



Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee MEETING AGENDA April 19, 2023

DATE: April 19, 2023
TIME: 9:30 AM
LOCATION: Mariposa County Fire Department Head Quarters
4802 Highway 140 (Executive Meeting Room)
Mariposa, CA 95338

PLEASE NOTE- This meeting will be at the Mariposa County Fire Department
Public members may either call-in or attend in person.

Teleconference option available (see below for call in participation information)

Dial in- United States: 1 (929) 352-1921 or 1 (650) 564-3271 pin 337006080#
Audio Conferencing PIN: 51244

Members of the public who wish to participate in the meeting are invited to do so by submitting written comments or calling in the teleconference number. Public comment should be for non-agenda items. You'll be heard during public comment period and may be limited to 3 minutes. No conclusion should be drawn if committee doesn't address your comment.

MCFAC Advisory Committee written commenting processes are as follows

WRITTEN COMMENTS: Written comments may be submitted via U.S. Postal Service, email or may be dropped off at the Planning Department. In your written communication please note in the subject line: Which Advisory Committee you are commenting to and indicate which "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #" (insert the item number relevant to your comment) or "PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEM" that you are commenting on.

1) Mail • Send written communication to:

Mariposa County Fire Department
PO Box 2039
Mariposa CA 95338

2) Email • Send an email to the mcfac@mariposacounty.org

3) Drop Off: • Written communication can be dropped off at:

No matter which of these formats you choose to use for written communication (Mail, Email or Drop Off) please know that in order to ensure distribution to the committee prior to their consideration of the agenda, and in order for your written comments to be placed into the record it must be received no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Fire Department at 209-966-4330.
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Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee

MEETING AGENDA

April 19, 2023

- 1. Roll Call - Secretary**
- 2. Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2023, March meeting was canceled**
- 3. Public comments:**
- 4. Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - a. Presentation of grant services available by Robert Lathum - Consultant
 - b. Title-III Funding update: 45 day comment period open - Ward
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/states/secure-rural-schools/title-3>
 - c. Discussion of unofficially released updated Fire Safe Regulations - Engfer
 - i. Link: govt.westlaw.com/calregs
 - d. Update on CWPP community appendices. - Ward and Hannah Harrison
 - e. Update on County Wildland Mitigation Coordinator

Final CWPP is available here: <http://www.mariposacounty.org/2448/Community-Wildfire-Protection-Plan>

6. Updates, Activity Reports and Future Items

- a. Members
- b. Any future agenda items

7. Adjourn

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in meeting, please contact the Fire Department at 209-966-4330

Mariposa Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes, February 15, 2023

- 1. Roll Call:** Melinda Barrett, Barbara Cone, Steve Ward, Wes Smith, Racquel Sandoval, Alison Deak, Glenn Cahill, Dan Buckley, Deron Mills, Hannah Harrison, Hannah Haley, Tara Fouch-Moore, Mike Keyser
- 2. Resolution:** A resolution of the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020 regarding an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as Covid-19), and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee for the period January 18, 2023 to February 15, 2023 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

County Counsel advised us that even with the hybrid style meetings, in person and teleconference, the Committee still needs to adopt the Resolution at the beginning of each meeting in order to be compliant with the Brown Act. The agenda includes the required Resolution.

Motioned by: Barbara Cone, seconded by: Melinda Barrett, *approved unanimously*

3. Approval of minutes: January 18, 2023

Motion tabled until next meeting, no quorum.

Motioned by Melinda Barrett, seconded by West Smith, *approved unanimously*.

4. Public Comments

Lacey Sharp, Happy Goat – Happy Goat Farm would like to collaborate/partner on CAL FIRE grant for browsing and grazing with goats – 6' canopy clearance.

- MCFSC interested in potentially collaborating on fuel break maintenance without chemical application.
- UCCE is applying for grant funds to fund workshops – potential to collaborate on workshops around targeted grazing.

