

## YSS Accomplishments for 2014

At a time when national, regional, and local resource management discussions are often highly polarized and contentious, the YSS collaborative group has effectively brought together representatives of the timber industry, grazing interests, local government, environmental organizations, business interests, motorized recreation groups, state and federal agencies, and other diverse interests. YSS is using the collaborative process to promote balanced, highly informed recommendations to agencies that are determining which actions to implement in the 402 square miles of the Rim Fire area. The goal of YSS is to build on fire recovery successes and expand the scope of YSS efforts over time in order to increase management actions within the unburned, still-green forest areas of the local region. Some of the accomplishments of YSS during the past year are as follows:

- Launched a fully independent, diverse collaborative group, striving to achieve restoration and sustained landscape health in the Rim Fire area and the remaining green forest within the YSS region
- Adopted a Charter documenting organizational structure, protocols and standing rules, and designated the Tuolumne River Trust as the fiscal agent so YSS could seek, accept and track funds, and launched a website
- Provided media and political support for the approval of an environmentally sound, middle ground Rim Fire recovery salvage logging plan. YSS support helped turn back legal challenges to the salvage logging plan which is nearly complete.
- Identified and secured, in collaboration with USFS staff and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, a \$40,000 grant to study to assess the health of, or need for, restoration of springs and wetlands within the Rim Fire area. Approximately sixty springs were inventoried and restoration treatments were detailed.
- Researched and secured \$20,000 for an assessment of eighty meadows in the Rim Fire area. As a result, the Forest Service has hired the Plumas Corporation, who did the assessments, to design and implement restoration treatments within some meadows.
- As a conduit, coupled funds from the sale of Rim Fire t-shirts by a local family, with funds from TRT and a national funder enabling hiring of a volunteer coordinator for restoration efforts.
- Developed a reforestation concept proposal and is continuing to support reforestation and restoration efforts utilizing science-based approaches.
- Received local, regional, and national recognition as an inclusive and effective forest collaborative and a model for other regions.