

# RIM FIRE AUDIO TOUR

The Rim Fire blazed through the Stanislaus National Forest in August of 2013 burning 257,314 acres (402 square miles or 1,041 square km). The fire has had a lasting impact on many resources including vegetation, wildlife, soil, water quality, and cultural sites. Local camps, businesses, and neighboring communities were impacted as well due to evacuations, closures, and loss of structures.

This 11 stop audio tour, which begins from the Groveland Ranger Station, is marked with numbered posts which guide you through the burned area along paved roads. A map is located on the other side of this flyer.



To hear the story of the Rim Fire, download the free audio files at [www.3forests.us/rimfire](http://www.3forests.us/rimfire)



**STOP 1: Groveland Ranger Station.** The Rim Fire brought natural resources, as well

as the human part of the fire story, into sharp view on the Stanislaus National Forest. PHOTO BY DUSTY VAUGHN



**STOP 2: Rim of the World Vista.** A shift in the wind on the fire would have been

tantamount to death. By looking over the firefighting memorials perched above this vast canyon, you can see there was a great deal at stake. PHOTO BY CLINT GOULD



**STOP 3: Rainbow Pool Day Use Area.** When steep slopes burn intensely, large

swaths of trees and the surrounding vegetation are swept away, leaving barren watersheds at risk for costly sedimentation problems. PHOTO BY DUSTY VAUGHN



**STOP 4: City of Berkeley Tuolumne Family Camp.**

Residents of Berkeley have been building memories at their camp on the Stanislaus National Forest since 1922. When the camp burned in the Rim Fire, campers

joined together to mourn their loss and begin the rebuilding process.

PHOTO BY JERRY SNYDER



**STOP 5: Carlon Falls Trail.** Pine beetles aren't targeting trees killed in the Rim Fire.

They are selecting live, stressed, green trees as a better target and host for their young. PHOTO BY DUSTY VAUGHN



**STOP 6: Salvage Timber Operations.**

Nearly 100,000 acres burned under very hot conditions during the Rim Fire. The ghost-like forest of blackened trees left in the fire's wake posed a significant safety hazard to travelers and forest workers alike. PHOTO BY KEITH RIGGS



**STOP 7: Mather Meadow.** When meadows are endangered, the

repercussions affect us all. That's why the U.S. Forest Service is committed to ecologically restoring meadows across the Stanislaus National Forest. PHOTO BY CLINT GOULD



**STOP 8: Mather Road Overlook.** The battle for water in California has a long his-

tory and as you look into this canyon, you can see some of the infrastructure that was put at risk during the fire.

PHOTO BY DUSTY VAUGHN



**STOP 9: Incident Command Post.**

Imagine the logistics involved in communicating with, feeding, and providing restroom, shower, and sleeping facilities for the 5,000 people assigned to the Rim Fire. PHOTO BY PAUL SPRINGS



**STOP 10: Spinning Wheel Overlook.** When you have a massive flaming front, it is not always possible to save every home.

Fortunately, the Rogge Ranch home on the north side of the Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River was saved by firefighters similar to some of the homes you can see from this overlook. PHOTO BY BETSY HARDEN



**STOP 11: Ferretti Road Fuelbreak.**

Fuel treatments buy firefighters a margin of safety. They were also responsible for saving several communities from burning to the ground during the Rim Fire. PHOTO BY CLINT GOULD



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[www.3forests.us](http://www.3forests.us)



Please drive slowly and carefully through the burned area. The route is paved but has many narrow and windy sections. Avoid the area during weather events heavy rain, strong wind, and ice or snow.

The audio tour is approximately 42 miles (68 km) long and will take at least 3 hours to complete. We recommend setting aside the entire day to enjoy side destinations such as the Carlton Falls Trail or Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

**STOP 1: Groveland Ranger Station**

The audio tour begins at the Groveland Ranger Station, approximately 8 miles east of the community of Groveland on State Highway 120 (24545 State Highway 120, 209-962-7825).

**STOP 2: Rim of the World Vista**

Head east (turn right) on State Highway 120 to Rim of the World Vista which will be on your left in 3.9 miles.

**STOP 3: Rainbow Pool Day Use Area**

Continue east on State Highway 120 to Rainbow Pool Day Use Area. The entrance will be on your

right in 1.4 miles just before you cross the bridge over the South Fork of the Tuolumne River.

**STOP 4: City of Berkeley Tuolumne Family Camp**

Follow the one-road out of the parking area, under the bridge, and back to the highway. Continue east along the highway for 3.2 miles then turn right onto Harden Flat Road. Follow Harden Flat Road for 2 miles to the City of Berkeley Tuolumne Family Camp which will be on your right.

**STOP 5: Carlton Falls Trail**

Continue east along Harden Flat Road for 3.9 miles until it ends back at the highway. Turn right (east) and go 0.5 miles before turning left onto Evergreen Road. The Carlton Day Use Area is 0.9 miles down the road where it crosses the South Fork of the Tuolumne River. Please park in either the Upper Carlton, Lower Carlton, or Carlton Falls Trailhead parking areas. The Carlton Falls Trailhead is located on the northeast (far) side of the river.

**STOP 6: Salvage Timber Operations**

Continue north on Evergreen Road for 2.5 miles to the intersection with Forest Route 1S25 which will be on your right.

**STOP 7: Mather Meadow**

Continue north of Evergreen Road for 3.6 miles until it ends at the intersection with Mather Road (Forest Route 1S02). Please slow down and drive carefully through the Evergreen Lodge and Camp Mather areas. Turn right at the intersection and continue west along Mather Road for 0.2 miles. Mather Meadow will be on your right just before the gate.

**STOP 8: Mather Road Overlook**

Continue west on Mather Road for 5.8 miles until you reach the sign post on the right side of the road at the overlook.

**STOP 9: Incident Command Post**

Continue west on Mather Road for 1.2 miles until it ends at the intersection with Cherry Lake Road (Forest Route 1N07). Continue straight (stay left) on Cherry Lake Road for 2.7 miles until you see the sign post on your left. The meadow used for the Incident Command Post will be on your right just before reaching the sign. The meadow is private property – please do not enter without permission.

**STOP 10: Spinning Wheel Overlook**  
Continue south on Cherry Lake Road for 0.5 miles until you see the sign post on your left.

**STOP 11: Ferretti Road Fuelbreak**

Continue south on Cherry Lake Road and down the grade in a low gear for 1.8 miles to the end of the road back at State Highway 120. Turn right (west) onto the highway and continue 6.1 miles to Ferretti Road. Turn right onto Ferretti Road and go 1.4 miles to the last sign post which will be on your right. Please do not trample the wildflowers when they are blooming in the spring – tread lightly and leave the beauty for others to find after your visit. To return to the Groveland Ranger Station, turn around where it is safe to do so and head back south on Ferretti Road to the highway. Turn left (east) onto the highway and take your first right into the Ranger Station.

Thank you for completing the Rim Fire Audio Tour! Please let us know what you think by filling out a comment card found inside the Groveland Ranger Station.