

# RIM FIRE FOREST FACTS

Forests burned in the Rim Fire may not fully recover in our lifetime.

- Ecologists say that it could take up to 150 years for the forest to reestablish itself in high severity burn areas.
- Preliminary studies suggest that more than one-third of the Rim Fire burned at high severity. These dead zones leave a scarcity of seed sources and make it hard for the forest to regrow.
- The Rim Fire resulted in a vast amount of dead and dying trees. Dead and dying trees can spread root diseases and are more susceptible to insect invasion.
- According to the Forest Service, the Rim Fire resulted in large scale loss of vegetation and made the landscape highly susceptible to weed invasion. Weeds crowd out plants that animals depend on for food and compete with native plants for water.

Removing excess vegetation makes our forests healthier and can protect our homes, our lives, and our wilderness.

- Areas where excess vegetation had been removed prior to the fire allowed firefighters to effectively keep the Rim Fire from consuming cabins, a campground, and the communities of Groveland, Big Oak Flat, and Pine Mountain Lake.

**The Rim Fire was the first of its kind, but it certainly won't be the last. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy has committed \$1 million towards Rim Fire restoration. Without significant increases in investment, these types of events will continue throughout the Sierra. To learn more please visit our Web site.**

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency that carries out a mission of protecting the environment and economy in a complementary fashion across the Sierra Nevada Region.



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“Many ecologists predict the impacts from this fire will be felt for decades and most agree, with changing climate conditions, fires like the Rim Fire will become more commonplace without proactive measures that promote healthy forests.”

- *Calaveras Enterprise*  
September 6, 2013

