



# US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Update

## General Background:

Date: Aug. 26, 2014

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 Draft EIS 30-day public comment period ended on June 16, 2014. The EIS and Proposed ROD will be 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), on August 27, 2014. The Notice of Availability is scheduled to appear in the Federal Register on September 5, 2014.

## Update for the week of August 26, 2014:

### Forest Supervisor:

- Forest Supervisor, Susan Skalski came to the meeting to present the outgoing Rim Fire Recovery Director, Rob Griffith a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Stanislaus National Forest for all of his work on the project. She said that, "Rob was the right person at the right time for the right project". She also thanked the entire Rim Fire Recovery Staff for their hard work over the last nine months in "standing up the EIS".

### Director:

- Working with the Forest Supervisor, Forest Public Affairs Staff and Rim Fire Recovery Communications staff to finalize the news release for the EIS and ROD.
- Current Director's last day will be Thursday, August 28. There will be a week of lag time between his departure and the arrival of the new Director, Barbara Drake.

### NEPA:

- EIS and ROD will be ready to post on the internet very soon.
- Finalizing the map for the ROD
- Materials will be sent to the printer in near future.

### Logistics:

- Reminded everyone that the Rim Fire Recovery Building has to be vacated by October 12. Will find appropriate work space for those who need it by October 5.

### Engineering:

- Coordinating priorities for three BLM survey crews working in T2N,R17/18E.
- Has completed three of four timber sale road packages.

### Partnerships & Volunteers:

- CCCs continue to repair fences between Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest.

- Tuolumne County Sheriff's Inmate Crews are working on trails in the Mi-Wok District.
- Working with Jamestown Elementary School to develop an Adopt-a-Forest program as a way for children to help with Rim Fire Recovery.

**Forestry:**

- Met with the Society of American Foresters this past weekend.
- Working on KV plans to help ensure that remaining timber sale funds come back to the forest for reforestation efforts.

**Forest Business:**

- VIP tour of the Rim Fire this past Saturday, August 23, for Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture Butch Blazer. He met with constituents from Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions, local government and the Tuolumne Band of Mi-Wuk Indians.

**Communications:**

- Working with others to implement the communications plan with the upcoming rollout of the EIS.
- The fall/winter issue of the newspaper is completed except for the lead article on the ROD.

**Questions about Rim Fire Recovery efforts? Please contact:**

Rim Fire Recovery Information (209) 432-3709.