



RIM BAER UPDATE

SONORA, CA (September 14, 2013) – Fire crews continue to clear the interior roads of trees and rocks and other obstacles within the Rim Fire area to ensure safe access for Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) scientists and specialists who are conducting field surveys to validate and collect post-fire data.

As a result of this rapid evaluation and assessment, emergency stabilization projects designed to decrease possible impacts to values at risk (VAR) such as, human life and safety, property, critical natural resources and cultural resources, will be implemented as soon as possible, with a goal of completing priority projects before the first major storm arrives over the fire area. The BAER assessment team continues to meet with Stanislaus National Forest staff, interagency cooperators, and interested stakeholders to identify potential values at risk within and downstream of the burn area, and further refine the VAR through its field work.

A specialized BAER implementation team will install the emergency stabilization measures such as, water and erosion control devices, temporary barriers to protect treated or recovering areas, warning signs, and appropriately sized drainage features on roads and trails.

On Friday, September 13, the Forest Service Regional Forester approved an initial BAER treatment funding request of \$362,480 from the Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor:

ROAD TREATMENTS:

Road Stabilization Measures \$154,680

PROTECTION/SAFETY:

Hazard Tree Removal \$15,000

Markers, Warning & Hazard Signs \$81,800

Barricades & Gates \$63,000

Vault Toilet Sealing \$6,000

Hazardous Material Erosion Control \$20,000

IMPLEMENTATION: \$22,000

BAER assessment team leader, Todd Ellsworth said, “The BAER specialists for the Rim Fire expect to complete their burned area field surveys by the end of next week, compile their data to finalize findings, and recommend additional emergency stabilization treatments and actions.”

Ellsworth anticipates presenting the BAER team’s assessment report to the Forest Supervisor sometime during the week of September 23. That report and additional funding request will need to be approved by the Forest Service Washington Office and will be posted on the Rim Post-Fire BAER InciWeb page.

Rim Post-Fire BAER Assessment information is available at

<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3726/>.

