



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 2026

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

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Wildfire Mitigation Plan Annual Update**

Pima County has completed the first year of implementing the [Wildfire Mitigation Plan](#) (WMP). Following Board direction on February 4, 2025, the County developed a coordinated strategy to strengthen wildfire prevention, mitigation, and emergency preparedness. This annual update summarizes milestones and accomplishments from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and demonstrates measurable progress across all three strategic focus areas. Detailed task spreadsheets are included in the attachments.

Implementation during the first year emphasized strengthened partnerships, the establishment of new programs, and the creation of a framework for regional wildfire resilience. Monthly coordination among the County's Executive Working Group, made up of Directors from Communications, Conservation Lands & Resources, Development Services, Office of Emergency Management, Transportation, and County Administration helped streamline priorities, address service gaps, and ensure alignment with the Climate Action Plan for County Operations (CAPCO) and the evolving Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

As implementation progressed throughout the year, WMP activities steadily increased in pace and complexity, reflecting deeper interagency coordination and the maturation of newly established program areas. By the fiscal year's end, the County had advanced 89 percent of initial tasks, representing meaningful movement across all three strategic pillars.

Financial activity mirrored this operational growth by the close of Fiscal Year 2025/26, as expenditures totaled approximately \$425,000. Funding distribution remained balanced across priority goals and has set a strong foundation for continued wildfire resilience efforts in Fiscal Year 2026/27.

Prevention

During Fiscal Year 2025/26, Pima County expanded its wildfire prevention and public education efforts guided by the newly launched wildfire messaging calendar and supported by the Desert Fire & Invasive Collaborative (DFIC). DFIC brought together land managers, wildland fire coordinators, and non-profit partners to align Firewise principles and invasive species messaging, refine seasonal communication themes, and improve clarity between preparedness and mitigation topics. The collaborative also produced shared media kits for public information officers helping to ensure consistent, multi-agency messaging throughout our region.

Education and outreach grew significantly through partnership with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension which hired a Wildfire Outreach Coordinator as a complement to their Invasive Species Outreach Coordinator. 91 Firewise-related presentations reaching over 1,700 participants across urban and rural communities were conducted. These trainings emphasized defensible space, addressed buffelgrass and stinknet awareness, and provided actionable guidance for residents in high-risk zones. Additionally, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum held wildfire and invasive species presentations across Pima County and the Tohono O'odham Nation, contributing to broader community awareness and prevention messaging.

The County's Communications Department developed a campaign to increase enrollment in MyAlerts/Everbridge notifications, resulting in registrations rising to 45,116 users by June 2026 and supported through targeted outreach at public events. Digital ads and 24 organic social media posts reinforced wildfire preparedness and mitigation messaging, reaching 940,205 unique users through various platforms. Bilingual educational materials created helped to ensure residents received accessible, clear, actionable guidance.

Public access to wildfire information expanded with the launch of the Pima.gov/Wildfire-Ready webpage created by the County's Information Technology Department, which has drawn more than 55,000 new users since April. Additionally, the Development Services Department created a centralized resource that allows constituents to identify their responding fire agency, improving access to critical information for wildfire-related questions.

Mitigation

Fiscal Year 2025/26 saw extensive invasive species mitigation work. Conservation Lands & Resources (CLR), along with partners including UA Cooperative Extension, Tucson Bird Alliance, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Sonoran Institute, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Sonoran Desert Cooperative Weed Management Area among others, expanded treatment acreage and invasive species management tools and strategies. In total, 4,542 acres of invasive species were treated by County Departments, with an additional 1,062 acres inventoried to help identify high infestation zones. Manual removal comprised the majority of treatments, supplemented by targeted herbicide applications where appropriate. Field efforts were supported by 1,453 volunteer hours, reflecting strong community involvement.

A major accomplishment in the mitigation work was the completion of the Rillito River Wildland-Urban Interface Mitigation Project, a flagship example of multi-agency collaboration. The project funded mostly through the WMP, was completed under challenging summer conditions. Crews from Northwest Fire District (NWFD), Regional Flood Control District (RFCD), and AAA Landscape worked together to reduce hazardous fuels including Salt Cedar, Tamarisk, buffelgrass, fountain grass, and others. Deputy Chief Zent from Northwest Fire District commented that "These collective efforts have enhanced responder safety, reduced community wildfire risk, and supported the long-term preservation of the area's ecological resources."

County Department of Transportation (DOT) crews contributed to mitigation by managing vegetation along roadway corridors completing 134 miles of roadside invasive species treatment. This work reduced ignition risks and supported critical road infrastructure.

The County piloted two community-oriented mitigation programs focused on reducing hazardous fuels around homes in high-risk areas. The inaugural Community Chipping program in Summerhaven, offered in December and again in May, helped residents safely dispose of vegetation removed from the immediate five-foot defensible space zone around homes. To further support fuel reduction work, roll-off dumpsters were deployed to communities in Green Valley, providing residents with accessible options for disposing of cleared brush.

County departments using GIS-based mapping to support invasive species mitigation will help to guide the development of a forthcoming Administrative Procedure for managing invasives on County owned lands. This along with the development of the Spatial Invasives Infestation Priority Analysis (SIIPA) tool by Arizona Sonora Desert Museum which is, now publicly available now through the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, will help land managers prioritize treatment in high-risk areas.