5. Discussion and possible action

a. Update on County Coordinator Statewide Grant Program

Onboarding conference call will occur on 01/16/2023. Position description has been completed and is waiting on HR to establish wage. This will soon be taken to board for approval to begin hiring process. MCFD is also hoping to find out more about the parameters of grant if the position is not filled.

Melinda clarified that it was a reimbursement grant so moneys would likely not be required to be returned and offered to be on interview panel for candidates. Barbara asked if MCFAC members should be keeping in mind candidates that would be interested in the position? Steve W. responded that yes, this person is going to in charge of grant writing and coordination, and

be the chair of MCFAC, lead on CWPP, and Firewise Community Coordinator. The position also doesn't need to stay under county fire and could move to any department within the County. We would like the position to be flown as soon as possible (hopefully by late April) but need to wait to hear back from HR.

- b. Title-III funding** – currently accepting funding requests: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/states/secure-rural-schools/title-3>

Criteria for funding:

- To carry out activities under the Firewise Communities Program
- Reimburse the participating county for SAR and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols
- Cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to emergency response
- Develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans
- Proved or expand access to broadband telecommunications services.

Federal funds have been approved to come through the county but the amount being offered is unknown. There is a 45-day comment period required so we would like to have an BoS agenda item in March for comment period to be completed by June. County Fire will be apply for funding to purchase radios as emergency equipment and to help out SAR.

Barbara commented that it will be important to understand and emphasize how much of the funding will be used on federal lands for SAR use.

If interested in applying, send applications to Steve Ward by the middle of March.

6. Updates, activity reports, and future items

a. Member updates

- *Barbara Cone, Mariposa County Fire Safe Council:* All acreage plus some additional has been completed on Ferrand fuel break. Contractor is also completing an additional 40 acres on Stumpfield. Alta Vista has been bid into two separate contracts. Currently working with BLM biologist to survey ahead of contracting crew to be able to continue working during limited operating period. Brush and chip program is continuing. Wagoner Ridge is waiting for ground to dry before contractors can finish last 20% of fuel break (beginning of March). Currently working on CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention Grant application for fuel break on Bumguardner Ridge and Lushmeadows Ladder Fuels projects. Outreach has already been very successful in Lushmeadows and over half of property owners have agreed to sign right-of-entry. Was also contacted by the Homestead-Boyer HOA because they are interested in extending the Boyer VMP through Homestead and down to Highway 49. Yosemite Sequoia RC&DC contacted Barbara a few weeks ago and offered to apply for a CCI Wildfire Prevention Grant to fund the project.

- *Melinda Barrett, Mariposa RCD:* We could use help getting the word out about two programs. (1) Erosion control project in Jerseydale has ~30 bales of weed-free straw remaining that we are giving away. We want to collect names of people that could use it and are able to drop off bales at the fairgrounds parking lot for those interested to pick up. (2) Home hardening program – We are going to be able to provide site assessments to landowners, provide checklists, and do some installation of ember screen and zone zero clearance. If anyone contacts County Fire about the Firewise program, please have them contact Melinda to sign up for home hardening. Yana Valacovich from UCCE is planning to work with contractor team and lead a workshop on home hardening.

Mariposa RCD also had a meeting through California RCD with Cal Trans. Cal Trans wants to do master agreements with RCDs across the state for fuel breaks along highways. This will be like a pass-through program for RCDs to do grants, get contracts through Cal Trans, and write CEQA. Biomass plant is getting closer to groundbreaking. Previously this had date of January, but county and other agencies needed extra time. New groundbreaking date is mid-April, and it is hopefully a 12-month process. North Fork is accepting biomass but are charging a tipping fee. The Mariposa biomass plant will be paying people for biomass, rather than charging.

