

GILA COUNTY



NGC CWPP



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Overview

A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) gathers community resources to enhance wildfire mitigation and preparedness. The plan identifies a community's steps to reduce its risk of damage from wildfires. The 2022 Northern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (NGC CWPP) is an update of the 2015 CWPP which was designed by a local group of stakeholders invested in the wildland fire threats to northern Gila County communities.

Gila County believes the protection of life and property from wildland fire involves a comprehensive approach from a single home site to the entire community that abuts wildlands. Gila County has adopted a community-wide approach to creating fire-adapted communities that are composed of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and acting to safely coexist with wildland fire through preparation. “More fully, fire-adapted communities are knowledgeable, engaged communities where actions of residents and agencies in relation to infrastructure, buildings, landscaping, and the surrounding ecosystem lessen the need for extensive protection actions and enable the communities to safely accept fire as part of the surrounding landscape” (Fire Adapted Communities, 2021).¹

This document provides a comprehensive, scientifically based analysis of wildfire-related hazards and risks in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas of Gila County, Arizona. The analysis is delivered in the form of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and strives to follow the standards for CWPP that have been established by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). Using the results of the analysis, recommendations have been generated that aid stakeholders in preventing and/or reducing the threat of wildfire to values in the study area. These recommendations are included throughout the report, wherever appropriate.

Due to the geographic size of the county, Gila County also maintains a “Southern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plan” to address the specific fuels, landscape, and stakeholders in the southern area. The NGC CWPP covers the area north of Hellsgate Wilderness to the Verde River, south of the Mogollon Rim and Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, and west of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Federal lands within this CWPP are administered by the US Forest Service, Tonto National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management.

B. Background

The 2022 NGC CWPP is an update of the 2016 CWPP, that was designed by a local group of stakeholders invested in the wildland fire threats to Northern Gila County Communities.

¹ <http://www.fireadapted.org/>



The NGC CWPP was originally developed in 2004, in response to the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 for at-risk communities and unincorporated areas of the Mogollon Rim of Arizona by a “Core Team” of stakeholders. The original 2004 plan was referred to as the “Rim Country CWPP.” As stated in the plan, “the goal of the Rim Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan since 2004 has been to provide for vital, healthy, and dynamically stable human communities, built upon a similarly vital, healthy, and dynamically stable forest, which is strongly resistant to wildfire, and wherein the positive role of fire is understood and managed for the benefit of all.”²

C. Timeline of Plan Updates

2004: Original development of the CWPP.

2006: In 2006, the 2004 Rim Country CWPP was updated with continued input from Core Team members. Focus areas included:

- Provide progress updates to the initial 2004 CWPP.
- Established the following goals:
 - Improve fire prevention and suppression, emphasizing firefighter and public safety.
 - Reduce hazardous fuels, emphasizing public and private property protection.
 - Restore forest, rangeland, and riparian health.
 - Promote community involvement and provide for community protection.
 - Recommend measures to reduce structural ignitability in the WUI.
 - Encourage economic development in the communities from vegetative treatments.
 - Encourage communities, subdivisions, and developments that are not within a fire district to either be annexed by an existing fire district or create their own district for enhanced wildland fire protection.

2015: In 2015, Gila County Emergency Management (GCEM) sponsored another update to the CWPP with the intention of updating the resources, funding, and training activities, as well as any significant changes to the agencies or the communities they serve. Focus areas included:

- Community preparedness activities, including “Firewise” designations by the ASFD
- Fire response improvements
- Forest fuel mitigation efforts
- Review of risk management principles
- Grant funding opportunities
- Infrastructure improvements made by utility companies serving Northern Gila Country.
- High-value assets within the forest boundaries (Mt. Ord and the Diamond Point communication facilities).
- Established the following goals:
 - Fuel treatment projects
 - Organizational changes

²2004 Rim Country CWPP



- Community preparedness recommendation established in the 2004 and 2006 CWPP's.
- Use the CWPP in conjunction with surrounding community and agency fire management plans.
- Maintain qualification for grant funding.

D. Historic Occurrences of Wildland Fires in Gila County

Wildland fires are a force of nature that can be nearly as impossible to prevent and difficult to control. According to the USFS, "In the right place at the right time, wildland fire can create many environmental benefits, such as reducing grass, brush, and trees that can fuel large and severe wildfires and improving wildlife habitat. In the wrong place at the wrong time, wildfires can wreak havoc, threatening lives, homes, communities, and natural and cultural resources." The table below captures historical wildfires that have significantly impacted Gila County wildland areas, and in some incidences, nearby communities.

Table 1: Historic Occurrences of Wildland Fires in Gila County

Wildland Fires [>1,000 acres or >= \$1 million]							
Date	Name	Jurisdiction(s)	Cause	Acreage	Est. Cost ³	Fuel	Structures
6/18/2002	Rodeo-Chediski	Coconino, Gila, Navajo	Human	467,000	F - \$43.1 mm	Ponderosa Pine, Pine-Oak	490
6/24/2004	Willow (southwest of Payson)	Gila	Lightning	119,500	F - \$12 mm	Desert Shrub, Chaparral	0
7/15/2005	Edge Complex (south of Mt. Ord)	Gila	Lightning	71,635	F - \$4 mm	Chaparral, Pine-Oak	0
5/30/2009	Pioneer (south of Globe)	Gila	Lightning	1,375	F - >= \$50 k	Manzanita, Ponderosa Pine, Chaparral	0
5/31/2009	Point (north of Pine)	Coconino, Gila	Lightning	1,295	F - \$44.5 mm	Ponderosa Pine	0
8/30/2009	Water Wheel (near Beaver Valley)	Gila	Human	773	F - \$1.8 mm	Pine-Oak, Chaparral	0
8/20/2011	Tanner (south of Young)	Gila	Lightning	5,460	F - \$2.8 mm	Ponderosa Pine / Pine-Oak	0
5/10/2012	Bull Flat (recovering area from Rodeo-Chediski Fire)	Gila	Lightning	2,147	F - > \$1.9 mm	Grass, Brush, Deadwood	0
6/14/2012	Poco (northeast of Young, near Bull Flat Fire)	Gila	Human	11,936	F - \$8.2 mm	Ponderosa Pine	0

³ S=Suppression; F=Full Cost

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8/8/2012	Mistake Peak (east of Tonto Basin)	Gila	Human	5,220	F - \$3.1 mm		
5/20/2016	Juniper (east of San Carlos)	Gila	Lightning	30,643		Grass and Brush	0
9/12/2016	Fulton (near Payson)	Gila	Lightning	3,238			
5/8/2017	Pinal (near Globe)	Gila	Lightning	7,156		Pine, Oak brush, Manzanita, and Snowberry	0
7/29/2017	Highline (8 mi east of Payson; 1990 Dude fire scar)	Gila	Human	7,198		Grass, brush, heavy and down fuels, ponderosa pine	0
6/8/2019	Woodbury (areas of TNF, moved northeast toward Roosevelt Lake) Pinal, Maricopa, Gila	Pinal, Maricopa, Gila	Human	123,875	F - >= \$16 mm	Tall grass, Brush, Chaparral	0
5/30/2020	Sawtooth	Pinal, Gila	Lightning	24,729	S - >= \$5.2 mm	Tall grass, heavy brush	0
6/5/2020	Blue River Fire (15 mi NE of San Carlos)	Gila	Lightning	30,419	S - >= \$100 k	Timber	0
6/5/2020	Dry Lake	Graham, Gila	Lightning	4,370	S - >= \$100 k		0
6/13/2020	Bush Fire (SR-87, Tonto Basin, Punkin Corner, Jakes Corner) Maricopa, Gila	Maricopa, Gila	Human	193,455	S - >= \$11.6 mm	Grass, Chaparral, Juniper-Pinyon	0
7/12/2020	Valley	Gila	Lightning	29,659	S - >= \$2 mm		0
7/20/2020	Blue River 2 (15 mi NE of San Carlos)	Gila	Lightning	28,051	S - >= \$4 mm	Brush, tall grass, and hardwood litter. Heavy grass crops and dry light brush are the primary carriers of the fire.	0
8/1/2020	Cassadore Springs/Kean	Gila	Lightning	1,284	S - >= \$7 mm	Brush, grass,	1

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Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



						ponderosa pine	
8/17/2020 8/21/2020	Griffin/Gin	Gila	Lightning	61,821	S - >/= \$5.8 mm	Grass, Brush, Chaparral	
8/16/2020	Bull (15 mi west of Payson)	Gila	Lightning	5,700	S - >/= \$50 k		0
8/17/2020	Salt	Gila	Lightning	21,670	S - >/= \$20 k	Grass, Brush, Sonoran Desert	
8/21/2020	Rockhouse (16 mi SE of San Carlos)	Gila	Lightning	19,506	S - >/= \$546 k	Grass and Brush	
8/22/2020 8/28/2020	Medicine / Medicine 2	Gila	Lightning/ Human	8,930	S - >/= \$1.2 mm	Timber with brush and grass understory	1
8/24/2020	Meddler (7 miles northeast of Roosevelt)	Gila	Lightning	4,452	S - >/= \$73 k	Tall Grass, Brush, Chaparral	0
8/25/2020	Hidden	Gila	Lightning	6,106	S - >/= \$5 mm	Short Grass (1 foot) Short Grass (1 foot) Dormant Brush, Hardwood Slash Timber (Litter and Under- story)	0
9/2/2020	Juniper (18 miles East of San Carlos)	Gila	Lightning	2,867	S - >/= \$2 k	Grass, Brush	0
5/7/2021	Copper Canyon	Gila	Human	2,875		Grass, Brush	0
6/1/2021	Mescal (under investigation)	Pinal, Gila	Pending	72,250	S - >/= \$12 mm	Grass, Chaparral, Brush	
6/4/2021	Telegraph	Pinal, Gila	Human	180,757	S - >/= \$36.4 mm	Grass, Brush	51
6/16/2021	Backbone	Yavapai, Gila, Coconino	Lightning	40,855	S - >/= \$13.2 mm	Pinyon juniper, chaparral, brush, grass, cactus	0



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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

The NGC CWPP covers approximately 298,000 acres and is served by eight (8) fire districts and the Tonto National Forest (TNF). The population covered by the CWPP consists of approximately 25,000 residents living in over 88 defined communities, with holiday and weekend population increases of nearly 100% due to the recreational opportunities offered in the pine-covered forests. With the large number of communities addressed by the plan, an important objective for the NGC CWPP Core Review Team (NGC CRT) was to provide a method of accountability for mitigation measures undertaken. Another component of this plan was to develop fuel management priorities, prevention and loss mitigation and establish future priorities and recommended action plan. This NGC CWPP has been written in accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) May 2020 guidelines⁴ and Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA).⁵ This plan will identify and prioritize critical goals and objectives that should be completed to ensure our northern Gila County communities are safe from wildfires.

B. Purpose of CWPP

The purpose of a CWPP is to identify and prioritize fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatments across the landscape, address structural ignitability, and address local preparedness and firefighting capabilities with stakeholders.

The CWPP will help local governments, fire departments, and fire districts improve fire prevention and suppression activities, assist in identifying funding needs and grant opportunities, and identify at-risk public, private lands, and protect those lands from severe wildfire threats.

C. Three Basic Criteria for CWPP

- **Collaboration:** A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- **Prioritized Fuel Reduction:** A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
- **Treatment of Structural Ignitability:** A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

D. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

In 2009, the Arizona State Forestry Department, under the direction of the Governor of Arizona, issued an Arizona-Identified Communities at Risk rating for nearly 200 communities located

⁴ <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/cb-062420.html>

⁵ <https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/resources/overview/hfra-implementation12-2004.shtml>



throughout the State. These communities were given WUI ratings, with 39 communities located in Gila County. The ratings were based on the following criteria:

- Fire Behavior Potential
- Social, Cultural and Community Factors
- Fire Protection Capability

Each community was given a Risk of Catastrophic Fire rating based on the three evaluation criteria. Seventeen communities in the NGC CWPP coverage area were rated by the Arizona State Forestry Department. The chart below lists those communities, the associated WUI risk, and the Fire District/Department providing fire protection to the community.

E. Northern Gila County Communities-At-Risk

The following communities in Northern Gila County were rated by the DFFM in 2019. The table below lists the Northern Gila County communities, the associated WUI risk, FRI Class, and the Fire District/Department providing fire protection to the community.⁶

Table 2: Northern Gila County Communities-At-Risk

Community	Risk Category	FRI Class	Fire District/Department
Arrowhead	High	6.21	Pine-Strawberry FD
Bear Flat	High	8.44	Hellsgate FD
Beaver Valley	High	5.73	Water Wheel FMD
Bonita Creek Estates	High	7.39	Water Wheel FMD
Camp Geronimo	High	5.40	Water Wheel FMD
Canyon Day - White Mountain Apache	Moderate*	*	White Mountain Apache FD
Christopher Creek	High	6.31	Christopher Kohls FD
Colcord Estates	High	5.71	Christopher Kohls FD
Deer Creek	High	5.41	None
Diamond Point Summer Homes	High	7.06	Hellsgate FD
East Verde Estates	High	6.69	Payson FD
Ellison Creek Estates	High	7.08	Hellsgate FD
Ellison Creek Summer Homes	High	7.22	Hellsgate FD
Flowing Springs	High	5.64	None
Freedom Acres/Wonder Valley	High	5.36	Payson FD
Frog Pond**	High	6.56	Pleasant Valley FD

⁶ Dataset (2019) Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

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Geronimo Estates	High	5.74	Water Wheel FMD
Gisela	High	6.17	Gisela FD
Gordon Canyon	High	5.43	Christopher Kohls FD
Haigler Creek	High	5.39	None
Hunter Creek	High	7.44	Christopher Kohls FD
Jakes Corner	High	4.99	Christopher Kohls FD
Kohls Ranch	High	7.88	Christopher Kohls FD
Little Green Valley	High	7.66	Hellsgate FD
Mead's Ranch	High	6.78	Hellsgate FD
Mesa del Caballo	High	6.35	Payson FD
Nail Ranch**	High	6.50	Pleasant Valley FD
Oxbow Estates	High	6.35	Payson FD
Payson	High	6.06	Payson Fire Department
Pine Strawberry	High	6.39	Pine-Strawberry FD
Ponderosa Springs	High	5.58	Christopher Kohls FD
R-C Camp	High	7.99	Christopher Kohls FD
Rim Trail Estates	High	6.21	Water Wheel FMD
Rock House**	High	6.17	Pleasant Valley FD
Rose Creek** ⁷	High	7.83	Pleasant Valley FD
Round Valley	High	6.30	Payson FD
Rye	High	6.26	None
Shadow Rim Camp	High	6.59	Water Wheel FMD
Star Valley	High	6.20	Hellsgate FD
Thompson Draw I	High	7.16	Hellsgate FD
Thompson Draw II	High	7.11	Hellsgate FD
Tonto Apache - Tonto Apache	High*	*	Payson Fire Department
Tonto Basin	High	4.85	Christopher Kohls FD
Tonto Creek Estates	High	6.66	Christopher Kohls FD
Tonto Creek Hatchery	High	6.72	Christopher Kohls FD
Tonto Village	High	6.42	Hellsgate FD

⁷ ** Indicates area is in an area where the assigned fire department may respond if able to bill for response.



Verde Glen	High	6.66	Water Wheel FMD
Washington Park	High	5.87	Water Wheel FMD
Washington Park North	High	5.76	Water Wheel FMD
Whispering Pines	High	6.78	Water Wheel FMD
Young	High	6.07	Pleasant Valley FD

F. CWPP Planning Process/Development Team

Gila County’s collaborative planning process for the 2022 update included members federal, state, county, and local partners and stakeholders. Gila County recognizes the importance of relationships between municipalities and fire districts within county, as well as partnerships with state and federal land managers where public safety responsibilities may overlap requires a collaborative effort to succeed. The 2022 NGC CRT was formed in 2021 to guide and provide direction for updates to this CWPP.

Table 3: 2022 NGC CWPP Development Team

Participant	Roles/Responsibilities
Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management	Grant funding opportunities Provide general guidance as needed Review and approve Final CWPP
Development Team (CRT/Working Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Fire Departments/Districts Emergency Management TNF (USFS) DFFM GIS (agency specific) 	Provide guidance and expertise for the CWPP Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions Provide guidance to key stakeholders Distribute CWPP information via websites and social media platforms Conduct direct outreach as appropriate
Key Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility Companies Neighboring Jurisdictions Local Municipalities State Agencies Elected Officials Tonto National Forest Tribal partners 	Provide insights on the intersection of cross-jurisdictional hazard areas Collaborate on program and project development Review CWPP drafts Participate in workshops, as appropriate
At-Risk Stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential/landowners Business/non-profit organizations Faith-based Local municipalities 	Participation in online surveys



CWPP Facilitator <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gila County Emergency Management	Develop CWPP Facilitate planning meetings Facilitate community surveys Distribute CWPP information to key stakeholders and the development team Distribute Final CWPP
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II. COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

A. Local and Tribal Communities and Fire Departments/Districts

The 2022 update to the NGC CWPP identified changes made in the preceding years in community values, local fire district/department and community preparedness, agency infrastructure, population trends, and structure density. Another item reviewed was changes in Fire Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings, which is a nationwide classification system used to reflect a community's local fire protection agency's ability to suppress fires.

Participating Fire Departments/Districts and agencies are represented in this section. **Note:** The information on the population (unless otherwise referenced) and wildfire risk to communities below includes the most recent census data available in the risk mapping tool provided by the USDA Wildfire Risk to Communities.⁸

“Firewise” Communities



“Firewise” communities are those that have taken appropriate measures to become more resistant to wildfire structural damage. “Firewise” techniques include minimizing the risk of home ignition by carefully landscaping around residential structures such as thinning trees and brush and choosing fire-resistant plants, selecting ignition-resistant building materials, and positioning structures away from slopes. Many communities in northern Gila County have adopted “Firewise” suggestions and have been certified as “Firewise” communities (see table below).⁹

Table 4: Firewise Communities in Northern Gila County

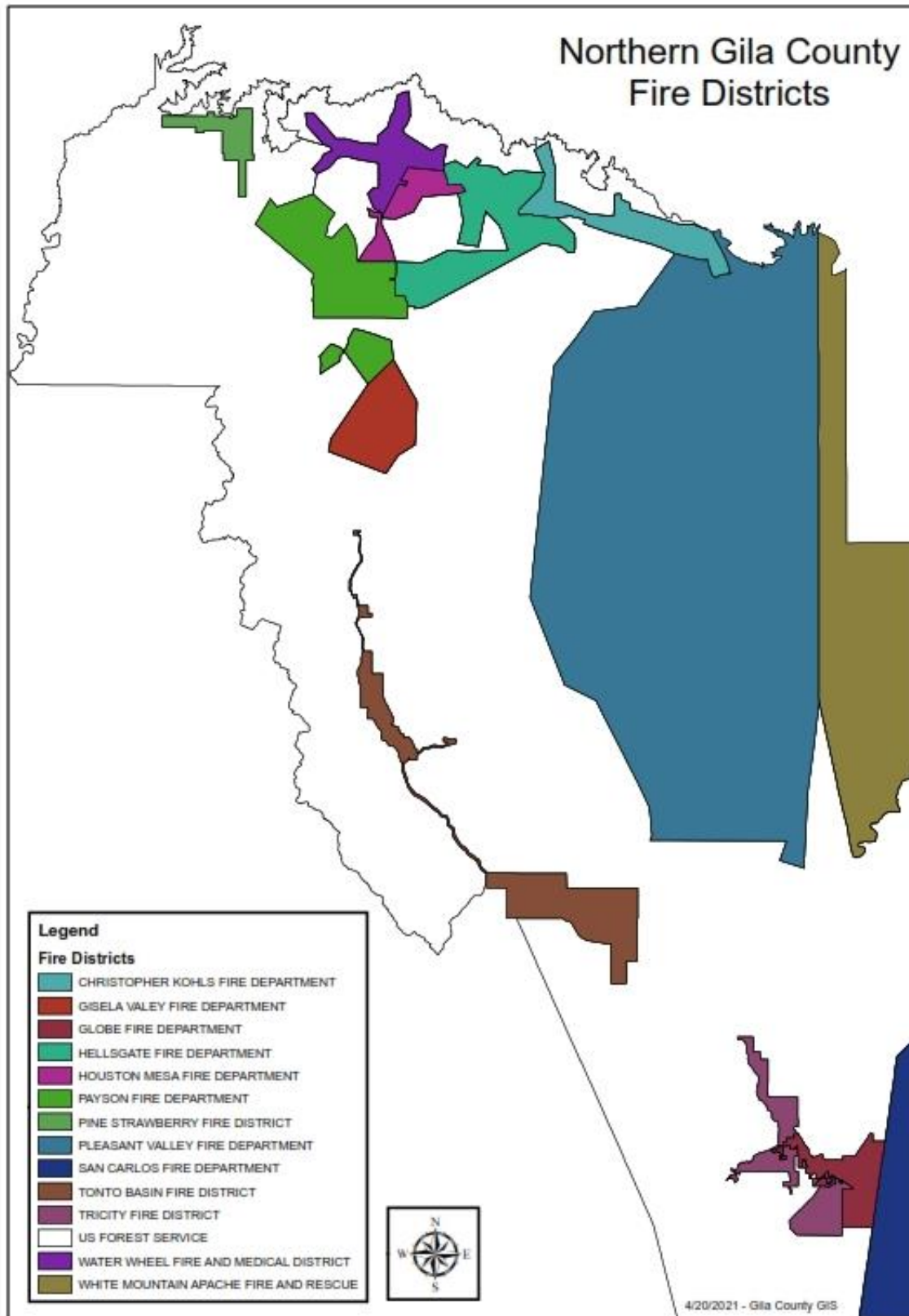
Fire District/Department	“Firewise” Community
Hellsgate	Bear Flats, Freedom Acres, Pine Ridge, Summer Home, Thompson Draw I & II, and Wonder Valley
Payson	Alpine Heights, Chaparral Pines, East Verde Park, Elk Ridge, Ellison Creek Cabin HOA, Flowing Springs, Freedom Acres, Highlands at the Rim, Manzanita Ranch, Payson Pines, Rim Golf Club, Kohl’s Tonto Creek, Wonder Valley
Pine-Strawberry	Portal IV, The Portals
Waterwheel	Beaver Valley, Bonita Creek

⁸ <https://wildfirerisk.org>

⁹ <https://www.nfpa.org>



Map 1: Northern Gila County Fire Districts





1. Christopher-Kohls Fire District

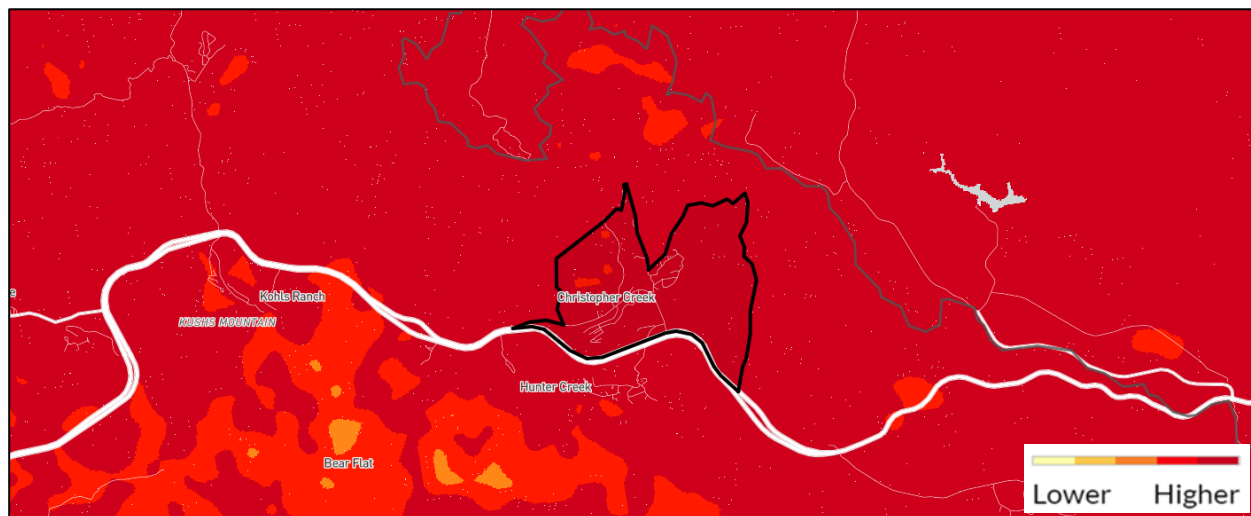
Chief: Robert Lockhart
Location: 930 E. Christopher Creek Loop, Payson AZ 85541
Phone: (928) 478-4011
Email: chief@ckfire.net
Website: <https://www.ckfire.net/>
Social: n/a

Overview of Communities

Christopher Creek

Christopher Creek is a census-designated place in northern Gila County in the state of Arizona. Situated at the base of the Mogollon Rim, the community lies at an elevation of 5,961 and is located approximately 23.5 miles northeast of Payson, just off SR 260. The current population in Christopher Creek is 123.¹⁰ The populated areas in Christopher Creek have, on average, a greater risk than 98% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and have, on average, greater wildfire probability than 99% of communities in Arizona. Christopher Creek is approximately three (3) square miles, with 40.6 people per square mile.

