



# US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Briefing Paper

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**Date:** June 17, 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 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. Implementing contracts for this project have been awarded.

2. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rim Fire Recovery Project proposes to lessen 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 proposed DEIS includes work on 44,461 acres of NFS lands, of which 16,315 acres are along roads. The Draft EIS 30-day public comment period ended on June 16, 2014. The draft EIS is available online at

[http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=43033](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033). A decision is scheduled for August 2014.

## **Update for the week of June 16<sup>th</sup>**

### **Director:**

- Interim acting Collaborative & Involvement Specialist, Keith Riggs, a recently retired PAO from the WO, has reported in.
- Monday, Associate Deputy Chief of NFS and CEQ deputy director made a site visit and were briefed on challenges facing implementation of the project.
- Hiring efforts continue for Rim Fire Recovery NTE positions, including writers for the ROD.

### **Engineering:**

- Cottonwood Road is showing wear due to heavy traffic with some areas experiencing cracked chipseal and those areas have been sanded.

### **Timber:**

- Nearly 6,000 comments were received on the DEIS. ID team will reconvene to develop strategy on reviewing the comments. New personnel have been added to assist.

### **Administration:**

- Developing a list of contractors and their assignments.

**Communications:**

- Work is continuing on compiling photographs and documentation associated with the Rim Fire.
- Material for the Rim Fire Recovery Update insert for the “Stanislaus Traveler” is being completed.

**Partnership:**

- Materials have been purchased for the fencing restoration project which CCC will be implementing this season.
- The 3FIA business modification is well underway for the Rim Fire Recovery tabloid. Additionally, the association proposed creating fliers for fires on all three forests, but this is still under consideration.
- The STF is working with the Tuolumne County Sheriffs’ Office and Veteran’s Green Corps to conduct fuels reduction work by agreement.

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