

# COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

July 2023, Version 1.2

Photo by Kerri Greer, Prescott National Forest  
Gladiator Fire, June 2012

Maintained by the Yavapai County  
Office of Emergency Management





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**A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is developed to help local governments, fire departments, fire districts, and residents identify at-risk property to wildfire threats. Additional objectives of a CWPP are to mitigate the risk of wildfire while protecting first responders and citizens by improving fire prevention strategies, identify funding needs, and providing opportunities for collaboration with government and private entities within multiple communities.**

**The original Yavapai Communities Wildfire Protection Plan (YCWPP) was developed in 2004. That plan formalized and expanded the coverage of the Prescott Area collaborative, wildfire fuel reduction, and citizen awareness programs that had been previously initiated and were underway. The Arizona State Forester approved this original YCWPP in December 2004. The boundaries for this original plan encompassed a horseshoe-shaped area around the Prescott Basin and included 13 agencies representing Fire Departments and Fire Districts. Version 2 of this Plan was distributed in March 2005 with minor updates. In 2018, the YCWPP was updated and approved in October. Research for this version began in the 4th quarter of 2022 in cooperation with wildfire officials from Fire Departments and Districts within Yavapai County.**

**This revision of the YCWPP, which will address all of Yavapai County, amends, expands, replaces, and consolidates other previously dated versions. All County communities are included herein for the purposes of wildfire awareness education programs.**

## Disclaimer

This CWPP is a living document and should continue to be evaluated. Projects mentioned or initiated using the information from this document should be re-evaluated on a continual basis. Additionally, the CWPP document should be updated every five (5) years. This document should not be seen as the end of the planning process but as a resource to pursue future funding and organizational opportunities.

This document is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information regarding the subject matter covered at the time it was written. Various changes and adjustments are anticipated throughout the life of this plan. Agencies or groups using or implementing labor with this CWPP should follow their own policies and legal counsel before initiating any project.

## Acknowledgements

The Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management would like to thank all agencies and individuals who helped build and support this current plan, as well as previous CWPP's over the last two decades. The research, writing and editing took time, dedication, and forethought to protect and serve the citizens of each community in Yavapai County. Those who assisted in this process include, but are not limited to, the following agencies:

- Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
- Arizona Department of Forest and Fire Management
- Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority
- Director of Yavapai Public Works
- Groom Creek Fire District
- PAWUIC Firewise Community
- Peeples Valley Fire Department
- Prescott City Police and Fire Departments
- Previous Yavapai County Emergency Management Officials
- Sedona Fire Department
- Verde Valley Fire Chiefs Association
- Yavapai County Flood Control Office
- Yavapai County Geographical Information Systems
- Yavapai County Office of Emergency Staff
- Yavapai County Sheriff's Office
- All other individuals from our community who have offered their expertise and support to help reduce wildfire risks during formal meetings, or informal conversations.



Date	Description of Change
07/2023	Community Wildfire Protection Plan Rewrite

A photograph of firefighters in a forest during a wildfire. The scene is filled with thick, white smoke that rises from the ground and fills the upper portion of the frame. In the foreground, several firefighters wearing helmets and gear are visible, some looking towards the smoke. The background shows tall, thin trees, likely pines, partially obscured by the smoke. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

**SECTION 1:**  
**INTRODUCTION &**  
**PLANNING PROCESS**





## Introduction

### Background

In 1990, the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, Prescott Mayor, and Prescott City Council passed a joint resolution forming the Prescott area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission, otherwise known as PAWUIC. Initially focusing on the Prescott Basin area, this Commission is now an established and active group in Yavapai County working as a collaborative group of volunteer citizens and cooperating agencies, which spans all levels of local and Tribal governments and wildfire response stakeholders throughout the County. PAWUIC aims to identify, develop and implement defensible space and citizen fire safety awareness programs to reduce wildfire risk in communities throughout Yavapai County.

Members of this group also include representatives from Prescott National Forest Fire Management, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Forestry Division, Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management, and every Fire District/Department in Yavapai County. Community Wildfire Protection Planning and Implementation have continuously progressed through this expansive group.

In 2004, seven management areas were identified within the plan boundaries. These management areas facilitated the risk assessments and prioritizing “at risk” mitigation projects. The Yavapai County Assessor provided demographic information, and the County GIS Office has mapped each community, neighborhood, and camp identified. Risk assessments for each of these areas were performed.

The revised County-wide boundaries for this YCWPP management areas were consolidated from twelve to five. The reasoning for consolidating management areas was based on geographical, vegetation, and U.S. Forest Service boundary considerations and reducing the splitting of fire districts when referring to this document wherever practical. This revision of the YCWPP includes over 8,125 square miles with 11 incorporated jurisdictions and 23 established cities or townships, with an assessed property value in 2023 of over 60 billion dollars.

### Planning Process

To ensure that as many residents of Yavapai County are represented as possible in this planning process, a core team of community agencies was contacted to complete the YCWPP. This diverse group of leaders assisted in implementing the agency and public collaboration necessary to develop a CWPP compliant with the Healthy Forests Restoration Amendments Act.

## Methodology

The Planning and Preparation for developing the YCWPP have followed the FEMA guidelines for “Creating a Community Wildfire Protection Plan,” dated May 2020, and information from reviewing other Community Wildfire Protection Plans. This YCWPP is a work-in-progress plan which has performed community risk assessments and recommendations as part of the plan development. The methodology included gathering information from decision-makers of numerous agencies throughout Yavapai County to determine YCWPP boundaries and management areas, provide recommendations for future mitigation work, and assist in establishing priorities on projects.