Map 2: Christopher Creek Area



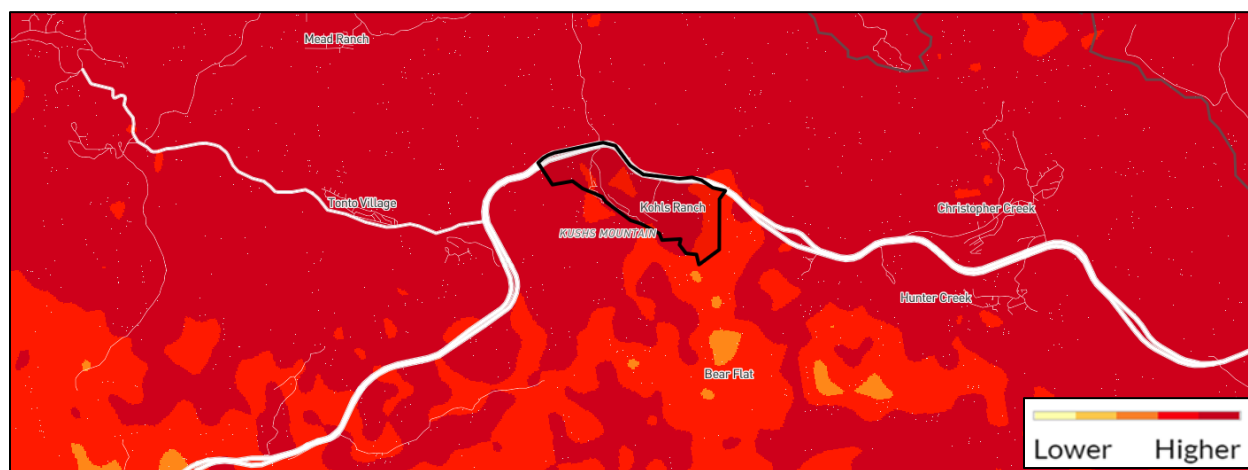
¹⁰ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/christopher-creek-az-population>



Kohl's Ranch

The current population in Kohl's Ranch is approximately 160. The populated areas in Kohls Ranch have, on average, a greater risk than 96% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, greater wildfire probability than 98% of other Arizona. Kohl's Ranch is approximately 1.2 square miles, with 134.9 people per square mile.

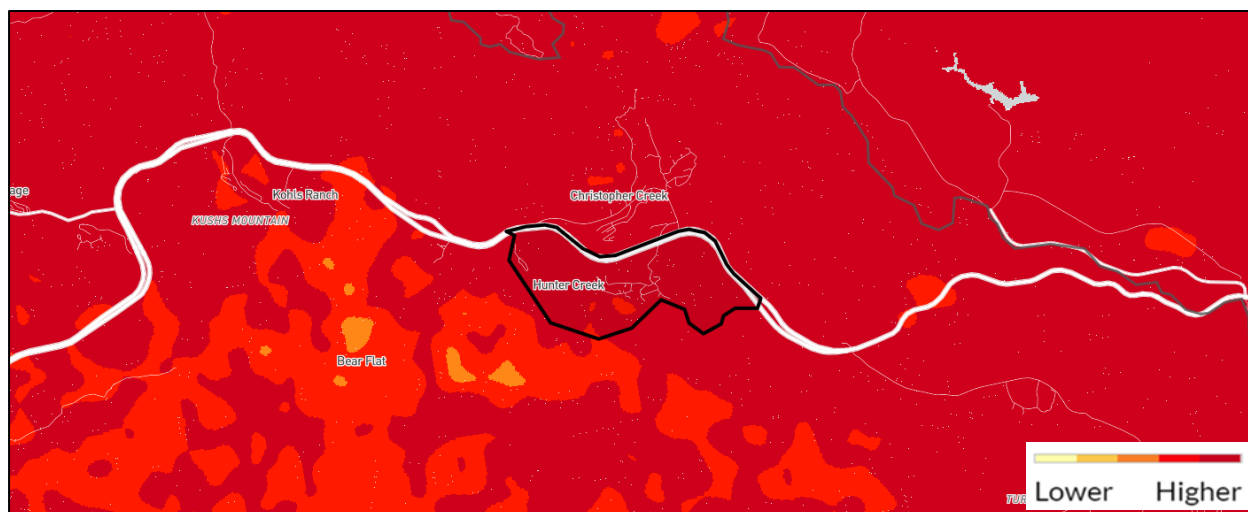
Map 3: Kohl's Ranch



Hunter Creek

Although a small area, the Hunter Creek community has an approximate population of approximately 20. They have on average, greater risk and likelihood of wildfire than 98% of other Arizona communities, are exposed to wildfire from direct sources, and are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation.

Map 4: Hunter Creek





Christopher-Kohls Fire District

Jurisdiction

The Christopher-Kohls Fire District (CKFD) provides fire, medical, and rescue services to over 1000 acres and a 20-mile section of Highway 260. Communities served by the CKFD include Kohls Ranch, Mountain Meadows, See Canyon, Hunter Creek, Christopher Creek, Colcord Estates, Gordon Canyon, Tonto Creek Estates, Zane Grey Estates, and Ponderosa Estates to the top of the Mogollon Rim. CKFD also provides contract Fire and EMS services to the Tontozona area, R-C Boy Scout Camp, Mountain Meadows Ranch Bible Camp, and Tonto Rim Bible Camp. Many of the communities are surrounded by Tonto National Forest lands. The population varies throughout the year, with a peak of approximately 10,000 people either residing or camping within the community (during summer and fall, particularly on the weekend for recreational activities), and dropping to hundreds of persons during winter months.

Three fire stations spread throughout the community provide quick response times to emergencies. A call-back system along with automatic and mutual aid provides for improved response capabilities to emergencies within the district. The Fire District is also using Nixel for communicating with both residents and visitors via text message or email.

Equipment

The CKFD currently has the following equipment:

- One (1) Rescue Ambulance
- Two (2) Type I Engines
- One (1) Type III Engine
- Two (2) Type VI Engines
- One (1) Tactical Water Tender
- Two (2) Support Water Tenders

With the increase in permanent staffing, decreased response times, and improved apparatus capabilities, the District's ISO rating dropped from a 6/8B to a 5 for the major portions of the community. Areas outside the service area are rated a 10.

Staffing

The CKFD is currently staffed with (2) full-time members at Fire Station 51. Stations 52 and 53 are staffed by volunteers. Management positions include (1) Fire Chief, (3) Fire Captains, and a small number of volunteers. The CKFD has one Engine Boss qualified member through Incident Qualifications System (IQS), one Engine Boss Trainee, and six members are FFII qualified. Several of the members are also Faller and Ignition qualified.





Community Education/Outreach

The members of the CKFD participate in the communities they serve by providing advice on personal and home fire safety by presenting topics to the community such as defensible space around buildings, firewood storage, forest litter on rooftops, spark arrestors on chimneys, and placement of smoke detectors. Members also complete “Firewise” evaluations of properties within the district.

Project Updates

CKFD has been active in seeking fuels modification projects to improve the safety of the district. The district is seeking a \$200,000 grant to treat an additional 90 acres. Over 318 acres have been treated in the See Canyon, Colcord Estates, Hunter Creek, and Ponderosa Estates areas.



2. Gisela Fire District

Chief: Richard Quarles
Location: 199 Stetson DR, Payson, AZ
Phone: (928) 474-7413
Email: giselavfd@yahoo.com
Website: n/a
Social: Facebook

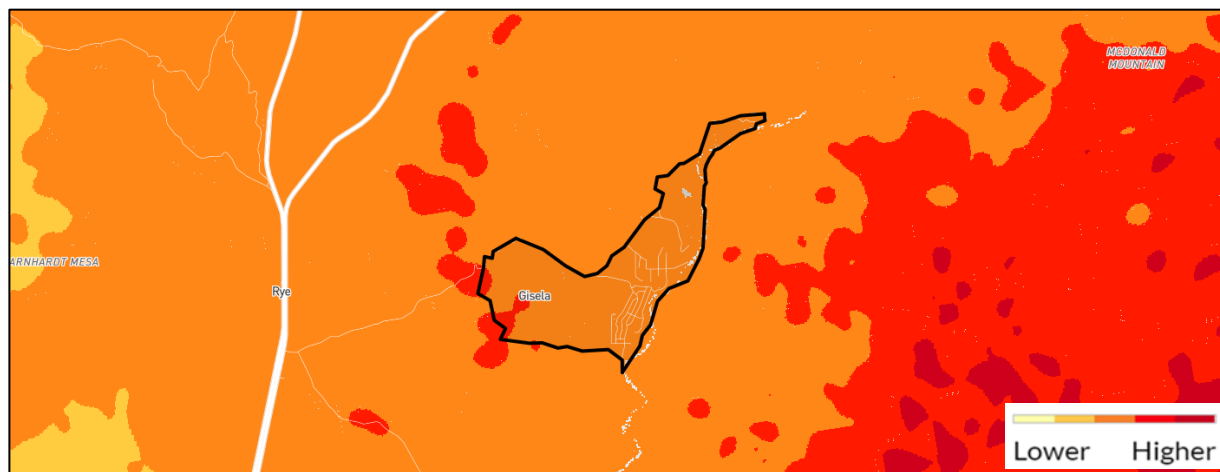
Overview of Community

Gisela, Arizona

Gisela is a small, unincorporated community of approximately 500 people located 17 miles south of Payson off Highway 87, located nearby is the community of Rye. Recreation is one of the main attractions to Gisela including swimming on Tonto Creek and hiking canyon trails.

The populated areas in Gisela have, on average, a greater risk than 83% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and have, on average, wildfire likelihood than 87% of communities in Arizona.

Map 5: Gisela, Arizona





Gisela Fire District

Jurisdiction

The Gisela Fire Department participated in the review meetings; however, did not provide updated information for the Northern Gila County Community 2022 CWPP update. The information below was based on the 2015 Northern Gila County CWPP.¹¹

The district serves the community from one central fire station and has an ISO rating of 9. The County Sheriff's Office provides emergency dispatch for this area.

Equipment

The district has several fire apparatuses including two water tenders; however, it is limited in its fire suppression capabilities by the lack of a water source to fill up fire apparatus.

Staffing

The Fire District has one paid position, the Fire Chief, and up to 12 volunteer firefighters. Utilizing Firefighters are equipped with full wildland firefighting equipment and receive dispatches by handheld radio pagers. Training is an identified need for District personnel including access to Firefighter I and II courses.

¹¹ 2016 Northern Gila County CWPP



3. Hellsgate Fire District

Chief: Morey Morris
Location: 80 S Walters LN, Star Valley, AZ
Phone: (928) 474-3835
Email: mmorris@hellsgatefire.org
Website: <https://hellsgatefire.org/>
Social: Facebook

Overview of Communities

The Hellsgate Fire District (HFD) serves the communities Town of Star Valley, Little Green Valley, Bear Flats, Tonto Village, Thompson Draw I, Thompson Draw II, Zane Grey Meadows, Meads/Collins Ranch, Ellison Creek Summer Homes, Diamond Point Summer Homes, Ellison Creek Estates, La Cienega Ranch and the newly added Fox Farm.



Star Valley

The town of Star Valley is located in Northern Gila County and contains 36 square miles of land within its incorporated boundaries, whereas the community's planning area contains about 100 square miles. Currently, both public and private lands are included. Star Valley's elevation is approximately 5,150 feet and is nearly surrounded by the Tonto National Forest. The Town is located south of the Mogollon Rim and north of the Sonoran Desert, which comprises a portion of central and southern Gila County. Immediately west of the community is the incorporated Town of Payson.¹²

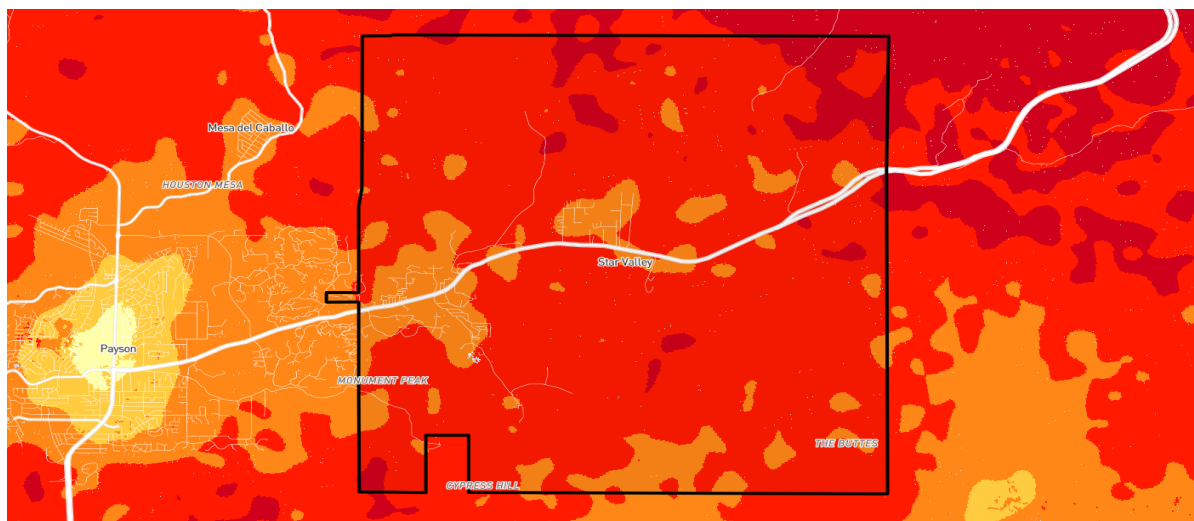
The population of Star Valley is approximately 2,324.¹³ The populated areas in Star Valley have, on average, a greater risk than 91% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and have, on average, greater wildfire likelihood than 90% of communities in Arizona.

¹² <https://starvalleyaz.com/about-star-valley/>

¹³ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/star-valley-az-population>



Map 6: Star Valley, Arizona

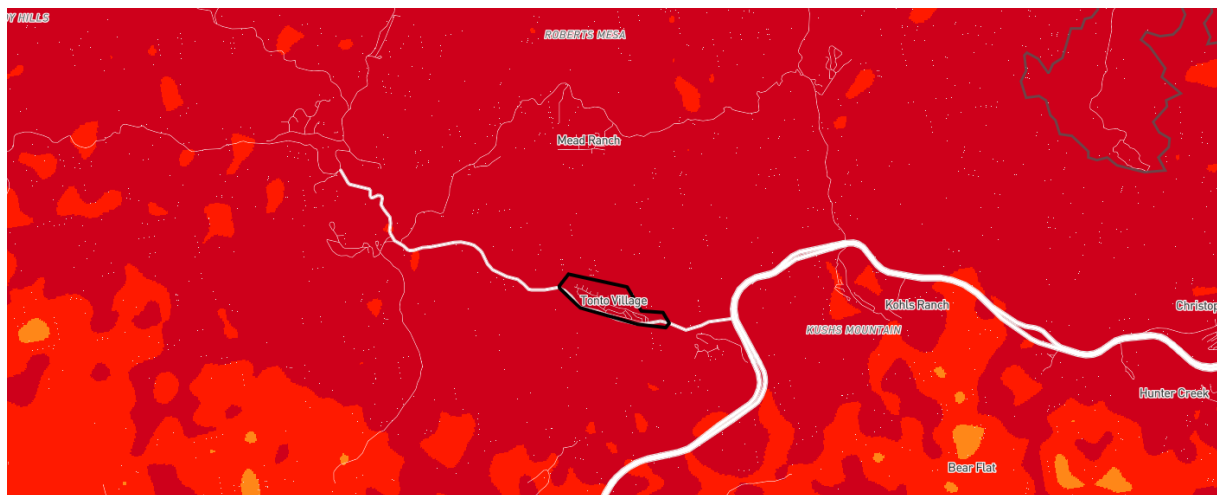


Tonto Village

Tonto Village is located in northern Gila County in Thompson Draw, a valley south of the Mogollon Rim. It is one (1) mile west of Arizona State Route 260, which leads southwest 15 miles to Payson.

The population of Tonto Village is approximately 240. The populated areas in Tonto Village have, on average, a greater risk than 98% of communities in Arizona. are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and have, on average, greater wildfire likelihood than 98% of communities in Arizona.

Map 7: Tonto Village area





Hellsgate Fire District

Jurisdiction

There are seven (7) communities served by the Hellsgate Fire District, including Thompson's Draw I & II, Bear Flats, Summer Home, and Pine Ridge are certified by the Arizona State Department of Forestry as "Firewise" communities. The district has four certified personnel who conduct home assessments and present annual refresher messages at homeowners' meetings.

The district covers approximately 35 square miles operating out of the three (3) stations below:

- Station 21: operates 24/7/365, is the districts main station and located in Star Valley
 - 80 S. Walters Lane, Star Valley
- Station 22: located in Tonto Village
 - 230 N Fitch Lane, Tonto Village
- Station 23: is operated by reserve firefighters; located in Meads Ranch
 - 1177 Mountain View Terrace, Meads Ranch

The Fire District's ISO rating was re-evaluated in the spring of 2015 and the rating dropped to a four (4) for the majority of the fire district with the increased availability of water in the communities and additional water tenders. The Bear Flats community is rated an 8B due to the distance from the closest fire station.

Emergency evacuation of the community is the responsibility of the Gila County Sheriff. Community shelter locations have been identified at the high school, the rodeo grounds, and the Moose Lodge which can feed and care for 150 people. Seven (7) different horse arenas have been designated for horse evacuations for Northern Gila County. The main community hazard in addition to wildland fires is the highway transportation corridor, Highway 260 E. Daily highway traffic includes numerous tractor-trailer trucks carrying hazardous materials. One high-value asset in the community is the power transfer station and high voltage power lines, owned by APS which is located in the district.

Equipment

- Fire Station 21: E211 (Type I), L211 (Aerial), WT211 (3000-gallon Tender), BR213 (Type III), BC2
- Fire Station 22: E221 (Type I), WT221 (2500-gallon Tender), BR223 (Type III), BR226 (Type VI)
- Fire Station 23: BR236 (Type VI), WT231 (1200-gallon Tender)

Staffing

The HFD has eight (8) full-time employees. Station 21 is staffed with two full-time firefighters, one Captain, and one Apparatus Engineer, and one Reserve Firefighter. Station 22 is staffed with one full-time employee and one or two Reserve Firefighters. Station 23 is covered by volunteers.



Wildland training and certification is a major ongoing issue with the district. Hellsgate FD has applied for a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant from FEMA to assist with recruitment and retention of personnel. Recruitment and retention of Volunteer Firefighters have been a problem with the district as with most other small fire agencies. Currently, there are six certified Engine Bosses and one Engine Boss Trainee. Nearly all the personnel are certified, wildland firefighters.



The district also has one qualified Dozer Boss and several qualified Fallers. Personnel receives annual Wildland Refresher Training (RT-130) through joint training with the Forest Service and local fire districts. Personnel also attends classes to maintain and improve their firefighting skills and certifications by attending the Arizona State Wildland Academy in Prescott. Personnel may also complete Incident Command System (ICS) classes through the Arizona Division of Emergency Management.

Grants/Agreements

HFD is a cooperating agency with the State of Arizona to send resources to wildland fires throughout the country. Members of the department have fought fires in Arizona, California, Texas, New Mexico, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, and Washington.¹⁴

- HFD was awarded a grant from the Ak-Chin Indian Community for a Medical UTV transport unit
- HFD was awarded a grant from FEMA for a replacement water tender
- HFD was awarded a grant from Ak-Chin Indian Community for a Command Vehicle
- HFD was awarded a grant from a private foundation for a replacement 4X4 Pickup truck

Community Education

Hellsgate works with several community associations to develop and disseminate safety information to its residents and visitors.

Project Updates

The “Firewise” program is being disseminated to the communities Hellsgate is serving. These communities can continue to develop the program or find alternative ways to decrease the fire threat. In the town of Star Valley, The Knolls will be working on a “Firewise” program and will try to deliver it to all their residents starting in 2022.

¹⁴ <https://hellsgatefire.org/wildland>



4. Payson Fire Department

Chief: David Staub

Location(s): Fire Station 11: 400 W. Main St. Payson, AZ 85541
Fire Station 12: 108 E. Rancho Rd. Payson, AZ 85541
Fire Station 13: 103 S. Rim Club Pkwy. Payson, AZ 85541

Phone: (928) 472-7908

Email: msavage@paysonaz.gov

Website: <http://www.paysonaz.gov/Departments/fire/fire-index.html>

Social: Facebook

Overview of Communities

Payson, Arizona

The Town of Payson is located among the majestic mountains of the Mogollon Rim. The elevation of approximately 5,000 feet provides for a mild climate, with temperatures nearly 20 degrees cooler than Phoenix and surrounding valley areas. From giant saguaros that march up the low hills to ponderosa pine-covered forests covered at higher elevations, the Payson area provides a unique outdoor experience for residents and visitors. The Town of Payson is surrounded by the Tonto National Forest, a major recreational focus for outdoor enthusiasts. The 40-acre Green Valley Park is an excellent location for fishing, picnicking, and recreation activities.



