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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 14, 2026

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

From: Jan Lester  
  
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

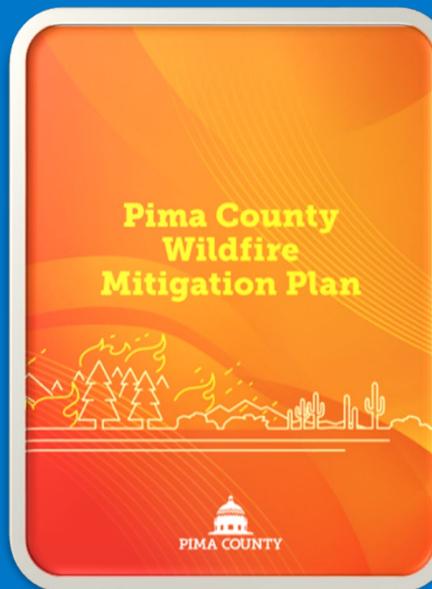
Priorities for the coming months include completing the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) by June 2026, launching bilingual wildfire messaging materials, developing a centralized invasive species data repository, and continuing collaboration with state partners on insurance coverage solutions.

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.

JKL/anc

Attachment: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Presentation for January 20, 2026

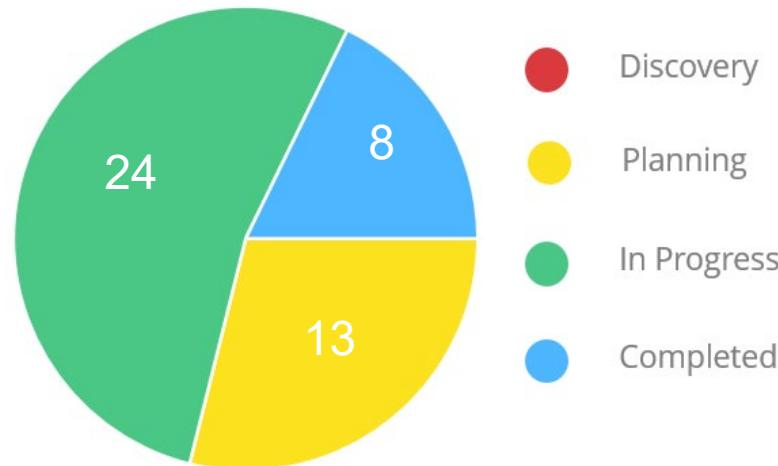
c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator  
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator  
Sandra Espinoza, Director, Office of Emergency Management  
Mark B. Evans, Communications Director  
Kris Gade, Director, Conservation Lands and Resources  
Chris Poirier, Director, Development Services 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



# 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



**Emergency alerts sign-ups increased**

**Wildland Fire Leadership Training Course**

**Evacuation Zone Mapping**

**Emergency Notifications**

**Tabletop Exercise**

## 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