## Partners and Committees

This core team of agencies represented communities including Prescott, Prescott Valley, Groom Creek, Yarnell, Peoples Valley, Seligman, Ash Fork, Chino Valley, Bagdad, Congress, Wilhoit, Dewey-Humboldt, Walker, Wickenburg, Crown King, Jerome, Black Canyon City, Mayer, Cordes Lakes, Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Cornville, Rimrock, Sedona and Oak Creek. Collaboration also included multi-jurisdictional agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, Yavapai County Emergency Management, PAWUIC, Yavapai Fire Chiefs Association, Verde Valley Fire Chiefs Association, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Williamson Valley Fire District, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Arizona Public Service, Coconino National Forest, Kaibab National Forest, Prescott National Forest, and Tonto National Forest.

## Collaboration and Community Outreach

The Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management and cooperating agencies listed above consistently and frequently collaborate for planning, training, and community outreach projects. This is accomplished through various virtual and in-person meetings with leadership and operations-level personnel. Throughout the year, all cooperators are involved in community outreach opportunities in schools, holidays, and specific themed events like ‘Firewise’ educational functions in numerous cities, towns, and neighborhood locations. These opportunities to interact with people living within the wildland-urban interface areas provide information about mitigation practices, how to recognize areas vulnerable to wildfires and build partnerships with neighborhood organizations to grow mitigation efforts throughout the County.

## County Mapping Assistance

Yavapai County Assessor's Office, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Flood Control District Office assisted with this plan by mapping the five management areas of this project and identifying specific areas designated by the plan boundaries, with the collaboration of the Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management. The Yavapai County GIS Office collaborated with State and Federal GIS departments to generate and modify custom GIS data layers for the YCWPP. GIS also developed maps to show the history of fire ignition points. The Yavapai County Flood Control District Office provided detailed maps of watercourses and flooding throughout the County over the last decade, which can assist with predictions of flooding and terrain changes.

## Healthy Forest Restoration Act

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 directed community wildfire protection plans to be developed for at-risk communities. As minimum requirements, these plans include:

- Collaboration - A CWPP must be developed "within the context of the collaborative agreements, and the guidance established by the Wildland Fire Leadership Council and agreed to by the applicable local government, local fire department, and State agency responsible for forest management, in consultation with interested parties and the Federal land management agencies managing land in the vicinity.
- Prioritized Fuel Reduction - A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment on Federal and non-Federal land that will protect an at-risk community or its essential infrastructure.
- Structural Ignitability - A CWPP must recommend measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the at-risk community.

This YCWPP and any group that uses this YCWPP should address these requirements. This is an ongoing, continuously changing Plan with the formation of a YCWPP Administrative Oversight Committee to manage the implementation of the Plan to revise it as accomplishments allow and new conditions dictate. The sponsoring organizations in the various Management Areas seek public and private funding to assist member communities and Fire Districts in accomplishing their priorities for wildfire risk reduction, citizen safety, and community wildfire awareness education.

## **International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (WUI)**

The objective of the wildland-urban interface code is to establish minimum regulations consistent with nationally recognized good practices for safeguarding life and property. Regulations in this code are intended to mitigate the risk to life and structures from intrusion of fire from wildland fire exposures, fire exposures from adjacent structures, and to mitigate structure fires from spreading to wildland fuels. The extent of this regulation is intended to be tiered and commensurate with the relative level of hazard present.

The unrestricted use of property in wildland-urban interface areas potentially threatens life and property from fire and resulting erosion. Safeguards to prevent the occurrence of fires and to provide adequate fire-protection facilities to control the spread of fire in wildland-urban interface areas shall be in accordance with this code.

The wildland-urban interface code shall supplement the jurisdiction's building and fire codes, if such codes have been adopted, to provide for special regulations to mitigate the wildland-urban interface areas' fire- and life-safety hazards. This code is a recommended and not mandated practice in Arizona.

Arizona Revised Statute 9-806 states, "A city or town may adopt a current wildland-urban interface code. The code may be adapted from a model code adopted by a national or international organization or association for mitigating the hazard to life and property."

The international wildland-urban interface code has been officially adopted by the City of Prescott ([City of Prescott Ordinance 6-2-1](#)) and the City of Sedona ([Community Risk Reduction Policy 1342](#)). Other communities in Yavapai County use the international wildland-urban interface code guidelines by recommending mitigation practices without officially adopting as a local statute or ordinance.

## **Prescott Basin Cross Boundary Project (Prescott National Forest)**

The Prescott Basin, Cross Boundary Project, is comprised of 141,156 acres and is located entirely in Yavapai County. This area is ecologically, socially, and economically significant. Ecologically, the Prescott Basin is a critical habitat for Mexican spotted owls and a high-priority area for watersheds. Socially, this area is one of the most extensive wildland-urban interfaces in the Southwestern United States. Economically, a significant source of income for this region is camping, tourism, and outdoor events, which are integral to forest conditions.

## Community Identification and Description

### Goals and Geography

This Yavapai Communities Wildfire Protection Plan (YCWPP) has been developed within the guidelines of 16 USC Ch. 84: Healthy Forest Restoration from Title 16 - Conservation and in accordance with Executive Ordinance number 14072 dated April 22, 2022. This plan is an ongoing collaborative process to reduce the risk of wildfire from combustible vegetation that threatens the communities, wildlife, and natural resources, which will serve as an active management tool, as well as a consolidated guide to wildfire mitigation.

The primary goals and objectives of this plan are to:

- Establish a cohesive team of community citizens with Federal, State, County, Municipal, and Tribal representatives to prepare this plan and provide the resources needed for the ongoing monitoring of its implementation.
- Identify the hazardous, at-risk wildfire conditions of the communities and neighborhoods within five management areas.
- Conduct risk assessments and evaluations to prioritize the areas requiring the highest hazardous fuel mitigation to protect potential losses to life, property, and natural resources from wildfire.
- Implement a process to monitor the changing conditions of wildfire risk and citizen action over time.
- Develop public awareness and community education programs on wildfire prevention and defensible space, including building materials.
- Define economic utilization and marketing programs to aid in the remediation of the risk conditions.
- Assist in securing funding sources to support the recommended actions listed in the YCWPP and local Yavapai Community CWPPs.



