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# News Release

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## **Range Infrastructure Repair Funds Received**

Sonora, Calif. (April 15, 2014)...The Stanislaus National Forest (STF) has received funding totaling \$525,000 to repair and replace range infrastructure damaged or destroyed in last summer's Rim Fire.

There were 14 grazing allotments and 7 permittees affected by the Rim Fire. Each permittee has maintenance requirements for which they are responsible including fences and water systems. However, when fire or some other damage occurs the Forest Service is responsible for getting these improvements back up to standards, then maintenance responsibility returns to the permittees. Some permittees have volunteered to help with some of the repairs.

Over 30 miles of Forest Service range fence will be replaced. Twelve livestock water troughs will be replaced, which also benefits wildlife such as deer and bats. Priority for fence replacement will be the areas where cattle are expected adjacent to the burned area this year. The STF will probably begin replacing some of these priority fences within the next couple of weeks. The STF is coordinating with Yosemite National Park to restore the fence line along their shared boundary, which keeps grazing cattle out of the Park. As the STF identifies sections of fence line to replace or repair, private contractors will do the actual fence construction.

Before fences can be replaced, burned trees, which are likely to fall across fences and the roads that access project areas, must be removed. The STF's Rim Hazard Tree Environmental Assessment (EA) proposes this removal along highly travelled roads. The STF expects to begin the hazard tree salvage early this summer.

Some fence repair and replacement will wait until after the larger Rim Fire Recovery project is done. The Rim Fire Recovery Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) proposes timber salvage and biomass removal on much of the STF. "Some areas will need to wait until after the Recovery

Project has removed the trees”, said Crispin Holland, Forest Biologist. “We cannot rebuild a fence if logging activity and equipment will just destroy it. In areas where no salvage is planned we will begin dropping hazard trees and rebuilding as the season progresses”.

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