

## Resource Advisors on the Park Fire



On the Park Fire, resource advisors (READs) have a unique role as local natural and cultural resource specialists. READs identify and analyze the effects that wildfire, and the resultant suppression efforts, has on these valuable natural and cultural resources, and determine guidelines for firefighters to minimize and mitigation these impacts. Their knowledge of the local area and of resource

management plans is critical to protecting these resources.

Jake Martin, lead READ from the Lassen National Forest for the Park Fire Fire, communicates what resource protection measures are required to the incident commander. “On this fire, we’re specifically working to mitigate impacts to species of concern, like the marten, anadromous fish, California spotted owl and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. We are also evaluating fire effects on natural and cultural resources in the Ishi Wilderness,” said Martin.



During large incidents, resource advisors from other parts of the country are brought in to assist local personnel. READ Brad Allen from the Lincoln National Forest spends his day working alongside firefighters, checking for resource concerns ahead of disturbance, such as building fires lines with equipment or digging hand line. “We try to come up with options that are going to work both tactically and minimize impact on resources,” said Allen.



READS typically have a professional specialty such as wildlife, botany, or archeology. Many have firefighting qualifications to work near the fire line (a REAF is a resource advisor, fireline qualified). Although READs’ work to protect important resources, human safety and protecting property remain the top priorities suppressing the Park Fire.