# Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) Projects from Five to Ten-Years Post Wildfire

# FY 2025 Funding Year

# Operating Principles:

The following “operating principles” underlie this request to extend BAR treatments out to ten years post wildfire. Preparers should ensure that every submission gives due consideration to these operating principles and the priorities and key variables outlined below.

1. **These funds are not guaranteed.** The quantity of BIL BAR funds, and the timing of availability, will be based on the severity of wildfires and the available funding after Bureau specific BAR requests have been met.
2. **BAR reporting requirements apply.** Approved requests must be entered into NFPORS/VMAP and agency-specific requirements for accomplishment reporting is required. This includes providing the original BAR/ESR Plan (if available) and the development of a BAR/ESR Plan and associated specification forms. Please refer to the [Interagency Burned Area Rehabilitation Guidebook](https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/partners/pwrp/pwrp-interagency-BAR-guidebook.pdf) and the  [DOI Wildland Fire](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/policy-memo-2023-004-wildlife-fire-program.pdf) [Management Policy Memo 2023-004](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/policy-memo-2023-004-wildlife-fire-program.pdf)
3. **Showcase opportunities**. Be prepared to share lessons learned, accomplishments, stories, and pictures of progress.
4. **Be creative.** The guidelines provided below are deliberately open-ended. The intent is to encourage communication and creativity to help DOI federal lands that have been impacted by fire, or is likely to be impacted by fire, to reach land management goals. Bureaus are encouraged to take actions that would prevent further deterioration in areas impacted by wildfire.
5. **Obligation of Funds in FY requested.** Field units must be able to be obligate or expend funds within the FY that they are received. Treatments and activities must be completed within three years of allocation, or up to the ten-year post-fire window, whichever is shorter.
6. **Coordinate with home unit staff and across boundaries.** BAR plans that demonstrate collaboration between interdisciplinary staff (e.g., Fire Management/Fuels, Natural Resource and Cultural Resource staff) and/or across agency boundaries where there is a benefit to DOI lands in developing long-term comprehensive strategies towards achieving desired conditions will be prioritized.
7. **Science.** Projects that are implemented using a spatially based prioritization strategy such as the RAD Framework or the Sagebrush Conservation Design to target investments will be a higher priority.

Proposals greater than $1,000,000 will be prioritized by the DOI National Post Wildfire Recovery (PWR) Coordinators based on criteria above between May 31st and July 31st.

Proposals less than $1,000,000 and within available Bureau allocations may be approved by the DOI Bureau PWR Coordinators based on the criteria above at any time.

**Key Variables/Ranking Criteria:**

* + Significance of the resource;
  + Overarching restoration goals for the project and long-term project goals, especially if identified in an approved land management plan;
  + Prospect for problem resolution and achieving these goals;
  + Previous investments (e.g., BAR funding, other funding sources, etc.);
  + Potential constraints to implementation (e.g., environmental compliance, hiring and contracting constraints, housing, etc.);
  + Why initial treatment(s) was/were not implemented or successful;
  + Leveraging of funds from in-kind and external sources of funding;
  + Demonstration on how the unit will meet long-term land management goals within the wildfire area after post-wildfire BIL BAR funding expires.

# Examples of Fundable BIL-BAR Requests:

Projects within wildfire burn scars that occurred between FY 2015 and FY 2019 and can include the following,

* + - Conduct work in areas where BAR treatments were not successful:
      * Strategic testing of small-scale, new treatment methodologies and approaches in areas where previous efforts were not successful would be appropriate.
    - Conduct work that was previously not implemented due to a lack of available funds.
* The treatment need must still exist as a result of the wildfire.
* If work was previously funded but not implemented, requestors must describe why work was not implemented and what is different now. (e.g., delayed hiring due to COVID, etc.)
  + - Invasive plant treatments.
    - Planting, reseeding, etc.
    - Site preparation to facilitate planting, seeding, etc.
    - Actions that would reduce harm – e.g., where current science, technology, or funding are not available for successful recovery or full restoration, but ecological harm could be reduced through actions such as treatment and replacement of noxious weeds with a less harmful non-native species.

# Examples of Ineligible BIL-BAR Requests for wildfires that occurred within 5 to 10 years ago:

* + Hardening of infrastructure (e.g., upsizing culverts or improving roadways).
  + Minor asset replacement.
  + Widespread retreatment in areas that previously failed are *not* appropriate.
  + Fires more recent than five years should use the existing BAR request process.

# How to Apply:

Bureaus will follow existing protocols to apply for extended BIL BAR funds. This includes providing a BAR Plan with the associated specification forms.

* + If a BAER/BAR/ESR plan was previously developed, please submit the plan with the extended BAR/ESR Plan and associated specification forms or follow your agency specific guidance provided with this announcement.
  + If a BAER/BAR/ESR plan was not developed, the project may still be eligible. Consult with your Bureau Post Wildfire Coordinator prior to submitting the plan.
  + Project reporting must be completed according to the DOI Burned Area Rehabilitation Guidebook or your agency specific guidance.

Due Date for proposals: May 31st, 2024.