

# COB - BOSAIR FORM

04/22/2026 11:23 AM (MST)

Submitted by Alix.Rogstad@pima.gov



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM REPORT (BOSAIR)

\*All fields are required. Enter N/A if not applicable. For number fields, enter 0 if not applicable.\*

**Award Type:** Agenda Item

**BOSAIR Activity:** Board Meeting Request

**Requested Board Meeting Date:** 05/12/2026

**Project Title / Description:** Pima County Cooperative Extension - Wildfire Fuels Reduction in Pima County

### Agenda Item Report

**Introduction / Background:** The Pima County Wildfire Mitigation Plan identifies the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension as the entity that will work in consort with Pima County to address wildfire fuel reduction in the region. Pima County Cooperative Extension (PCCE) offers educational programming on natural resources, 4-H youth development, and health and nutrition to the citizens of Pima County.

**Discussion:** The work elements described in the Wildfire Scope of Work will be conducted by Pima Extension with oversight from Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources (CLR) and Pima County Administration, in coordination with other Pima County supported endeavors. The scope complements the FY27 Appropriations Agreement between the University of Arizona and Pima County and will enable transfer of funds without administrative burden. Deliverables on these activities will be reported quarterly to the CLR staff, with an annual summary report on all Pima Extension accomplishments provided to the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

**Conclusion:** Pima County Cooperative Extension, Pima County Administration, and the Conservation Lands and Resources Department have developed and mutually agreed upon a Scope of Work and Budget for FY27. The agreement details work elements that support Pima County Cooperative Extension wildfire fuel reduction-related tasks that benefit the citizens of Pima County.

**Recommendation:** The Conservation Lands and Resources Department recommends approval of the appropriation of funds to allow Pima County Cooperative Extension wildfire education services be provided to the public.

**Fiscal Impact:** The scope of work elements proposed by Pima County Cooperative Extension for wildfire fuel reduction-related tasks total \$125,000. This amount has been included in the County Administration budget request for FY27.

**Support of Prosperity Initiative:** N/A

**Provide information that explains how this activity supports the** N/A

selected Prosperity Initiative

- Board of Supervisor District:
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Department: Conservation Lands & Resources

Name: Alix Rogstad

Telephone: 520.724.9500

Department Director Signature:  Date: 4/22/2026

Deputy County Administrator Signature:  Date: 4/23/2026

County Administrator Signature:  Date: 4/23/26



**Scope of Work July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**  
**University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension**  
**Wildfire Fuels Reduction in Pima County**  
**Funding Total: \$125,000**

**January 1, 2026**

Wildfires are now a year-round concern in Pima County. In response to this threat, Pima County developed a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP), that was approved by the Pima County Board of Supervisors on May 6, 2025. The plan recognizes that managing vegetation and removing invasive plant species to reduce wildfire fuel loads is a primary concern for the region. This is particularly difficult in Pima County because the urban/rural interface is extensive and requires a diverse toolset to address the issues. The WMP identifies the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension as the entity that will work in consort with Pima County to address wildfire fuel reduction in the region. Cooperative Extension conducts similar work in other Arizona counties and has an institutional track record of implementing wildfire fuels outreach and coordination.

Early implementation of the WMP workplan demonstrates strong momentum and measurable impact. Within the first quarter of FY26, Pima County Cooperative Extension (Pima Extension) successfully activated cross-sector partnerships, reached more than 400 residents and professionals through trainings, publications, and community events, and built a growing network of trained volunteers equipped to support wildfire risk reduction across the county. High participation in educational offerings, strong engagement metrics, and integration of wildfire mitigation content into existing Pima Extension programs underscore both the urgency of this work and the effectiveness of Cooperative Extension as a trusted delivery partner. These early outcomes provide clear evidence of readiness, capacity, and community demand, supporting continued investment in this coordinated wildfire mitigation effort.