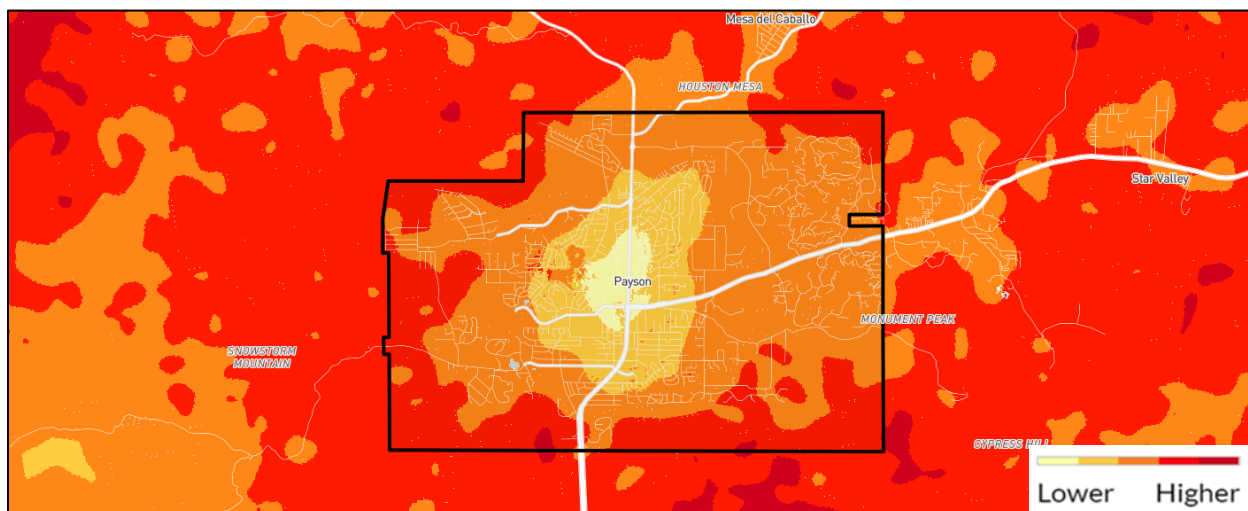
The population of Payson is 16,093.¹⁵ The populated areas in Payson have, on average, a greater risk than 76% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct

¹⁵ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/payson-az-population>



sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and a greater wildfire likelihood than 75% of communities in Arizona.

Map 8: Payson, Arizona



Freedom Acres

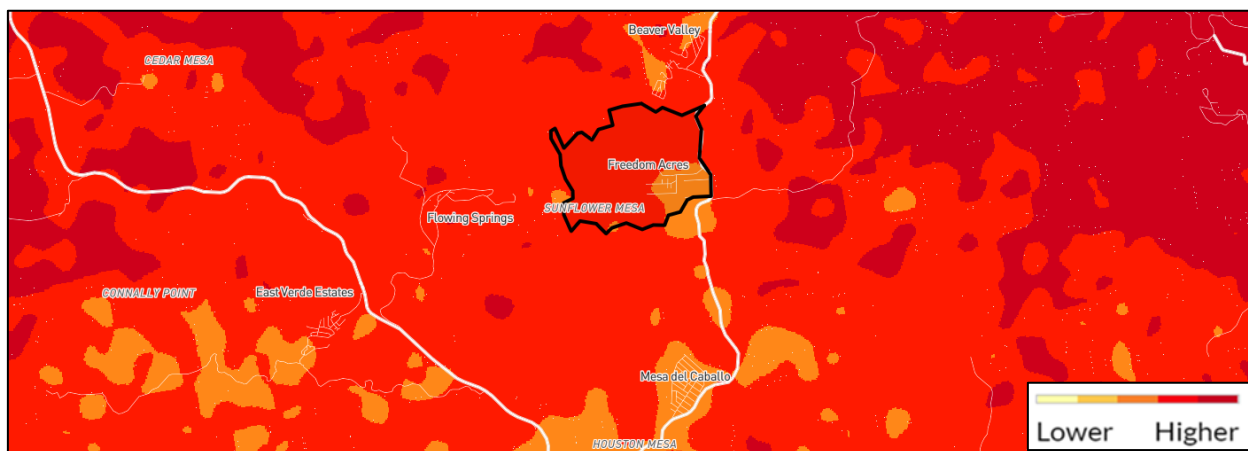
The communities of Freedom Acres and Wonder Valley have been designated by the Arizona State Forestry Department as “Firewise” communities, demonstrating the citizens’ concern for their community’s fire safety. Public education activities include “One Less Spark One Less Fire,” a campaign designed to provide constant reminders during the fire season to reduce the numbers of vehicle and equipment fires in addition to escaped campfires throughout the Houston Mesa Community.



The population of Freedom Acres is 135. The populated areas in this community have on average, greater risk and likelihood for wildfire than 91% of communities in Arizona, and are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation.



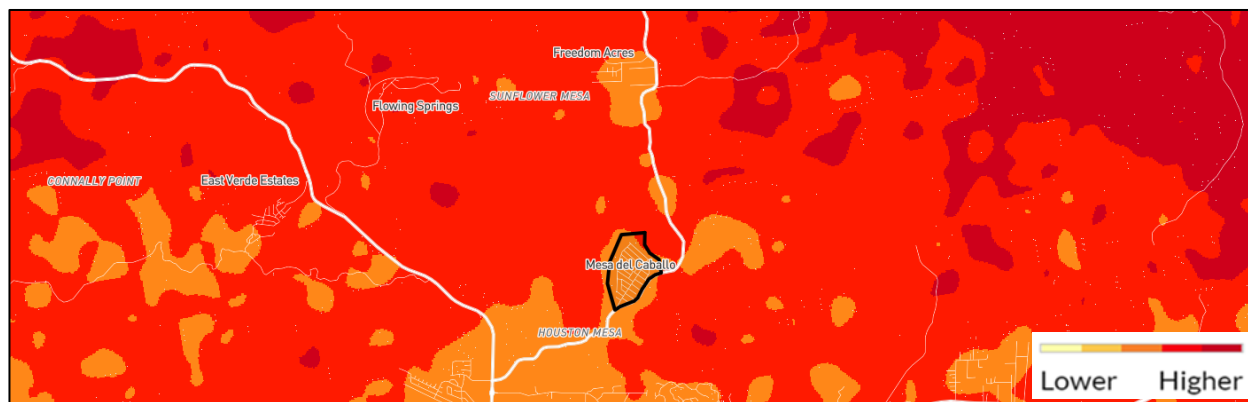
Map 9: Freedom Acres



Mesa de Caballo

Mesa del Caballo is a census-designated place (CDP) in Gila County, Arizona, with a population of 816. The populated areas in this community have, on average, greater risk and likelihood for wildfire than 90% of communities in Arizona, and are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation.

Map 10: Mesa del Caballo

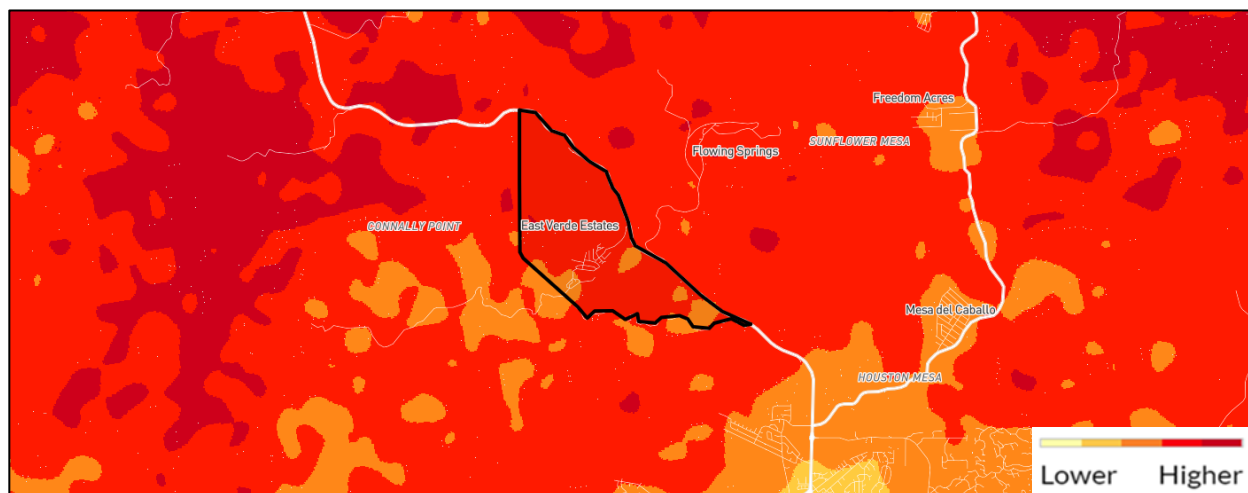


East Verde Estates

The population of East Verde Estates is approximately 125. The populated areas in this community have, on average, a greater risk than 93% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and a greater wildfire likelihood than 91% of communities in Arizona.



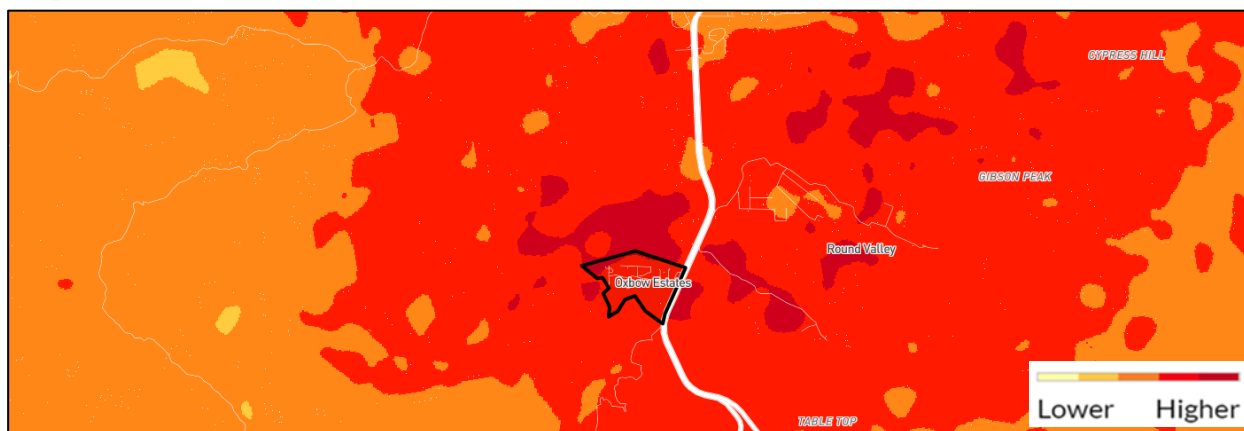
Map 11: East Verde Estates



Oxbow Estates

The population of Oxbow Estates is approximately 200. The populated areas in this community have, on average, a greater risk than 94% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and a greater wildfire likelihood than 92% of communities in Arizona.

Map 12: Oxbow Estates

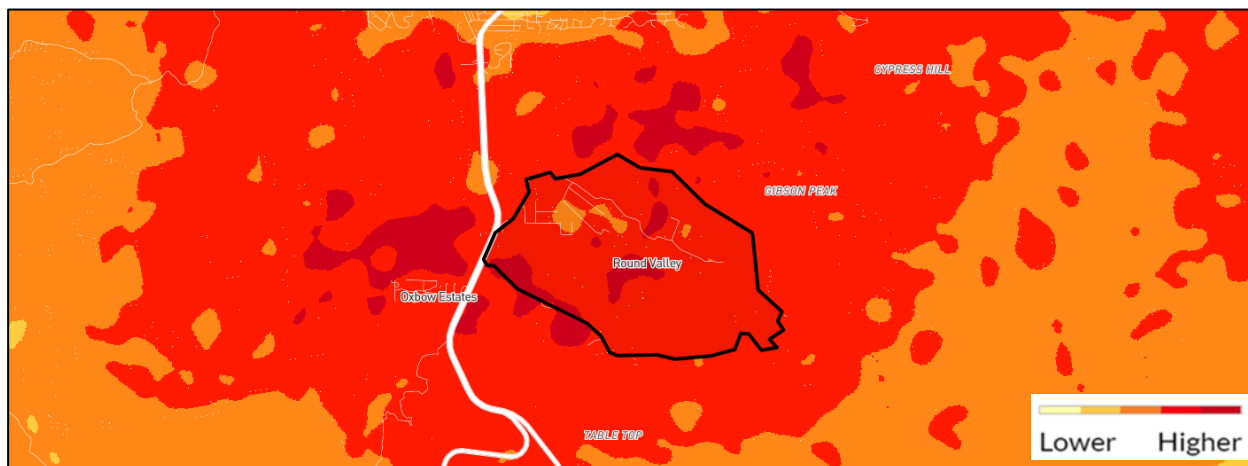


Round Valley

The population of Round Valley is approximately 650. The populated areas in this community have, on average, a greater risk than 93% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and a greater wildfire likelihood than 92% of communities in Arizona.



Map 13: Round Valley



Payson Fire Department

Jurisdiction

The Payson Fire Department (PFD) serves the Town of Payson, the Ox Bow/Round Valley and East Verde Fire Protection Districts providing fire, EMS, and rescue services from three fire stations. The department absorbed the Houston Mesa Fire Department which expanded their service area to provide fire protections to Houston Mesa, (located northeast of the town of Payson) Mesa del Caballo, Freedom Acres, and Wonder Valley communities. This also covers islands of private land inside the Tonto National Forest boundary. Most of the Fire Department sits above the Houston Mesa, plateau. Access to the community is mainly on Houston Mesa Road.

Equipment

Station 11:

- Staffed Front-line Units: One (1) - Type-1 Engine, One (1) - Battalion Chief
- Reserve Units: One (1) Engine, One (1) Rescue, One (1) Water Tender, One (1) Type-6 Engine, and one (1) – Rehab

Station 12:

- Staffed Front-line Units: One (1) Type-1 Engine
- Reserve Units: One (1) Utility and One (1) Type- 6 Engine

Station 13:

- Staffed Front Line Units: One (1) Type 1 Engine
- Reserve Unit: One (1) Type 6 Engine¹⁶

The ISO rating for Payson has dropped to a three from a five with the addition of a third fire station, an improved record management system, and a sustained water supply and reservoir system for the community.

¹⁶ <https://www.paysonaz.gov/E-Gov/Fire-Department/Reports/FY-2019-20-Annual-Report.pdf>



Staffing

The fire department has 36 full-time employees.¹⁷ Fire department employees attended an average of 400 hours of training each year for each member.¹⁸ Additional training information is available in their annual reports on their website.

All firefighters are Type II certified and three personnel are Engine Boss certified. All full-time personnel have been issued a portable radio and full wildland personnel protective equipment. Apparatus have also been equipped with Mobile Data Computers (MDC) and GPS units and are using an ESRI-based Air National Guard Geo Integration Office (GIO) file for mapping.



Agreements

The PFD provides emergency services to the Tonto Apache Reservation through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). PFD provides all emergency services to the reservation except for wildfire suppression which is the responsibility of the BIA office in Kingman. The Department does respond to wildfires on the Reservation and is working on an agreement with BIA for wildfire responses.

Community Education

The PFD provides fire prevention and education, fire suppression, paramedic level emergency medical and rescue services, technical rescue, and hazardous materials operations level response 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.¹⁹ The PFD website has several “Firewise” videos and information on preparing properties for wildfire are available in the community library. The PFD provides links to Arizona State Forestry Department’s “Firewise”, “Ready Set Go,” and “Are You Prepared” information. The PFD also utilizes Everbridge (Emergency Notification System) to provide real-time information on fire emergencies in their communities. They also utilize Facebook to connect their followers to prevention and preparedness information, such as “Fire Prevention Week.” The PFD attends over 25 major community events each year providing incident management support, EMS, and education.²⁰

Project Updates

Payson has participated in fuels management programs since the early 2000’s and established the “Regional Payson Area Project” (RPAP). RPAP has faded away, but a strong sense of Rim Country community coalitions still exists such as the newly formed Payson Regional Operations Consistency Committee (PROCC) and a strong spirit of working together on fuel mitigation and

¹⁷ <http://www.paysonaz.gov/Departments/fire/Fire-Dept-History.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.paysonaz.gov/E-Gov/Fire-Department/Reports/FY-2019-20-Annual-Report.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.paysonaz.gov/Departments/fire/Fire-Dept-History.html>

²⁰ <https://www.paysonaz.gov/E-Gov/Fire-Department/Reports/FY-2019-20-Annual-Report.pdf>



public education. Other successful remainders of RPAP are the local brush pits, which provide residents a way to dispose of biomass from fuel mitigation projects.

Through a cooperative relationship with Novo Power, material at three local brush pits is being ground and used for fuel to make electric power.

The Town of Payson recently passed a Fire Adaptive Community ordinance requiring property owners to mitigate hazardous fuels on their properties. The Payson Fire Department is currently working on an ignition resistant ordinance for new building construction.

Annually, the PFD conducts “Firewise” assessments and fire inspections and provides fire safety education to residents. They also respond to calls for assistance from their vulnerable populations and provide CPR training for citizens.²¹

Approximately \$700,000 worth of grant funded mitigation work is being done within town limits. More than 40 acres of mitigation was completed within the past year.

DFFM has developed a Forest Practice Plan for a 32-acre lot owned by the Gila County Community College District which will serve as an example for the Town with projects including Western Bark Beetle Initiative and the Healthy Forest Initiative.²²

²¹ <https://www.paysonaz.gov/Departments/fire/annual-reports.html>

²² Reference the completed fuel reduction projects section in this plan.



5. Pine-Strawberry Fire District

Chief: John Wisner

Location(s): Station 41: 6198 Hardscrabble Mesa Rd Pine, AZ 85544
Station 42: 8543 Fossil Creek Rd Strawberry, AZ 85544

Phone: Pine: (928) 476-4272
Strawberry: (928) 476-2313

Email: pine-strawberry@psfdaz.com

Website: <https://pinestrawberryfiredistrict.com/>

Social: Facebook

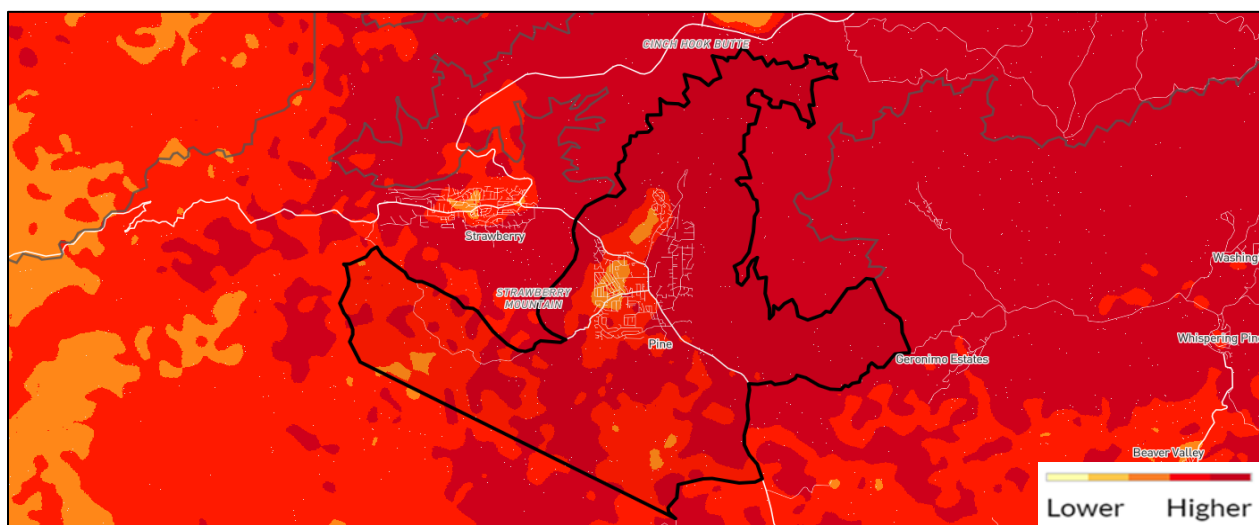
Overview of Communities

Pine, Arizona

Pine is a rapidly growing vacation and retirement place in northern Gila County, below the Mogollon Rim. Pine is an unincorporated community and census-designated place in Gila County, Arizona with a population of 1,817. Pine is approximately 32.4 square miles, with 56.1 people per square mile.²³

The populated areas in Pine have, on average, a greater risk than 95% of communities in Arizona, are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation, and have on average, greater wildfire likelihood than 96% of communities in Arizona.

Map 14: Pine, Arizona



²³ <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0455700-pine-az/>

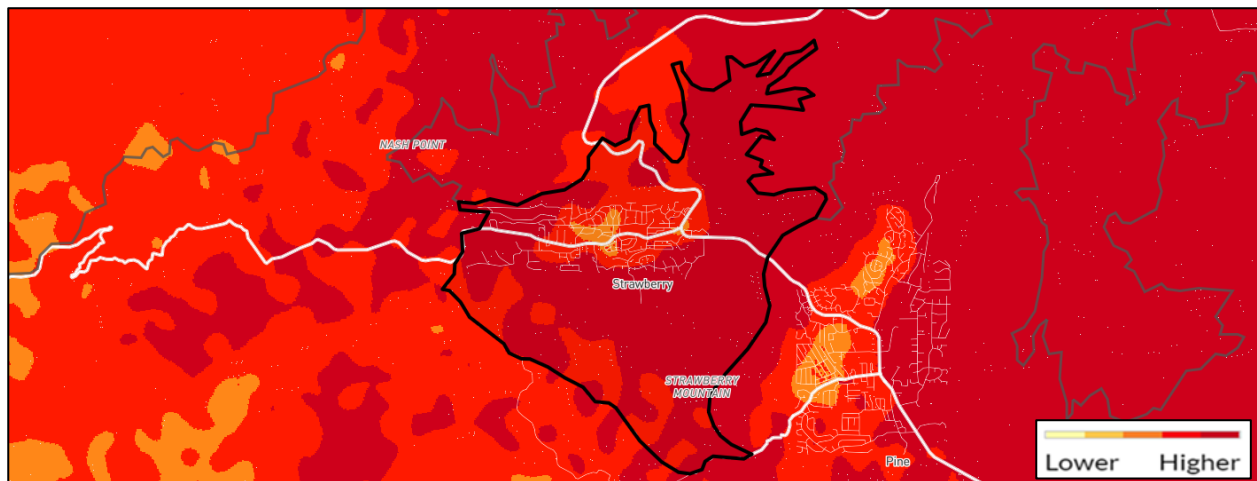


Strawberry, Arizona

Strawberry is located in the northwest corner of Gila County. Strawberry is an unincorporated community and census-designated place in the county. Similar to Pine, it is a rapidly growing vacation and retirement place. The current population of Strawberry, Arizona is 946. Strawberry is approximately 9.5 square miles, with 100 people per square mile.²⁴

The populated areas in Strawberry have, on average, a greater risk than 95%, with a greater wildfire likelihood 96% of communities in Arizona, and are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation.

Map 15: Strawberry, Arizona



The vulnerable populations in Pine-Strawberry communities may experience difficulty preparing for and responding to wildfire.