Emergency Response

Pima County strengthened core emergency response capabilities, improving coordination and readiness among fire districts, public safety agencies, and partner organizations. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) led the County's preparedness activities with a wildfire tabletop exercise involving 55 participants from over 35 agencies. This scenario-based exercise deepened understanding of cross-jurisdictional response roles, highlighted gaps, and identified process improvements. A wildfire seminar was also held in April to bring together local, state, and federal agencies that have a role in wildfire response. And in June the WMP helped to fund instructors for a Fireline Leadership course, and two Incident Command Structure (ICS) training courses, for responders across multiple agencies to manage increasingly complex events.

Pima County is also helping with response readiness by supporting access to shared tools and equipment for fire agencies through the WMP. Intergovernmental agreements are being drafted for a wildland equipment cache trailer that supplies critical tools, and the opportunity to pilot regional drone capabilities, and personal protective equipment to smaller rural districts with limited resources. These investments will help operational capacity across jurisdictions to respond safely and effectively during wildfire incidents.

Looking Ahead: Fiscal Year 2026/27 Priorities

Progress made in FY26 provides a strong foundation for this coming year's priorities, which will emphasize deeper regional alignment, expanded mitigation heavily informed by data tools, and improved public readiness.

Key priorities include adoption of the CWPP, which will be the strategic 5-year plan, finalizing Pima County's Administrative Procedure for invasive species, continuation of the wildfire messaging calendar with quarterly themes, expanding bilingual Firewise materials, and

implementation of Defensible Space presentation and programs for residents. The County will also scale its chipping and roll-off programs, advance coordination on prescribed burn feasibility, and expand invasive species monitoring and treatment with improved GIS tools.

Additional focus areas include evacuation education “Know Your Zone”, water resource mapping and deploying regional assets such as the wildfire emergency equipment.

Summary

Pima County’s first year of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan implementation marks a meaningful step forward in strengthening regional wildfire readiness. Over FY26, the County helped to broaden community outreach, expanded invasive species treatment, started to refine mapping tools, and enhanced multi-agency coordination. These achievements illustrate growing capacity, stronger partnerships, and a more unified approach to wildfire preparedness.

The progress made this year underscores how essential this work is to protecting communities, landscapes, and infrastructure. The County enters FY27 positioned to deepen its efforts, scale effective programs, and continue building long-term resilience across all areas of wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response.

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Attachments

c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Chad Kasmar, Deputy County Administrator
Sandra Espinoza, Director, Office of Emergency Management
Mark Evans, Director, Communications
Kris Gade, Director, Conservation Lands and Resources Department
Lauren Ortega, Director, Development Services
Eric Shepp, Director, Regional Flood Control District
Kathryn Skinner, Director, Transportation
Sarah Davis, Senior Advisor, County Administration
Amaris Vasquez, Senior Advisor, County Administration

