



US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Update

Date: May 20, 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. The Rim HT EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014.
 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. The Draft EIS 30-day public comment period starts on May 16, 2014 and ends June 16, 2014. The draft EIS is available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033. A decision is scheduled for August 2014.
- The EIS is available hard copy, CD and on the internet. When possible we request that individuals use the internet and CD to save paper. As the Hazard Tree timber sales are completed, the closure areas will be re-evaluated for opening.
- One timber sale was awarded and additional timber sales will open next Tuesday.
- Draft EIS “Open House” meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2014 from 2-5 pm at the SO. Please park in the lower parking lot.
- CBS Channel 13 out of Sacramento will be interviewing Maria Benech or Rob Griffith on May 21, 2014.
- Coordinating with CCC & NCCC on 2014/2015 Rim Fire Recovery projects. They are scheduled to help with fence replacement and other projects.
- There are a few upcoming volunteer projects scheduled. The events will be posted on the Forest website soon.

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