Pine-Strawberry Fire District

Jurisdiction

The PSFD provides services to the communities of Pine, Strawberry, Hunt Ranch, and Arrowhead Estates, all of which are taxed as a part of our District. We also provide service to the Tonto Natural Bridge State Park and the Buckhead Mesa Landfill and SR 87 to MP 260. The Pine-Strawberry Fire District (PSFD) has a Certificate of Necessity (CON) that provides ambulance service to a larger area (available upon request). Our fire response basically mirrors that, with the exception of SR 87 south of Pine and a couple of modifications to that document by general practice and informal agreement. We provide ambulance service, but not first due fire service, to Camp Geronimo, and



²⁴ <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US0470040-strawberry-az/>



since Blue Ridge FD has their own CON, we only cover up to MP 285 on SR 87. Finally, with the impassable nature of Forest Road 708, Copper Canyon FD has become the primary responder to all of the Fossil Creek area, other than the Fossil Springs or Bob Bear Trail, which PSFD does still cover.

Equipment

We have not added any apparatus since 2016, but we have replaced one ambulance and our Type 3 Engine.

Pine Station 41:

- Two (2) type 1 ambulances
- One (1) type 1 engine
- One (1) type 1 2100-gallon water tender
- One (1) type 6 engine

Strawberry Station 42:

- One (1) type 1 ambulance
- One (1) type 1 engine,
- One (1) type 3 engine
- One (1) type 2 3000-gallon water tender, which also qualifies as a type 1 engine.

Staffing

We currently have 15 career firefighters and 5 shift qualified reserves. Normal staffing is a Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter at Station 41 and a Captain and an Engineer at Station 42. We may staff up to six using reserves to fill a Station 42 Firefighter position from Memorial to Labor Day. All staff are Firefighter 1 and 2 and Hazmat Operator certified. We have 14 paramedics, including the Chief, and 7 EMTs. All of our personnel are at least wildland Firefighter 2's. We have several Firefighter 1's, 6 Engine Bosses, and two Engine Boss Trainees. Among other wildland, qualifications are several Faller 3's, one Faller 2, one Faller 1, two IC 4's, and a Task Force Leader, along with trainees in several other qualifications.

Grant Funding/Agreements

Our total grant funding for fiscal years 2016-2020 was \$66,669.42. Below is a chart with the annual breakdown, including FY's 2015 and 2021.

	FY15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
WFHF	\$2,856.47	\$18,989.91	\$21,330.00			
WFHF		\$18,085.80				
Education Fund AZ Community Foundation	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00		
VFA Grant			\$ 2,483.71			
NAEMS				\$4,780.00		
100 Club						\$10,739.92
Mazatal Hotel						\$15,000.00
Total	\$3,856.47	\$37,075.71	\$23,813.71	\$5,780.00	\$ -	\$25,739.92



PSFD has a Mutual Aid Agreement with the other Northern Gila County Fire Services and Lifeline/AMR, a statewide MAA, and a cooperator agreement with DFFM. We also have ambulance agreements with Blue Ridge FD and Copper Canyon FD.



6. Pleasant Valley Fire District

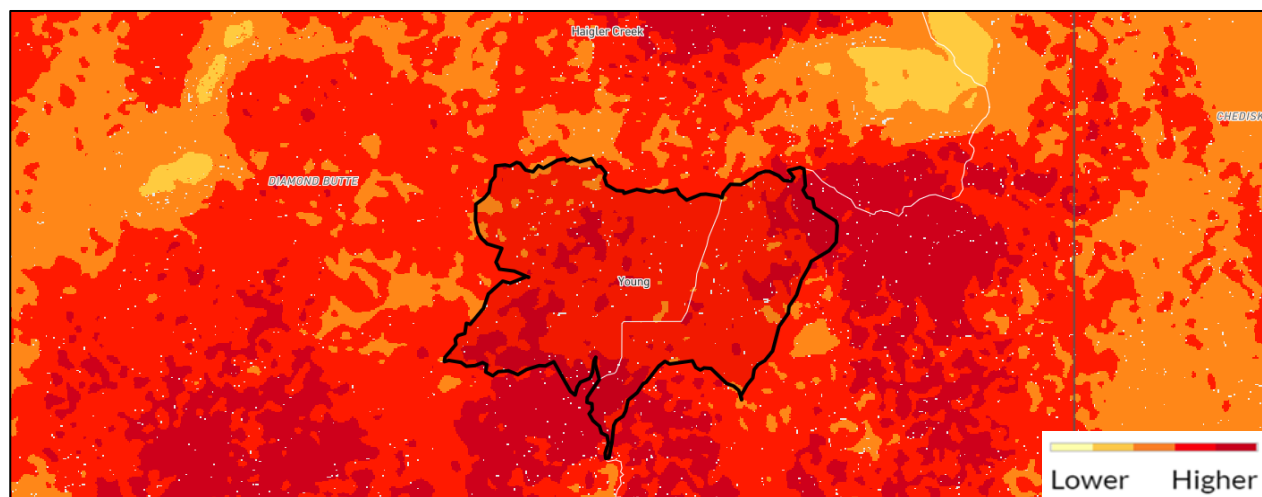
Chief: Gary Lollman
Location(s): 47529 N. Hwy 288, Young, AZ
Phone: (623) 207-7100
Email: PVFD@mtecom.net
Website: n/a
Social: [Facebook](#)

Overview of Community

Young, Arizona

Young, Arizona is located in the heart of Pleasant Valley and Gila County. The population of Young is 553. Potentially vulnerable populations may experience difficulty preparing for and responding to wildfire. The populated areas in Young have on average, greater risk and likelihood of wildfire than 94% of communities in Arizona, and are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation.

Map 16: Young, Arizona



Pleasant Valley Fire District

Jurisdiction

The Pleasant Valley Fire District (PVFD) serves the community of Young and surrounding areas. Dispatching for the District is provided by six personnel who provide dispatching from their private residences working 12-hour shifts. Additionally, communications can be provided by the resident Gila County Sheriff's Deputy when required. Available within the middle of Young is a



fixed helicopter landing zone with several other landing zones identified throughout the area. Due to lengthy ground transport times, the availability of landing zones within the community is a valuable asset.

Equipment

The PVFD apparatus roster includes one Type I Engine, one Type III Engine, one Type IV Engine, and one Type VI Engine. Water is an important consideration for the district and shuttle operations can be accomplished using three Support Water Tenders, the largest has a capacity of 5,000 gallons of water. Rescue in the community is provided using two Ford F-350 vehicles. All apparatus except for Tender 3 and Engine 3 are equipped with radios.

Staffing

The PVFD consists of approximately 20 volunteers and two reserves, the district provides both fire and EMS response for the citizens. Personnel attends two fire training classes and two EMS training classes each month. Personnel includes one Paramedic and one EMT while one firefighter is attending EMT class. Additional personnel are CPR and Basic Fire Aid certified.

Firefighter training is a priority of the PVFD. Currently, four firefighters have completed the Arizona State Basic Structure Fire Training and two firefighters are currently attending the training class. Two of these firefighters have also completed Firefighter 1 and 2 training and Hazardous Material Training. One firefighter has completed the US Forest Service Wildland Basic Firefighter Training. One Firefighter has completed the Arizona State Pump Operations Training.





7. Water Wheel Fire & Medical District

Chief: Ron Sattlemeir

Location(s): Station #71: 10603 N. Houston Mesa Rd
Station #72: Beluzzi Blvd, Rim Trail
Station #73: Paint Pony Drive, Geronimo Estates / Elusive Acres
Station #74: Bonita Creek

Phone: (928) 474-3088

Email: admin@wwfmd.us

Website: <http://www.wwfmd.us/>

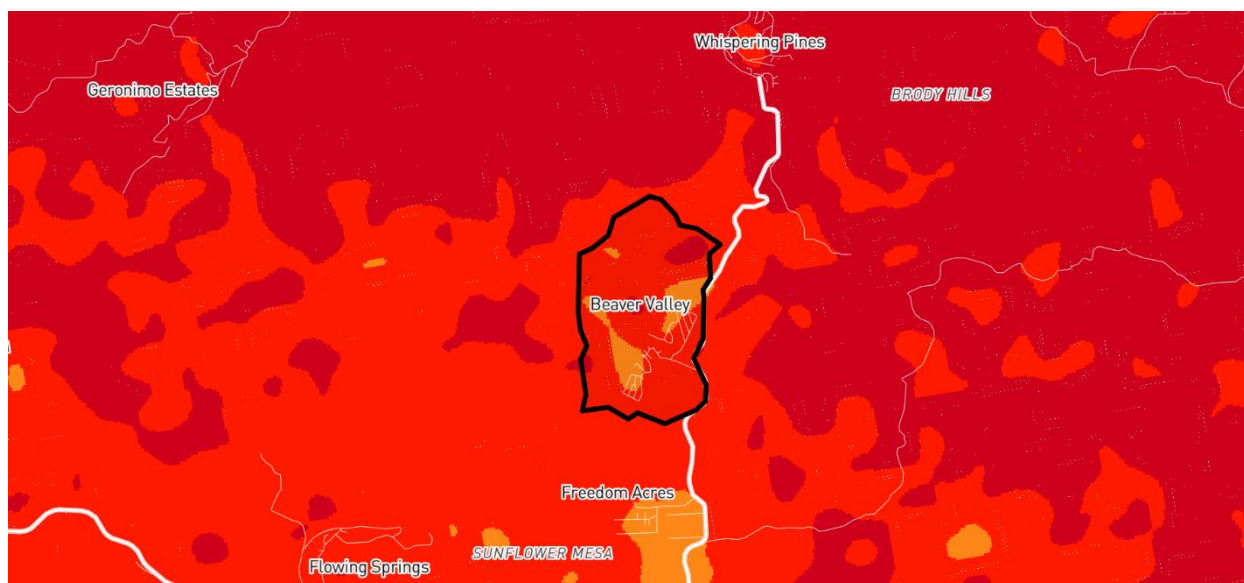
Social: Facebook

Overview of Communities

Beaver Valley, Arizona

The populated areas in Beaver Valley have on average, greater risk and likelihood of fire than 93% of communities in Arizona and are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation. The population of Beaver Valley is 251. Potentially vulnerable populations may experience difficulty preparing for and responding to wildfire.

Map 17: Beaver Valley

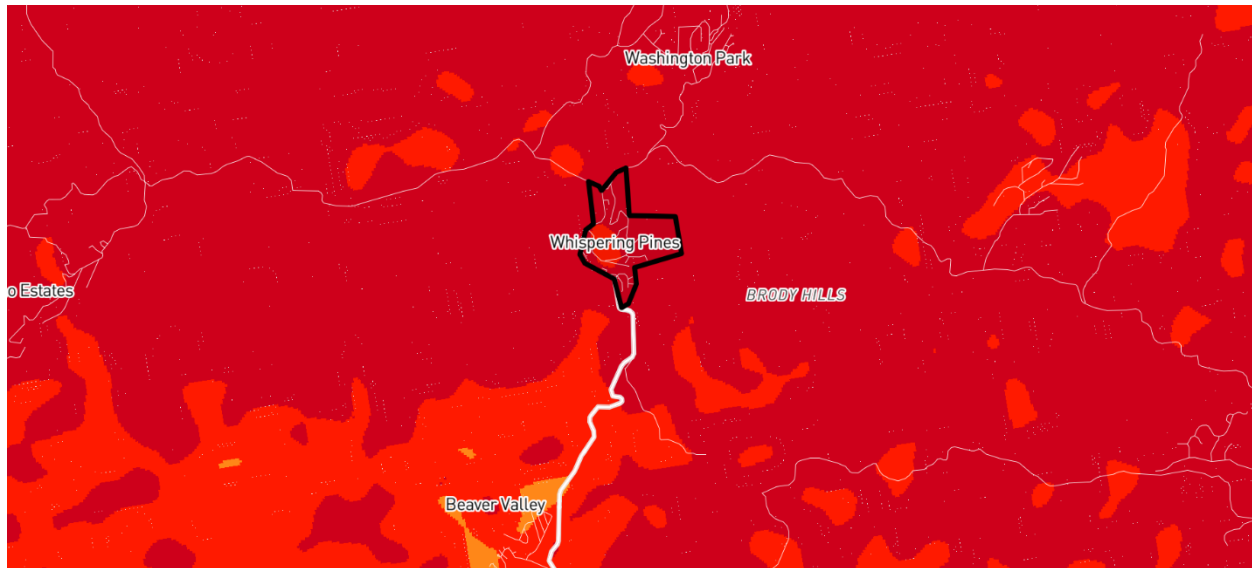




Whispering Pines, Arizona

The populated areas in Whispering Pines have on average, greater risk and likelihood of wildfire than 97% of communities in Arizona and are predominantly exposed to wildfire from direct sources, such as adjacent flammable vegetation. The population of Whispering Pines is 86. Potentially vulnerable populations may experience difficulty preparing for and responding to wildfire.

Map 18: Whispering Pines



Water Wheel Fire & Medical District

Jurisdiction

The Beaver Valley (BVFD) and Whispering Pines (WPF) Fire Districts consolidated their districts and formed Water Wheel Fire & Medical District (WWFMD) on July 1, 2017. The new district has stations at Whispering Pines, Geronimo Estates, Rim Trail, and Bonita Creek. The district responds to approximately 120 to 130 calls for service each year with about 80% of these incidents being requested for emergency medical services. We serve an area of approximately 55 square miles which includes the communities of Beaver Valley, Whispering Pines, Geronimo Estates / Elusive Acres, Rim Trail, Washington Park, and Bonita Creek. In addition, the WWFMD serves Camp Geronimo, Camp Shadow Rim, Mountain Ridge Cabins and Resort, and Cold Springs Ranch. Our full-time population is approximately 700 but during the summer months with transient residents and recreational population, it can increase up to 4,000.

Subsequent to the consolidation in July 2017, the district closed Fire Station 75 in October 2018; located in the community of Beaver Valley. The reason for the closure was both an economic and geographical decision due to its proximity to Fire Station 71 in Whispering Pines.

Water Wheel Fire & Medical District currently operates out of four Fire Stations:



- Station #71 – located in Whispering Pines, also houses the administrative offices.
- Station #72 - Beluzzi Blvd, Rim Trail
- Station #73 - Paint Pony Drive, Geronimo Estates / Elusive Acres
- Station #74 - Bonita Creek

Equipment

Following the consolidation, several pieces of equipment were determined to be surplus and were liquidated. The district now supports:

- Four (4) type one (1) engines, one located at each of the four (4) fire stations;
- Two type three (3) water tenders one at station #71 and one at station #72;
- Two type six (6) engines, one at station #71 and one at station #74; and
- One (1) Polaris Ranger, one (1) water tender, one (1) type six (6) engine, and a Command Vehicle at station #71.

Of the four (4) type one engines, three are 4-wheel drive and both type 6 engines and the Command Vehicle are 4-wheel drive. The Polaris Ranger also has 4-wheel drive capability and carries a small wildland firefighting skid to tackle wildfires in remote locations that might not be accessible to the type 6 engines.

Staffing

Over the past 11 years, the Fire District has transitioned from an all-volunteer organization to a combined organization comprising of full-time and part-time employees. Employee retention has decreased over time; however, the qualifications and training of the active employees has increased significantly. Staffing currently includes:

- Two (2) command officers who are certified FFII, NIMS, IQS, and State of Arizona Paramedics;
- One (1) Captain and two (2) firefighters all of whom are certified FFII, NIMS, IQS, and State of Arizona EMTs;
- One (1) Reserve part-time staff member that is NIMS and State of Arizona EMT; and
- One (1) responder staff member that is NIMS certified.

Grant Funding/Agreements

- In 2019, the district applied for an AFG Grant to replace a 32-year-old water tender; the grant was not approved.
- In 2020, the district applied for an AFG Grant to replace 18 of our 20-year-old SCBAs; the grant was not approved.
- In 2021, the district received funding for the following:
 - Tuition assistance to send one staff member to Paramedic Training. This staff member will graduate in February 2022, adding a third paramedic to our staff.
 - Received a grant from the 100 Club of Arizona to purchase wireless headsets for one of our fire engines.



- Received a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for the purchase of new HURST eDraulic extrication tools, a cutter, and a spreader.

The district will try to purchase a new water tender by applying for an AFG Grant for next grant cycle later this year. Additionally, they will be applying for a Casino Gaming Grant in 2022 for the purchase of a new cardiac monitor and the replacement of 6000 feet of 20+-year-old fire hoses.

Project Updates

In December 2019, the construction of fire station #74 in the community of Bonita Creek was completed. This completed the districts decade long plan to have four (4) ISO qualified fire stations in our Fire District. With the completion of this fire station, the entire Fire District now has achieved an ISO Property Protection Classification 5.



B. Local, County, State, and Federal Partners

1. United States Forest Service (USFS): Tonto National Forest (TNF)

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) was a founding member of the Rim Country CWPP in 2004 and participated in the 2006 and 2015 updates. The USFS continues to be a major participant in the development and review of the 2021 Northern Gila County CWPP.



The mission of the Forest Service has been to provide strong leadership in the management of diverse ecosystems and heritage resources. With over 90% of all lands in Gila County administered by the Forest Service and other federal agencies and a directive to maintain and restore social, economic, and ecological resources, Forest Service personnel coordinate their efforts with the local fire

districts/departments and agencies.

The Forest Service focuses on forming lasting partnerships with local agencies, communities, and organizations. To be responsive to these community members, personnel has developed an integrated approach to restoring watersheds for economic and ecological health and improved water quality.

Forest Updates

Current equipment and staffing for the Forest Service include:

- 15 engines covering the Tonto NF; Seven (7) are Type III and eight (8) are Type VI.
- Additional staffing includes a Type III helicopter during the fire season from May 1 to the middle of August.
- Three (3) Interagency Hotshot Crews are also hosted on the forest at Payson, Mesa, and Globe. Fire management staffing includes five (5) Division Chiefs, six (6) Suppression Battalion Chiefs, and three (3) Fuels Battalion Chiefs.

All firefighting personnel must meet the 1995 Federal Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) Qualifications. These changes were required following the South Canyon Fire in Colorado in 1994 where 14 wildland firefighters were killed. Under the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Policy and Program Review, all Federal wildland fire agencies must “establish fire management qualifications standards to improve firefighter safety and increase professionalism in fire management programs.”²⁵ Local agency personnel who respond to incidents on forest lands must also meet the requirements of IFPM.

The TNF has increased the wildland firefighter force over the past two years. Increased tour of duty from permanent seasonal to permanent full time on all engines, hotshot crews, and helicopter crew. In turn, this helps in dealing with increased fire seasons, retention of employees, and career development.

²⁵ <https://www.ifpm.nifc.gov/fire/firemanagement.htm>

There are no sources in the current document.



Regional improvements in fire suppression capabilities include the opening of the Phoenix Interagency Dispatch Center, located at the Mesa Gateway Airport. The new dispatch center has assumed the dispatching responsibilities for the Tonto NF along with the Bureau of Land Management, Pima Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and San Carlos BIA. A training and mobilization facility has been built at the Mesa facility to improve the regional training of firefighters. The airport also hosts an air tanker reloading facility capable of loading the DC-10, a Very Large Air tanker (VLAT) which was designed to deliver up to 11,600 gallons of fire retardant. The Mesa facility is also capable of loading an additional five (5) air tankers at the same time.

Forest Service Grant Requirement

All local government projects that receive grant funding must have met National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Proper documents must be in place prior to funding with clear boundary markers in place. Projects must also have an archeological survey completed and cleared for work to begin. Local communities must have a CWPP in place if treatments are proposed next to private lands in conjunction with private lands treatments. Grant funding has been reduced at the federal level by 10% within the past several years due to federal budget cuts.

Northern Gila County Non-Federal Land Grants

Fiscal Year 2017 Funding	\$1,274,286.00
Fiscal Year 2018 Funding	\$2,296,308.00
Fiscal Year 2018 Partnership Funding	\$67,680.00
Fiscal Year 2019 Funding	\$1,494,060.00
Fiscal Year 2019 Partnership Funding	\$150,000.00
Fiscal Year 2020 Funding	\$1,417,310.00
Fiscal Year 2020 Partnership Funding	\$207,013.00
2017-2021 Funding Total	\$6,906,657.00

Payson Ranger District

The Payson / Pleasant Valley Ranger District (North Zone). The Ranger Districts have six distinct vegetation types and are considered high complexity. It also encompasses portions of four wilderness areas and is part of an urban forest that averages almost six million visitors per year. The district has seven Environmental Analysis areas and three Categorical Exclusion that are being treated for fuels reduction and prescribed fire activities for 583,659 acres. The two Ranger districts consist of approximately 980,000 acres (approximately 396,591 hectares) of Chaparral, Pinyon-Juniper, and Ponderosa Pine types of vegetation. The Verde River and several trout streams pass through this district. The Payson/ Pleasant Valley Ranger District is notable for its campgrounds, hiking trails, and fishing opportunities.

Since 2001, the North Zone has been strategically planning on a landscape scale to address the restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems as well as treat high hazard areas immediately adjacent to communities at risk. Ten planning areas have approved NEPA and represent a substantial work program for the District. The planning areas are:

- Verde Environmental Assessment Area covering 48,688 acres,



- Payson Environmental Assessment Area with 10,307 acres for thinning and 35,037 acres for prescribed burning,
- Pine-Strawberry Environmental Assessment Area which includes 72,447 acres,
- Christopher/Hunter Environmental Assessment Area covering 30,237 acres,
- Chamberlain Environmental Assessment Area covering 3,403 acres for thinning.
- Myrtle Environmental Assessment Area with 17,846 acres.
- Spring Category Exclusion Area with 211,218 acres of broadcast burning.
- Lion Environmental Assessment Area with 9,847 acres of broadcast burning.
- Parallel Category Exclusion Area with 24,207 acres of broadcast burning.
- Flying V_H Category Exclusion Area with 1,798 acres of Mechanical and broadcast burning.
- Rim Country EIS is expected to be signed in Spring of 2022. This area will provide the Payson/Pleasant Valley RD with a completed landscape hazardous fuels analysis.

Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4 FRI)

The Four Forest Restoration Initiative (4FRI) is a landscape-level project that aims to restore approximately 2.4 million acres of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests on portions of the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests in Northern Arizona over the next 20 years. The vision of 4FRI remains unchanged. The 4FRI vision is to restore forest ecosystems, reduce threats of destructive wildfire to thriving forest communities, support sustainable forest industries that strengthen local economies, protect critical watersheds, conserve natural resources, and maintain aesthetic value as well as ensure the long-term success of this project and industry.