WMP 25-26 Annual Summary- Prevention



Task #		Task Health	Risk Reduction Section	Current status	Task Title	Notes for annual summary
1	P1		Prevention/Public Information	Completed / Monitoring	Create Wildfire message prevention calendar	This year's work focused on refining and improving the countywide wildfire prevention messaging calendar. The effort began with the successful launch and use of the FY25–26 calendar, which provided a coordinated foundation for outreach. As the year progressed, staff revisited the existing topics to determine what adjustments were needed for the 2026–2027 cycle. By mid-year, subject-matter experts recommended clearer separation of invasive species and wildfire content to better tailor seasonal messaging. In the final quarter, the team gathered comprehensive feedback on the calendar's relevance, effectiveness, and timing, while also exploring a shift from monthly to quarterly themes to streamline regional coordination. These updates will enhance clarity, improve audience reach, and position the next cycle of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan for even stronger collaborative communication.
	P2		Prevention/Public Information	Completed / Monitoring	Meet w/ regional agency Public Information Officers (PIO) for Wildfire message coordination	This year strengthened regional alignment around wildfire communications through the Desert Fire & Invasives Collaborative. The group launched its first meeting in Q1, establishing a shared framework for coordinated messaging. By Q2, partners including fire agency PIOs, land managers, and County Communications were actively developing media kits to support consistent community risk-reduction outreach. In Q3, the collaborative continued its momentum with a January coordination session, during which Pima County Communications provided an overview of planned media and vendor advertising for the upcoming wildfire season. The year concluded with the April 22 meeting, where partners refined priorities and reinforced a unified regional approach heading into next year's wildfire prevention efforts. During FY2025–26, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum expanded wildfire and invasive-species outreach across Pima County, with a particular focus on the Tohono O'odham Nation. The Museum created a Biocultural Conservation Specialist position, filled in December 2025 by a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation, strengthening its ability to engage directly with Tribal communities. Museum staff delivered presentations to five of the Nation's eleven District Councils and provided invasive-species and wildfire education at Tohono O'odham Youth Range Days and the Tohono O'odham Annual Rodeo. The Museum also continued working with the Tohono O'odham Natural Resources Department to expand invasive-fuel management capacity and with Tohono O'odham Community College to support workforce development.
22	P3		Prevention/Public Information	In Progress	Increase Firewise principles education through educational presentations	91 presentations and 1,768 participants for the 2025-2026 year. Additionally, the Desert Museum led the February 2026 kickoff of Save Our Saguaros Month at Sentinel Peak Park. The Museum and regional partners coordinated buffelgrass and stinknet removal events throughout the Tucson Basin and, through media outreach and in-person events, reached an estimated 40,000 people with information about invasive species and wildfire risk.
23	P4		Prevention/Public Information	In Progress	Create bilingual Wildfire educational campaign & materials	The County's wildfire prevention messaging expanded its reach through new bilingual materials focused on defensible space and invasive species awareness. Coordination with Pima County Communications advanced the development of clear, accessible content for residents. By the final quarter, this work resulted in the release of Lean, Clean, and Green door hangers featuring defensible-space guidance, stinknet prevention information, and prompts encouraging residents to sign up for MyAlerts emergency notifications. These materials strengthened outreach across diverse communities and supported more consistent, countywide wildfire preparedness messaging.
24	P5		Prevention/Public Information	In Progress	Investigate opportunities to keep residents covered by home insurance policies and provide insurance coverage education FAQ	Pima County continued to follow statewide conversations about insurance availability in wildfire-prone areas. Early in the year, County leadership remained engaged with the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions, supporting efforts to increase transparency around non-renewals and policy cancellations. As legislative and policy discussions progressed, the County contributed feedback to the State Resiliency and Mitigation Council's report, ensuring local community needs and wildfire-related risks were clearly represented. By the third quarter, outreach expanded across Western Fire Chiefs Association states to gather insights on emerging legislative models and mitigation-related insurance reforms. In the final quarter, the second taskforce meeting brought updated information from the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, unfortunately the state's SB1788 proposal had not passed by June, these ongoing efforts reflect meaningful progress toward long-term solutions that better support residents living in wildfire-risk areas.
25	P6		Prevention/Public Information	In Progress	Create Wildfire Prevention, Invasives Species, and Emergency Response Education, Opportunities for Engagement through printed materials and social media campaigns & (FAQ)	In collaboration with IT, Communications developed pima.gov/wildfire-ready as a centralized hub for wildfire preparedness information and resources. Beyond providing residents with a single, reliable source of information, the website enables us to track user engagement and evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign's marketing strategy. Website users: 56.7K. New users: 55.4K. Digital ads: The campaign's digital advertising strategy effectively increased awareness and encouraged residents to engage with wildfire preparedness information. Strong reach and high levels of audience interaction demonstrate the campaign successfully connected with its target audience while maximizing the value of the media investment. Reach (unique users who saw ads): 940, 205; Impressions (number of times ads seen): 5,443,711; Clicks 107,278; Engagements: 112,091. There were also 22 print ads, 942 radio spots, and 147 television traditional ads done.
26	P7		Prevention/Public Information	In Progress	Catalogue maps and information on Wildland Risk Map	This year advanced the development of enhanced wildfire-risk mapping as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Midyear efforts focused on updating map layers through the CWPP process, laying the groundwork for a more comprehensive regional risk picture. The work culminated in the creation of a Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment map that highlights developed areas, critical infrastructure, and surrounding hazard zones. This new tool provides clearer insight into exposure and helps guide future mitigation priorities.
27	P8		Prevention/Public Information	Completed / Monitoring	Central wildfire webpage/education platform repository	Pima County expanded public access to wildfire preparedness resources through the Pima.gov/wildfire-ready website, a centralized hub designed to make critical information easy to find and use. The site serves as a comprehensive repository, bringing together prevention, mitigation, and emergency response guidance in one accessible location. Throughout the year, new materials, partner resources, maps, and educational tools were added to help residents understand local risks, prepare their homes, navigate defensible-space practices, and direct them to sign up for real-time alerts. By consolidating information from multiple County departments and regional partners, the Wildfire-Ready site supports consistent messaging and strengthens community resilience ahead of wildfire season.