*Yavapai County Courthouse*

## History

Yavapai County, located in the central highlands in Arizona, is the third largest in area and has the fourth largest County population. The County has diverse landscapes throughout its 8,124 square miles of property, covering elevations between 1,109 to 7,979 feet above sea level.



*Southwestern Yavapai County Road*

The Prescott Basin, where the County Seat is located, sits near the center of Yavapai County and is the most populous area in the County. Cities within the Prescott Basin include Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt, Yavapai-Prescott Tribal Reservation, and numerous smaller communities scattered through the WUI. The terrain in the Prescott Basin varies with

elevation changes. This area's wide variety of vegetation includes chaparral, juniper, ponderosa pine, Gambel oak, and mixed conifer. Along the western and southern edges of the Prescott Basin, there are rugged mountainous terrain and dense forests with few maintained roadways.

Spanning across the northern portion of Yavapai County is heavily traveled Interstate 40 and the rural townships of Ash Fork and Seligman. The terrain across Interstate 40 is known for high winds over its juniper, sage, and other high desert vegetation.

The southern portion of Yavapai County houses small communities, including Wilhoit, Kirkland, Peoples Valley, Congress, and portions of Wickenburg. These areas incorporate a significant elevation change, having rugged terrain and few maintained roadways other than US Highway 89. In 2021, Yarnell is in the process of completing its own CWPP, which covers approximately 13,950 acres of Yavapai County.

On the county's western edge, US Highway 93 travels between Phoenix and Las Vegas and is highly rural with no large populations. This area is known primarily for desert-type vegetation, such as sage and cacti. The largest populated area in western Yavapai is the active mining town of Bagdad, which has one primary road for evacuations and is fifteen miles from US Highway 93.

The eastern side of Yavapai County is the second most populous area in the County, which contains many communities. The main access to this area is the heavily traveled Interstate 17, which is the primary roadway between Phoenix and Flagstaff, or Interstate 10 to the south and Interstate 40 to the north of the County. The most populous communities in this area include Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Cornville, Rim Rock, Jerome, Clarkdale, Cordes Lakes, Black Canyon City, and the Yavapai Tribal Reservation. The mountainous terrain is common for all the communities in eastern Yavapai, with mixed hazardous fuel vegetation types.

Scattered throughout Yavapai County are dozens of popular youth and adult camps along with many improved and unimproved camping sites. These areas are frequented year-round, increasing transient populations and risks during fire seasons.

The City of Prescott, located in the center of the YCWPP boundaries, became the first territorial capital of Arizona in 1864. Mining, ranching, and logging were the primary industries. In 1900, a major fire destroyed most of the wood buildings surrounding the Courthouse Plaza in downtown Prescott. The area was rebuilt and continued to grow, expanding into what is now known as the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Currently, the City of Prescott and surrounding areas have the heaviest population density in Yavapai County. Protection of residents and businesses from catastrophic wildfires has always been a concern for this area.



*Photo of Sedona Landscape*

## CWPP Management Area Boundaries

### Introduction

The Yavapai Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which included collaboration with Fire Chief Associations and Yavapai County personnel, reviewed central and southern Yavapai County topography, Fire District and Department borders, and fuel types to assist in determining fuels management planning and management area boundaries.

The first defined area for the Yavapai Community Wildfire Protection Plan was a contiguous U-Shaped perimeter that only covered the region's most densely populated area. During plan revisions, planning area boundaries now encompass the entire County of Yavapai and are distributed into five management areas. Within each management area, the wildland/urban interfaces are defined as communities, neighborhoods, camps, tribal and critical infrastructure. Over 27 identified cities, towns, and communities are currently within these boundaries.

The current five CWPP Management Area boundaries were based on land ownership, type of vegetation, fire district boundaries, and township or range lines. The intended purpose of these Management Areas is to assist with prioritizing and grouping projects associated with mitigating wildfire within wildland-urban interface areas. See the following illustrations for CWPP Management Area Boundaries.