- *Alison Deak, UC Cooperative Extension:* We will be soliciting letters of support for Cal Fire CCI Fire Prevention Grant soon. We are coming to the end of our post-wildfire resilience workshop and will be highlighting the available landowner assistance programs, if anybody know of programs that are not already being highlighted. The PBA has started formalizing through a steering committee. We have a lot of representation from Madera County but would love to have more representation from organizations in Mariposa County, if anyone is interested in joining. We have also begun rolling out a statewide survey focused on understanding wildfire related needs and concerns of community members. Pile burn demonstration will be done in collaboration with Yosemite, but date is still TBD based on weather conditions.
- *Hannah Haley, Sierra National Forest* – We are still assessing road damage. We have piles that we want to burn near Jerseydale (near Footman Bridge) but first need to fix access and for the area to dry out. The opening of Jerseydale Campground continues to be pushed back. Our primary focus right now is pile burning in Bass Lake and about 75 acres have already been burned there.
- *Wes Smith & Racquel Sandoval, Mariposa OES* – We are winding our way through the post-fire mitigation grant and Racquel is leading this. We ran into CEQA, NEPA, and other barriers so we decided to pitch a new project for clearing hazardous fuels along Mariposa Creek Parkway. This has been run by Cal OES and consulting and they are onboard. We are currently working on the grant application with a deadline of this Friday, March 17th, for sub application. We also want homeowners to know that any flood damage caused in the Oak Fire burn scar does not require flood insurance to have repair covered by fire insurance. We are still in the process of getting individual inspections

(hopefully next week) to open revenue streams for SBA and individual assistance. We will not qualify for FEMA declaration for assistance but will qualify for SBA and USDA assistance to businesses, farms, ranches, and individuals. To get access to SBA or USDA, homeowners need to have letter showing that insurance will not cover costs.

- *Deron Mills, PG&E* – We are continuing to do some additional hardening work in Mariposa County including putting in larger poles and where necessary, wrapping poles, especially around major thoroughfares to avoid evacuation issues, and adding tree wires to prevent further ignitions. We are in the planning phase for first large scale undergrounding program in the county, primarily in Oak Fire burn scar and would like to do more of this in the future. If any agency or related partners are conducting broadcast or pile burns, please reach out to Deron with any concerns about powerlines being impacts or may be a hazard.
- *Hannah Harrison, Mariposa Planning Department* – We have been working on guides for community members to use for community wildfire assessments. This is getting close to completion, and we are hoping to take to BOS soon.
- *Tara Fouch-Moore, Southern Sierra Miwok Nation* – We are continuing grant programming around cultural fire and hoping to plan a burn on Mariposa Creek Parkway in April. Yosemite NP has offered to sponsor tribal members' red cards and this will be an ongoing program. We need to strategize on how to set up crews to do work. We have been approached by several different organizations, but we first need the infrastructure to safely and legally manage a crew and overcome barriers with nonprofit law.
- *Glen Cahill, Sierra Tel* – Clean up continues in Oak Fire. This is about 50% complete in terms of repairs. We are trying to not work in areas where a lot of other work is already going on. Fiber to home crews will begin working next week.
- *Mike Keyser, CAL FIRE* – Four equipment grants have been approved for fuel break maintenance. I have not seen any grants for fuel break maintenance specifically, but this doesn't mean that it isn't possible. Locally, MMU has a contract for fuel break maintenance through herbicide application and are planning to treat Lushmeadows and potentially Stumpfield. We could use goats instead of herbicide, but this would be a hard contract to write. Mike will look into this.
- *Steve Ward, County Fire* – We are getting close to finishing the fee survey for mandatory building inspections; County has never had a fee schedule for this before. FEMA SAFER grant is open and is due in March. We have been approached about staffing on the grant, but the County doesn't have a plan to continue funding staffing long-term. This money could be used to pay for equipment though and we would be interested in potentially replacing ladder truck and radios. The CCI grant was approved for county for reimbursement of tractor purchases. Type-3 engines were delivered: one in service and other two are being configured (hope to be in service by summer). Three or four type-I

engines have been sold or donated. Four reserve firefighters have been hired to keep quota of 6-8 firefighters on staff. We are at seven days a week staffing now and hoping to continue and expand program next year. Communities are interested in being Firewise recognized throughout the county. Steve Ward is the point of contact for communities and is currently acting as "coordinator," but we would like to make a recommendation for funding to be routed through RCD or FSC for coordination. In the future, we could make a MCFAC agenda item for appropriate placement of Firewise coordinator. There would need to be arrangements for routing funding/revenue for RCD or FSC if this was the case. *Barbara could hire a position for Firewise coordinator at FSC if funding was available. Many community members feel like we're putting "cart before the horse" with Firewise outreach. Steve responded that the County is giving clear guidelines and the resources required for communities.*