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3	M1		Mitigation	Completed / Monitoring	Expand UA Collaborative Extension education	Throughout the year, significant progress was made in advancing wildfire outreach, coordination, and staffing capacity. Key roles were defined and brought online to support collaboration between Pima County, CLR, and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension. Early in the year, position duties were finalized and the hiring process launched, resulting in the onboarding of both the Wildfire Program Coordinator and the Wildfire Mitigation Educator in March 2026. With Kyle Trujillo assuming the Wildfire Program Coordinator role, the program strengthened its engagement with county staff and regional partners. By Q4, Kyle transitioned into coordinating the Desert Fire and Invasives Collaborative, leading a June 9 meeting focused on developing the joint messaging calendar for the coming year. This coordinated staffing and program development laid a stable foundation for expanded wildfire mitigation outreach and interagency collaboration moving forward.
4	M2		Mitigation	In Progress	Invasive Species Mitigation Coordination	This year marked a significant expansion of invasive species mitigation efforts across Pima County, driven by strong coordination among Conservation Lands & Resources, regional fire districts, land managers, nonprofits, and multiple specialized taskforces. Collaborative partnerships with organizations such as UA Cooperative Extension, Tucson Bird Alliance, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SDCWMA, and numerous stinknet taskforces, were strengthened via variety of taskforces and partner meetings, enabling large-scale outreach and treatment efforts. In partnership with University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, the Desert Museum offered the new Smartscape Urban & Suburban Weeds and Fire Risk course twice during FY2025–26. The course was developed to increase the capacity of landscape professionals to identify and treat invasive fuel species in Pima County. Continuing Education Units are now available to participants, supporting broader professional participation and long-term workforce development. Across all quarters, CLR contributed to 1,453 volunteer hours, delivering substantial in-kind value while engaging the community through events like Plant Stravaganza at Tumamoc Hill, youth wildfire-education programs, and widespread outreach campaigns. Field work resulted in 1,062 total acres inventoried for high-priority invasive species and 4,542 total acres treated, primarily through manual removal (3982), with targeted chemical treatment (559) used where appropriate. Contractor support funded through the Wildfire Mitigation Plan accounted for portions of both inventoried and treated acreage, notably expanding capacity in the highest-risk zones. Additional progress included firebreak creation along the Santa Cruz River and Rillito Wash in partnership with the Regional Flood Control District and Northwest Fire District, as well as interagency learning through joint visits to Apache Junction for integrated fire-management collaboration. Together, these efforts strengthened regional readiness, reduced fuel loads across key landscapes, and advanced long-term wildfire resilience for Pima County.
5	M3		Mitigation	In Progress	Continue planning and funding w/ regional collaborators for invasive species mitigation	RFCD also worked with DOT, Tucson Bird Alliance, Sonoran Institute, & National Parks Service for the PC-WUI & SI-WUI grants to treat 1,918 acres, engage 9 fire agencies, contact 22 Homeowner’s Association for invasive species removal. The Rillito River WUI Mitigation Project stood out as one of the year’s most effective cross-agency accomplishments, demonstrating how coordinated operational work can significantly reduce wildfire risk along critical corridors. Northwest Fire District, RFCD, and AAA Landscape completed the full project scope under extreme summer conditions, contributing 349 personnel hours and 89 brush-truck hours, accomplishing both mitigation and training activities. Their partnership strengthened responder safety, enhanced ecological stewardship awareness, and established a collaborative model for future WUI mitigation projects. We remained committed to actively identifying, pursuing, and applying for funding opportunities that advance the goals and objectives of the WMP. Leveraging external funding is essential to expanding efforts and thankful that the CWPP has listed numerous grant opportunities for future consideration. The Desert Museum secured \$45,000 from Freeport-McMoRan to support staff working with the Tohono O’odham Natural Resources Department. This funding is helping expand Tribal capacity in grant development, geographic information systems, outreach, and invasive-species management. The Desert Museum secured \$112,000 through the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management’s Invasive Plant Grant Program for buffelgrass and stinknet treatment in western Pima County. The funding will support coordination with small rural communities and strengthen local invasive-species treatment capacity. The Museum also received \$13,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for stinknet treatment on private property near Three Points.
6	M4		Mitigation	Completed / Monitoring	Wildland Urban Interface/Intermix (WUI) map	Progress continued this year on developing a refined Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) map as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Early in the year, a draft map was posted to support public awareness while the full CWPP mapping process advanced. By the second quarter, SWCA and project partners produced an updated CWPP draft map, with public review scheduled to begin in early 2026. In the third quarter, detailed mapping work accelerated. SWCA collaborated closely with Regional Flood Control District staff to verify locations, refine densities in the map legend, and incorporate requirements outlined under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. Several areas were re-evaluated for potential reclassification from WUI to “Areas of Concern,” and the updated Wildfire Risk to Structures map was confirmed to align closely with tools used by state and federal agencies. Together, these updates significantly advance the County’s ability to target resources, identify risk, and support coordinated wildfire mitigation planning.
30	M5		Mitigation	In Progress	Drop-off brush/Community Chipping Program	Piloted the program up on Mt. Lemmon with the Summerhaven HOA. Had successful results. Additionally, work done along the Rillito and Santa Cruz River in partnership with Regional Flood Control District and Northwest Fire District
