

Burn Area Recovery Task Force (BARTF) Report Santa Barbara County Sedgewick Fire



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Executive Summary

The Sedgewick Fire burned roughly 710 acres in open space on public and private land on University of California Sedgewick Ranch Reserve. No structures were damaged by the fire. No threat exists to lives, structures, or infrastructure from potential flooding or debris flows from the burned area. However, there may be a threat to habitat.

Purpose

The Sedgewick Fire is one of the numerous Southern California wildfires included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-1731-CA. This report will identify and prioritize emergency protective measures and hazard mitigation projects to identify post-fire flooding, erosion, and debris flow hazards. This report will also identify gaps in funding, identify proposed funding sources for all projects, and identify potential issues related to recovery.

Introduction

The area burned during the Sedgewick Fire occurred on habitat preservation and research land owned by the University of California, the Sedgewick Ranch Reserve, and adjacent land owned by a private citizen. This area is approximately 35 miles north of Santa Barbara, in Santa Ynez Valley, in Santa Barbara County. The private property owner initiated a lawsuit to prevent fire suppression activities on his property. The fire occurred about 8.5 miles northeast of the city of Solvang, next to Santa Agueda Creek in the Santa Ynez watershed.

The Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report for the Sedgewick Fire is included in the BAER Small Fires report. It can be viewed or downloaded from the California Office of Emergency Services web site: www.oes.ca.gov.

For any cultural resource concerns refer to the Archaeological Appendix.

Background

The Santa Ynez watershed is a habitat for protected southern steelhead (*Onorhynchus mykiss*), and is the water source for three reservoirs that supplies water to the city of Santa Barbara. Project-related impacts to this species may require consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Environmental permits may be required for many of the proposed projects identified in the BARTF Report. If there are any proposed

projects they may fall under emergency conditions or under the waiver process identified in State Executive Order (S-13-07). Projects that do not fall under these classifications would need to follow the regular permit process (see Environmental Permitting Requirements Appendix).

Analysis

There were no threats to lives or property identified.

Potential Emergency Protective Measures

Although there appear to be no urgent and compelling risks to lives, structures or infrastructure, the land owners may opt to conduct erosion control measures on their own property. Given the lack of risk to lives, structures or infrastructure, erosion control measures in this burn area may not be eligible for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Yes	No	Funding Sources
	X	California Disaster Assistance Act
	X	FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program
	X	Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
	X	Federal Highway Works Administration (FHWA)
	X	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
	X	Department of Interior (DOI)
	X	Insurance
	X	Other funding:

Appendices

Appendix A - Environmental Permitting Requirements

Appendix B - Archaeological

Appendix C - Descriptions of State and Federal Program Funding

Appendix E – Preliminary Suggested Projects