



# US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Update

**Date:** May 6, 2014

## General Background:

- The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and eventually burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response work to address immediate hazards has been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring.
- The Stanislaus National Forest has formed two interdisciplinary teams to produce:
  1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service Maintenance Level 2/3/4/5 roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads.
  2. An environmental impact statement (EIS) regarding salvage and restoration proposing to reduce the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading and capture the perishable economic commodity value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage. The draft EIS includes 44,461 acres of NFS lands, of which 16,315 acres are along roads.

## Update for the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>

- The EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014. Currently responding to appellants.
- The Draft EIS is scheduled for public comment beginning in mid-May 2014, with a decision scheduled for August 2014.
- Susan Skalski, Forest Supervisor, Scott Tangenberg, Deputy Forest Supervisor and Rob Griffith, Director Rim Fire Recovery visited Chief Tidwell, Department undersecretary, and Congressionals. Chief Tidwell thanks everyone for working on the Rim Fire Recovery efforts.
- EA timber sale advertisement began last week with implementation to begin near Highway 120 in late May.
- Coordinating with Americorp & CCC on youth corp projects.
- Georgia Dempsey introduced as the new public information officer (120-day) position.
- Attended a PG&E panel discussion on the Rim Fire.
- Will be staffing an information booth at the Motherlode Rodeo this weekend.
- Assisting with NEPA & CEQA compliance.



***“The visit to Washington DC was very productive with a lot of interest about current status of the Rim Fire.”  
Susan Skalski***

**Questions about Rim Fire Recovery please contact:** Rim Fire Recovery Information (209) 432-3709.