31	M6		Mitigation	Planning	Defensible space assistance program	Planning began on a defensible space assistance program focused on supporting vulnerable populations. Initial discussions explored what volunteer partnerships, program eligibility and administrative requirements would need to be required in order to provide assistance for reducing hazardous vegetation around homes in high wildfire risk areas.
32	M7		Mitigation	In Progress	Brush/bulky vouchers	To help residents reduce vegetation hazards around their homes, the County piloted options to remove financial barriers to disposing of cleared brush and bulky wildfire fuels. While a full voucher or fee-waiver program is still under evaluation, progress was made through expanded roll-off container use. In the second quarter, existing master agreements were leveraged to support roll-offs in high-risk areas, and by the third quarter, three roll-off containers were successfully deployed at County sites in coordination with community partners. The County continues to pursue additional roll-off opportunities as part of its broader strategy to support defensible-space mitigation.
33	M8		Mitigation	Completed / Monitoring	Fire Dept/Districts permit contacts	Pima County’s Development Services improved access to fire-agency information for residents seeking permits in wildfire-risk areas. In the second quarter, new Fire Agency maps were created, allowing constituents to search their address and quickly identify their first-due fire department and taxation district—streamlining permit questions and WUI-related inquiries. By the third quarter, this resource was added to the Wildfire-Ready website, expanding public access and ensuring that homeowners, builders, and staff have clear, reliable guidance when navigating wildfire-related permitting.
34	M9		Mitigation	In Progress	Riparian area Frequently Asked Questions	Pima County’s riparian outreach efforts expanded significantly this year through coordinated education led by the Regional Flood Control District (RFCD). Early in the year, RFCD mailed watershed information with guidance on invasive species and defensible space to more than 80,000 residents, providing broad community awareness. In the following quarter, staff deepened engagement by delivering presentations on riparian maintenance and frequently asked questions, helping residents better understand how to manage vegetation responsibly in sensitive wash areas. By year’s end, RFCD reported fewer inquiries and reduced confusion from the public, indicating that the combined mailers, presentations, and guidance materials have been effective. This sustained outreach has improved understanding of riparian stewardship and supported safer vegetation management across wildfire-prone areas.
35	M10		Mitigation	In Progress	Coordinated site education for mitigation of spread of invasives species	Pima County continued its educational outreach and hands-on engagement to reduce hazardous invasive species and promote wildfire-resilient landscapes. Early efforts included a train-the-trainer Fire Fuels Reduction course for Master Gardeners and updated Smartscape materials focused on wildfire-safe landscaping practices. These programs reached hundreds of participants through both in-person and online instruction. As the year progressed, the County with University of Arizona’s Cooperative Extension delivered additional Smartscape trainings, completed the Master Gardener series with nearly 300 participants, and refined curriculum to better meet practitioner needs. By Q3, new professional materials were rolled out, and specialized courses complete with continuing education units were offered to landscaping professionals and pesticide applicators. In the final quarter, outreach efforts expanded into the community through tabling at the Tucson Festival of Books, neighborhood presentations, and youth and senior engagement. The County hosted 47 invasive-species volunteer pulls, supported Barrio Buffelworks activities, and delivered multiple talks on hazardous fuels, stinknet, and defensible space. A “brown bag” session also prepared partners for the 2026 stinknet season. Collectively, these initiatives strengthened public awareness, professional training, and volunteer mobilization—building a more informed, wildfire-resilient community. Total of 31 presentations and 1,195 participants for the 2025-2026 year.
36	M11		Mitigation	In Progress	Repository for invasive species maps	Work continued this year on developing a centralized GIS database to track invasive species across Pima County. Initial conversations in early quarters laid the groundwork for expansion of a shared platform that integrates vegetation data, fire-risk layers, and treatment locations. By the second quarter, discussions expanded to explore potential collaboration with CAPCO to strengthen data alignment and partner access. The year concluded with a key update: Conservation Lands & Resources added Pima County Department of Transportation jurisdictional areas as a new reference layer within the geodatabase, further improving its accuracy and usefulness for land managers and regional partners.
37	M12		Mitigation	Planning	Prescribed burns	Discussions will continue to advance into next year’s WMP about the opportunity for prescribed burns where appropriate. Regional partners including fire agencies, land managers, DEQ, Health Dept, and COMMS, and others will be engaged to help plan and communicate how this task can be used to help reduce hazardous fuels and improve community resilience.
38	M13		Mitigation	Planning	Administrative Procedure for invasive species mitigation on Pima County owned properties	Development of an AP was initiated, with a draft completed during this first year. The procedure aims to establish a standardized process for identifying invasive species on County-managed lands, documenting conditions through GIS field tools and implementing mitigation actions in coordination with broader climate and wildfire resilience efforts.
39	M14		Mitigation	In Progress	Clean & Beautiful collaboration	The County collaborated with Tucson Clean & Beautiful (TCB) and regional partners strengthening urban-area invasive species mitigation. In the second quarter, coordination began with the City of Tucson Environmental Services and DFIC to plan joint events and expand community engagement. By the third quarter, this partnership grew through Storm to Shade initiatives, extending invasive-species and habitat-enhancement work into the Altar Valley area. The year concluded with significant on-the-ground support: TCB added a dedicated staff position to assist with invasive species projects, the Native Plant Nursery supplied plants for urban restoration efforts, and UACE-IS and TCB jointly hosted a buffelgrass volunteer pull in the Pantano Wash. These collective efforts helped advance mitigation, restoration, and community stewardship across key urban WUI corridors.

