

MARIPOSA

Protections in place*:

| | Oak Tree Retention/ Replacement Provisions | Oak Protection During Construction | Heritage Tree Protection | Riparian Vegetation Protections | Oak Canopy Retention Requirement | Oak Woodland Conservation Program |
|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| General Plan Language | None, but 2003 Draft Conservation Element requires development and grading to minimize removal of native trees. | None | None | None, but 2003 Draft Conservation Element requires conservation of water for riparian communities and standards for minimum development setbacks | None | None |
| Specific Ordinance | None | None | None | None | None | None |
| Voluntary Guidelines | Guidelines encourage retention of trees of all sizes and species, clumps of undisturbed vegetation, and sprouts and seedlings | Guidelines suggest clustering, limiting heavy equipment in root zones, grade changes, and landscaping within dripline. | None | None | Guidelines suggest retention of 25% canopy at < 1,000, 30% at 1,000-2,500 feet, and 30% on single-stemmed oaks and 15% multi-stemmed oaks at > 2,500 feet elevation Efforts at regeneration should be made on grazing lands where the canopy is < 25%. | Guidelines are to be made available to landowners through the Mariposa RCD and UCCE. RCD directors are to coordinate educational activities, monitor practices in the field, prepare a biannual report and review guidelines biannually. Landowners are encouraged to develop management plans for their lands using expert and government assistance |

* The County is in the final process of updating its entire General Plan. Adoption is expected in December, 2003.

Documents reviewed:

Date of Review: July 2003

- Open Space Element
- Conservation Element
- Land Use Element
- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision Ordinance

- Grading and Erosion Ordinance
- Roads/Sidewalk Tree Ordinance
- Tree Removal Ordinance
- Voluntary Guidelines
- Other County Codes: 2003 Draft General Plan 11 – Open Space Conservation, 2003Draft General Plan 05 – Land Use

Summary of Oak Protection Policies:

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| <p>Conservation Element, 1995</p> | <p>SENSITIVE WILDLIFE HABITAT: A goal is to provide for the identification, delineation, description, and maintenance of vegetative types and related wildlife habitats in Mariposa County (D). Policies (6.404) include: Minimize the adverse effects of growth and development on sensitive wildlife and scenic areas through density and parcel size standards (1), conduct CEQA review on all development projects proposed in identified sensitive wildlife areas (2), and review non-residential development projects proposed along state highways to ensure preservation of scenic resources (3). Standards for development (6.504) within critical wildlife habitat are to determine minimum lot size and/or density through site specific review and analysis (1), use open space or common ownership setbacks on high density development proposals in rural areas (2), subject non-residential and non-agricultural development within 500’ of a state highway to site and design review (3), approve site and design proposals for non-residential and non-agricultural development when it does not detract from the highway’s natural scenic qualities (4).</p> |
| <p>Draft Conservation Element, 2003</p> | <p>RIPARIAN VEGETATION: The County should conserve water for water dependent species and continuity of riparian communities (11-2e). Comprehensive standards for subdivisions and proposed development should require minimum development setbacks to protect riparian vegetation (11-2e). WILDLIFE HABITAT: The County should conserve the diversity of native ecosystems, plant communities, wildlife habitat, and plant and animal species (11-4a) by adopting an Environmental Conservation Program that would develop standards and programs for conserving wildlife habitat, and special status and sensitive plant species (11-4a1). Site development and grading shall minimize removal of native trees and vegetation by establishing limits on the portion of the parcel to be graded or developed (11-4a2). Landscaping standards shall require use of appropriate native species (11-4a3).</p> |
| <p>Land Use, 17.12.010</p> | <p>Planned Residential Development PRD shall have a minimum common open space required of 60% in MH and 40% in RR zones. Open space may not be developed and must be maintained as open space as long as the clustered lots exist.</p> |
| <p>Draft Land Use, 2003</p> | <p>Development standards for new subdivisions in rural economic land uses require landscaping as part of project design. Existing mature vegetation, especially trees, shall be retained to the maximum extent possible. Landscaping with native species suitable to site conditions shall be required (5.4.05.B3).</p> |

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| <p>Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Guideline, 1995 Mariposa County Resource Conservation District**</p> | <p>Goals of the guidelines are to plan for retention and replacement of all types of trees including specimen age and heritage-sized oaks, to reforest oak species through natural or artificial regeneration, remove hazard trees, and retain wildlife trees. Guidelines are to be made available to landowners by the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District and UCCE. The RCD directors are to monitor recommended practices in the field and prepare a biannual public report. Guidelines are to be reviewed biannually. The Directors will coordinate educational activities. All landowners with oak woodlands shall be encouraged to develop forest/rangeland management plans for their lands. Landowners are encouraged to use public and private experts and participate in government assistance programs. Guidelines suggest reducing stocking to 15-30% crown closure near structures and fuel breaks and reducing overcrowding by thinning less desirable trees and seedlings. Retention of trees of all sizes and species, clumps of undisturbed vegetation, and sprouts and seedlings to become replacement trees is encouraged. When building, improvements should be clustered, and existing oaks protected during construction by limiting the use of heavy equipment in the root zone (1½ times the crown width), cutting roots during road construction, building foundations, or septic systems, grade changes, landscaping which requires irrigation within the dripline of the crown of the tree. Guidelines suggest how to maintain forest elements to promote wildlife habitat, avoid watershed impacts with heavy equipment and roads, maintain riparian areas, dispose of unwanted slash and reduce fire hazards.</p> |
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***New Voluntary Guidelines have been adopted, but are not yet available.*

Contact Information:

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County Contacts:

- No contacts
- Policies provided by county staff
- Policies discussed with county staff
- Policy inventory reviewed by county staff