

## **I. Stakeholders**

Stakeholders are defined as any person, agency or organization with a particular interest - a stake - in fire safety and protection of assets from wildfires. The Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit has made an attempt to involve the stakeholders and their interests in the planning of the MMU Fire Management Plan. The process of identifying stakeholders and their interests is an ongoing process and is evaluated continuously through the evolution of future prefire management plans. It is the goal of the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit to participate with as many stakeholders as is possible and to continually update planning efforts involving stakeholder input.

The primary stakeholders within MMU include the Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council and the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council. Both are instrumental in bringing a conglomeration of other stakeholders to “the table”. The councils shed light on many concerns within the communities and expose information relating to the effectiveness of MMU’s fire safe efforts. The North Fork Mono Rancheria has developed a fire safe group to address the needs and education of its citizens to fire safety. The Rancheria works along with the Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council to reduce fuels on tribal and trust lands in the North Fork area. Other stakeholders contributing to the Unit’s Fire Management Plan on a regular basis include the Sierra National Forest, Bass Lake Ranger District, Mariposa County Fire Department, Madera County Fire Department, Madera County Resource Conservation District, and the Bureau of Land Management.

The Unit is able to respond and adapt to activities that address many of the concerns from the different stakeholders. Through the fire safe councils’ involvement with the local communities the cooperating agencies have been able to develop pre fire and fire prevention projects that otherwise may never have developed. MMU, in cooperation with the fire safe councils, has recently experienced fire safe successes and some of them some will be mentioned later in this Fire Management Plan. The stakeholders list is dynamic and includes all of the stakeholders at one point in time. Essentially, it is a snapshot during a motion picture.

The key issues are to reduce fuels in and around communities at risk to wildfire and educate the public about living with fire. There is a collaborating effort among all the stakeholders to accomplish this task. There are a number of committees designed to address various issues and they have developed strategies and long term solutions. One example of this is the Southwest Interface Team (SWIFT) which addresses fuel reduction

projects and pre fire tactics in the northern portions of the Mariposa County, the southern portion of Tuolumne County, and the Stanislaus National Forest.

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council has received grants for fuel reduction and education projects in Mariposa County. Madera County along with CDF, Mariposa County and the Sierra NF are working on a project that involves the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to reduce fuels in and around “Communities at Risk”.