



United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

*Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands*

**Stanislaus National Forest**

**Topic: Rim Fire Recovery Financial Commitments, Past, Present and Future**

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**SUMMARY:** Presented below are the current and predicted investments for Suppression, BAER (Burned Area Emergency Response), and Restoration now and into the future.

The USFS has spent approximately \$134 million so far for Rim Fire recovery, \$119 million was spent on Suppression, of that \$19,053,545 was spent to complete Suppression rehabilitation. \$9,341,549 was spent on Burned Area Emergency Response; and \$10,198,703 was spent on Restoration in 2014. These figures are produced from our financial information systems.

**KEY MESSAGES:**

Suppression and rehabilitation of suppression activities occurred from August 17 through October 24, 2013. The fire was not call officially out until November of 2014. Rehabilitation activities include:

- Ripping and applying ground cover to 133 miles of dozer lines constructed to contain the fire.
- Reclamation of 134 miles of hand line.
- Reclamation of helicopter 15 landing zones.
- Reclamation of the fire camp and spike camps.
- Reclaim or close roads that had been opened or created to provide access to fight the fire.
- Repair and maintenance of roads that were impacted by equipment and excessive traffic.

The cost for this work is presented in three categories:

<b>Equipment</b> (Aircraft, fire trucks, water tenders, heavy equipment, retardant, and mechanical equipment support)	\$5,284,722
<b>Crews</b> (including contractors, travel)	\$3,521,023
<b>Contracted and Logistical Support</b> (Caterers, Camp, Showers, Laundry, Medical, Supplies, Security, Equipment, Radio repeaters)	<u>\$10,247,800</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$19,053,545</b>

Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessment occurred in September of 2013. Implementation of the recommended BAER treatments started in September of 2013 and is still on going. The purpose of the BAER program is to assess and identify imminent post-wildfire threats to human life and safety, property, and critical natural or cultural resources on National Forest System lands and immediately implement actions, as appropriate, to manage and mitigate unacceptable risks. The treatments prescribed for Rim fire fall into four categories the cost for these as well as the monitoring and original assessment is listed below:

## Rim BAER Treatments

<b>Land Treatments:</b> Hazmat containment, aerial mulching, protection of Heritage sites, weed detection, mastication of burned trees for mulch, hazard tree removal	\$5,061,364
<b>Roads/Trails:</b> Stabilization of roads and trails, drainage feature replacement or clean-out, upsizing and cleaning culverts, restore drainage features	\$3,001,135
<b>Channel Treatments</b> (water transport)	\$5,562
<b>Protection/Safety mitigation,</b> signing, gate installation, felling hazard trees, storm patrol	\$600,500
<b>BAER Assessment,</b> personnel, travel, lodging, logistical support, air craft, materials and supplies	\$662,936
<b>Monitoring,</b> effectiveness, noxious weeds,	\$50,000

Restoration involves restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes and creating fire-adapted communities. Post-fire efforts restore or improve natural resources unlikely to recover to a desired condition from wildfire damage without intervention. There is also a need to repair or replace facilities and infrastructure damaged by the fire. Effectiveness monitoring of the recovery projects will be occurring and will continue as additional projects are completed. Community outreach and involvement are key components to the success of this restoration.

In 2014 was **\$14,463,479** was spent to:

- Conduct surveys and monitor timber and hazard trees projects (botanical, wildlife, streams, meadows, springs and cultural resource).
- Contracted assessments for 45 meadows and 50 springs. During the assessment another 50 springs were located. Two reports were generated.
- Enter survey and monitoring data into National databases.
- Prepare of the Hazard Tree and Salvage environmental documents.
- Initiate reforestation Environmental Impact Statement.
- Layout and map unit boundaries, mark and cruise trees for timber sales and hazard tree removal.
- Keep the public informed, conduct workshops, open houses, write article, put on presentation, interviews, and create a communication plan.
- Managed a workload related to permitted uses and FEMA funding.
- Coordinate with researchers.
- Create map products.
- Prepare responses to litigation and appear in court.
- Administer and monitor timber sale and hazard tree removal.
- Repaired five miles of trail.
- Repair or replace range fences and install troughs.
- Repair and maintain road infrastructure.
- Replace landline/boundary placards, and monuments
- Partnership and volunteer coordination, and grant writing.
- Provided additional law enforcement support

### Summary of Annual Expenditures

FS Employee Salary	\$5,216,897
Employee travel and per-diem food, lodging for over 100 detailed and temporary staff	\$998,065
Vehicle rentals, leases mileage, fuel, support and maintenance of the vehicles	\$2,013,070
Contracted resource specialists, equipment, office space, housing, utilities, and furniture, supplies and rented equipment	\$6,235,445

In 2015 **\$9,814,655** is being spent to:

- Conduct surveys and post project monitoring (botanical, wildlife, streams, meadows, springs and cultural resource).
- Field verify meadow and spring assessments, conduct environmental assessments start preliminary design and permitting for 13 sites, and implement one project.
- Implement two OHV restoration projects.
- Enter survey and monitoring data into National databases.
- Administer and monitor timber sale and hazard tree removal.
- Prepare reforestation Environmental Impact Statement.
- Contact a range allotment environmental review document.
- Layout and map unit boundaries, and cruise trees for the timber sales and hazard tree removal.
- Keep the public informed, conduct workshops, open houses, write article, put on presentation, interviews, and develop an audio tour.
- Managed a workload related to permitted uses and FEMA funding.
- Coordinate with researchers.
- Create map products.
- Prepare responses to litigation and appear in court.
- Repair 20 miles of trails.
- Replace landline/boundary placards, and monuments
- Repair or replace range fences.
- Plant 600 trees with students during two Earth day type events.
- Partnership and volunteer coordination, and grant writing.
- Hand treated weeds.
- Repair and maintain road infrastructure.

