



US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Update

Date: May 28, 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 produced:
 1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service 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. All implementing contracts for this project have been awarded or is pending as of May 28, 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 started 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.

Update for the week of May 28:

- Three hazard tree sales and a settlement sale have been awarded this month. The Sawmill sale has started logging and Crocker sale is due to start next.
- A Draft EIS “Open House” was held on Thursday, May 22.
- A Rim Fire Recovery Update tabloid has been approved to be produced by the Three Forest Interpretative Association. The tabloid is scheduled to run during the summer months.
- An invasive weed pull was held on the Mi-Wok District over the holiday weekend with 10 volunteers assisting District Botanist Margaret Willits and was coordinated by Rim Fire Recovery Partnership Coordinator Clare Long.
- A new feature to the Rim Fire Recovery web page is a volunteer event calendar. Check out scheduled volunteer events on the Groveland Ranger District.
- Marty Gmelin presented and visited with the Tuolumne County Chamber’s Governmental Affairs Committee at their May 19 meeting about upcoming restoration efforts.

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