

VI. Stakeholder and Cooperative Fuel Management Projects

SWIFT

“Cooperatively planning and implementing a strategic fire defense system designed to reduce the threat of loss to life, property, and resources in the Southern Tuolumne & Northern Mariposa County urban-wildland interface”.

Over 11,062 acres of fuel treatment have been completed or is under contract to complete since the inception of SWIFT in March of 1999. The South West Inter-Face Team has continued to identify the best wildland fire protection formula for the 132,000 acre project area.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fuel breaks Construction:	40.5 miles
Mechanical Shredding:	5,985 acres
Prescribed Burning:	5,063 acres
Other Treatments:	
Animal Grazing	
Piling to Burn	
Hand Clearing	
Thinning/Other	1,857 acres
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TOTALS:	40.5 miles 12,905 acres

MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

The Mariposa Fire Safe Council (MFSC) helps get the word out to the homeowners of Mariposa communities on how to minimize the risk of fire in the Urban Interface. The MFSC has continued to focus on helping communities such as Midpines, Lush Meadows, Ponderosa Basin, Hunters Valley, and Greeley Hill with projects like clearing brush, chipping, performing free home inspections and educating the residents about fire safety.

As a non-profit organization, the MFSC is funded by grants. Recently, a grant has been approved by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors for Title III funds in the amount of \$80,000 over the next two years. This grant will be used to conduct a community education and chipping project. Each month a MFSC representative and a contracted crew with chipper dump truck will present a three-day fire safe education project in a different community. Weather permitting they will be able to reach nine to ten communities the first year allowing for re-visits in year two.

The MFSC also applied for and received a grant from the Sierra National Forest for \$96,000 to conduct a fuel reduction project around homes on SRA lands adjacent to SNF lands in the Mariposa Pines area. This project will enhance a fuel break project the SNF is working on to protect the community of Mariposa Pines.

An additional \$96,000 grant has been approved to complete phase two of a project in Greeley Hill, which provides a planning and education project adjacent to BLM lands within the area.

EASTERN MADERA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

The Eastern Madera County Fire Safe Council (EMCFSC) has applied for and received several grants. One such grant from the National Fire Management Plan, for \$50,700 funds a chipping project in the North Fork area. The Madera County Board of Supervisors approved Title II funds to purchase a chipper for this project and authorized the EMCFSC to utilize the old North Fork Mill site to store and chip materials. A private contractor transports the chips to be used at a local biomass plant. A portion of the material will be used as compost and given away to the public. Larger materials such as limbs and trunks are reserved for the Economic Community Council. They get individuals constructing furniture and other items to help improve the local economy. This project has been successful.

A grant for \$156,000 has been applied for and received through the Community Fire Assistance Program to expand fuel reduction projects in the North Fork and the Oakhurst areas.

Another grant was applied for and received through BLM for \$138,500 to provide fire safe education, planning and coordination and implementation for the residents of Eastern Madera County.

The EMCFSC also administers three Title II and Title III grants for Madera County that provides funding for employment for at risk youths. The youths learn resource conservation practices, forestry, and provide fire safety services. The youths

form crews and work in the community and with the EMCFSC and the Coarsegold Resource Conservation District. They participate in doing fuel management projects, campground maintenance and assist senior citizens with fuel reduction needs in residential areas.

The EMCFSC has also received a grant for \$360,000 to construct a shaded fuel break along Potter's Ridge in Oakhurst. This area is on the western side of the Oakhurst basin and has a history of large fires that have historically threatened the community of Oakhurst.

NORTH FORK MONO RANCHERIA

The North Fork Mono Rancheria has received a grant in the amount of \$85,000 from BLM for an education and multiple fuel reduction projects on tribal lands. This project is currently underway and the fuel reduction program has been implemented in and around the town of North Fork. The Rancheria also works with the EMCFSC to reduce fuels in other areas of North Fork.