The work elements described below will be conducted by Pima Extension under oversight from Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources (CLR) and Pima County Administration, in coordination with other Pima County supported endeavors. The proposed scope for Wildfire Fuels Reduction in Pima County complements the FY27 Appropriations Agreement between the University of Arizona and Pima County and will enable transfer of funds without administrative burden. Deliverables on these activities will be reported quarterly to the CLR staff, with an annual summary report on all Pima Extension accomplishments provided to the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

**Element 1: Wildfire Fuels Reduction Coordination and Education \$85,000**

Pima Extension’s Wildfire Outreach Coordinator works in close collaboration with local fire departments and districts, the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM), federal fire managers, and regional partners to reduce wildfire fuels, promote wildfire-resilient landscapes, and increase preparedness in both rural and urban communities across Pima County.



Task 1. Strengthen Interagency Coordination and Collaboration. In coordination with Pima County Administration and County Departments, continue to build and sustain coordination among agencies and organizations engaged in wildfire preparedness and risk reduction. These include the Arizona DFFM, federal land management agencies, local fire departments and fire marshals, Pima County Office of Emergency Management, and Conservation Lands & Resources (CLR). Participate in monthly meetings with County Points of Contact (Pima County Administration and CLR), and regular planning meetings with Pima County staff as required. This work will support consistent messaging, shared planning, and alignment of mitigation strategies across jurisdictions.

Task 2. Deliver Targeted Wildfire Fuel Reduction Education and Outreach. Conduct wildfire fuel reduction education in high-risk rural and unincorporated communities such as Green Valley, Sahuarita, Vail, Tucson foothills, Three Points, and Summerhaven. In partnership with Pima County CLR (and other Pima County departments as identified), develop and disseminate outreach materials with consistent, science-based messaging focused on seasonal wildfire risk, defensible space, and vegetation management around homes, neighborhoods, and community infrastructure.

Task 3. Coordinate Fuel Abatement in High-Risk Interface Areas. Work collaboratively with Pima County Regional Flood Control District (RFCD), CLR, fire-risk management entities, and homeowner associations to coordinate fuel abatement efforts in areas where naturally maintained drainages abut private development. This includes supporting planning efforts, aligning vegetation management strategies, and facilitating communication between agencies and residents. Efforts of this task directly contribute to implementation of Pima County's Wildfire Mitigation Plan goals.

Task 4. Support Firewise USA Pathways and Certification. Collaborate with the Arizona DFFM to identify and advance pathways for establishing Firewise USA communities in Pima County. This includes addressing barriers that have delayed certification for local neighborhoods and providing technical guidance to support community readiness and documentation.

Task 5. Expand Education, Training, and Technical Assistance Capacity. Seek grant funding and develop Extension publications, educational materials, and training curricula to support residents, businesses, and municipalities in reducing wildfire fuels and increasing community resilience. This includes:

- Participating in countywide wildfire communications and training initiatives to ensure wildfire fuel mitigation concepts are integrated into firefighter education.
- Developing and delivering staff training and community-facing workshops following



initial coordination efforts.

- Disseminating developed materials to high-risk communities and providing technical assistance to support on-the-ground implementation of recommended practices.

**Element 2: Horticulture Education to Promote Wildfire Resilience**

**\$24,000**

Pima Extension will continue to leverage existing programs and partnerships to deliver value-added public education on wildfire fuel reduction and community preparedness across urban and rural Pima County. In 2024 alone, Pima Extension reached more than 50,000 residents through education and outreach activities. Building on this reach, the following tasks will advance wildfire resilience through coordinated education, training, and resource development. Activities within this element will support some community outreach/education objectives in the Pima County Wildfire Mitigation Plan and the Pima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Task 1. Expand Master Gardener Led Wildfire Education. Leverage the Pima Extension Master Gardener program to develop and deliver horticulture education focused on wildfire risk reduction. Topics will include identifying fire-prone and fire-resistant plants suitable for Sonoran Desert and mountain environments; designing defensible space around homes, businesses, and community facilities; and understanding wildfire ecology across varying elevations and ecosystems.

Task 2. Extend Education to Rural and Agricultural Audiences. Expand wildfire resilience education to rural stakeholders through existing Pima Extension programs, including 4-H, 4-H Tucson Village Farm, and ranch and livestock assistance programs. Educational content will be tailored to the needs of these audiences, emphasizing vegetation management and land stewardship practices.