**Summary of Annual Expenditures**

FS Employee Salary	\$5,088,527
Employee travel and per-diem food, lodging for over 40 detailed and temporary staff Vehicle rentals, leases mileage, fuel, support and maintenance of the vehicles Contracted resource specialists, equipment, office space, housing, utilities, and furniture, supplies and rented equipment	\$4,726,128 *

\* The Forest Service operates under a Unified budget and exact numbers cannot be provided until fiscal year end.

The Forest is committed to continuing restoration beyond 2015, in 2016 we are expecting Rim to remain one of our top priorities and have planned to:

- Conduct reforestation surveys and post project monitoring (botanical, wildlife, streams, meadows, springs and cultural resource).
- Design and permitting of 9 projects, start implementation of over 20 meadow and spring projects.
- Administer and monitor timber sale and hazard tree removal.
- Respond to comments and complete reforestation Environmental Impact Statement.
- Provide oversight of contracted range allotment environmental review document.
- Start Noxious Weed Environmental Impact Statement.
- Layout and map unit boundaries, for bio-mass removal.
- Keep the public informed, conduct workshops, open houses, write article, put on presentation, interviews.
- Managed a workload related to seven permitted uses and FEMA funding.
- Coordinate with researchers.
- Create map products.
- Enter data.
- Repair a bridge

- Replace landline/boundary placards, and monuments
- Prepare responses to litigation and appear in court.
- Repair trails.
- Repair 300 miles of road.
- Plant 500 acres of trees with volunteers.
- Partnership and volunteer coordination, and grant writing.

**Partnerships and grant opportunities** we are fortunate to have a variety of grant, volunteer, and partnership opportunities. These partnerships are essential to our success in the recovery of the Rim Fire. We are still exploring those opportunities and developing partnerships that we hope will last far beyond Rim Fire restoration efforts.

**Partners, Grants and Volunteers**

Partner or Grant	Resource	Amount	Emphasis	Status
SNC	Funding, grant	1 million	Fire recovery, water and watershed health	Submitted
WCB	Funding, grant	2 million	Habitat restoration	Submitted
Cal-Fire	Funding, grant	1.83 million	Reduction in greenhouse gases	Round 2
PGE	Funding, grant	Unknown	Reforestation and restoration	Discussing
SPI		Trees	Reforestation and restoration	Committed
HUD	Funding, grant	Between 50 and several 100 million	Natural Disaster Recovery and Community resilience	Round 1
Towanga	Funding, grant	Volunteers for planting and possible funding		Committed
Odwalla	labor	Volunteers to plant trees in May/June weed pulling timeframe possibly	Community involvement	Committed
National Forest Volunteer Vacation	Labor	15 folks with work on trails 4 day and float the river pulling weeds for one 5/18 thru 5/22	Volunteerism	Committed
Jamestown Elementary	Labor, Education	5th, 6th graders learning about forests and plant trees March 27, 2015	Education, volunteering	Planned
Tenaya Elementary	Labor, Education	4th-6th graders to plant trees late March 26, 2015, 2 classroom visits	Education, volunteering	Planned
San Jose Camp	Funding and Labor	They have agreed to put a donation request on their registration form. They are still deciding if 1% or \$1. NFF is negotiating with them.	Community involvement	Committed
Berkeley Camp	Funding	They have agreed to put a donation request on their registration form. They are still deciding if 1% or \$1. NFF is negotiating with them.	Community involvement	Committed
Evergreen Lodge	Funding	Volunteers for planting; they will add a donation line on to the registration form and have the funds go to TRT not NFF as they wanted to keep money	Community involvement	Committed
Lamb Industries	Donation	2 Bucket Buddy's to help with tree planting	Community involvement	Committed
ClifBar	Labor	prep; possible long term	Volunteerism	Committed
Americorp	Labor	TRT collaborative to secured a team for 03/31 to 05/22	Community service	Committed
CCC	Labor	Trail repair 03/04 thru 03/08	Community Service	Committed
Boy Scouts	Labor	Local scout, TRT working to get 500 scouts to plant trees in 2016	Volunteerism	Committed
Christina Wilkinson	\$12,000	Also got a NFF match the total \$24,000 was used to fund a Volunteer Coordinator employed by Tuolumne River Trust	Volunteer Program	On going
CSU Staislaus	Interns	Students will receive credit for a work experience program	Education	Setting up

Contact Barbara Drake at 209-532-3671 ext. 438 for more information