*USFS Photo by Justin Haynes*



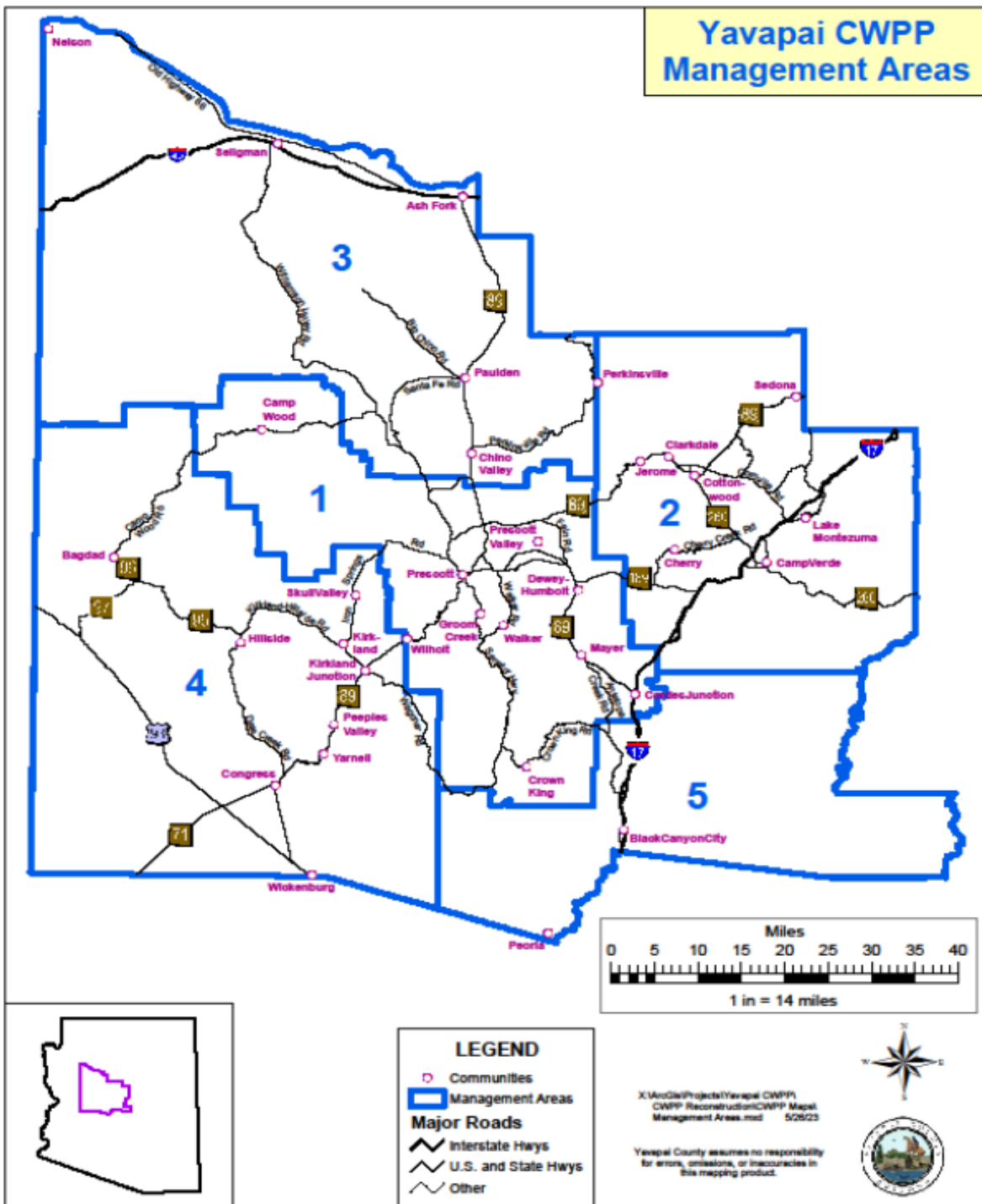


Figure 1- Yavapai County CWPP Management Areas

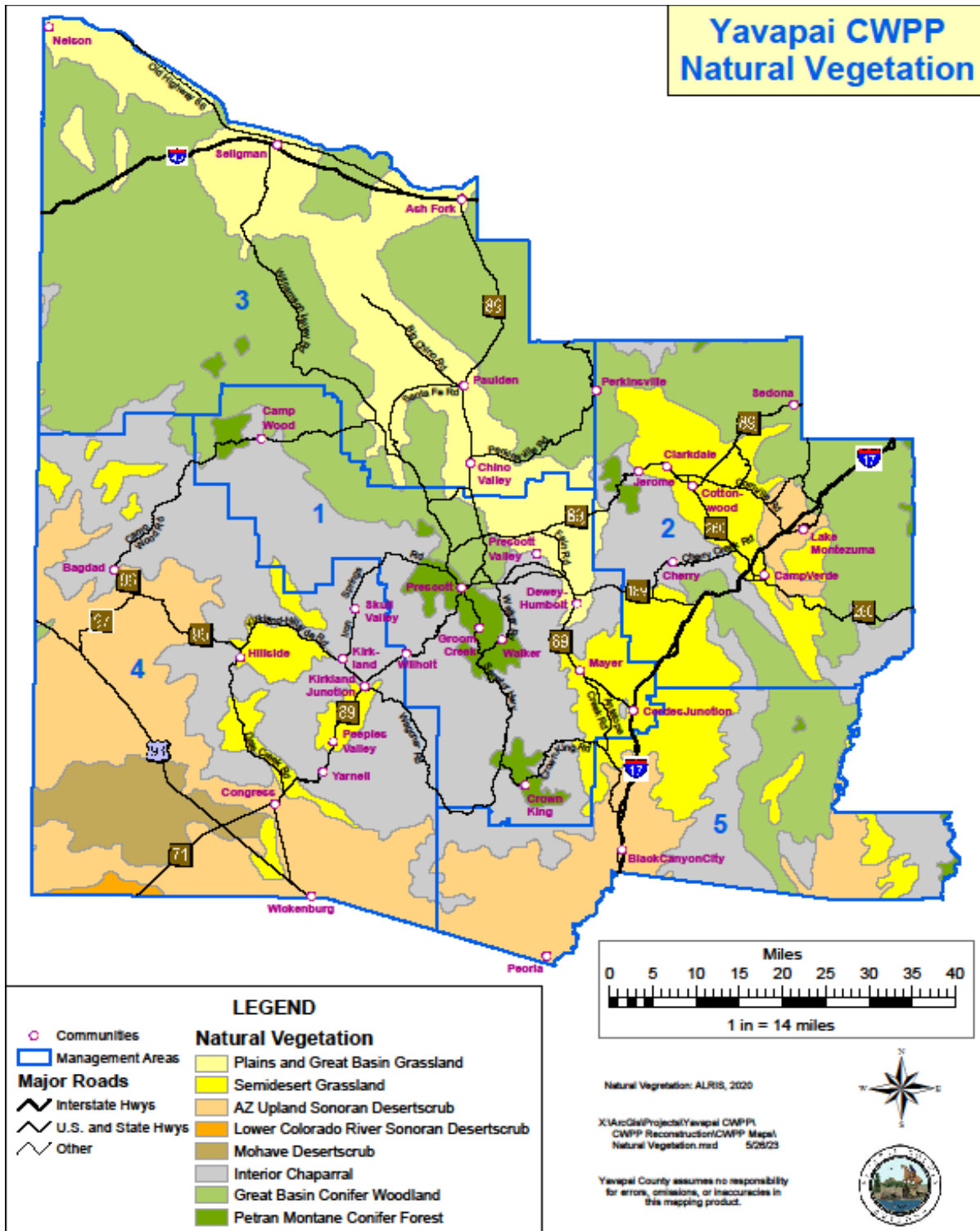


Figure 2- Yavapai CWPP Vegetation Map

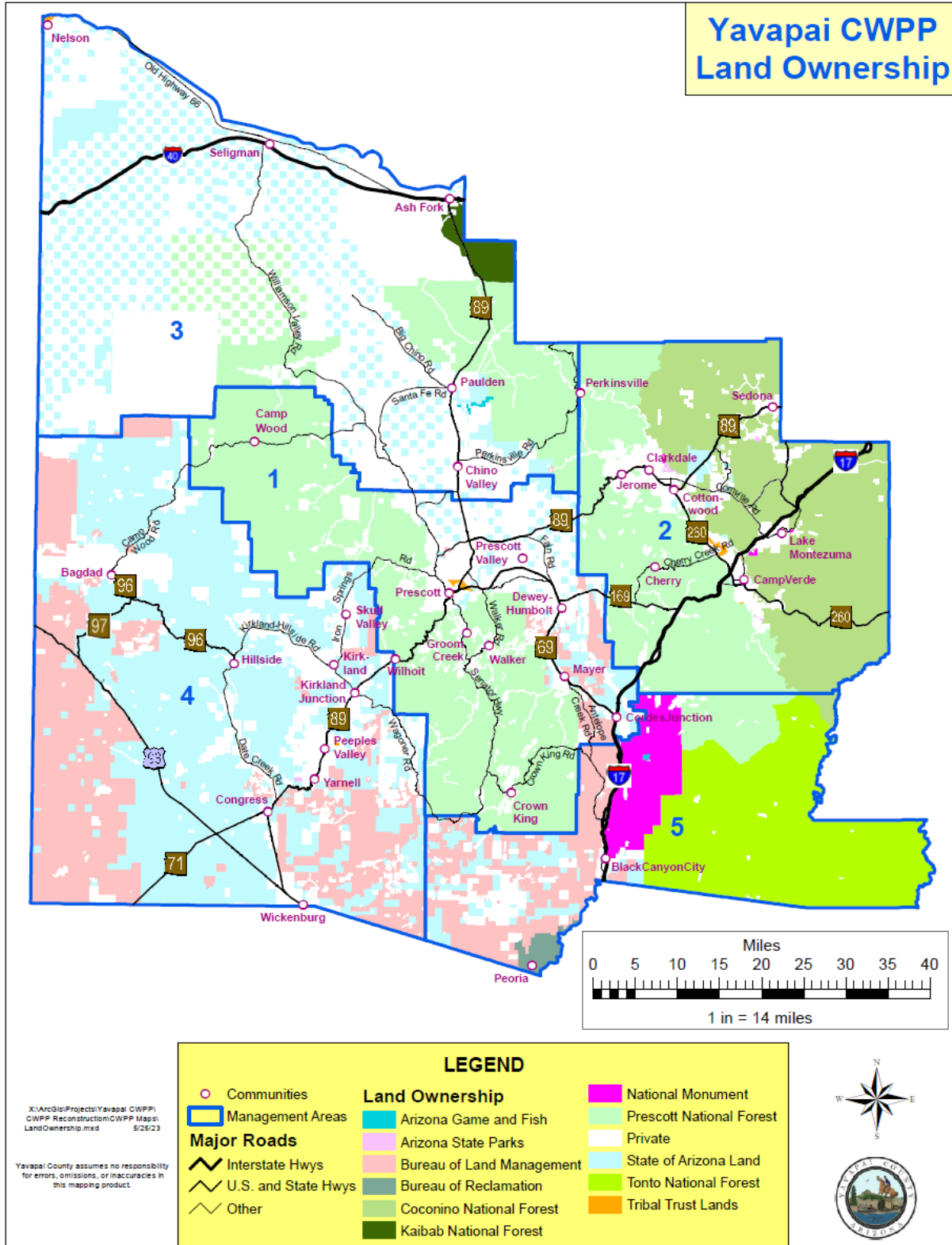


Figure 3- Yavapai CWPP Land Ownership Map

## Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC)

In 1990, the devastating “Dude” wildfire in the Payson area prompted the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, the City of Prescott Council, and the Prescott Mayor to issue a joint resolution which formed the Prescott Area Wildland/Urban Interface Commission (PAWUIC). Since 1990, this group has been influential in helping communities within Yavapai County understand and prepare for wildfires through mitigation efforts and education. The legal name of this group is PAWUIC, but they have rebranded publicly for ease of community understanding into ‘Yavapai Firewise/PAWUIC.’

The members of the PAWUIC organization are volunteer citizens with the direct support of Federal, State, County, and Municipal Cooperating Agencies.

PAWUIC has been given the mission of identifying, prioritizing, and guiding the management of wildland/urban interface issues in the Prescott Basin area. This Commission is specifically directed to:



- Advise the Cooperating Agencies in matters related to the wildland/urban interface.
- Through public and agency participation, identify, develop, prioritize, and address wildland/urban interface issues facing the area’s citizens. 10
- Promote citizen awareness of wildland/urban interfaces and initiatives.
- Ensure the public knows the risks, emergency procedures, and evacuation guidelines.
- Assists communities by raising funds or helping communities find funding resources. Funds raised are used to create defensible space on private property.
- Occasionally acts as an intermediary, helping communities’ pair with government forestry agencies and Department of Corrections crews to work on private properties and State lands.

PAWUIC has over 80 volunteer members with additional active representation from “agency members,” usually represented with two or three volunteers per each Firewise Community, which currently exceeds forty communities in Yavapai County. Government agencies active with PAWUIC include Prescott National Forest, Arizona Department of

Forestry and Fire Management, Bureau of Land Management, Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management, City of Prescott Fire Department, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Groom Creek Fire District, and Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe.

