



MEMORANDUM

Date: January 14, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lesher 
County Administrator

Re: **Midyear Update on Pima County Wildfire Protection Plan**

Introduction

Pima County continues to advance its Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP), with many internal and external stakeholders, focusing on reducing wildfire risk and improving readiness across the region. This midyear update that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at the January 20 meeting provides an overview of progress achieved during the first two quarters and identifies priorities for the months ahead.

Background


The Board of Supervisors directed development of the WMP in February 2025 to strengthen wildfire prevention, mitigation, and emergency response. The current plan, started in July 2025, brings together input from County departments and regional partners to coordinate strategies that protect communities and natural resources.

Progress

For the second quarter, public education efforts expanded through coordinated messaging led by the Desert Fire & Invasives Collaborative. Residents received guidance on defensible space and fire-adapted landscaping through the Master Gardener & the Smartscape program through University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension, and Pima County's Conservation Lands and Resources (CLR). Regional Flood Control staff held presentations on Riparian Areas and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) continued to encourage residents to sign up for MyAlerts.

Mitigation activities included the County's first Community Chipping Day, in coordination with Mt. Lemmon Fire District and Summerhaven HOA, providing safe vegetation disposal options in high-risk wildfire areas. The Sonoran Desert Weedwackers and Pima County's Restoration Program Staff from CLR received the Weed Manager of the Year awarded by the Southwest Vegetation Management Association for their work on invasive species removal.

Emergency response capacity strengthened with a tabletop exercise held in October at OEM that tested interagency coordination and identified opportunities for improvement. A total of

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55 participants and 35 departments and agencies attended. Additionally, the creation of an evacuation zone map is continuing, as well as the implementation of an advisory board on the protocol for emergency alerts.

Looking Ahead

Priorities for the coming months include completing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) by June 2026, launching bilingual wildfire messaging materials, developing a centralized invasive species data repository, and continuing collaboration with state partners on insurance coverage solutions.

Funding remains aligned with approved budgets and partner and department contributions. The County will continue addressing challenges related to equitable outreach, interagency coordination, and resource allocation to ensure wildfire resilience across the region.

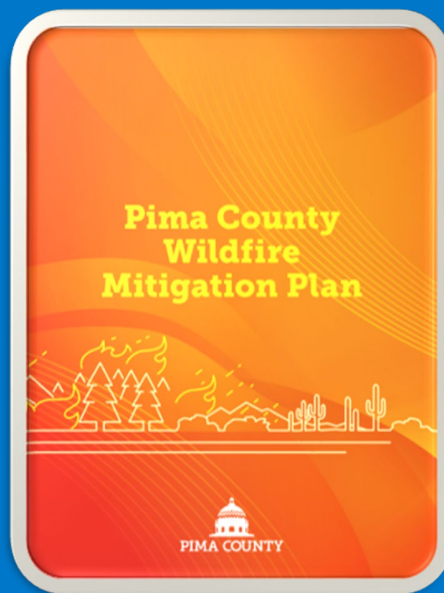
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Attachment: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Presentation for January 20, 2026

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Sandra Espinoza, Director, Office of Emergency Management
Mark B. Evans, Communications Director
Kris Gade, Director, Conservation Lands and Resources
Chris Poirier, Director, Development Services Department
Eric Shepp, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Joey Kosiorowski, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management
Alix Rogstad, Deputy Director, Conservation Lands and Resources
Sarah Davis, Senior Advisor, Pima County Administrator's Office
Amaris Vasquez, Senior Advisor, Pima County Administrator's Office



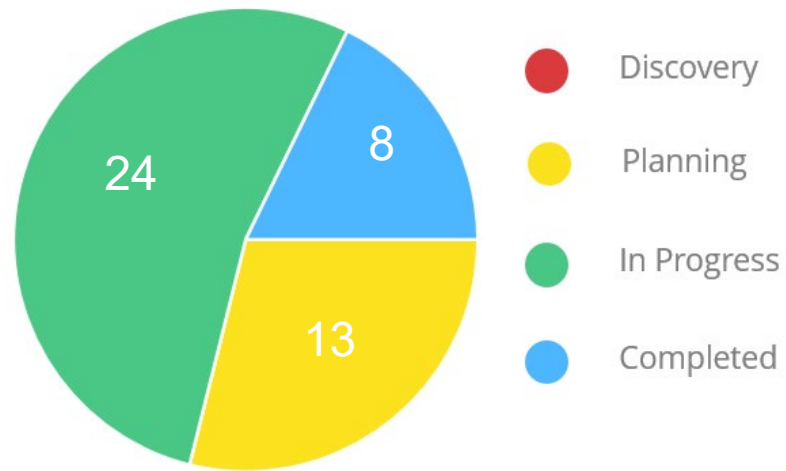
PIMA COUNTY



Mid-year Update

Wildfire Mitigation Plan Breakdown

Task Health



Budget: On Track



Schedule: On Track



Public Education

Key Achievements

Desert Fire & Invasives
Collaborative Initiatives

Defensible Space
Messaging

UA Coop. Extension
Classes

Wildfire Messaging Calendar

JANUARY

DEFENSIBLE SPACE
MESSAGING

FEBRUARY

- VOLUNTEER INVASIVE
SPECIES MITIGATION
- RED FLAG WARNINGS

MARCH

- VOLUNTEER INVASIVE
SPECIES MITIGATION
- RED FLAG WARNINGS

APRIL

- DEFENSIBLE SPACE
- FIREWISE
INFORMATION

MAY

WILDLIFE AWARENESS
MONTH

JUNE

- MYALERT SIGN-UPS
- READY SET GO
EVACUATION

JULY

- FLOOD AWARENESS
- CAMPING/WILDFIRE
SAFETY

AUGUST

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

SEPTEMBER

- MYALERT REMINDERS
- NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS MONTH

OCTOBER

- FIRE PREVENTION
MONTH
- FIREWISE
INFORMATION

NOVEMBER

INVASIVE SPECIES
VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS

DECEMBER

GO BAG PREPARATION
FOR EVACUATION



Mitigation Key Achievements

July 1-December 31, 2025



Acres Treated

- 12,321 acres

Volunteer Hours

- 693 hours

Defensible Space Events

- Chipping day
- Roll off requests



Emergency Response



Key Achievements

WMP Headlines:

- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**
- **Bilingual Wildfire Messaging Materials**
- **Dept. of Insurance & Financial Institution**
- **Coordinated Invasive Species Data**
- **Sonoran Desert Weedwackers & Pima County Restoration Program Staff Award**

Regional Partners



- Informational Technology
- Regional Wastewater Reclamation
- Communications
- Development Services
- Flood Control
- Emergency Management
- Transportation
- Environmental Quality
- Conservation Lands & Resources
- Administration