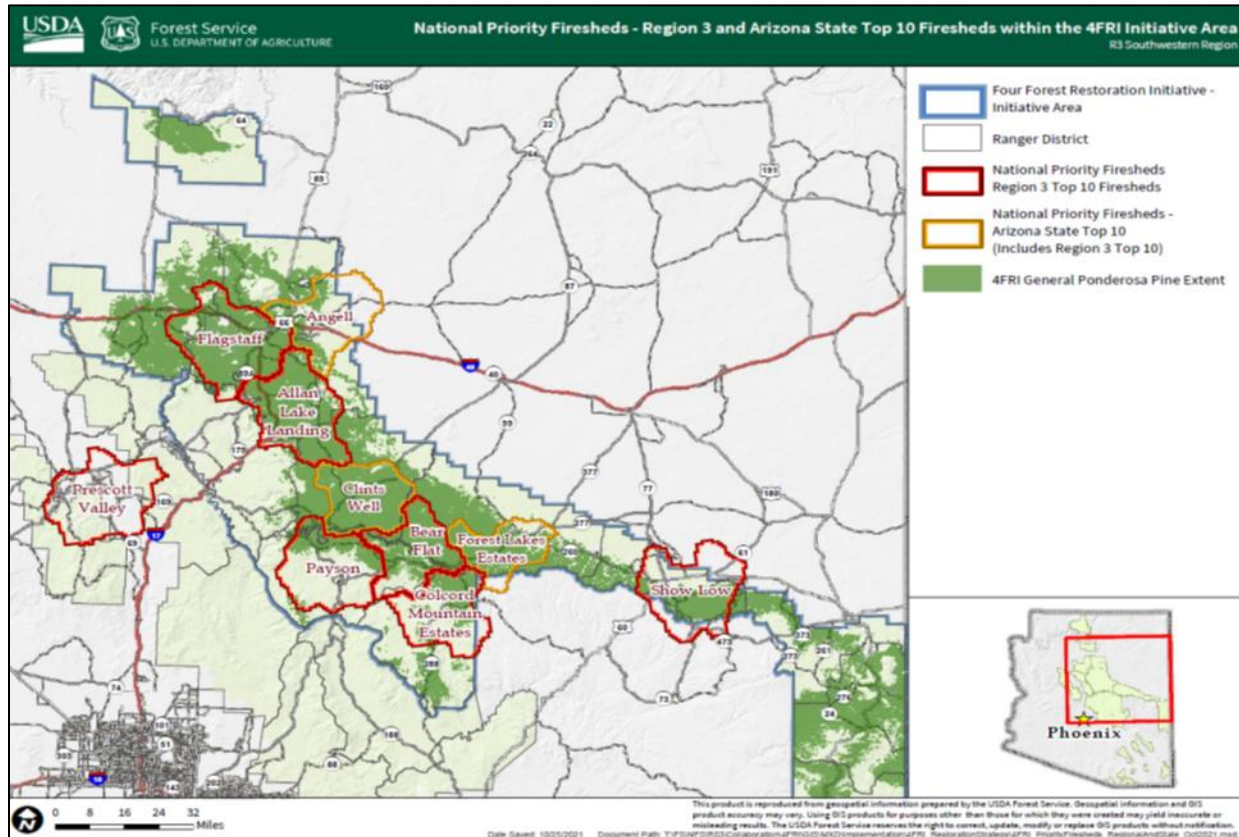
The Forest Service has made a long-term commitment to achieve healthy, resilient forests across the 4FRI landscape. We are ready and excited to continue the path forward with the industry and partners. Our strategic goals include:

- Accelerate the pace and scale of restoration treatments
- Support sustainable forest restoration industries
- Apply an all-lands approach
- Collaborate and engage
- Innovate
- Improve and modernize Forest Service business practices
- Learn and adapt

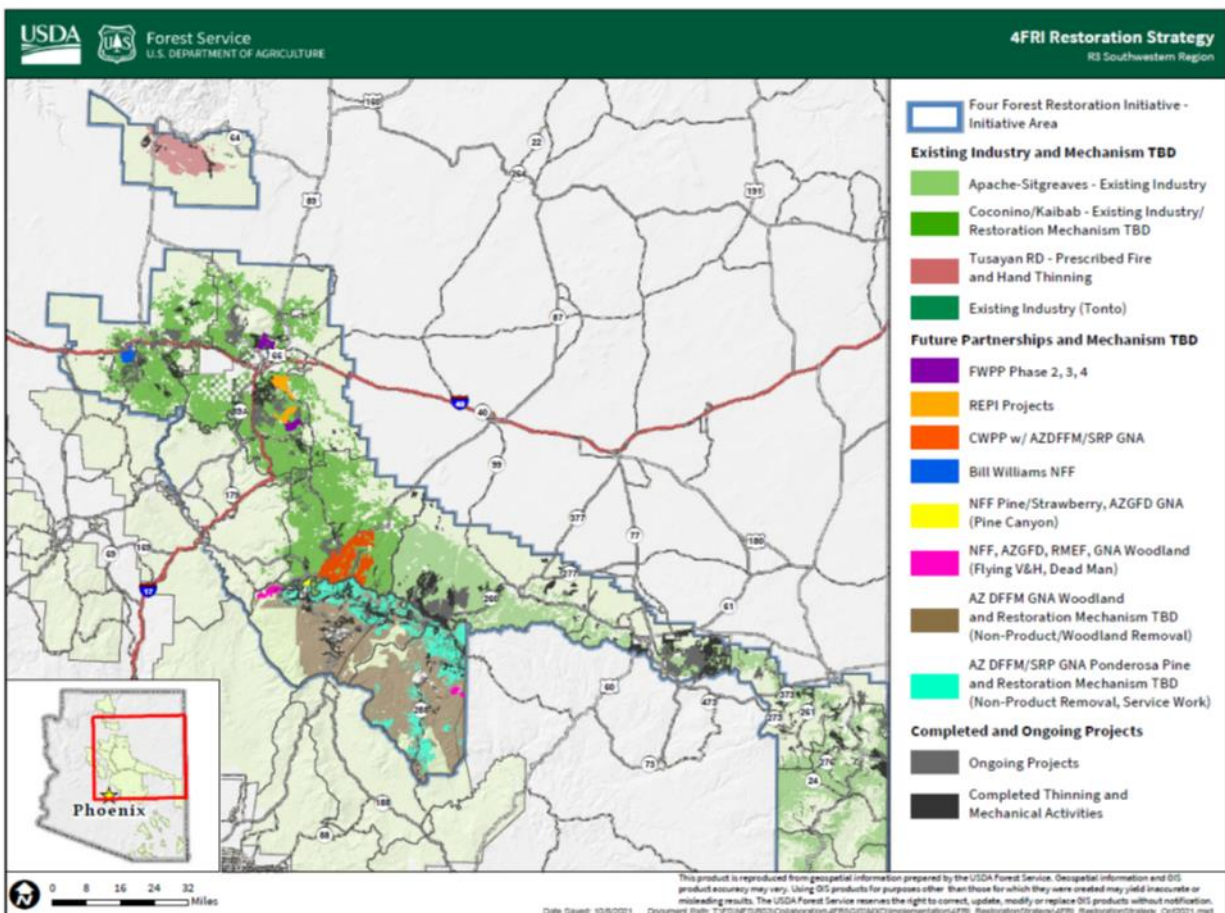
Recently, Chief Moore has set up a national Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team to develop an implementation plan to deliver a 10-year strategy to address fuels on the landscape. Over the next decade, we intend to collaborate with partners to treat an additional 20 million acres on National Forest System lands and up to an additional 30 million acres on federal, state, tribal, and private lands. The scope of the team is to minimize the threat of catastrophic wildfires in the West, and there is a need to treat more acres in less time. It's going to take all of us working together and with our partners in new ways.



The vision and objectives of 4FRI are in alignment with the Chief's 10-year strategy. The 4FRI landscape includes 6 out of 10 of the highest priority firesheds in the Southwestern Region as shown in Figure 1. There are also nine of the ten Arizona high-priority fire risk areas located in the 4FRI footprint.



Map 19: Map showing seven (7) of the 10 firesheds across the Southwestern Region (remaining firesheds are located in New Mexico). Note that 3 of the firesheds in Arizona are located within the 4FRI footprint and Northern Gila County.



Map 20: Map showing 4FRI high priority partnership areas and acres that have been treated over the past 10 years.

4FRI Prescribed Fire Objectives

Initial entry burns will use backing fire and strip head fire in Ponderosa Pine and Pinyon/Juniper stands to reduce:

- Dead and down fuel loading from 15-20 tons per acre to 10-15 tons per acre
- Understory vegetation by 25-60%
- Slash fuels by 25-90%
- Overstory by no more than 20%

Maintenance burning in ponderosa pine will reduce dead and down fuel loadings to 3-5 tons per acre and reduce the understory vegetation by 35-90%.

In continuous chaparral fuel stands, head fire use will reduce the overstory density by 50-80% and achieve a mosaic burn pattern to create a range of age classes in brush stands. Chaparral will be managed on a 30-year prescribed fire rotation to achieve an improved water yield and forage production and allow for herbaceous species growth in areas from 1 to 200 acres in size.



Desired Effects of Prescribed Fire

The desired effects of the prescribed burning in the Ponderosa Pine and Pinyon/Juniper stands to include:

- Reduction of understory fuels
- Reduction of dead and down fuels
- Minimal reduction of overstory fuels in ponderosa pine
- Reduction of activity fuels
- Reduction of overstory fuels and dead components in chaparral
- Reduction of piled fuels

The range of the acceptable results, expressed in quantifiable terms in:

- Ponderosa Pine/Pinyon/Juniper:
- Reduction of Time Lag fuel loadings of 1, 10, 100, 1000-hour fuels by 40-85%.
- Reduction of understory fuels 35-90%.
- Retention or recruit a minimum of 1 snag per acre in areas with mature overstory vegetation.
- 75-100% retention of desirable trees.

Chaparral Burning:

- Reduction in overstory density by 50-80%.
- Creation of openings of 1-200 acres in size.
- Achievement of a mosaic burn pattern by varied ignition patterns.
- Reduction of 1 hour and 10-hour fuels by 1-5 tons per acre.

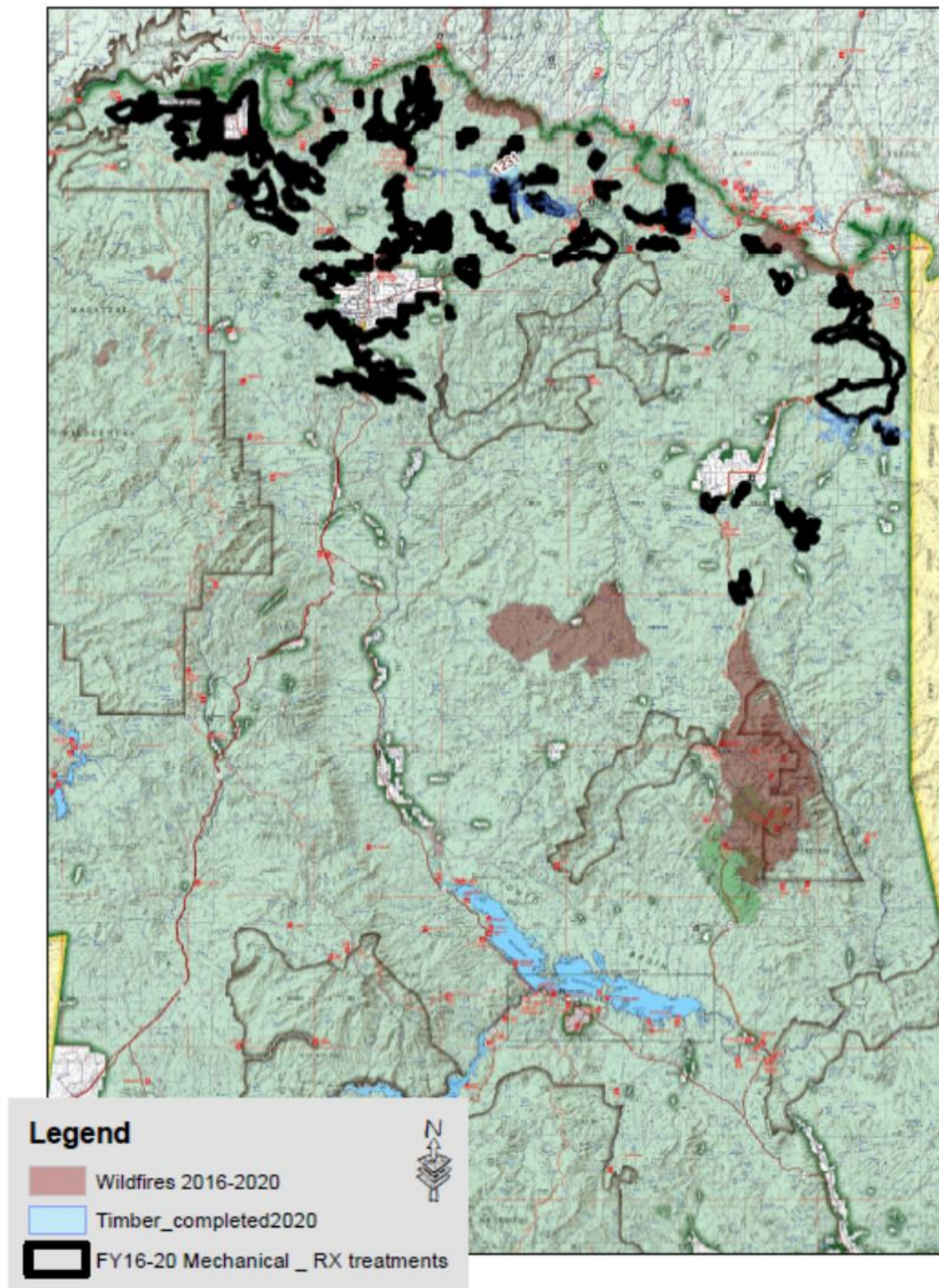
Funding

The projected cost of the 4FRI project is anticipated to be approximately \$82,250,000 over ten years. The source of the funding will be Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels (CFHF) 12 Fuels Reduction accounts with supplemental partnership funding.

There has been a measurable success in treatments accomplished across 4FRI over the past 10 years. Since 2010, around 258,000 acres have been mechanically treated or treatments are currently ongoing. In addition, prescribed fire is continually being conducted across the landscape, resulting in more acres being treated to reduce fuels.



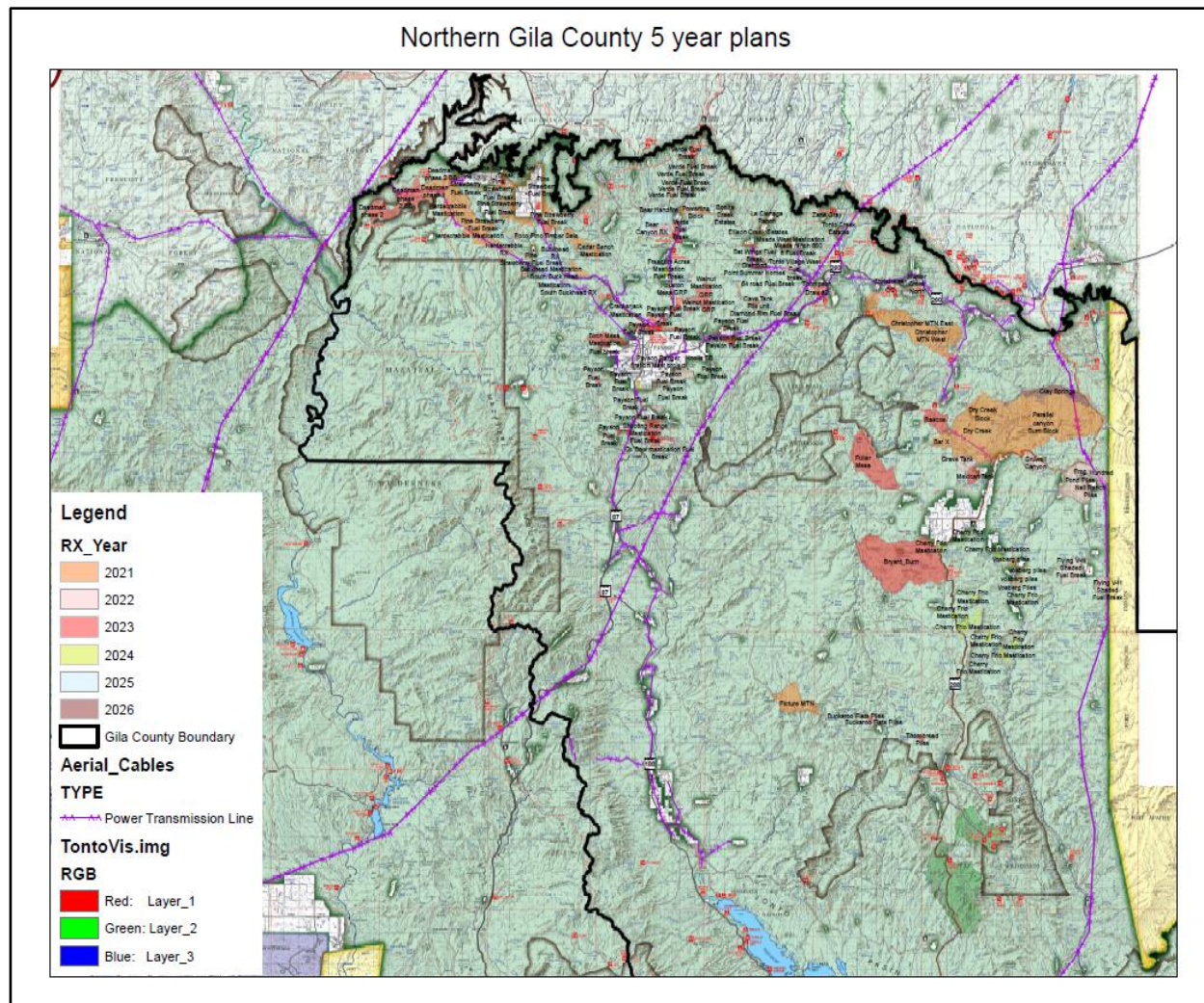
Northern Gila County Fuels Accomplishments 2016-2020



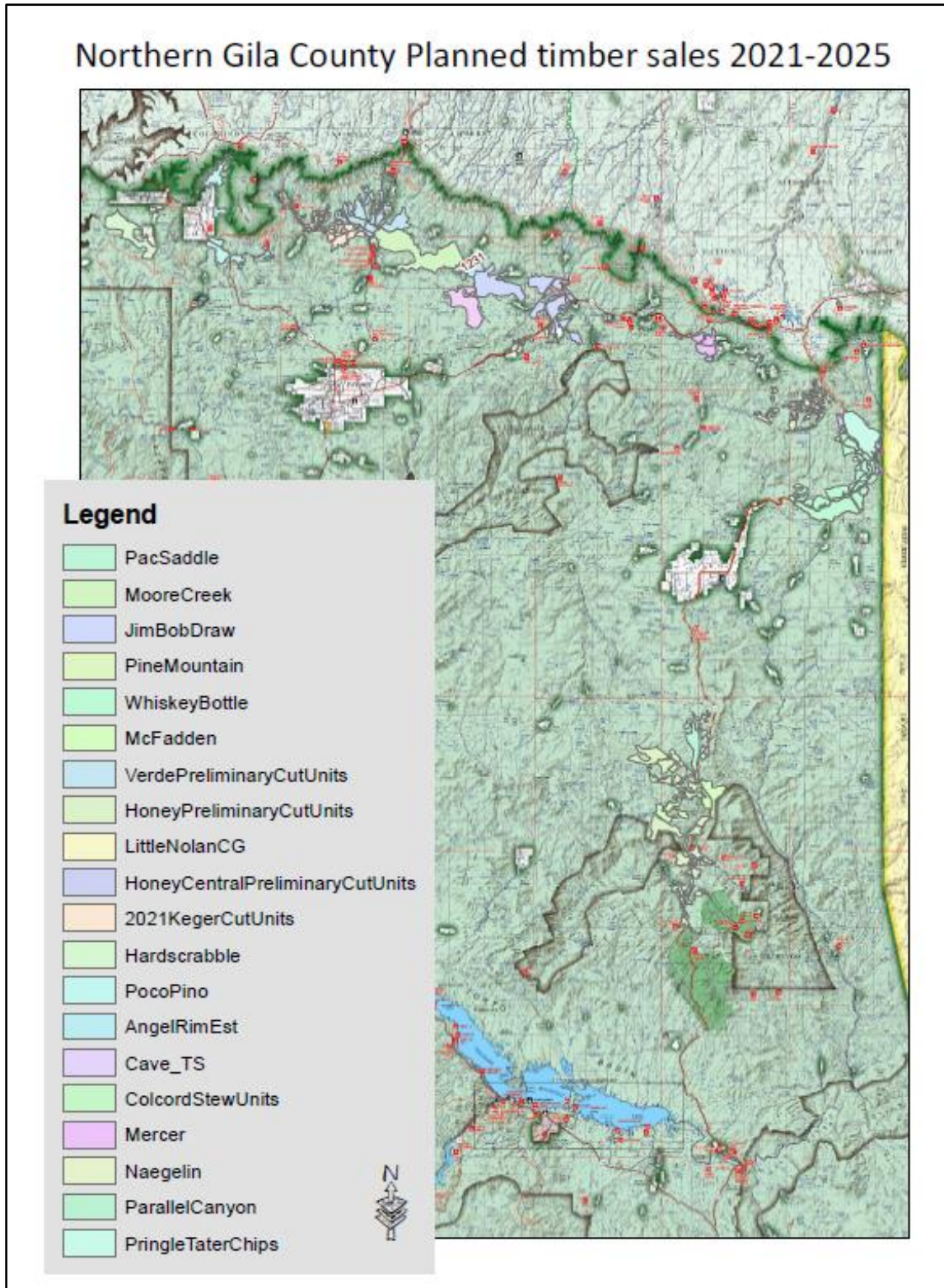
Map 21: Map showing completed projects and wildfires in Northern Gila County 2016-2020.



