



Mariposa County Selected for National Community Wildfire Planning Assistance Program

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Mariposa County, California, announced today that it has been selected as one of four new communities from across the country to receive assistance in 2019 under a national program that addresses wildfire through better community planning.

As wildfires increase in size and intensity across the U.S., the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) program offers much-needed support at the local level. Through CPAW, local stakeholders will collaborate with a team of professional land use planners, foresters, and researchers to identify opportunities that address wildfire through the planning process. Teams review current policies and regulations for their effectiveness and recommend new approaches that can help reduce wildfire threat to homes, businesses, and other values in the wildland-urban interface.

“I believe the CPAW team will help Mariposa County departments, our non-profit partners and other related agencies collaborate much more effectively and successfully to develop a comprehensive wildfire planning strategy,” County Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe stated. “That collaboration is critical given the frequency and scale of wildfires in Mariposa and in California.”

Program participation is voluntary, and there is no cost to the community. This innovative program was founded in 2015, and is a partnership between Headwaters Economics, Wildfire Planning International, and the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station. To date, CPAW has worked with 26 communities across the country.

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring our technical expertise to Mariposa County and explore ways that can help make this community safer from wildfire in the future,” said Molly Mowery, President of Wildfire Planning International.

“More communities are realizing that land use planning is an important part of the wildfire solution. Smarter community development decisions now can avoid wildfire disasters later,” adds Ray Rasker, Ph.D., Executive Director of Headwaters Economics.

More information about CPAW is available at: planningforwildfire.org.

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