Steve Ward will be out of town for next MCFAC meeting. For letters of support from board of supervisors, MCFAC members will have to work with the board directly since this wasn't an agenda item.

b. Future agenda items

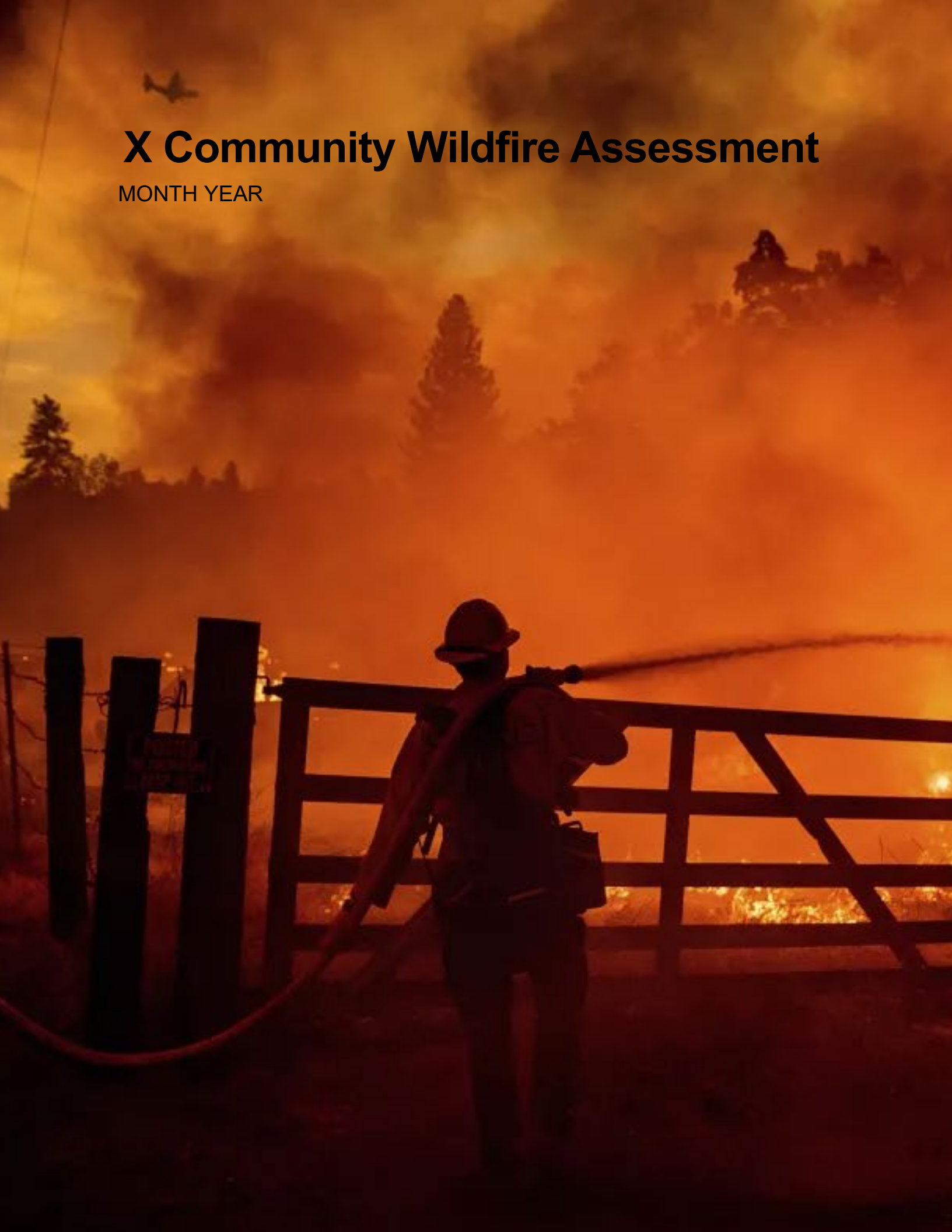
- Discuss appropriate organizational placement and board recommendation for Firewise Coordinator (Supervisor Smallcombe will be invited to this conversation).
- Approval of January MCFAC meeting minutes

