

[Nonresponse cover letter]

DATE

«Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

Dear «Name»:

Over the last several weeks, I have written to you asking about your thoughts and opinions on wildfire protection in your community.

First, thanks for your patience. This is the last letter you will receive from us. Here is why I am asking for your help one last time: We have mailed several letters to you and others in your community to try to ensure we are hearing the full range of opinions. We have enclosed a much shorter questionnaire that will help us find out whether or not those who completed the longer survey have different opinions from those who did not. This is very important so that we can determine if those who responded accurately represent your community.

We hope to hear from you even if you feel you do not have any special knowledge about or interest in forest fires and forest management.

Please have any adult who lives in your household complete the survey. The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. You indicate your voluntary agreement to participate by completing and returning this survey; however, you are under no obligation to participate in this survey

This survey is part of a research project designed to help local officials understand the public's views on wildland fire management so they can improve fire management programs. This research is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program and the USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station.

If you have any questions about this project, please call Dr. Christine Vogt, Associate Professor at MSU: (517) 432-0318 or contact her at vogtc@msu.edu. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Vogt, PhD
Michigan State University
vogtc@msu.edu

Enclosures: survey, postage paid envelope