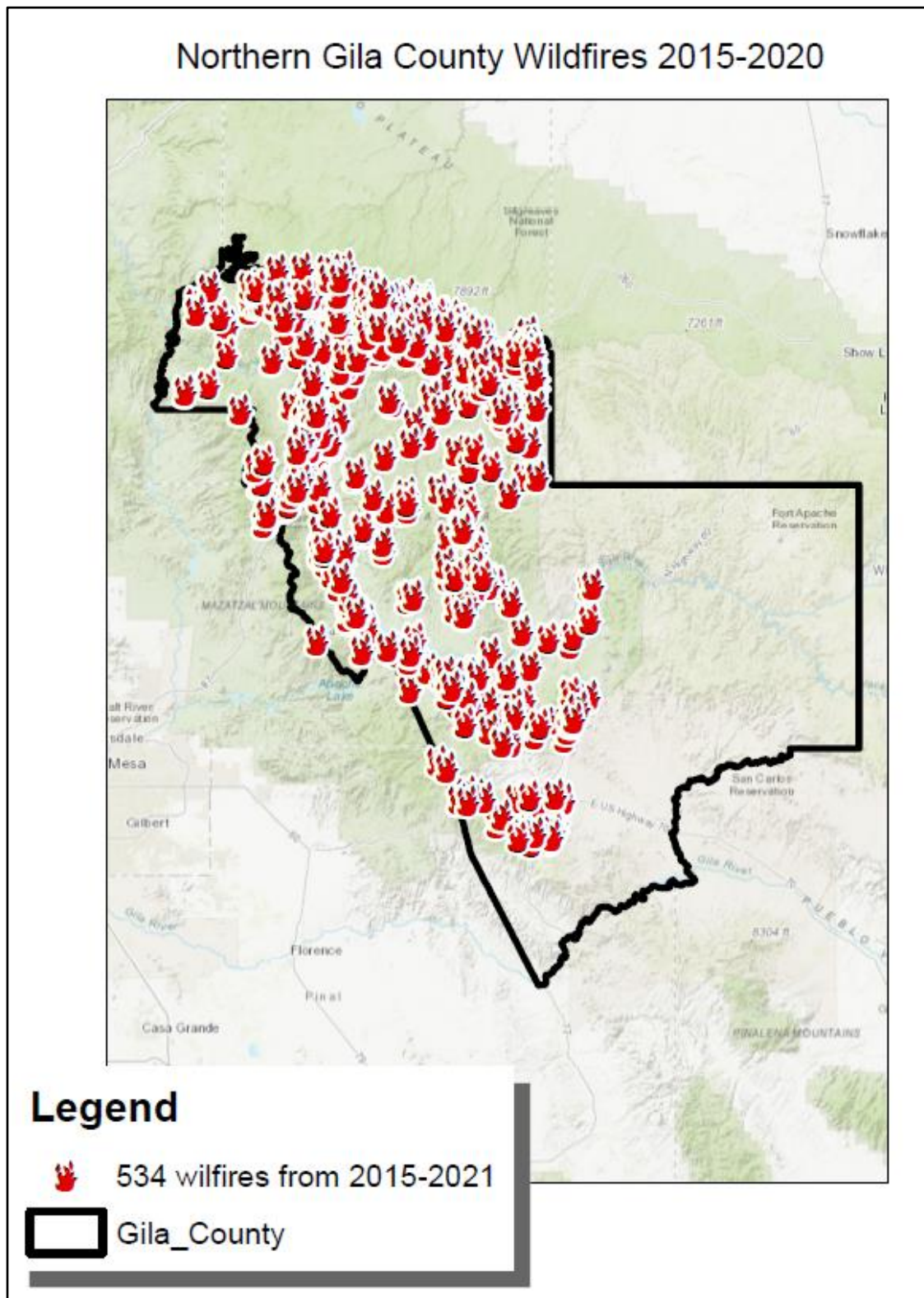
Planned activities for 2021-2026:



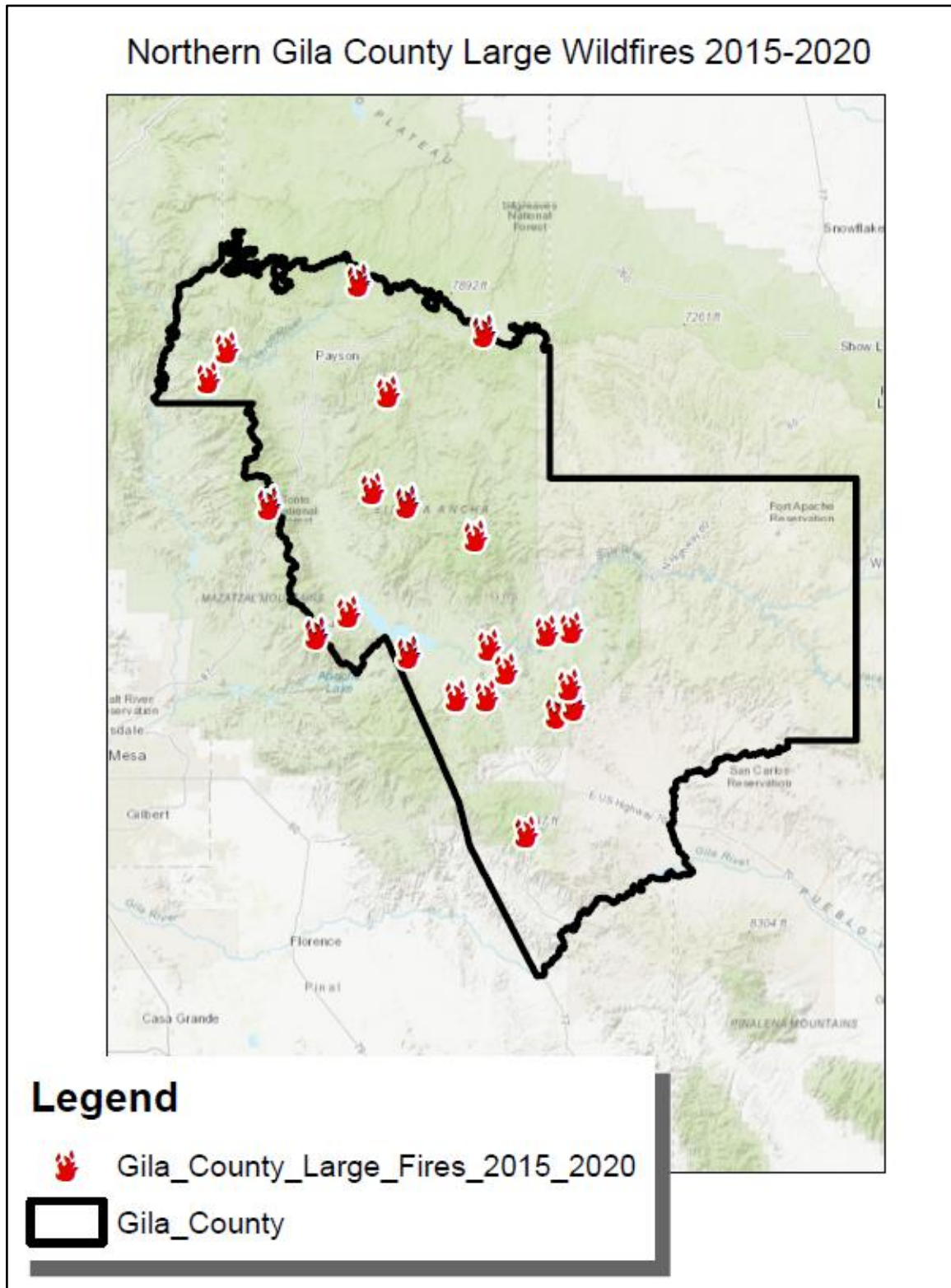
Map 22: Map showing future mechanical and RX plans within Northern Gila County 2021-2026.



Map 23: Map showing future timber restoration plans within Northern Gila County 2021-2025.



Map 24: All wildfires in Gila County for the past five (5) years 2015-2020.



Map 25: Twenty-two large fires over 100 acres in Gila County from 2015-2020.



2. American Red Cross Northern Arizona Chapter



The American Red Cross Northern Arizona Chapter formerly known as the Grand Canyon Chapter serves approximately 76,000 square miles and 725,000 people throughout the Apache, Coconino, Gila, Mohave, Navajo, La Paz, and Yavapai counties. The American Red Cross (ARC or Red Cross) independently provides mass care to all disaster victims as part of the broad program of disaster relief, as outlined in the charter provisions enacted by the United States Congress Act of January 5th, 1905, and the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-288 as amended by the Stafford Act of 1988).

In partnership with Gila County agencies, the Northern Arizona Chapter's initial response activities will focus on meeting the urgent needs of disaster victims i.e., providing emergency shelter. The provisions of the ARC disaster services will be considered based on the needs of disaster victims, the emergency/disaster situation, and available resources. Close coordination will be necessary between the ARC and local, state, and federal government agencies.

Another function of the Red Cross is to assist communities in preparation for natural and manmade disasters such as wildfires, floods, and earthquakes. The Red Cross also provides educational programs including the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign and Pillowcase Project which help community members before, during, and after an emergency.

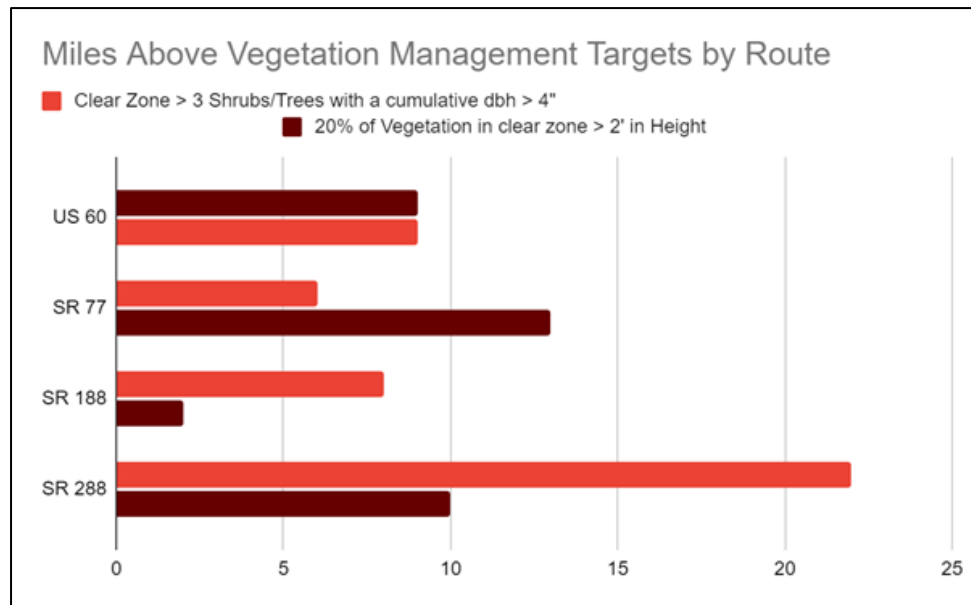


3. Arizona Department of Transportation



The wildfires that have occurred within parts of Gila County over the past five (5) years have been unprecedented. Managing roadside vegetation composition and structure can help reduce the risk of fire starts due to transportation related activities. Over the past five years ADOT's Southeast District, responsible for maintaining highways 188, 288, 60, 77 within Gila County, has mechanically treated 200 acres on average each year since 2015. These vegetation management treatments remove the overgrowth of brush and weeds which can allow fires to start and spread.

Recently the Southeast District has partnered with the Gila County Globe landfill to explore the possibility of utilizing compost along the roadside in order to encourage specific plant species, which can replace the existing vegetation which typically presents greater risk of fire starts. As shown in the chart below, a 2020 survey identified key areas in need of chemical and mechanical treatments.

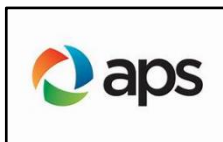


Graph 1: ADOT Vegetation Management Targets

In the coming years, ADOT will seek to target available resources to treat high priority areas based on the data gathered. Mechanical treatments have increased, and the Southeast District is actively training three Technicians to obtain the necessary licensing to apply chemical treatments. ADOT recognizes the ongoing importance of fuels reduction activities and will continue to apply available resources to these activities responsibly.

ADOT's Roadside Vegetation Management Guidelines is available for additional review. These guidelines provide an overview of best practices for roadside vegetation management activities for staff across the state. Each guideline contains information on the purpose of the activity, planning the activity, coordination within ADOT and with external agencies ahead of undertaking the work, and best practices for the work.²⁶

4. Arizona Public Service (APS)



Arizona Public Service (APS) is Arizona's largest and longest-serving electric company, founded in 1886, five (5) years after Tombstone's gunfight at the OK Corral and nearly a quarter-century before Arizona became a state. The goal of APS is to create safe, reliable, and sustainable electricity for more than 1.1 million retail and residential customers in 11 of Arizona's 15 counties. The corporate vision is to create a sustainable energy future for Arizona.

APS has a Statewide Comprehensive Fire Mitigation Program whose approach is to mitigate risk with a combination of elements. The first is understanding the risk and developing a model to prioritize resources. Next is to educate and inform the communities we serve that mitigation is the key to prevention. Third, implementing proactive programs to mitigate the risk.

²⁶ <https://azdot.gov/business/environmental-planning/biology/roadside-vegetation-management-guidelines>



APS has a team of Fire Mitigation Specialist (FMS), who participate with departments and districts in creating a safe energy supply. The Fire Mitigation Specialist is the point of contact for incidents related to wildfire when APS infrastructure is involved or threatened. The role of the FMS is to work with Incident Management Teams (IMT) to ensure the safety of personnel and resources on the ground with both clear and timely information and oversight. Coordinating with the

IMT will ensure that APS resources are considered in the planning and operations phases of incidents.

Reducing risk to our human and environmental communities is paramount. Wildland fuel mitigation needs to be emphasized to all stakeholders as we work together to address the problem. We cannot make significant strides in reducing catastrophic wildland fire risk unless all stakeholders participate in creating defensible space. APS has identified the risk and is working with its partners to create a cohesive strategy to mitigate that risk.

The APS Fire Mitigation Program requires significant communication and coordination with State, Local, and Federal agencies. The Fire Mitigation Team is a part of the APS Forestry, Fire, and Resource Management Department at APS and is responsible for Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) projects occurring throughout the State in APS Rights-of-Way. A key function will be supporting ASF's vegetation management efforts. Further cooperation with ASF and the USFS will include fire prevention activities as well as the possible use of prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading around company assets.

APS has had an extensive Defensible Space Around Poles (DSAP) program since 2015 with the goal of clearing vegetation under approximately 60,000 poles on a three-year cycle. Annually, APS will be clearing approximately 20,000 poles per year in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). APS also implements several technologies to prevent the damage of wood pole structures to mitigate the impact and interruption of power in the event of a wildfire.



5. Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Department



The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) provides resources for the prevention and suppression of wildland fires on over 22 million acres of State Trust Lands and private property located outside incorporated communities. DFFM provides services for fire prevention, urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, forest health and has a wide variety of grants available. Fire prevention efforts include helping communities learn about "Firewise" activities and youth education. DFFM encourages and supports the development and adoption of "Firewise" community standards. DFFM also hosts a one-day class on home safety assessments. Other fire prevention activities include granting funds to communities to reduce the hazardous fuels within and around communities and private lands and on State Trust Lands.



DFFM acquires used fire apparatus and equipment, refurbish the equipment, and then transfers the title to rural fire departments. DFFM Forestry Stewardship program offers forest landowners guidance and assistance with management plans.

DFFM also provides grant opportunities to help communities reduce hazardous fuels (vegetation removal), and to acquire apparatus and supplies for firefighters including wildland personal protective equipment (PPE). The grant focus is on opportunities for cost-share with urban communities. A high priority for grant funding includes the community adoption of “Firewise” standards and on projects that are “Community” focused rather than on individual projects that stand alone. Due to the continued drought, reduced snowfall, and warmer than usual spring conditions in 2022, an increase in ignitions is again, predicted for Gila County.

6. Gila County Cooperative Extension; University of Arizona



The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in Gila County is a boundary organization that brings diverse educational and science-based resources to the county to assist

residents and agencies to address crucial issues. The mission of the Cooperative Extension is to engage with people through applied research and education to improve lives, families, communities, the environment, and economies in Arizona and beyond. We are about "Improving Lives, Communities and the Economy" by serving as a statewide network of knowledgeable faculty and staff that provides lifelong educational programs for all Arizonans. We are part of a nationwide educational network of engaged scientists and educators who help people solve problems and put the best available knowledge to use. Arizona Cooperative Extension provides a link between the university, partner organizations/entities, and the citizens of this state.

Chris Jones, Extension Agent, is the primary point of contact for Forest Health and Watershed Extension programming in Gila County. He provides leadership in developing, implementing, and evaluating educational programs aimed at improving the sustainability of natural resources and rural communities, and increasing grassroots/community understanding and involvement in natural resources management, including forest and watershed issues, and horticulture. He works with target audiences identified through local needs and planning assessments in solving problems, utilizing new technology and information in natural resources and horticulture. These include Wildland Urban Interface fire mitigation strategies, biomass utilization opportunities, watershed and water issues, horticulture practices, local foods, and farmers’ market development, and other critical issues as identified by community stakeholders.



Key partnerships of importance to wildfire protection include:

- University of Arizona Gila County Cooperative Extension: <https://extension.arizona.edu/gila>
- Arizona Fire Adapted Communities: <https://azfac.org/>



- Cobre Valley Watershed Partnership: <https://cobrevallaywp.org/>
- UA Water Resources Research Center: <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/Cobre-Valley>

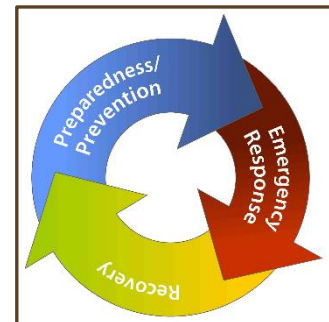
7. Gila County Office of Emergency Management



Gila County Emergency Management (GCEM) centralizes the direction and control of the planning, coordination, and management of disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. According to SARA (Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act), Title II, emergency management agencies must develop emergency response plans for hazardous materials incidents. These requirements led the EM agencies to create response plans that deal with any type of emergency that might occur within their planning area. The GCEM has developed or is the process of developing emergency response plans for activities including wildfires, floods, and hazardous materials spills. The goal of all response plans is to minimize the risk to the public.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines hazard mitigation as, “any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards.” Another way to understand hazard mitigation is as the prevention component of the emergency management process.

- Preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluation, and improvement activities. These activities are the key elements in successfully responding to and recovering from a major disaster. Preparation activities are also designed to help save lives and to reduce property damage by preparing people to respond appropriately when an emergency is imminent.
- Response is the short-term, emergency actions taken to address the immediate impacts of a hazard.
- Recovery is the longer-term process of restoring the community back to normal or pre-disaster conditions.
- Mitigation activities are actions that will prevent or eliminate losses, even if an incident does occur. Mitigation can reduce or eliminate the need for emergency response and greatly reduce the recovery period.



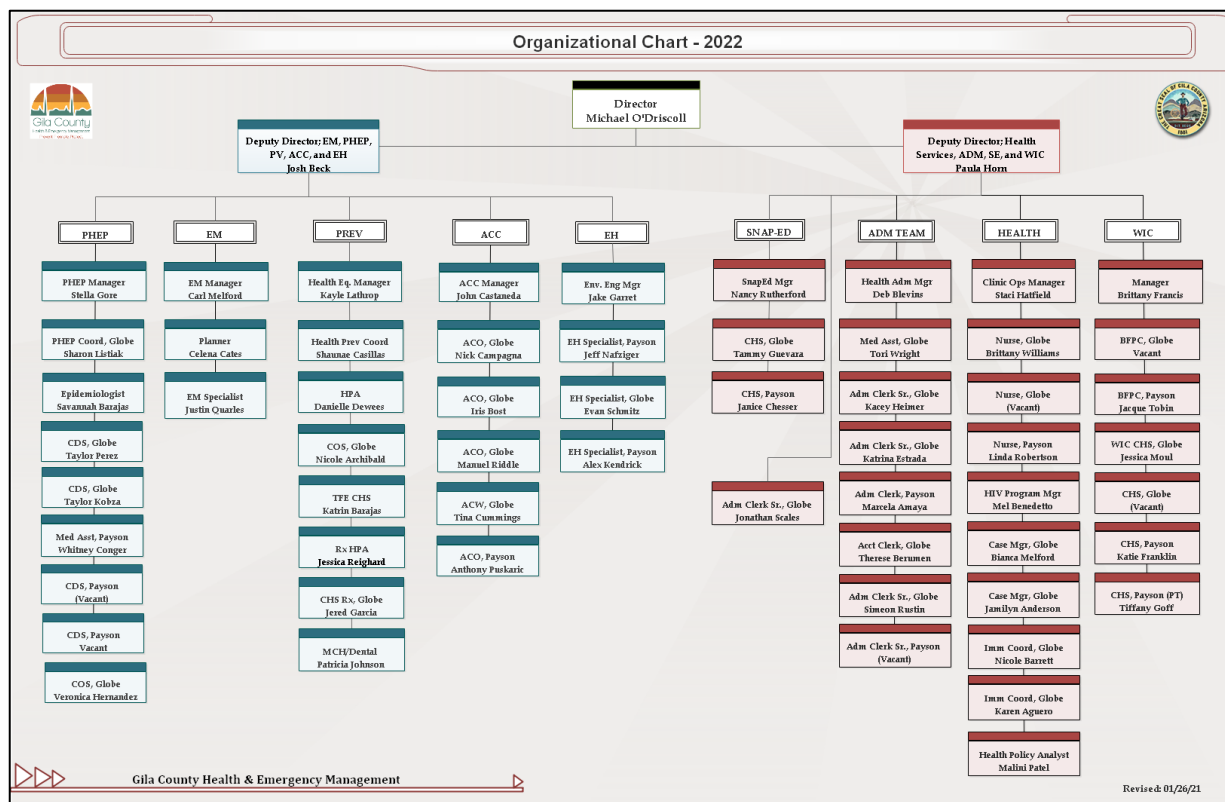
The role of the GCEM is to:

- Act as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) coordinator.
- Develop, review and update Emergency Response Plans.
- Serve as a Communications Specialist during EOC operations.



EOC Activation

The Gila County Emergency Operations Center is activated based on information supplied to the Office of Emergency Management by Incident Commanders in the field. At the same time, information will be collected by emergency dispatch centers and relayed to the Emergency Management Office. The Director of Emergency Management will then determine the need to open the EOC based on the complexity and needs of field personnel.



The role of the County EOC will be one of facilitating the orders from Incident Commanders. During an EOC activation, using the Web EOC platform, orders will be filled first from resources available from within the County. Neighboring Counties will be able to view the Web EOC event and the State will be notified. If the County is unable to fill a request from field personnel, neighboring Counties will be contacted. If orders are still unfilled from the neighboring Counties, the State will then attempt to fill orders from the field personnel.

Other roles filled by the Office of Emergency Management include:

- Serving as the Training Coordinator for First responders in the county.
- Developing and maintaining the Emergency Notification System (Everbridge), Emergency Alert System (EAS), coordinating and monitoring countywide radio frequencies used for the EAS.



8. Gila County Public Works Division, Road Maintenance Department



The Gila County Public Works (GCPW) Division Road Maintenance Department is responsible for the improvement and maintenance of the County Maintained Road System. The primary goal for GCPW is to provide a safe and accessible road system to move citizens and commodities around the county. GCPW assists other agencies in responding to emergencies such as vegetation fires. The Road Maintenance Division maintains seven water tenders available for emergency water supplies during initial attack operations. The water tenders are also used to fill and maintain the water bladders placed throughout the county which are designated for emergency use only.

9. Gila County Sheriff's Office-Northern Gila County (Payson)



The Gila County Sheriff's Office supports programs and partnerships that assist the community and add to the security, as well as the enjoyment, of living in Gila County. The Sheriff's Office monitors road conditions and is responsible for community evacuations during wildfires. The Gila County Sheriff's Office of Volunteer Organizations may be utilized to assist in situations such as road closures during wildfires. The Sheriff's Office maintains an up-to-date list of evacuations routes throughout the County. Currently, no changes in evacuation routes are planned.

GCSO Volunteer Groups:

- Payson Posse
- Mounted Posse
- Tonto Search and Rescue
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

North Gila County Community Emergency Response Team

The Northern Gila County Community Emergency Response Team (NGCC) is a community-based volunteer organization operating under the authority of the Gila County Sheriff's Office. Made up of over 40 volunteers, NGCC provides information to citizens about local hazards. Volunteers are trained in basic skills to prepare their community and stay safe when professional responders are not available. NGCC members are able to help themselves and others before, during, and after a disaster.



Vital services provided by NGCC include:

- Responding to emergencies and providing much-needed service and support to first responders and community members.
- Members assist in the Emergency Operations Center by staffing the reception area, maintaining check-in/check-out of EOC personnel, and completing After Action Reports (AAR).



- CERT members assist law enforcement in providing traffic control during high traffic conditions.
- Light Search and Rescue along with basic first aid to community members.