PAWUIC is a community-oriented, collaborative organization focused on Wildland/Urban Interface and Community Wildfire Protection issues. Since its inception, PAWUIC has received millions of dollars in National Fire Plan matching grants to perform resident defensible space projects in the WUI areas. PAWUIC's Public Education efforts are centered around numerous Wildfire education events throughout Yavapai County, distributing brochures and other literature, frequent local news sources, and are well-known on many social media outlets.

The Verde Valley Fire Chiefs Association is a non-profit organization comprised of Copper Canyon Fire and Medical Authority, Cottonwood Fire Department, Jerome Fire Department, Sedona Fire District, and Verde Valley Fire District.

The Yavapai Fire Chiefs Association is a non-profit organization modeled after the Verde Valley Fire Chiefs Association. The Yavapai Fire Chiefs Association is comprised of Mayer Fire District, Central Arizona Fire and Medical Authority, Prescott Fire Department, Yarnell Fire District, Williamson Valley Fire District, Crown King Fire District, Seligman Fire District, Ash Fork Fire District, Wickenburg Fire District, Peebles Valley Fire District, Walker Fire Association and Fire Team Four located in Skull Valley.

The Prescott National Forest is an active partner of PAWUIC and Fire Chiefs Associations in Yavapai County. These groups work collaboratively to spearhead the development of grant requests for communities at risk of wildfire within or near the boundaries of Prescott National Forest.

PAWUIC currently has a footprint in three of the five CWPP Management Areas. The Prescott area has the largest number of communities involved due to the focused attention and education from PAWUIC over the last three decades. In recent years PAWUIC has expanded into other areas of Yavapai County, including Camp Verde, Crown King, Dewey-Humboldt, Peebles Valley, Prescott Valley, and Sedona.



## Firewise Communities In Management Area 1

### Crown King:

- Malnetta-Tharsing Subdivision
- Moss Torpedo Subdivision

### Prescott:

- Cathedral Pines
- Community of Walker
- Estancia De Prescott
- Forest Hylands
- Forest Trails
- Groom Creek
- Haisley Homestead
- Hassayampa
- Hidden Valley Ranch
- High Valley Ranch
- Highland Pines
- Hometown Pine Lakes
- Iron Springs
- Kingswood Estates Owners Association, Units 1,2,3, 4 & 5
- Long Meadow I & II
- Pinon Oaks (North and South)
- Ponderosa Park
- Prescott Canyon Estates HOA

- Prescott Lakes HOA

### Dewey Humbolt:

- Estates at Cherry Ridge

### Prescott Valley:

- Stoneridge

### Prescott: (continued)

- Prescott Skyline
- Prescott Summit
- Quail Hollow
- Rancho Vista Hills
- Santa Fe Springs
- Southview Trails Community Association
- The Foothills
- The Mountain Club
- The Ranch at Prescott
- Timber Ridge
- Vista del Cerro
- Wildwood Estates
- Willow Cove HOA
- Yakashba
- Yavapai Hills HOA



## **Firewise Communities In Management Area 2**

### **Camp Verde:**

- Verde Lakes

### **Sedona:**

- Cottages at Coffeepot HOA
- LaBarranca II

## **Firewise Communities In Management Area 3**

No Established Firewise Areas in Management Area 3

## **Firewise Communities In Management Area 4**

### **Peoples Valley:**

- The Buckhorn Legacy Loop Group

## **Firewise Communities In Management Area 5**

No Established Firewise Areas in Management Area 5

## **Moving Forward with PAWUIC/Firewise**

Other residential communities in the Town of Peoples Valley and the City of Sedona are working with PAWUIC to become Firewise communities in the coming year. PAWUIC has recognized and targeted other Yavapai County areas by expanding its presence in the community of Crown King and the Town of Dewey-Humboldt, as well as establishing a footprint in the community of Groom Creek, south of Prescott and the Town of Jerome, on the eastern side of Mingus Mountain. As PAWUIC continues to grow, they hope to expand and establish Firewise communities in every populated area of Yavapai County.



**SECTION 2:**

**COMMUNITY  
DESCRIPTION**



## Community Description

### Planning Area Demographics

The estimated population for Yavapai County in 2022 is over 236,000 people, according to the 2020 US Census Bureau, making it the fourth most populous county in Arizona. There are six communities in Yavapai County with populations over 10,000. According to 2020 Census data and the Yavapai County comprehensive plan, Sedona has a projected population over 10,000 prior to 2025, bringing the number of communities that size or larger to seven. Two communities, the City of Prescott, and the Town of Prescott Valley, have populations close to 50,000 each.

### Underserved Communities in Yavapai County

Yavapai County Community Health Services maintains a database of citizens with functional needs in the YCWPP area. For the purposes of this document, the definition mirrors the FEMA definition of [Access and Functional Needs; \(AFN\)](#) “Persons who may have additional needs before, during and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have disabilities; live in institutionalized settings; are seniors; are children; are from diverse cultures; have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking; or are transportation disadvantaged” before, during, or after an emergency.



The functional needs database has voluntary registration, and information is shared with the Yavapai Sheriff's Office or pertinent first responders only when immediate life safety may be in jeopardy, in compliance with the Health Information Privacy Protection Act. This data is used to identify individuals who may be unable to evacuate safely without assistance or to provide help during extended power outages.

It is recognized that many people with functional needs will not register with Yavapai County Community Health Services for personal reasons. The Yavapai County Sheriff's Office coordinates a group of volunteers in vehicles called the Jeep Posse who are provided training to assist in recognizing individuals with access and functional needs. During evacuation notifications, Yavapai County Sheriff Deputies and Jeep Posse members physically contact residences to help recognize functional needs by attempting to talk with residents and maintaining communication to assist in courteous and expedient movement of people, regardless of mobility or language barriers.