Discussion also occurred about scheduling a special meeting to vote on a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for letters of support for MCFAC members applying to the CAL FIRE CCI Fire Prevention Grant and for approving the January MCFAC minutes. A date for the special meeting was not scheduled due to not being to meet quorum.

7. Adjourn

X Community Wildfire Assessment

MONTH YEAR



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Contacts

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Mariposa County Fire Department	(209) 966-4330	mpafire@mariposacounty.org

Photo credits are listed below:

Cover- INSERT IMAGE FROM COMMUNITY

Part 1- INSERT IMAGE FROM COMMUNITY

Part 2- INSERT IMAGE FROM COMMUNITY



INTRODUCTION

This document is meant to be a comprehensive assessment of your community's wildfire risk by combining multiple assessment methodologies. This risk assessment meets the criteria for the Mariposa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This is meant to be completed by community members as a "drive by" assessment. This means that you will be documenting the general condition of structures and properties in your designated assessment area. You will NOT be reporting on the condition of each structure and property. The goal of this assessment is to document your communities' emergency access, conditions of vegetation in proximity to structures, and identify high risk areas.

This assessment is divided into two parts:

Part 1 is a general assessment of your community and can be completed through observations from driving around.

Part 2 is where the community will make recommendations on how to decrease the wildfire risk in your community and propose a plan for implementing those recommendations. This is also where you will explain the assistance your community will require from the County to accomplish the proposed recommendations.

Disclaimer: This document does not provide community assessors the authority to enter private property



PART 1: Community Assessment

PART 1: Community Assessment

Assessment Overview

The Community assessment should focus on:

- Vulnerability of homes to ember, surface fire, and crown fire
- Overall condition of the structures throughout the community

It should also consider factors that impact risk and influence fire behavior or structure ignitability, such as:

- Structural characteristics (roofing, siding, decks)
- Vegetation types
- Slope and aspect (the direction a community faces—north, south, east, or west)
- Housing density

Features of a Community assessment include:

- It can be completed in a variety of ways, including a walkthrough or a drive by, and is intended to be a general overview of the community conditions as opposed to an evaluation of each property and structure in the community.
- It should focus on condition of vegetation within the Community's boundary.

Observations of the Community's Environment

The observation section is broken down by the characteristics of homes and the vegetation management within the home ignition zones and common areas. Mark the appropriate box for each category that best represents the conditions within your site.

Attachments: wood vs. non-combustible materials. (Non-combustible materials include decks made with plastic composites, higher density tropical hardwood, or fire retardant treated decking materials, and fences that use metal or masonry where attached directly to the home.)

- ☐ Greater than 75% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- ☐ 50–74% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- ☐ 25–50% of homes have NO wooden attachments
- ☐ Less than 25% of homes have NO wooden attachments

Extended Zone: 0–100 feet from the furthest exterior point of the structure. Generally, this area focuses on landscaping—managing the vegetation to influence fire behavior and spread. The goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground. At these distances, property lines may overlap.

Items to consider:

- Is vegetation in this Community spread out or is it thickly grown? Have trees been pruned?
- Are there heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris?
- Are there areas with dead plant and trees that should be removed?
- Are there breaks in the canopy layer?