The NGCC utilizes a refurbished command and control trailer provided by GCEM. It is equipped with multiple radio systems and a backup generator, enabling NGCC to utilize the trailer for various county emergencies and community events. NGCC also provides support to area hospital/health care facilities during evacuation and disaster exercises.

10. Payson Police Department



The Payson Police Department (PPD) is the primary law enforcement agency for the town of Payson and its 15,500 residents. The Payson Police Department is responsible for criminal and traffic enforcement duties within the Town of Payson. During wildfire emergencies, the PPD is responsible for community evacuations of residents in coordination with the Payson Fire Department.

Evacuation routes are pre-planned and permanently mapped and on file with the Town of Payson. These evacuation plans are incorporated in the Town's Emergency Operation plan. Evacuation Centers are pre-determined, and agreements are currently in place with the identified establishments. Yearly, the staff of the Payson Police Department is trained on the evacuation procedures and the plans are exercised.

The Payson Police Department also works closely with the Gila County Sheriff's Office and the Arizona Department of Public Safety with evacuation procedures and emergency traffic control resulting from a wildfire within various jurisdictions.

11. Salt River Project (SRP)



The Salt River Project (SRP) is the oldest multipurpose federal reclamation project in the United States, serving central Arizona since 1903. SRP is the nation's third largest public power utilities, providing electricity and water to more than 2 million people in Central Arizona. The goal of SRP is to develop working relationships with local residents, organizations, and community leaders. This helps SRP provide the infrastructure needed to meet service area power and water needs. SRP infrastructure in Gila County consists mainly of high-voltage transmission lines including 500kV, 230kV, and 115kV lines. Each power line siting corridor is maintained for fire safety with various fuel modification work as required.

SRP has done some fuels modification within the 115kV rows that had heavier fuels. The Veg Management group still maintains their regular schedule for looking at all electric rows for veg clearance as typical. The 115kV system in the eastern mining area, as well as their hydro system coming from our dams on the Salt River, is getting the fuels reduction effort that I described below as something specific for that region. The fuels work is additional and for this area is scheduled to be completed for what was identified by May 1, 2022. The 500kV row is patrolled annually on the five (5) year cycle cut is scheduled starting this coming budget year of May 2022. No additional



work beyond the fuel's effort the last two (2) years in the Gila County region. There is the annual vegetation patrol for electrical clearances to any vegetation as typical.

SRP has a Fire Mitigation Plan which has been shared with DFFM and USFS. This plan addresses SRP's response and coordination for any wildland and prescribe fire issues. SRP also has a Fire Mitigation Specialists (FMS) which coordinates with fire teams and other agencies for impacts around our electric, communication, Hydro and watershed assets. The FMS with SRP has a Master's Certification in Infrastructure Protection/Threat & Hazards Assessment.



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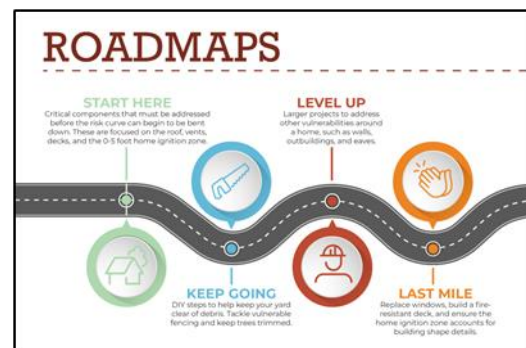
III. COMMUNITY MITIGATION PLAN

This section of the NGC CWPP identifies a set of priorities for mitigating the threat of a major fire in northern part of Gila County. The Gila County fire districts, state and federal agencies, as well as utility companies and other agencies have conducted wildland fuels modifications and treatments as well as forest restoration projects within and adjacent to the WUI since the 2016 update of the NGC CWPP. The previous treatment areas were reviewed, and current priority areas were chosen for future fuels modification and restoration treatments that are described in this revised NGC CWPP. The team also created a list of completed fuels treatment projects. Additional topics reviewed in this section include assets and risk, forest health and fire fuels, recommendations for forest health restoration, fuel breaks, improved wildland fire protection and response, improved community safety, and public education and information opportunities.

A. Assets At Risk

Wildland fire is a natural occurrence and is necessary for the health of some ecosystems. When these fires get out of control and threaten communities, they become a serious hazard. Defending against wildfire involves understanding that despite best efforts to reduce the risk, it will continue to be a threat. Nearly all aspects of wildfire mitigation strategies fall into one of two correlated categories:

- Hardening the structure by using fire-resistant materials.
- Reducing the intensity of a potential fire around the structure.²⁷



The NGC CWPP NGC CRT assessed the conditions that are common to residential areas, businesses, and critical infrastructure within the northern Gila County region. The table below provides a list of assets at risk the team identified in the northern Gila County region, along with recommended actions to reduce ignitability and fire protection methods.

Table 5: Future recommendations for wildland fire protection and reduced structural ignitability.

Structure Type (e.g., home, business, outbuilding, critical infrastructure)	Structure Component	Potential Ignition Source	Recommended Action(s) ²⁸
Bank/Financial Services	Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Attic/ Basement Crawlspace/Vents Windows, doors, skylights, siding	Human factors Opened/Unscreened Vent Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Decay/Deterioration	Public Education Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Add/Replace screens

²⁷ <https://ibhs.org/wildfire/suburban-wildfire-adaptation-roadmaps/>

²⁸ Cost estimates for the recommended actions are included in [Section IV. Northern Gila County 2022 CWPP Priorities: Action Recommendations and Implementation Plan.](#)

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Structure Type (e.g., home, business, outbuilding, critical infrastructure)	Structure Component	Potential Ignition Source	Recommended Action(s) ²⁸
	Power poles/equipment Garbage/debris Deck, stairs, etc.	Poor maintenance	
Church	Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Attic/ Basement Crawlspace/Vents Windows, doors, skylights, siding Power poles/equipment Garbage/debris Deck, stairs, etc.	Human factors Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Decay/Deterioration Opened/Unscreened Vent	Public Education Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Add/Replace screens
Communications	Communication towers/equipment Power poles/equipment	Poor maintenance Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Human factors	Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Clean frequently or before fire season Public Education
Community Transportation	Gas, oil, hazardous/flammable materials	Human factors Roadside ignition sources Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.)	Public Education
Dam	Power poles/equipment	Poor maintenance	Preventive Maintenance Program Public Education
Fire/EMS	Attic/Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc. Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris Power poles/equipment	Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors Poor maintenance	Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker
Food/Agriculture	Barns, sheds, stalls, chicken coops Fencing Power poles/equipment	Flammable construction attached to structure Hay, feed, etc. Decay/Deterioration Improper storage of flammable materials Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.)	Public Education Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker
Healthcare/Hospital	Attic/ Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc.	Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors	Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft

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Structure Type (e.g., home, business, outbuilding, critical infrastructure)	Structure Component	Potential Ignition Source	Recommended Action(s) ²⁸
	Windows, doors, skylights, siding Communication towers/equipment Gas, oil, hazardous/flammable materials	Poor maintenance Improper/no signage	Store inside, preferably in a locker Install metal reflective signs Public Education
Home	Attic/Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc. Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris Windows, doors, skylights, siding	Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors Poor maintenance	Public Education Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker
Government/Municipal	Attic/Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc. Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris Windows, doors, skylights, siding	Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors Poor maintenance	Public Education Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker
Law Enforcement Fire/EMS	Attic/Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc. Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris Windows, doors, skylights, siding	Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors Poor maintenance	Public Education Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker
Mining/Manufacturing	Attic/Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc. Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris Power poles/equipment	Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors Poor maintenance Opened/Unscreened Vent	Public Education Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker

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Structure Type (e.g., home, business, outbuilding, critical infrastructure)	Structure Component	Potential Ignition Source	Recommended Action(s) ²⁸
Natural/Recreational	Parks/Open Spaces Road, Bridges, Guardrails Windows, doors, skylights, siding Culverts Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Attic/ Basement Crawlspace/Vents	Poor maintenance Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Human factors Roadside ignition sources Decay/Deterioration	Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Public Education Preventive Maintenance Program
Outbuilding	Barns, sheds, stalls, chicken coops Deck, stairs, etc. Power poles/equipment	Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors Decay/Deterioration Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.)	Store inside, preferably in a locker Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft
Retail Store	Attic/ Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc. Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris	Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors Poor maintenance	Public Education Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker
School	Attic/ Basement Crawlspace/Vents Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris Power poles/equipment Communication towers/equipment Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Barns, sheds, stalls, chicken coops	Poor maintenance Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Decay/Deterioration Human factors Improper storage of flammable materials	Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Clean frequently or before fire season Public Education Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Store inside, preferably in a locker
Public Utility	Road, Bridges, Guardrails Garbage/debris Guard rails Communication towers/equipment	Poor maintenance Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Decay/Deterioration Human factors	Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Clean frequently or before fire season Public Education
Restaurant	Attic/Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc.	Poor maintenance Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Decay/Deterioration Human factors	Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Clean frequently or before fire season Public Education Add/Replace screens



Structure Type (e.g., home, business, outbuilding, critical infrastructure)	Structure Component	Potential Ignition Source	Recommended Action(s) ²⁸
	Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris Windows, doors, skylights, siding	Improper storage of flammable materials	Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker
Utility Company	Attic/Basement Crawlspace/Vents Roof, Awning, Gutters/Eaves Fencing Deck, stairs, etc. Windows, doors, skylights, siding Garbage/debris Windows, doors, skylights, siding	Dry/dead vegetation (e.g., pine needles, shrubs, trees, grasses, etc.) Improper storage of flammable materials Human factors Poor maintenance	Public Education Add/Replace screens Clean frequently or before fire season Remove dead/dry vegetation within 5 ft Store inside, preferably in a locker

B. Forest Health and Fire Fuels

Gila County's forestry, altitude, and climate put it at high risk for wildfires. In the summer, this risk grows exponentially with the parched soil, higher winds, and dry foliage.²⁹ It is imperative to adhere to the current fire restrictions posted by Gila County and Tonto National Forest. These can limit or restrict campfires, fireworks, smoking, and other activities and save lives.

The DFFM Forest Health program is a cooperative forestry program funded by the USDA Forest Service, via state and private forestry, to assist state and private forest and woodland landowners. The agency conducts surveys, evaluations, and monitors forest and woodland insects and diseases on state and private lands.³⁰ The program also provides technical assistance for forest insect and disease issues, as well as invasive plant prevention, detection, control, and monitoring.³¹

Additionally, the USFS works to maintain, enhance, and restore healthy forest conditions on the national forests and grasslands. They partner with landowners and provide forest insect, disease, and invasive plant survey and monitoring information, and technical and financial assistance to prevent, suppress, and control outbreaks threatening forest resources.³²

The NGC CWPP NGC CRT has determined invasive plant species, insects and diseases, and flammable vegetation are the top three concerns for forest health in the northern Gila County region. The table below identifies the highest risk of wildfires in this area and the recommended improvement actions to help prevent, suppress, and control outbreaks that threaten forest land in the northern Gila County region.

²⁹ <http://www.readygila.com/forest-fires-wildfires/>

³⁰ <https://dffm.az.gov/forestry-community-forestry/forest-health>

³¹ https://apps.fs.usda.gov/nicportal/temp/pdf/sfs/naweb/AZ_std.pdf

³² <https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/forest-health>



Table 6: Future Recommendations for Enhanced Public Education, Information, and Outreach to reduce the risk of wildfires and improve forest health.

Health Issue	Type	Guidance (SME/Agency)	Provided	Improvement Action ³³
Invasive plant	Camelthorn Diffuse Knapweed (below 7,200 ft) Halogeton (4,000-6,500 ft) Mediterranean Grass (4,500 ft) Musk Thistle (4,200-8,100) Red Brome Salt Cedar (below 7,500 ft) Scotch Thistle (below 7,500 ft) Spotted Knapweed Teasel (4,700-8,700 ft) Tree of Heaven (below 6,200 ft) Yellow Blue Stem Grass (Above 3,000 ft) Yellow Starthistle	Depending on the location of these invasive plants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If surrounding homes, a community effort. If in a natural area, consult with USFS.		Provide public education resources and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeowners or property owners with outbuildings or structures. Recreational visitors who camp, hike, etc. Prescribed burns
Flammable vegetation	Chaparral Desert Scrub Juniper Mesquite Mixed Conifer Pine Riparian	Depending on the location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If located near homes, consult with an arborist or USFS. If in a natural area, consult with USFS.		Provide public education resources and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeowners or property owners with outbuildings or structures. Recreational visitors who camp, hike, etc.
Insects & Diseases	Bark Beetles Bud and shoot insects Cankers Defoliators Dwarf Mistletoe Foliage Disease Insects of Wood Products Mistletoe Root Disease Sap-Sucking Stem Rusts Stem and Trunk Decay Wood Borer	Depending on the location of the flammable vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If surrounding homes, a community effort. If in a natural area, consult with USFS. If there are overgrown landscapes between homes or empty lots, consult with the land manager or USFS.		Provide fire public education resources and materials on fire prevention/safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeowners or property owners with outbuildings or structures. Recreational visitors who camp, hike, etc. Prescribed burns

³³ Cost estimates for the recommended actions are included in [Section IV. Northern Gila County 2022 CWPP Priorities: Action Recommendations and Implementation Plan.](#)



C. Fuel Management Priorities

A primary goal of the of the 2022 NGC CRT was to analyze the completed fuels mitigation treatments, determine areas where treatments are not continuous across property boundaries and develop methods of completing untreated fuels spaces in the various communities. Several communities and the USFS have been active in fuels treatment programs including large areas around Payson, Pine, Strawberry and Whispering Pines. The USFS has been active in planning Fuels Assessment Areas throughout the planning area. A priority for utility providers is to develop and maintain safe utility corridors through public and private lands. Removing hazardous fuels from utility right-of-way improves the safety of the public, improved service reliability and decreased wildfire ignitions.

Based on the completed fuels treatment projects, risk assessment, and forest health/fire fuels, the NGC CRT developed a set of priorities for further treatment projects. Factors considered in setting these priorities included: acreage, community involvement, cost, ability to tie-in uncompleted sections around communities and completed environmental assessments (if/where available). Other factors considered include community infrastructure, high value assets, and historically significant resources.

D. Completed Fuels Reduction Projects³⁴

Fuels reduction projects and vegetation treatments have been proven as a means of lessening wildfire hazards, catastrophic fire and its threat to public and firefighter safety, and damage to property.³⁵ The NGC CRT provided the following information for completed fuel projects in the Northern Gila County communities and surrounding areas from 2015-2021.

Table 7: Completed Fuels Reduction Projects in the Northern Gila County Region

Project Area	Acreage Covered	Acreage Burned	Year Completed
Statewide (APS)	Approx. 20,000 poles/year		2015-2021
Payson Ranger District	470,036		
Payson EA	68,242	11,564	2016-2021
Pine-Strawberry EA	72,447	11,440	2016-2021
Verde EA	48,688	7,147	2016-2021
Myrtle EA	27,131	5,195	2016-2021
Lion EA	9,847	3,249	2016-2021
Christopher Hunter EA	30,237	1,875	2016-2021
4FRI EIS	299,646	All acres from all projects go towards 4 FRI	2016-2021
Pleasant Valley Ranger District	437,200		2016-2021

³⁴ Figure 2. Map showing 4FRI high priority partnership areas and acres that have been treated over the past 10 years.

Figure 3. Map showing completed projects and wildfires in Northern Gila County 2016-2021.

³⁵ <https://www.nps.gov/articles/what-is-hazard-fuel-reduction.htm>



Chamberlain EA	21,164	12,306	2016-2021
Spring CE	213,013	47,861	2017-2021
Flying V_H	1,978	1,978	2021
Parallel CE	24,205	20,547	2016-2021
CKFD: See Canyon, Colcord Estates, Hunter Creek, and Ponderosa Estates	318	318	2019
Sparky Project: South of Young and north of the Sierra Anchas	108	108	2021

DFFM, in coordination with northern Gila County Fire Districts/Departments completed the following fuel reduction projects near local communities in the northern region of the county.

Project Area	Acreage Treated	Year Completed
WFHF 13-202 – CKFD Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2	90	12/31/2015
WFHF 15-209- CKFD Large Area Reduction Project Phase 3	133.42	12/31/2017
WFHF 13-213-Camp Tontozona	20	07/31/2018
WFHF 19-207-University Site Project	10	12/31/2020
Community College Campus	32	12/15/2021

E. Fuels Reduction Projects and Mitigation Priorities

The table below displays the fuel reduction projects and mitigation priorities for wildland fuel treatments within the WUIs, Forest Health/Fire Fuels, and Assets at Risk sections. The NGC CRT recognizes that not all acres within a high-risk landscape can be treated. Site-specific analysis would determine treatment acres and methods that meet forest and rangeland restoration objectives and enhance community preparedness for wildland fire.

Upon DFFM's final approval of the NGC CWPP, the designated groups or subgroups determined by the NGC CRT will meet to review projects for the upcoming year and, thereafter, would meet as necessary to reevaluate projects and revise priorities as needed. Such prioritization by the working groups would not impinge on or interfere with the fire departments/districts opportunities to independently seek funding for projects within their jurisdictions.

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Table 8: Action recommendations for forest restoration, fuel break, wildland fuel modification, reduced ignitability and wildland fire protection.³⁶

Project Type	Project Partners	Location	Est. Acres	Est. Costs ³⁷	Priorities / Actions	Timeline	Status ³⁸
Healthy Forest Initiative	DFFM, Gila Community College District, Private Owners	Town of Payson	126	\$344,000	Hazardous fuel reduction	2022-2024	C
HVR 15-209	DFFM, Private Owners	Christopher Kohls					
Reduce Ignitability	APS	Statewide	20k poles yearly		Remove fuels around equipment poles within 10' radius	2022-	O
Forest Restoration	USFS, National Wild Turkey Federation, DFFM, SRP, and Town of Payson	General Springs Project: East Clear Creek watershed and south of CC Cragin Reservoir	3,619	\$5 to \$7 million	Remove small ponderosa pine tree to reduce forest fuels and protect water and power infrastructure	2021-2024	C
Forest Restoration	USFS, DFFM, SRP, and Town of Payson	Baker Project: Southwest corner of the East Clear Creek watershed along State Route 87	1,010	\$900k	Remove small ponderosa pine trees to return the area to desired pine forest conditions, reduce forest fuels, and increase the fire view for the Baker Butte Lookout Tower	2021-2022	C
Forest Restoration	USFS, DFFM, SRP, AZ Game and Fish, AZ Deer Association, and AZ Sportsman for Wildlife Conservation	Hardscrabble Project: Southwest of the Pine and Strawberry communities	1,197	\$60k to 800k	Remove small juniper trees and brush to return the area to desired forest conditions that	2021-2022	C

³⁶ Figure 4. Map showing future mechanical and RX plans within Northern Gila County 2021-2028. **Note:** Project priorities are based upon timeline. For example; a project timeline of 2021-2022, that project would be prioritized before a project timeline of 2022-2025.

³⁷ Note: Total acres to be treated during the life of the plan; acres estimated to be treated will be based on site-specific analysis and equipment needs (if applicable). Verification of actual cost will be needed based on site conditions.

³⁸ Note: Project status legend: P=Planning, C=Current, O=Ongoing, and F=Future



					allows for the reintroduction of managed, low-intensity fires		
Forest Restoration	USFS, DFFM, and SRP	Dude Project: North of Payson and south of the Mogollon Rim	8,912	\$7 to \$8 million	Remove juniper trees and brush affecting overgrown forest conditions to promote the growth of ponderosa pines in the Dude Fire area, reduce shrub fuels, and return the area to desired forest conditions	2022-2025	F
Forest Restoration	USFS, National Forest Foundation, Arizona Game and Fish, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	Flying V_H Shaded Fuel Break Project: Q Ranch, 545 KV powerlines, Fort Apache Reservation	1,978	\$ 987K	Remove all brush species, Juniper trees under 12 dbh, to reduce forest fuels and protect water and power infrastructure	2021-2024	C
Forest Restoration	USFS, National Forest Foundation, Arizona Game and Fish, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pine Strawberry fuels Reduction LLC.	Deadman Mesa Restoration Project: Strawberry, Pine, Fossil Creek Headwaters	3,814	\$1.9 million	Remove all brush species, Juniper trees under 12 dbh, to reduce forest fuels, community protection, and protect water shed.	2023-2025	F

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Forest Restoration	USFS, National Forest Foundation, Arizona Game and Fish, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pine Strawberry fuels Reduction LLC.	Poco Pino: Pine, Arrowhead Estates, Tonto Natural Bridge	688	\$6 to 13 million	Remove small juniper trees and brush to return the area to desired forest conditions that allows for the reintroduction of managed, low-intensity fires	2023-2025	F
Forest Restoration	USFS, DFFM, and SRP	Payson South Restoration Project: South of Payson	4717	\$3.8 million	Remove juniper trees and brush affecting overgrown forest conditions to protect existing Emory Oaks, promote the growth of existing and new Emory oak, and return the area to desired forest conditions	2022-2028	F
Forest Restoration	USFS, DFFM, and SRP	Haigler Creek Restoration project: Haigler Creek, Ellinwood Ranch,	4,373	\$3.5 million	Remove juniper trees and brush affecting overgrown forest conditions to promote the growth of herbacious fuels, reduce shrub fuels, and return the area to desired forest conditions	2022-2028	F
Fuel Break	USFS, DFFM, and SRP	North Zone landscape maintenance restoration project: All communities and towns in Northern Gila County.	18K	\$5.4 million	Maintain the existing restoration projects by promoting the growth of herbacious fuels, reduce shrub fuels, and return the area	2021-2028	C



					to desired forest conditions		
Forest Restoration	USFS, DDFM, SRP	4FRI timber sales: Pine, Tonto Village, Whispering Pines, Geronimo Estates, Verde Glen, Bonita Creek, Meads Ranch, Rose Creek, Circle Ranch, Colcord, Young	11,775	\$5 to 7 million	Remove small juniper trees and brush to return the area to desired forest conditions that allows for the reintroduction of managed, low-intensity fires. Improve watershed and Fireshed conditions thru the removal of material.	2021-2026	F
Slash	Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER)	Determined by wildfire location.	> 100 acres in Timber > 300 acres in grass	TBD	Clean dead and down debris in channels where debris may be mobilized in floods, thus creating downstream jams. Some slash and debris can be scattered and retained in small, ephemeral streambeds in which slash can help retain runoff and sediment and provide headcut stabilization. Slash from grassland treatments may be burned, removed, masticated, or turned. Applies to sloped areas as well.	2022-2026	O

F. Prevention and Loss Mitigation



In the 2015 CWPP, the Core Team set three priorities: Fire Prevention, Fire Protection, and Evacuation of communities. Additionally, the adoption of “Firewise” standards and working with landowners to meet the standards listed in the “Firewise” Communities Program has improved the safety of many of the communities in Gila County. The team also created a list of “Firewise” communities in the Northern Gila County region, and the updated list of “Firewise” Communities is located in Section II: Community Assessments of this plan. Improvements in the following areas have helped our northern fire department/districts keep our communities safer:

- Improve fire protection, prevention and suppression activities for firefighter and public safety.
- Staff training (continual and required).
- Purchase of PPE, firefighting tools, communication and monitoring devices.
- Purchase of new apparatus to improve response time.
- Expedite project planning through partnerships with federal, state, county and local partners, and private and public entities in managing wildfire risk within the WUI.
- Promote community collaboration, involvement, and education.
- Identify funding needs and opportunities.³⁹

G. Evacuations/Shelter-in-Place

During a wildfire incident, emergency management conducts a range of outreach and engagement activities to help everyone understand their respective roles and responsibilities for evacuation and/or shelter-in-place. The following definitions are provided by FEMA’s Planning Considerations: Evacuation and Shelter-In-Place.