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M15		Mitigation	In Progress	Targeted Grazing invasive species	Continued evaluation on using targeted grazing as a potential tool for invasive species mitigation. In the second quarter, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum advanced its pilot effort in collaboration with the City of Tucson Parks & Recreation, providing early insights into the effectiveness of grazing as a fuel-reduction strategy. CLR and Tucson Bird Alliance are also using "simulated grazing" as an alternative method that is showing to be more cost effective and has easier mobilization. At the same time, the Regional Flood Control District began assessing whether to revisit its own previous grazing efforts, using data to determine whether the approach could deliver a positive return on investment. These evaluations will help guide future decisions on integrating targeted grazing into broader mitigation efforts.
M16		Mitigation	In Progress	Employee Be Well hours	The County continued exploring ways to support invasive species mitigation through employee volunteer participation. Early in the year, initial discussions began on allowing staff to count volunteer hours toward invasive-species removal events to help boost turnout. By the fourth quarter, the concept advanced to review with Human Resources, where options for implementation were actively being evaluated. This effort aims to strengthen volunteer capacity while engaging employees in hands-on wildfire-risk reduction.
M17		Mitigation	In Progress	Wash vegetation education & management	RFCD continued strengthening community awareness and on-the-ground mitigation efforts related to post-fire flood risk and preventative invasive vegetation mitigation. Early outreach included presentations on riparian systems and arroyo maintenance, accompanied by the development of a frequently asked questions pamphlet to help partners and residents understand why, after fires, floods become a heightened concern and why not all vegetation should be removed. RFCD maintained this momentum into Q3 and Q4, delivering additional presentations—including at Green Valley's Monsoon Madness forum—and continuing invasive plant treatments within both PC-WUI and SI-WUI grant-funded areas. These combined education and mitigation efforts support safer watershed conditions and more informed community decision-making following wildfire impacts.
M18		Mitigation	In Progress	Complimentary WUI building recommendations/codes/policy	Throughout the year County Administration worked closely with Development Services and regional partners to explore approaches to wildfire-related land-use and building safety, beginning with a review of existing WUI codes in areas such as Summerhaven on Mt. Lemmon. Following the passage of Pima Prosperis in Q2, discussions expanded to identifying best practices and coordinating with the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI). By Q4, the working group determined that emphasizing voluntary fire-prevention measures—particularly Firewise principles—was the most effective path forward this year, while County Administration continued tracking the Governor's DIFI Task Force, which meets quarterly. These ongoing efforts reflect a collaborative, prevention-focused strategy aimed at strengthening wildfire resilience without imposing new mandates at this time.