☐ Greater than 75% of homes within the community have treated vegetation

☐ 50–74% of homes within the community have treated vegetation

☐ 25–50% of homes within the community have treated vegetation

☐ Less than 25% of homes within the community have treated vegetation

Emergency Access: properties are accessible by appropriate egress/ingress routes to facilitate evacuation and fire suppression in an emergency. This means that there is more than one-way and on-way out of the area. These roads and trails should be large enough to accommodate a fire engine.

☐ Greater than 75% of properties are accessible by an ingress/egress route

☐ 50–74% of properties are accessible by an ingress/egress route

☐ 25–50% of properties are accessible by an ingress/egress route

☐ Less than 25% of properties are accessible by an ingress/egress route

Property Signage: visibility and quality of road signs and house numbers. This is critical information for fire fighters or any other first responders to be aware of when they respond to an emergency situation in your community as they may be responding from outside of the County.

Items to consider:

- Are road signs and house numbers visible? Are they visible at night?
- Could someone from out of town find the residences with only a map?
- Are residences addressed appropriately?

☐ Greater than 75% of properties are well marked with highly visible signs and could be located easily.

☐ 50-74% of the properties are well marked with highly visible signs and could be located easily.

☐ 25-50% properties are well marked with highly visible signs and could be located easily.

☐ Less than 25% of properties are well marked with highly visible signs and could be located easily.

Water Resources: ponds, flowing creeks, storage tanks, pools, etc. large enough to aid in fire suppression.

Items to consider for a viable water source:

- Where are the water sources located?
- Is there water available in the late summer/fall?
- Are these water sources accessible?
- Does the water source have the capability to support fire suppression efforts?

- ☐ Community has multiple viable water sources throughout the community.
- ☐ Community has multiple viable water sources located in some parts of the community.
- ☐ Community has some viable water resources.
- ☐ Community has very few viable water sources.

Community Identified High Risk Areas

Can you describe any areas in your community you would like to highlight as having a particularly high risk of wildfire? This can be a particularly dense and inaccessible cluster of residences, a large area of overgrown vegetation, etc.



PART 2: Community Recommendations and Action Plan

PART 2: Community Recommendations

Part 4 provides the community recommendations, action plan, and an implementation strategy to track progress and ensure the X Community CWPP updates occur regularly. This section of the plan is intended to be referenced and updated frequently.

Community Recommendations

Using the findings from this assessment, identify any actions and steps that can be taken to reduce this community's risk from wildfire. This can be a list. Examples: encouraging residents to improve their defensible space, develop more fuel breaks, etc.

Implementing Recommendations

In this section, please explain the communities ability to implement the recommendaitons mentioned in the previous section. Do you think the community has leaders capable of overseeing these recommendations? If not, what support would you need from the County to successfully implement the recommendations?

APPENDIX. KEY TERMS DEFINED

Exposure: The contact of an entity, asset, resource, system, or geographic area with a potential hazard. Note: In incident response, fire responder exposure can be characterized by the type of activity

Mitigation: The act of modifying the environment or human behavior to reduce potential adverse impacts from a natural hazard. Mitigation actions are implemented to reduce or eliminate risks to persons, property, or natural resources, and can include mechanical and physical tasks, specific fire applications, and limited suppression actions.

Prevention: Activities directed at reducing the incidence of fires, including public education, law enforcement, personal contact, and reduction of fuel hazards (fuels management); actions to avoid an incident, to intervene for the purpose of stopping an incident from occurring, or to mitigate an incident's effect to protect life and property.

Risk assessment: Product or process that collects information and assigns values to risks for the purpose of informing priorities, developing or comparing courses of action, and informing decision making.

Suppression: A wildfire response strategy to “put the fire out” as efficiently and effectively as possible while providing for firefighter and public safety.

Wildland fuels: All vegetation (natural and cultivated).

Wildfire risk: The wildfire hazard plus the addition of the factors that contribute to susceptibility, or the impact of a wildfire on highly valued resources and assets.

Wildfire hazard: The combination of the likelihood of a fire occurring and the intensity of the fire. Also refers to the wildland or built fuels present in a given area, or the combustibility of a given fuel type or fuel complex in general.