[Eighteen percent of Yavapai County's population](#) is estimated to have people with access or functional needs, five percent higher than the Arizona State average of thirteen percent. The vulnerabilities of this population may not be able to evacuate on their own physically. They may have difficulty understanding or responding to instructions, especially when responders are uniformed and wearing full protection gear. Communicating with or evacuating people with access or functional needs (AFN) may need specialized communication equipment or practices, along with accessible transportation and shelters.

Without essential support, this population is disproportionately affected by any disaster and may experience fewer forgiving consequences during a wildfire incident. People with access and functional needs are at increased risk of morbidity and mortality during any event requiring emergency transport, such as wildfire evacuations, or by sheltering in place during smoke from a wildfire. Many people with access and functional needs have lower financial stability, which may hinder the ability to prepare, evacuate or recover from damages.

Anticipated activities include increasing communication through community partners to educate all responding agencies and the public about the importance of personal preparedness and partnerships among neighbors and families. Knowing, planning, and practicing the elements of communication while maintaining health, independence, support, safety, and transportation should reduce the probability of loss of life and property during a wildfire.

Communicating with this underserved community takes a large diversity of communication types. Using plain English language may work in some cases, using repeated messages in multiple formats, saturating the County with messages on social media, billboards, advertisements in theaters or local newspapers, mass mailings, or placing flyers in community areas. Some areas may need large print or braille used in printed communications. Closed captioning should be used in digital communications and interpreters for additional languages, including American Sign Language (ASL), should be made available throughout any emergency.

This growing underserved community in Yavapai has personnel challenges ranging from the education of responders to maintaining health through medical staff and providing medication or other related health supplies for chronic conditions. Smoke inhalation could worsen the health of this population substantially if the AFN needs are not met immediately. While people with access and functional needs do require assistance, most are able to have a sense of independence which is kept through mobility devices, assistive technology like tablets to help communicate, service animals, or other aids. It is essential to maintain and ensure these items are kept in the AFN community during a mass movement or sheltering in place during a wildfire event.

An important item with the access and functional needs population is the ability to have a caregiver in proximity. Caregivers may be family members, friends, or paid employees and may not be with the AFN person full-time. Caregivers are not only valuable to AFN

persons for personal safety but also for personal safety, whether at home or in a public environment. Responders and volunteer organizations should have continuing education on recognizing and maintaining caregivers, maintaining this additional support with living conditions and mental health and spiritual needs during wildfire events.

Transportation for this underserved community may be another challenge to acknowledge and overcome. Coordinating mass transit for AFN persons may include specialized equipment such as a wheelchair lift, the ability to carry extra medical equipment, or the need to have additional electrical power. In some cases, AFN persons may not have the mental state to understand why it will be important to leave or may not travel with other people in a large vehicle, such as a bus. In these cases, AFN persons should be transported in smaller vehicles they are more comfortable with for the safety and anxiety level of the AFN person and others.

## Topography Characteristics

The management areas of the YCWPP have a wide range of elevations with various vegetative types and geologic landforms. Elevations less than 4,500 feet from sea level have moderate to heavy chaparral, which has shrub species such as scrub oak, manzanita, mountain mahogany, and catclaw acacia, with pinyon pine and juniper species interspersed. Areas with this elevation and vegetation types include the east, or 'Verde Valley,' and southwest portions of the County. Communities in Yavapai County having elevations under 4,500 feet include Sedona, Cornville, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Rimrock, Cordes Junction, Mayer, Black Canyon City, Bagdad, Congress, Wickenburg, and the Yavapai Apache Reservation.

Yavapai County elevations ranging between 5,000 and 6,500 feet above sea level have primarily pinyon pine, alligator juniper, and shaggy bark juniper, with grasslands scattered throughout the woodland areas. Communities in this range include Seligman, Ash Fork, Paulden, Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Yarnell, Jerome, Crown King, Yavapai-Prescott Reservation, and other smaller communities in central or northern areas of Yavapai County.

At elevations above 6,000 feet in Yavapai County, fuels of conifers and deciduous trees are prevalent. Primary vegetation consists of ponderosa pine with chaparral understory and mixed conifer, along with other vegetation including Gambel oak, white oak, Emory oak, Douglas fir, white fir, junipers, and aspen.

Each of the five management areas has a wide range of elevation and vegetation growth, which can be challenging with mitigation efforts and controlling a wildfire once ignition has occurred. Personnel fatigue and equipment maintenance is a concern throughout the County, with these factors contributing to extended timeframes and financial constraints.

## Socio-Economic Trends

According to U.S. Census data, the [population of Yavapai County](#) has grown from 205,000 in 2005 to over 236,000 in 2020, with a median age of 54 years old (US Census). The largest age group includes approximately 82,000 people over 65 years old, which is significant due to this age group having a higher probability of functional need assistance during any emergency, with or without evacuations.

Yavapai County has an estimated [90,000-person workforce](#), which is less than half the population. A large number of businesses in Yavapai County benefit from a large influx of year-round tourism, with the largest groups in the summer months. The largest industries include health care and social assistance, with about 13,000 employees. Retail stores employ about 12,000 persons, and accommodation or food industries employ approximately 8,000 persons in Yavapai County. Other businesses in Yavapai County comprise primarily of small to medium-sized employers, which include diverse occupations such as administrative support, maintenance, construction, and transportation (Economic info).

[Home ownership](#) in Yavapai County is higher than the State and National averages. While the United States home ownership average in 2020 was at 64.4% and the State of Arizona was 65.3%, there were 72.6% of residents who were homeowners in Yavapai County.

[The U.S. Census Bureau](#) states that Yavapai County is comprised of more than 80% Caucasian, and people of Hispanic descent are 14.7% of the resident population. Native Americans are the third largest demographic with 1.16%, people of Asian descent are just under 1%, and African American descent is the fifth largest demographic at .66% of the Yavapai County population (social characteristics).



