

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The California Fire Plan is the state's road map for reducing the risk of wildfire. The Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit (MMU) has drafted a comprehensive update of the Unit's Strategic Fire Plan for wildland fire protection in the three counties of Madera, Mariposa and Merced. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the Fire Plan seeks to reduce fire fighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and to contribute to ecosystem health.

MMU, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, has designed a plan with the intention of meeting the goals and priorities set by the Unit, stakeholders and the California Fire Plan. This plan identifies strategic targets and goals, specific to each individual Battalion to ensure an appropriate strategic planning process.

Pre-fire management projects are designed to reduce costs and losses, especially during periods of severe fire weather. With the use of fire resistant landscaping, mechanical fuels treatment, prescribed burns, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning and pre-fire safety zones and escape plans, the Unit strives to keep what would otherwise be a large, catastrophic fire, to a smaller fire with less intensity, reducing suppression costs and property loss. The planning process defines a level of service measurement, considers assets at risk, incorporates the cooperative interdependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, allows for public stakeholder involvement and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis.

The Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Management intends to support the Fire Plan and make it successful by meeting the following objectives:

- ✓ Collect, analyze and prepare data to assess communities at risk and in need of fuel reduction or other projects
- ✓ Work with grant writers and stakeholders to secure funds to implement projects.
- ✓ Utilize CAL FIRE personnel and resources in conjunction with other public and private efforts to assist with the project work on the ground.
- ✓ Educate the public on fire prevention and incorporating fire resistant landscaping and construction to their property, as well as hazardous fuel reduction to keep their lives, homes, property and natural resources safe from catastrophic wildfires.

With these goals in mind, the Unit strives to reduce fire suppression costs, property loss and damage to our environment and local ecosystems in the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit through our pre-fire work and by protecting life, property and the environment from destructive wildfires.



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