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7	R1		Emergency Response	In Progress	Update Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Substantial progress was made on the 2026 Pima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), led by the Office of Emergency Management with ongoing development and coordinated review efforts. Early work focused on defining WUI mapping needs, conducting initial partner workshops, and launching the public survey in September, supported by outreach events across the county. Engagement expanded through Q2 with additional workshops, community meetings, and distribution of survey flyers at public events and trainings, while stakeholders continued reviewing and refining draft sections. By Q3, the public comment period had closed, the draft was undergoing revisions, and jurisdictions and fire districts were engaged in amplifying public input opportunities; the ADA Hubsite update from SWCA also entered County ITD review. In Q4, OEM received a near-final CWPP draft for ADA compliance review, and additional Hubsite updates were identified and are being addressed by the contractor. Final compliance and acceptance reviews by project manager, and after AZDFFM input a formal submittal to County Administration and the Board of Supervisors.
8	R2		Emergency Response	Completed	Wildfire initial response overview	This coordinated system was outlined in slides to provide a visual explanation of the rapid and scalable response to fire starts across diverse landscapes and governing authorities. When a wildfire ignition occurs, the fire agency with jurisdiction over the start location is automatically dispatched as the first-due responder based on established service boundaries and closest available resources. Once the initial size-up is completed, the incident commander can request additional support from neighboring departments through mutual aid, automatic aid, or interagency agreements. These mechanisms allow surrounding fire districts, state forestry, or federal partners to be quickly tagged in to assist, ensuring the closest and most appropriately equipped units respond regardless of jurisdictional lines.
9	R3		Emergency Response	In Progress	WUI & Invasive Species map	This year brought major progress toward developing a unified mapping framework to guide future wildfire mitigation efforts. Early in the year, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) team advanced development of an updated Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) map, incorporating feedback from core stakeholders and beginning to integrate invasive species data layers to better reflect wildfire risk across the region. By mid-year, detailed activity mapping within the CWPP allowed partners to pinpoint where mitigation work was occurring and where gaps remained. This deeper geographic insight strengthened alignment between departments and ensured planning efforts were tied directly to on-the-ground conditions. In the final quarter, discussions with DFFM, IT, and regional fire partners expanded the effort into a broader situational-awareness tool. These conversations launched the process of collecting operational map data across departments, creating the foundation for a shared platform that will help target high-priority areas and direct resources more strategically in the coming fiscal year.
10	R4		Emergency Response	Completed / Monitoring	Emergency Alert Signups	Throughout the year, the County continued expanding public awareness and participation in the MyAlerts/Everbridge emergency notification system through sustained outreach and wildfire preparedness messaging. Early efforts included posts on County and partner social media pages, presentations, and distributing flyers at community events to encourage sign-ups. By September 30, 2025, active Everbridge registrations had grown to 44,019, and by the end of Q2, total MyAlerts users reached 44,656 following continued public engagement. Growth continued into Q3, with registrations increasing to 44,878 as agencies amplified messaging during wildfire preparedness activities. By June 2, 2026, total users reached 45,116, reflecting steady, year-over-year gains that underscore community interest in timely emergency information and the ongoing effectiveness of coordinated outreach across jurisdictions.
11	R5		Emergency Response	In Progress	Enhance Regional Dispatch Centers coordination	Over the past year, regional partners worked closely with the Office of Emergency Management to streamline how Wireless Emergency Alerts are developed and requested during fast-moving incidents. Previously, alert requests were directed solely through on-scene leadership, which could create delays during complex events. Through an 18-month collaborative effort, a new workflow was established that allows dispatch personnel to assist in drafting alert templates and coordinating requests with OEM for review and release. This updated process preserves the authority of incident leadership while reducing administrative burden, improving message consistency, and enabling faster delivery of critical public safety information. Training materials were developed to support implementation, and ongoing refinements will continue to strengthen regional coordination, readiness, and communication during significant emergencies.
12	R6		Emergency Response	In Progress	Tabletop wildfire scenarios-Community roles in WF response	One tabletop exercise was conducted to strengthen regional preparedness through a discussion-based wildfire tabletop exercises. The annual exercise held on October 23, 2025, brought together more than 55 participants from over 35 departments and organizations, focusing on a large-scale wildfire scenario and community protection.
13	R7		Emergency Response	In Progress	Severity Patrols	In Q2, the County, Pima County Fire Chiefs Association (PCFCA), Procurement, and Legal initiated process development of this program, holding initial meetings on September 25 and October 15, 2025. In Quarter 3, contract details were drafted collaboratively with PCFCA. By Q4, the contract was routed to Fire Agencies through PCFCA for Board and departmental signatures, with implementation anticipated in the next fiscal year.
14	R8		Emergency Response	In Progress	Wildland Fire training funding opportunities	In year one Pima County and regional partners significantly expanded wildfire training capacity to strengthen operational readiness across disciplines. The year began with the submission and approval of the L-380 course, setting the foundation for a comprehensive training slate. In Quarter 2, regional agencies were surveyed to identify priority training needs, resulting in a coordinated schedule of high-value courses. Interest was strong across fire districts, state forestry, and federal partners—particularly for the Fireline Leadership Class scheduled for January 2026, which filled quickly and demonstrated the region's shared commitment to modern wildfire leadership development. Quarter 3 marked a major milestone with delivery of the Fireline Leadership Course, hosted at the Tucson Interagency Fire Center and attended by 31 personnel representing local, state, and federal agencies. Participants completed both classroom instruction and a Pima County field-day component, strengthening cross-agency familiarity and operational cohesion. By Quarter 4, advanced-level Incident Command System training broadened regional response capability. ICS-300 was completed by 18 students across six agencies, and ICS-400 by 21 students representing nine agencies, expanding the pool of qualified personnel able to manage complex, multi-jurisdictional wildfire events. Overall, this year's training program successfully prioritized regional coordination, strengthened leadership development, and ensured that more responders are prepared for large-scale wildfire incidents. These investments directly enhance the County's ability to respond rapidly, effectively, and in partnership with agencies across the region.
15	R9		Emergency Response	In Progress	Evacuation Map created Predeveloped evacuation zones	Over the past year, OEM worked with IT and regional partners to develop and refine a standardized, countywide evacuation mapping system designed to support clear, cross-jurisdictional evacuation communication during wildfire and all-hazard incidents. Initial work established the foundational evacuation zone map and initiated outreach to jurisdictions to determine their participation. By Q2, all unincorporated county lands had been zoned, limited partner feedback was incorporated, and Pima County GIS began finalizing the mapping layer for distribution. In Q3, OEM continued close collaboration with regional partners as map details were refined, with the City of Tucson as the only remaining jurisdiction outstanding. By Q4, all jurisdictions had participated, the map was completed, and PC GIS began final cleanup in preparation for publication, with a public rollout planned in coordination with Pima County Communications. This effort strengthens regional readiness by providing a consistent and intuitive tool for coordinated evacuations.
16	R10		Emergency Response	In Progress	ROW maintenance	Q4: Throughout FY26, Pima County Transportation conducted extensive invasive plant management across roadway corridors, focusing primarily on high-priority species such as buffelgrass, fountain grass, desert broom, Bermuda grass, stinknet, and salt cedar. Field crews completed chemical treatments at numerous locations countywide, with detailed entries documenting species treated, treatment dates, and site-specific notes on volunteer tree removal and vegetation encroachment. According to the FY26 treatment map, a total of 134.02 miles of linear roadway treatments were addressed, reflecting significant on-the-ground effort to reduce wildfire risk, protect transportation infrastructure, and control the spread of invasive species.
17	R11		Emergency Response	Planning	DOT evacuation signs/deployment procedure	This task will be revised and included with the evacuation planning procedures identified in the CWPP.
18	R12		Emergency Response	In Progress	Responder map data repository	The County continued strengthening its geospatial tools to support coordinated wildfire planning. During the second quarter, the Community Wildfire Protection Plan incorporated new maps highlighting critical infrastructure and areas of concern, while also integrating wildfire-risk layers from national datasets. These resources were prepared for sharing with responders and partner agencies through established communication groups. By the third quarter, the CWPP's mapping library had expanded into a more comprehensive set of location-based tools, with all datasets consolidated in ArcGIS. This platform now allows regional partners to access and apply consistent information supporting aligned decision-making, clearer situational awareness, and more coordinated mitigation and response efforts.
19	R13		Emergency Response	In Progress	Regional WF Taskforce meetings (2x year)	The task builds on the foundation established by OEM in previous years with the continuation of Wildland Fire Seminars, in 2025 hosted at the PECOC in April. Planning through early quarters set the stage for the next session, and by Quarter 3, OEM successfully hosted a major regional seminar on April 9, 2026. The event brought together 66 participants from 29 agencies, creating a valuable forum for sharing best practices, aligning response strategies, and enhancing coordination ahead of peak wildfire season.
20	R15		Emergency Response	In Progress	Drone opportunities for emergency response	In FY25–26, two regional drones were purchased using the WMP budget to strengthen training and response capabilities across the region. The drones were approved and delivery occurred on June 16. This acquisition was initiated through a coordinated regional request and supported by fire agencies seeking enhanced tools for incident management, particularly for large brush fires and wildfire hotspot mapping. Earlier in the year (Q2), work began on compiling an inventory of fire agencies and land managers with existing drone capabilities to support regional coordination and deployment planning.
21	R14		Emergency Response	Completed / Monitoring	Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)TEP wildfire plan and procedures	Working with utility and state partners Pima County and regional partners attended meetings about Tucson Electric Power's Public Safety Power Shutoff planning and wildfire-related power mitigation. The effort began with TEP's initial tabletop exercise in Q1, followed by early-year meetings with TEP and DFIC to align on upcoming PSPS requirements and planning needs. By Q3, TEP provided an overview of its Wildfire Plan and forthcoming submission to the Department of Forestry and Fire Management, supporting regional understanding of PSPS protocols. The year concluded with two significant engagements: a hotwash presented at the March AZDEMA meeting on the Coconino/APS PSPS event, and a multi-department tabletop at the University of Arizona focused on heat-related PSPS scenarios. These activities collectively improved regional readiness, strengthened operational coordination, and supported shared planning ahead of future PSPS events.
28	R16		Emergency Response	Planning	Identify regional water supply sources for wildland fire response	Planning progresses on identifying and mapping regional water resources to support wildland fire response. Trying to narrow down what map will include on top of hydrant locations, what other water sources would be important to note. Reaching out to our water department agencies to share ARCGis layers for this endeavor.

