (2007) indicates upland use in this area was consistent but not intensive, with early summer to fall hunting probably being the most important activity. This reality, coupled with a limited number of archaeological surveys, has not lent itself to easily fitting into the regional chronologies. In the fire area, lithic sites, stone rings and rock shelters without diagnostic projectile points may represent usage from any time in the archaeological record. Regardless of when the prehistoric land use occurred, however, the sites within the fire area have the ability to answer specific questions about prehistoric lifeways and use on the landscape. They also can assist in developing of a more complete record of human occupation in the more marginal lands of these earlier archaeological cultures.

A number of Western Shoshone sites were burned over. Since the fires were fast moving, little to no damage to subsurface material would be expected.

The ethnographic period continues the pattern of wintering along the Humboldt, Owyhee and other more favorable spots, then traveling out in small family units for a seasonal round involving hunting and gathering. By the summer months they would be utilizing the Wildhorse Zone for hunting of antelope, elk, deer, rabbit and other rodents as well as gathering activities. The Western Shoshone continued their earlier lifeways as well as wintering near specific ranches until 1930 or so.

The problem with ethnographic sites is that they may or may not contain historic and/or native materials, making it hard to determine who to attribute the sites to. Incorporating historic records with archaeological research may help resolve this issue.

A wide range of the historic period is reflected by the sites in this area. Cattle ranches, cabins, mines and placers, several types of mining mills, a school, the Rowland town site, and other features are present in the fire area.

Any site with a wooden component was at jeopardy during this fire. This situation was exacerbated by the amount of mature sage brush found at the sites as evidenced by the

number of burned sage and other brush stems adjacent to the seven burned sites (two of the sites had previously been burned over based on available records). Three wooden sites survived even though brush was growing against the walls. This indicates other variables, such as wind shifts, a rain event, or absence of fuel on the ground surface, among other explanations, could have been involved.

All but one stone building incorporated wood posts on the inside corners of the walls and some have these posts on several exterior corners as well. They may be recessed into the wall or placed adjacent to the wall. All of these buildings are on NDOW lands.

The use of interior and exterior posts appears to be a localized tradition. It may reflect the idiosyncratic behavior of a single builder, a regional trend, or even an outside influence. It appears that these posts were to assist in wall stability. Those burned over stone buildings have lost this structural element and are becoming destabilized as a result of this loss.

There is some visible evidence of past looting at significant sites. Much of this illegal activity has focused on the Chinese component of the Island Mountain Mining District, south of the fire, and less so at several rock shelters inside the fire perimeters. The loss of the protective aspects of a dense vegetative cover, including stands of big sage, has left many sites exposed. The low artifact yield and disbursed nature of both the historic and prehistoric sites in the fire area, coupled with minimal evidence of looting in the fire area does not support additional law enforcement at this time. This monitoring of exposed sites should continue until vegetative regrowth conceals the sites.

Concerns have been expressed about the lack of survey in the Wildhorse Zone fire area. As most survey work is driven by Section 106 compliance projects this issue can not be addressed here. The lack of properly documented sites though hindered collecting base line data against which the cabins can be assessed. Any proposed ground disturbing Emergency Stabilization treatment, however, is required to have a cultural resource assessment done prior to treatment implementation and this will add to the knowledge of those areas.

Water erosion has affected at least one rock shelter within the fire. At this site, the cultural deposit was washed away as the creek shifted up against the rock wall, leaving only a smoke blackened overhang. Deposition, in the form of sheet erosion and mass wasting, has affected sites in the Bruneau River area. Wind erosion (and deposition) was also noted, especially on the slopes above the drainages.

A ditch relief culvert at the site of the Meadow Creek Guard Station extends out approximately four extra feet from the roadbed. This extension butts the eastern opening into the dirt and will create a new outflow channel into and through part of the guard station site if not modified.

A trestle half pipe irrigation flume that crosses the Bruneau River has had at least three trestles and their connector boards on which the flume rested burn. This resulted in both ends of the flume collapsing, leaving the trestles that cross over the Bruneau destabilized. The destabilized flume is in jeopardy of collapsing during a heavy flow which would release lumber and pipe debris into the river. A number of sections of irrigation pipe associated with this flume have lost their integrity and rolled off the alignment.

The Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes has expressed specific concerns within the area of the fire. The Elko Band Council of the Te-Moak Tribe indicated they did not have any cultural concerns about the fire area at this time. Several ancestral gravesites were burned over but show minimal damage. Both are in proximity of the road and one area of 2 reported graves was almost plowed over when heavy equipment pushed excess dirt from the roadway up to 100 ft. off the road.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Emergency Stabilization – Fire Suppression Repair:** No specification required.
- B. Emergency Stabilization**
Treatment Specifications:
 - 1. Cultural Heritage Resources:
 - a. Treatment Specification #7: Native American Consultation. This treatment is to determine if significant Native American Heritage sites have been affected by the fire and whether any significant Native American sites are located in those areas proposed for emergency stabilization treatments.
 - 2. Soil/Watershed Stabilization:
 - a. Treatment Specifications #3, Upsize Culverts and Specification #6, Stream bank and Road Stabilization includes an archaeological survey of areas to be disturbed.
 - 3. Vegetation:
 - a. Treatment Specification #11, Protective Fencing includes an archaeological survey of areas to be disturbed.
- C. Management Recommendations – Non-Specification Related FS**
 - 1. Clear brush 30 feet back from historic wood and stone buildings.
 - 2. Monitor for an increase in illegal looting that would require additional patrol.
 - 3. An inventory of standing cabins should be done to determine possible protection measures for those determined to be significant heritage sites.
 - 4. Remove 3-4 excess feet of the pipe from the outflow end of the Meadow Creek Ranger Station ditch relief culvert. Bevel cut the end and harden the outlet apron and basin with Class 2 riprap. See discussion in Soil & Watershed Assessment, Non-Specification Management Recommendations.
 - 5. Work with the Elko County Road Department to insure that road maintenance activities stay within their designated right-of-way to avoid impacting cultural sites. Specific information on these values at risk and their locations reside with the Mountain City District FS Archaeologist.

State

- 1. Specific to the flume and trestle over Bruneau Creek. Replace burned trestle members and re-straighten the metal flume, or document the trestle and flume to Nevada SHPO standards and remove the unstable section from above the creek.
- 2. Stabilize any sections of pipe that may roll into the river.
- 3. Replace burned wooden support members in stone buildings.

V. CONSULTATIONS

INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED BY THE CULTURAL TEAM

| Name | Contact Info | Purpose of Contact | Date |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Alice Baldrice Deputy SHPO | Nevada State Historic Preservation Office | Initial Section 106 consultation on BAER plan | 7, 8 August 2007 |
| Karen Kumiega Zone Archaeo | USFS, Mountain City Ranger District | Records information, Tribal contact info | 31 July to 10 August 2007 |
| Gerald Dixon NACoordinator | BLM, Elko | Initiate Tribal contact/consultation | 3 August 2007 |
| Tim Howard Cult.Resource Director | Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribes | Initiate Tribal contact/ informal consultation | 3, 7 August 2007 |
| Bryan Hockett | BLM, Elko | Historic Records, BLM | 6 August 2007 |

| Archaeologist | | properties | |
|---|--|---|---------------|
| Alfreda Jake Enviro. Coord. | Elko Band Council, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone | Initiate Tribal Contact/ informal consultation | 6 August 2007 |
| Cliff Banuelos Assist. Enviro. Coord. | Elko Band Council, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone | Request for info. | 9 August 2007 |

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Note: A list of project reports from which the site information is drawn is on file at the Mountain City Ranger District, Elko, Nevada.

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