

Hibl, Sheila

From: Deutsch, James R.
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2008 8:30 AM
To: Hibl, Sheila
Subject: FW: 2008 Coal Fire Suppression Funding Request
Attachments: Copy of BCS_scoresheet_Jun08 (2).xls

From: Deutsch, James R.
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 3:00 PM
To: 'Jeffrey W. Fleischman'
Cc: 'jfulton@osmre.gov'; Dodd, William E.; Alan Boehms; Hibl, Sheila; 'Oscar L Knudtson'
Subject: 2008 Coal Fire Suppression Funding Request

Jeff,

This is a request for federal funds to extinguish dangerous coal outcrop fires currently burning in western North Dakota. Based on past experience, we estimate the cost to extinguish high priority fires will be approximately \$40,000. You notified us by e-mail on June 9, 2008, that OSM has available funds for extinguishing coal outcrop fires in the western United States.

We received the attached Excel spreadsheet from the US Forest Service and it provides a description of 10 high priority coal outcrop fire sites on its lands in the McKenzie Ranger District of the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Also, there are some other coal outcrop fires on Forest Service lands in the Medora Ranger District, but we haven't yet received details on those.

Due to the high risk of future prairie fires being started by the high priority coal fires, there is an urgent need for coal outcrop fire suppression in western North Dakota. We would greatly appreciate being notified as soon as possible whether or not we will be receiving funds for this purpose. Thanks for considering this request.

Jim Deutsch
Director, Reclamation and AML Divisions
North Dakota Public Service Commission
701-328-2251