Task #	Task Health	Risk Reduction Section	Current status	Task Title	Notes for annual summary
29	R17		Emergency Response	Completed	Pre-Auth response use agreements Pima County has established pre-authorization response agreements to ensure a coordinated, timely, and effective response to wildfire incidents. As a signatory to the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact (AMAC), the County is committed to providing and receiving emergency assistance through a statewide framework that facilitates the sharing of personnel, equipment, and other resources during emergencies. In addition, Pima County maintains a Cooperative Agreement with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) that authorizes the deployment of County personnel, equipment, and other resources in support of wildfire suppression and emergency response efforts when requested. This agreement enables the rapid mobilization of County resources without the need for incident-specific approvals while providing a mechanism for reimbursement of eligible personnel time, equipment use, and associated costs. Together, these agreements strengthen regional coordination, enhance public safety, promote efficient resource sharing, and help protect County financial interests by ensuring that eligible response costs are recoverable under established mutual aid and cooperative reimbursement provisions.
43	R18		Emergency Response	Planning	PANO cameras in remote areas Discussions began and continued for regional wildfire camera capabilities by coordinating with local, state, and federal partners. Early discussions with multiple departments and strong interest from the U.S. Forest Service helped identify potential opportunities to leverage existing infrastructure. In Q2, conversations broadened as District 5 facilitated a meeting with the Phoenix Pano team to explore technical options. By Q3, a request was made to Tucson Electric Power to include provisions in their Wildfire Plan to share camera imagery with first-due fire agencies, reinforcing the importance of real-time situational awareness. In Q4, OEM reached out to AlertCalifornia for exploration on how they use their cameras. These efforts collectively support improved detection, enhanced operational readiness, and more informed decision-making during initial attack.
44	R19		Emergency Response	Planning	Fund Heliwells Over the course of the year, partners explored opportunities to advance regional water-storage capacity for wildfire response, beginning with early-year discussions on potential storage options and outreach to stakeholders, including Freeport and federal agencies, who expressed interest. By Q3, conversations expanded to include site feasibility, with the Coronado National Forest Fire Staff Officer to discuss potential locations and federal collaboration, while also exploring the possibility of congressional earmark as a possible funding avenue. Throughout Q4, to the County's purchase of two self-supporting water tanks; a 3,000 gallon & a 5,000 gallon capacity. These will be housed in the Regional Wildfire Equipment Trailer. These collective efforts reflect ongoing regional coordination aimed at strengthening long-term wildfire preparedness and resource availability.
45	NP1		Emergency Response	In Progress	Wildland Fire Equipment Cache Trailer Wildland fire equipment cache trailer project designed to support wildfire training, rapid initial response, and incident stabilization. The envisioned trailer would be outfitted with aviation-rated water containers, portable pumps, progressive hose packs, and sprinkler kits—providing a standardized, ready-to-deploy resource for use across the county. The goal of this effort is to enhance the region's ability to quickly mobilize water-handling equipment, improve interagency coordination, and offer a consistent platform for hands-on training. Once developed, this shared asset would strengthen operational readiness and ensure agencies have access to critical tools during high-risk wildfire events.
47	NP2		Emergency Response	In Progress	Personal Protective Gear Regional partners requested assistance to ensure firefighters in Pima County are properly equipped for wildfire response. An equipment order was completed, and most items—including helmets, shirts, neck wraps, pants, gloves, backpacks, shelters, and select hand tools—were received by June 30, this project hopes to help strengthen firefighter safety, response and readiness.