Task 3. Integrate Fire Fuels Education Across Cooperative Extension Platforms Targeting High-Risk Communities. Coordinate with the Pima Extension Invasive Species Outreach Program and other Extension colleagues engaged in wildfire mitigation to integrate fire fuels education across existing outreach efforts. Utilize updated fire risk maps to identify high-priority communities and tailor outreach strategies accordingly (referencing the Wildland Urban Interface map developed for the Pima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan). Collaborate with local and regional partners, including other Extension programs and like-minded organizations, to ensure consistent, science-based messaging and efficient use of resources. Outreach activities will include development of written and digital content for the Pima Extension bi-monthly e-



newsletter (reaching more than 17,000 subscribers), creation of web-based educational materials, and delivery of targeted community education in high-risk areas. This coordinated approach will strengthen public understanding of wildfire risk, support behavior change, and reinforce preparedness across diverse audiences.

Task 4. Develop Educational Publications and Multimedia Resources. Collaborate with Cooperative Extension subject matter experts to develop educational materials including publications focused on wildfire fuels, defensible space, and resilient landscape management. These publications will be complemented by short educational videos designed for online sharing and community use, increasing accessibility for diverse audiences.

Task 5. Create a Scalable Training and Learning Platform. Develop a short-course series that combines publications and instructional videos into a cohesive learning resource. This content will be made available as a self-paced learning option for community members and as a train-the-trainer resource for partner organizations and the public, supporting broader dissemination and long-term capacity building across Pima County.

**Element 3: Smartscape Professional Landscaper Education**

**\$16,000**

Pima Extension will build upon its established Smartscape program to advance wildfire-resilient landscaping education for professionals, municipal staff, and community stakeholders across Pima County. This work will align with countywide wildfire mitigation priorities and complement Cooperative Extension’s broader outreach, education, and coordination efforts related to wildfire preparedness and fuels reduction.

Task 1. Develop and Deliver a Wildfire-Resilient Landscaping Curriculum for Professionals. Leverage the Pima Extension Smartscape program to deliver a specialized educational module focused on wildfire risk reduction through landscape design and maintenance. This module provides practical guidance on reducing fuel loads and improving defensible space across diverse settings, including residential properties, commercial sites, rights-of-way, and riparian corridors.

Task 2. Provide Targeted Training for HOA and Commercial Landscape Professionals. Deliver a one-hour Smartscape training module tailored for homeowners’ associations and landscape professionals serving commercial and multi-family properties. This module will focus on practical fuel abatement strategies for areas where naturally maintained drainages abut private developments and properties, such as rights-of-way, drainage areas within subdivisions, vacant lands next to businesses, and multi-family residential areas. Emphasis will be placed on scalable, cost-effective approaches that reduce wildfire risk



while maintaining functional and aesthetically appropriate landscapes.

Task 3. Integrate Smartscape Education with Broader Wildfire Outreach Efforts. Align Smartscape educational content with broader Pima Extension wildfire outreach activities, including coordination with invasive species education, fire fuels reduction programming, and countywide risk communication efforts. Materials developed through Smartscape will be incorporated into digital resources and community trainings to ensure consistent messaging and maximize reach across urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Task 4. Collaboratively Develop Master Agreement Contract Language. Collaborate with Pima County departments to develop and draft language to be used in contract solicitations that promotes/includes Smartscape wildfire prevention certification requirements. Identify key parameters for tracking purposes.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
**Cooperative Extension**

**APPROPRIATION OF COUNTY FUNDS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027**

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 3-124 and 3-126, Arizona Revised Statutes, The Pima County Extension Board has approved and there is hereby submitted for the approval of the County Board of Supervisors a county cash appropriation in the amount of \$ 125,000 as the county's share of the proposed budget for the conduct of Extension programs in the county.

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Chairperson, Pima County Extension Board  
Date

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Chairperson, Pima Board of Supervisors  
Date

*Bobby Yu*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Pima County Attorney  
4/28/2026  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Vice President and Director, Cooperative Extension  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Comptroller, University of Arizona  
Date

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Edward C. Martin, Associate Vice President and Director, Extension, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, The University of Arizona. The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its programs and activities.