- **Evacuations:** An organized, phased, and supervised withdrawal, dispersal, or removal of civilians from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas, and their reception and care in safe areas.
- **Shelter-in-Place:** The use of a structure to temporarily separate individuals from a hazard or threat.

1. Evacuations

“Being prepared for an evacuation includes identifying primary evacuation routes from multiple locations (e.g., offices, homes, and schools), as well as reunification points in case an evacuation occurs while a family is separated.”⁴⁰ The NGC CRT recognizes the importance of being prepared and has identified the following evacuation measures:

- The GCSO, in coordination with local municipalities, fire districts, law enforcement and other critical stakeholders is responsible for maintaining community evacuation plans.
- The GCSO in coordination with firefighting teams, local law enforcement, and volunteer agencies, will oversee emergency evacuation of a community.
- Community shelter locations have been pre-identified at the high school, the rodeo grounds, and the Moose Lodge.

³⁹ Cost estimates are included in [2022 CWPP Priorities](#) section of this plan.

⁴⁰ <https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/planning-considerations-evacuation-and-shelter-in-place.pdf>



- Animal Sheltering is coordinated through Gila County Animal Care & Control. Seven (7) different horse arenas have been designated for horse evacuations for Northern Gila County. Livestock and larger animals can be sheltered at the rodeo grounds.

2. Shelter-in-place

“Sheltering-in-place is a community approach to protecting your neighborhood and home from wildfire. These communities are typically built to specific standards that allow residents who are unable to evacuate during a wildfire to remain inside their ignition-resistant house until the emergency is over. The SGC CRT discussed inclusion of this option for the 2022 SGC CWPP update.

Communicating the location of shelter areas for humans and animals, evacuation routes and programs such as “Ready-Set-Go” are critical in protecting the community and its members. To help facilitate the communication process, GCEM developed geographical-based emergency notification groups to improve and streamline emergency alerts and notifications to communities that may be affected by a wildfire. Methods of communicating with weekend and holiday visitors to each community must be developed separately.

- Public education, preparedness/prevention information, emergency alerts, warnings, and notifications, and other resources will be provided to southern Gila County communities before, during, and after a wildfire.
- Communication methods will vary depending on the agency providing the information.
- Methods of communicating with weekend and holiday visitors to each community must be developed separately.

H. Wildfire Recovery & Flood Mitigation

1. Wildfire Recovery

“Wildfire-related flooding and increased runoff may continue for several years in a burn area, but it is unusual for post-fire debris flows to occur beyond the second rainy season. Some of the largest debris-flow events happen during the first post-fire storm season.” After large wildfires, surrounding communities and impacted watersheds experience devastating flooding, soil loss, and water quality degradation. Restoring these burn scars is a decades-long process involving flood mitigation, re-vegetation, river restoration, and strong community support and commitment. The NGC NRT recommends participation in the post-fire analysis meetings, typically conducted by a Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER). This is included in [Section V, Sustainability; Monitoring and Evaluation](#) section of this plan.

2. Flood Mitigation

The NGC CRT recognizes the connections between fires, floods, and watershed impacts. The team discussed the effect of wildfires in the northern Gila County region and recommends the following mitigation efforts for post-fire flooding.

- Identify the most at-risk areas/zones where flooding might occur after a fire.



- Implement public education and preparedness information in those high-risk zones.
- Identify post flooding recovery goals and resources.
- Develop and disseminate flood mitigation strategies to inform and educate the public.

I. Regional Agreements

1. Mogollon Fire Advisory Council Agreement

The purpose of this Operating Plan (Ops Plan) is to set forth the standard operating procedures, agreed procedures, and responsibilities to implement cooperative wildland fire protection on all lands within State and Federal jurisdiction. Initial attack and extended attack response will be in place for any multi-agency wildland fires and/or emergencies throughout the areas of the represented Mogollon Fire Advisory Council (MFAC) regardless of jurisdiction. We want to make all efforts to keep small fires from becoming large, and small emergencies from becoming big emergencies.

2. Arizona Mutual Aid Compact (AZMAC)

An agreement made and entered into by the State, Tribal, Counties and Local jurisdictions of Arizona. This agreement will facilitate implementation of the Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan.

Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan

“This Mutual Aid Plan has been developed under the authority given in Executive Order 2003-21 by Governor Janet Napolitano. The Executive Order assures fire resources from around the State of Arizona are able to assemble and operate effectively in the event of an emergency.”⁴¹

“The Arizona Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA), through cooperation with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM), Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA), the Arizona Fire District Association (AFDA) and the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona (PFFA), developed the Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan to provide immediate response resources for all-hazard emergencies. The Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan is the initial activation and mobilization plan prior to a declaration of emergency.”⁴²

Purpose of the plan:

- 1) To provide statewide and regional fire service resources to an incident once available automatic and mutual aid has been exhausted by the local authority.
- 2) To provide for the systematic mobilization, deployment and operation of necessary fire service resources within the State and its political sub-divisions in responding to and recovering from the effects of disasters and emergencies.
- 3) To provide comprehensive and compatible plans for the expedient mobilization and deployment of the closest, most appropriate, available fire service resources.
- 4) To provide a fire service inventory of all apparatus, equipment and specialty teams in Arizona. This inventory will be maintained by the County Resource Coordinator and the Zone Mutual Aid Coordinator (ZMAC) and completed no later than 31 March annually.
- 5) To provide annual training and/or exercises between plan participants.

⁴¹ <https://www.azfirechiefs.org/page/MutualAid>

⁴² <https://www.azfirechiefs.org/page/MutualAid>



- 6) To prepare for and respond to events of national significance when requested.⁴³

3. Payson Interagency Dispatch Agreement

The Payson Public Safety Dispatch Center provides dispatch services for the Payson Police Department, Payson Fire Department, Pine-Strawberry Fire District, Hellsgate Fire District, Waterwheel Fire and Medical District, Christopher Kohls Fire District, and Tonto Apache Fire Department. In addition, the Communications Center handles 911 and public calls for assistance.

⁴³ Arizona's Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan; pg. 11



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IV. NORTHERN GILA COUNTY 2022 CWPP PRIORITIES: ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Prior to developing this section, the NGC CWPP CRT reviewed the NGC CWPP Priorities: Actions, Recommendations, and Implementation section in the 2016 Northern Gila County CWPP. Additionally, to better understand and address the health and safety concerns, risks and vulnerabilities, preparedness and prevention education and communication methods of current communities in the northern region, the team also conducted a community survey (NGC CWPP Survey).

An analysis of the survey was conducted in September 2021. The team determined the following areas of concern should be included in the future priorities and recommended action plan (NGC CWPP Survey Report).

- Community concerns and challenges regarding wildfires in their area.
- Risk of wildfires to business or residence.
- Vulnerabilities to wildfires (e.g., fuels, water, accessibility to property).
- Mitigation willingness, actions, and activities.
- Individual, family, or business preparedness.
- Health conditions or concerns.
- Methods of communication for prevention and emergency notifications.

The 2022 NGC CWPP update is composed of a series of action recommendations intended to enhance and enforce wildfire preparation, fire-adapted communities, develop accountable practices, and implement fuel reduction activities in high-risk areas in the NGC region.

- Develop and Implement a Public Education Initiative.
- Development of a County Ordinance for Fire Adapted Communities.
- Continue mitigation efforts in Northern Gila County communities.
- Establish and implement a review and reporting process for NGC CWPP

A. Priority #1: Develop and Implement a Public Education Initiative

Public education initiatives must be based on local problems and target the people at risk. Each community should conduct its own planning process to identify specific problems and the best methods for addressing them. Additionally, any local initiative must involve the entire community. The NGC CRT are dedicated to increasing fire safety, prevention, and community awareness through various methods of outreach and educational programs. The CRT agreed a public education initiative would be helpful in providing the necessary education and information addressed in the NGC CWPP.



Table 9: Priority #1: Develop and Implement a Public Education Initiative

Develop and Implement a Public Education Initiative⁴⁴			
Project Lead:	Payson Regional Operations Consistency Committee (PROCC)		
Partners:	Local stakeholders and partners		
Total Cost Estimate:	Staff time: \$26,250 Development, printing, and distribution costs: \$6,000		
Monitoring/Reporting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual		
Objective	Crucial Activities	Success Metric:	Priority
Establish a working group and develop partnerships in the community	Establish a regular meeting schedule.	Agendas, minutes, rosters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High
	Develop community partnerships.		<input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
Conduct a community analysis or utilize the NGC CWPP community survey analysis to determine public education initiatives	Evaluate previous public education efforts.	A completed list of public education initiatives.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High
	Review/discuss NGC CWPP survey results,		<input type="checkbox"/> Medium
	Determine public education strategy, methods of communication, and methods of distribution.		<input type="checkbox"/> Low
Develop and implement public education messaging and methods of communications	Utilize community partnerships to develop and implement public education messaging.	Evaluate and report results (e.g., audience reach on social media posts, number of public education posts on websites/social media etc.).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low

B. Priority #2: Development of a County Ordinance for Fire Adapted Communities

Fire adaptation means communities take mitigation actions so they can live with wildfire without harm and without extensive wildfire suppression efforts. The USFS developed, supports, and promotes community fire adaptation. The teams understand that it's not the responsibility of one agency or group to mitigate; it's the responsibility of everyone who lives and works in the

⁴⁴ Public education/information activities will address actions listed in [Table 5: Future recommendations for wildland fire protection and reduced structural ignitability](#) and [Table 6: Future Recommendations for Enhanced Public Education, Information, and Outreach to reduce the risk of wildfires and improve forest health.](#)



community. Fire adaptation happens when local multi-jurisdictional stakeholders work together to identify risk, mitigate it, and maintain the work over a period of time.

This priority was discussed and agreed upon by both southern and northern CRT's and included in both the Northern and Southern Gila County CWPP's. The teams agreed the development of Fire Adapted Community Ordinance and approval of the ordinance from the Gila County Board of Supervisors will support efforts to ensure all Gila County communities become fire-adapted communities.

Table 10: Priority #2: Development of a County Ordinance for Fire Adapted Communities

Development of a County Ordinance for Fire Adapted Communities			
Project Lead:	Gila County Fire Chiefs Association		
Partners:	GCEM, GCSO, GC Planning & Zoning, BOS, Local Municipalities, Pine-Strawberry Fuel Reduction Inc.,		
Total Cost Estimate: ⁴⁵	Staff time: \$52,000		
Monitoring/Reporting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual		
Objective	Crucial Activities	Success Metric:	Priority
Establish a coalition	Identify stakeholders	Completed Agenda's, Rosters, and Minutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
	Establish regular meetings/locations		
Develop the ordinance	Define the concerns/issues	Draft of the ordinance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
	Define regulatory or legal authorities		
	Create an initial draft of the ordinance		
Submit final ordinance to Gila County Board of Supervisors	Work with GCEM and County Administration to develop an agenda item for the County BOS to review and approve the ordinance.	Approved Ordinance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low

C. Priority #3: Continue fire mitigation efforts in Northern Gila County communities.

Fire mitigation reduces fuels on the ground that can increase heat and threaten homes, properties, and communities during a fire. Protecting a home, property, and a community from wildfire is not a single effort. It is a process that requires ongoing participation, maintenance, and shared responsibility.

⁴⁵ Total cost estimated for both NGC & SGC CWPP's = \$105,000.



The NGC CRT determined it was critical to continue fire mitigation efforts in the northern Gila County region. The northern fire district partners will work with DFFM, TNF, and local stakeholders to provide education and guidance for local property owners to mitigate fire fuels and dispose of the properly.

Table 9: Priority #3: Continue fire mitigation efforts in Northern Gila County communities.

Continue fire mitigation efforts in Northern Gila County communities.			
Project Lead:	PROCC		
Partners:	DFFM, TNF, Local stakeholders (as applicable)		
Total Cost Estimate:	Staff time: \$185,500 Fuel mitigation - \$955,500		
Monitoring/Reporting:	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual		
Objective	Crucial Activities	Success Metric:	Priority
Establish a sub-committee for mitigation efforts	Establish regular meetings/locations	Completed Agenda's, Rosters, and Minutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
	Research funding opportunities	Approved funding	
Develop maintenance mitigation strategies	Identify specific vulnerabilities	Establish methods of disposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
	Guide residents in fire risk reduction actions	Measure acres mitigated	
	Develop opportunities for property owners to dispose of mitigated fuels	Measure estimated tonnage disposed	

D. Priority #4: Establish and Implement a Review/Reporting Process

Upon reviewing the 2016 NGC CWPP, the 2022 CRT identified a review process was established; however, due to organizational transitions, this was not implemented. The CRT agreed the follow priority would be helpful in establishing an actionable and measurable review and reporting process. The NGC CRT determined this was a critical component of the 2022 NGC CWPP and agreed to implement this priority.

Table 10: Priority #4: Establish and Implement a Review/Reporting Process

Establish and implement a review and reporting process for NGC CWPP	
Project Lead:	GCEM
Partners:	LFD, USFS, DFFM, Coop Ext

Northern Gila County

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



Total Cost Estimate: ⁴⁶		Staff time: \$ 37,000	
Monitoring/Reporting:		<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual	
Objective	Crucial Activities	Success Metric:	Priority
Monitor and evaluate the NGC CWPP	Facilitate annual meetings with stakeholders and partners	Agenda's, minutes, rosters	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
	Establish a working group to assist CWPP progress reporting.	Completed project evaluation	
	Conduct project review/evaluation (provided by responsible agency).		
Develop and implement a review process and method of reporting	Conduct analysis of updates and progress reported by supporting SGC CWPP agencies.	Completed assessments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
	Develop a method of communication for reporting (e.g., survey, spreadsheet, etc.).	Completed report	
	Develop progress reports.		
Distribute report as determined by the NGC working group.	Discuss methods of distributing the reports with the working group.	Final distribution of the report.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low
	Distribute and publish the report as determined by the working group.		

⁴⁶ Total cost estimated for both NGC & SGC CWPP's = \$74,000



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V. SUSTAINABILITY

The HFRA requires the adoption of a CWPP, as does the FEMA Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The HFRA does not include specific requirements for evaluating and revising CWPP; however, establishing a clear schedule for monitoring accomplishments and evaluating outcomes will ensure a dynamic plan that responds to the needs of the community. Monitoring and evaluation is an exceptionally challenging component of the CWPP process to maintain. The success of any CWPP hinges on the effective and long-term implementation of identified mitigation practices and is critical to determining which methods and initiatives are successful.⁴⁷

A. Administrative Oversight

The NGC CRT would mutually assist in conducting and monitoring the NGC CWPP priorities and action recommendations. The team should identify available grants and other funding mechanisms needed to finance implementation of the 2022 NGC CWPP priorities and action recommendations. Grant information should be routinely searched to identify updated grant application cycles.

The CRT discussed the administrative oversight of the previous versions of the NGC CWPP and determined this should be a future priority action to ensure the plan is sustainable. This is Priority #4: Establish and Implement a Review Process in the Future Priorities and Recommended Action Plan section of this CWPP.

B. Monitoring and Evaluation

As communities grow and change, so do the forests around them. “The risk of wildfire to communities will change as they change; the plans and strategies to reduce risk must also change. An effort to monitor and evaluate CWPPs will provide insights to a community and identify whether the plan is on the right track or if there are changes that should be made to the implementation process. The evaluation should closely examine collaborative relationships, fire-related policies, and the plan’s ability to achieve intended goals and objectives.”⁴⁸

Framework for monitoring and evaluating contains strategies to evaluate six elements of a CWPP:

- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Risk Assessment
- Fuels Reduction
- Reducing Structural Vulnerability
- Education and Outreach
- Emergency Management

Post-Wildfire Analysis and Planning: The Gila County CWPP administrators may also request participation in any post-wildfire analysis and BAER planning efforts with lead state or federal agencies. Immediate post-wildfire analysis and planning is essential to Gila County to protect

⁴⁷ 2021 Northern Gila County CWPP

⁴⁸ <https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Documents/Fire/CWPP EvalGuide.pdf>



public safety from possible flood and debris flows, municipal watershed pollution, and other post-wildfire habitat and community impacts.

Multiparty Monitoring: In accordance with Section 102.g.5 of HFRA, communities within the southern Gila County region may participate in any multiparty monitoring program established by other interested parties, such as state and federal agencies, and would be allowed to assess progress toward meeting the 2022 NGC CWPP objectives. The NGC CRT believes that participation in multiparty monitoring would provide effective and meaningful ecological and socioeconomic feedback on fuel modification and treatment projects.⁴⁹

Effectiveness of Monitoring: The NGC CRT agrees to developing performance measures that the team should use to monitor and assess status in meeting current Gila County CWPP performance goals. Accomplishing this is outlined in section IV: NGC 2022 CWPP Priorities; Action Recommendations and Implementation; Priority #4: Establish and Implement a CWPP Review and Reporting Process. Additionally, as new issues arise, such as new invasive-species infestations, this NGC CWPP should be updated or amended as necessary to include any further risks and recommendations for treatment needed to meet NGC CWPP goals.

C. Plan Maintenance

The overall goal of maintaining the 2022 NGC CWPP will be accomplished through monitoring plan effectiveness as needed and by adjusting the plan to account for current changes in wildfire hazard conditions, response capabilities, technologies, and ancillary circumstances.

All projects should be recorded, and records kept in a single designated location. In addition to coordinating the recommended actions in the CWPP, the involved stakeholders should coordinate the monitoring efforts to evaluate the efficacy of treatments. Specific monitoring duties can be delegated by the NGC CWPP CRT.

A review of key goals, objectives, and action items, with appropriate related program data, will illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of the NGC CWPP.

The 2022 NGC CWPP NGC CRT has agreed maintaining the 2022 CWPP will include the following:

- Identify Goals and Objectives
- Identify Changes in the Community and Wildfire Risk
- Review Action Items
- Evaluate CWPP Outcomes
- Conduct Ecological Monitoring
- Update the CWPP and report on the evaluation

⁴⁹ <https://www.fs.fed.us/projects/hfi/field-guide/web/page16.php>



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VI. MUTUAL AGREEMENT AND CONCURRENCE

The following partners in the development of the 2022 Northern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plan have reviewed and do mutually agree or concur with its contents:

Agreement

Agency	Signature/Resolution#	Date
Gila County Board of Supervisors		
Town of Payson		
Arizona Public Service		
Salt River Project		
Christopher Kohls Fire District		
Hellsgate Fire District		
Payson Fire Department⁵⁰		
Pine-Strawberry Fire District		
Pleasant Valley Fire District⁵¹		
Waterwheel Fire District		

⁵⁰ The PFD contracts with Houston Mesa, Oxbow/Round Valley districts.

⁵¹ This district is currently undergoing a change in personnel and did not have anyone to participate in this revision.



Concurrence

Agency	Signature	Date
Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management		
United States Forest Service (TNF)		



APPENDIX A: ACRONYMS

Acronym	Term
4FRI	4 Forest Restoration Initiative
AAR	After Action Report
ADOT	Arizona Department of Transportation
APS	Arizona Public Services
ARC	American Red Cross
ASFD	Arizona State Forestry Division
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	United States Bureau of Land Management
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CKFD	Christopher-Kohls Fire District
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
DEMA	(Arizona) Division of Emergency Management
DPS	(Arizona) Department of Safety
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EM	Emergency Management
EMS	Emergency Medical Service
EMT	Emergency Management Training
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FD	Fire District/Department
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FF	Fire Fighter
FMS	Fire Mitigation Specialist
FSMAP	Fire Service Mutual Aid Plan
GCEM	Gila County Emergency Management
GIO	Air National Guard Geo Integration Office
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HFRA	Healthy Forests Restoration Act
ICS	Incident Command System
IFPM	(Federal) Interagency Fire Program Management
IGA	Intergovernmental Agreement
IMS	Incident Management System
IMT	Incident Management Team
IQS	Incident Qualification System
IRPG	Incident Response Pocket Guide



ISO	Insurance Services Office
IVM	Integrated Vegetation Management
LDS	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
MDC	Mobile Data Computers
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFCA	Northern Fire Chiefs Association
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFCA	Northern Fire Chiefs Association
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NGCC	Northern Gila County Community Response Team
NGCCWPP	Northern Gila County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NPS	U.S. National Park Service
NWCG	National Wildfire Coordinating Group
PFD	Payson Fire Department
PFDRDC	Phoenix Fire Department Regional Dispatch Center
PPD	Payson Police Department
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSFR	Pine-Strawberry Fuels Reduction
PVFD	Pleasant Valley Fire District
RD	(Payson) Ranger District
RSG	Ready! Set! Go!
SAFER	Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response
SARA	Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act
SERRP	State of Arizona Emergency Response and Recovery Plan
SIP	Shelter In Place
SRP	Salt River Project
TNF	Tonto National Forest
TSA	Temporary Shelter Area
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
VFA	Volunteer Fire Assistance
VHF	Very High Frequency
VLAT	Very Large Air Tanker
WFHF	Wildland Fire Hazardous Fuels Grant
WPFD	Whispering Pines Fire District
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface



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APPENDIX B: WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE “WATCH-OUTS!”

Structure defense adds a whole new dimension to wildland firefighting. The Incident Response Pocket Guide (IRPG) provides an additional list of “Watch-outs!” designed specifically for the tactical challenges confronting firefighting personnel in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The WUI “Watch-outs!” include:

- Poor roads
- Bridge load limits
- Wooden construction and wood shake roofs
- Power lines
- Propane tanks and HazMat threat
- Inadequate water supply
- Natural fuels within 30 ft. (9 m) or closer to structures
- Structures in chimneys, box canyons, narrow canyons, or on steep slopes
- Extreme fire behavior
- Strong winds
- Panic during an evacuation ⁵²

⁵² http://training.nwcg.gov/classes/s130/508%20Files/071231_s130_m11_508.pdf



APPENDIX C: RESOURCES

Education/Information

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management
<https://dffm.az.gov/fire/prevention/firewise>

Arizona Interagency Fire Prevention
<http://wildlandfire.az.gov/>

Fire Adapted Communities
<https://fireadapted.org/>

Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network
<https://fireadaptednetwork.org/>

Forest Fires/Wildfires
<http://www.readygila.com/forest-fires-wildfires/>

Firewise Toolkit
<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Toolkit/FirewiseToolkit.ashx?la=en>

International Association of Fire Chiefs
<https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/wildland>

National Association of State Foresters - Arizona
<https://www.stateforesters.org/districts/arizona/>

National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
<https://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/strategy/thestrategy.shtml>

National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

Public Fire Education Planning for Rural Communities; US Fire Administration
<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/By-topic/Rural/FiveStepProcessRural.ashx>

Ready - National Public Service Campaign
<https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>

Southwest Fire Science Consortium
<http://www.swfireconsortium.org/>

US Fire Administration
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/wildfire.html>



Grants

Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management
<https://dffm.az.gov/grants>

Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>

Grant Opportunities
<http://www.grants.gov>

US Fire Administration
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/grants.cfm>



[End of Plan]