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**File Code:** 2520; 5130**Date:** September 29, 2021**Route To:****Subject:** Telegraph Fire BAER Pilot Minor Facilities and Infrastructure Funding Request**To:** Regional Forester

In accordance with the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) FY21 Pilot for Minor Facilities and Infrastructure repairs, we are submitting the enclosed pilot request forms and maps to request funding to repair minor facilities and infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the Telegraph Fire on the Globe Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest. We submitted an initial funding request under the traditional BAER process, and a 2500-8 report, on June 29, 2021. That request was approved on July 2, 2021.

The Telegraph fire started on June 4, 2021, and burned approximately 181,000 acres including more than 94,000 acres on NFS lands. The fire burned or damaged a significant amount of NFS range infrastructure across nine allotments, including 66.3 miles of allotment boundary fence, 61.5 miles of allotment interior fence, five corrals, and 17 water developments including numerous water pipelines, storage tanks, and troughs. We have a record of maintenance of these structural allotment improvements through the term grazing permits, allotment management plans, and annual operating instructions. Additionally, there is no record of non-compliance for maintenance actions for any of these allotments. It is our assessment that improvements were maintained to an operational level prior to the fire.

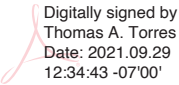
We have been working closely with the local offices of the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to develop a coordinated USDA response to address replacement of burned infrastructure. Additionally, we recently met with NRCS, FSA, the Gila County Board of Supervisors, Gila County Cattle Growers, the Tonto Natural Resource Conservation District, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM), and local stakeholders and allotment permittees to discuss and strategize a viable path forward.

Through this process, we determined the most strategic approach to address rehabilitation needs in a timely fashion is for USFS to focus our efforts solely on the replacement of allotment boundary fence (both material and labor), while relying on permittees to assume the responsibility for the replacement of interior fences, water pipelines, and other infrastructure. Boundary fence is the most critical need to allow a return to normal allotment operations and management. NRCS and FSA are supportive of this approach, realizing that permittees will likely apply to their programs to address those other needs. The DFFM also has state funds available for replacement of burned infrastructure, and we anticipate that permittees will also apply to their program for assistance.



We believe this approach demonstrates a good faith effort to share the cost of range infrastructure replacement with permittees, while providing a manageable internal strategy for procurement and installation. Accordingly, at an estimated cost of \$35,000 per mile for 66.3 miles of boundary fence, we request funding in the amount of \$2,320,500 to replace range infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the Telegraph fire. If you have questions, please contact Mike Martinez, Ecosystems Staff Officer, at 602-499-5818.

Thomas A.  
Torres



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FOR NEIL BOSWORTH  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

cc: Anna Jaramillo; Adam Bromley