**SECTION 3:**  
**MANAGEMENT AREAS**  
**& RISK ASSESSMENT**



## Community Description

In developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, it is essential to identify and delineate management areas that are crucial for effective wildfire management in Yavapai County. These management areas are designated based on risk assessments and a comprehensive understanding of the threat posed by wildfires. By understanding the risk factors associated with wildfires, such as topography, fuel types, and historical fire occurrence, targeted management strategies can be implemented. These strategies include fuel reduction projects, prescribed burns, community education programs, and infrastructure improvements, all aimed at reducing the risk and potential impacts of wildfires. The identification and management of these areas play a vital role in safeguarding communities, protecting lives and property, and ensuring the long-term resilience of the region against the threat of wildfires.

## YAVAPAI COUNTY PROPERTY SUMMARY

The Yavapai County Assessor’s Office provided the following tables, which include estimated property values for each management area, in each of the 2023 Yavapai CWPP Management Areas, in U.S. Dollars.

Management areas are independent from city/town or fire district boundaries. Therefore, a single city/town or fire jurisdiction may lie within multiple management areas:

### YAVAPAI COUNTY - TOTAL

Total Full Cash Value	60,255,328,048
Total Value of Improvements	45,984,603,058
Total Parcel Count	177,705
Total Privately Owned Parcels	168,070
Residential Parcels	107,751
Total Improvements	189,193
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	53,435
Total Acreage	5,201,289
Privately Owned Acreage	1,352,939

<i>Property Information As of March 2023</i>	
Valuation Information (Real Property - 2024 Tax Year, Mobile Home Property - 2023 Tax Year)	
Information	Data Source
Total Full Cash Value	Yavapai County Assessor
Total Value of Improvements	Yavapai County Assessor
Total Parcel Count	Yavapai County GIS
Total Privately Owned Parcels	Yavapai County Assessor
Residential Parcels	Yavapai County Assessor
Total Improvements	Yavapai County Assessor
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	Yavapai County Assessor
Total Acreage	Yavapai County GIS
Privately Owned Acreage	Yavapai County GIS

\*Assessor Information gathered and summarized by J. McGovern

\*GIS Information collected by J. Whitham and summarized by J. McGovern



## Property Values Management Area #1

Total Full Cash Value	33,161,704,533
Total Value of Improvements	26,150,524,821
Total Parcel Count	84,330
Total Privately Owned Parcels	80,510
Residential Parcels	58,803
Total Improvements	93,581
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	18,221
Total Acreage	854,586
Privately Owned Acreage	164,020

### CITY OF PRESCOTT

Total Full Cash Value	15,152,368,490
Total Value of Improvements	12,124,535,788
Total Parcel Count	27,896
Total Privately Owned Parcels	28,039
Residential Parcels	20,834
Total Improvements	32,295
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	5,284
Total Acreage	31,699
Privately Owned Acreage	24,705

### TOWN OF DEWEY HUMBOLDT

Total Full Cash Value	708,873,216
Total Value of Improvements	564,218,886
Total Parcel Count	3,328
Total Privately Owned Parcels	3,149
Residential Parcels	2,110
Total Improvements	4,365
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	972
Total Acreage	11,997
Privately Owned Acreage	9,132

### TOWN OF PRESCOTT VALLEY

Total Full Cash Value	9,261,642,431
Total Value of Improvements	7,473,386,962
Total Parcel Count	23,711
Total Privately Owned Parcels	23,118
Residential Parcels	18,892
Total Improvements	26,610
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	3,224
Total Acreage	25,949
Privately Owned Acreage	17,294

### CENTRAL YAVAPAI FD (CAFMA)

Total Full Cash Value	16,058,261,817
Total Value of Improvements	12,619,783,024
Total Parcel Count	43,690
Total Privately Owned Parcels	42,153
Residential Parcels	32,799
Total Improvements	51,414
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	8,036
Total Acreage	94,897
Privately Owned Acreage	71,109

### CROWN KING FD (WVFD)

Total Full Cash Value	65,858,111
Total Value of Improvements	51,289,926
Total Parcel Count	452
Total Privately Owned Parcels	422
Residential Parcels	232
Total Improvements	340
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	177
Total Acreage	1,537
Privately Owned Acreage	712

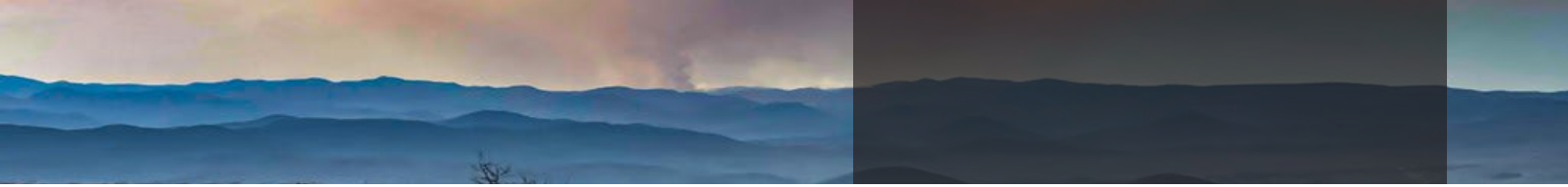
### GROOM CREEK FD

Total Full Cash Value	368,326,704
Total Value of Improvements	282,099,476
Total Parcel Count	998
Total Privately Owned Parcels	878
Residential Parcels	658
Total Improvements	1,167
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	204
Total Acreage	11,171
Privately Owned Acreage	1,796

### MAYER FD (WVFD)

Total Full Cash Value	597,274,918
Total Value of Improvements	465,860,509
Total Parcel Count	5,923
Total Privately Owned Parcels	5,721
Residential Parcels	2,929
Total Improvements	5,718
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	2,663
Total Acreage	34,203
Privately Owned Acreage	10,513

\*\*\* Mayer FD Has Jurisdiction in Multiple Management Areas\*\*\*  
(Management Areas 1 & 5)



CWPP MANAGEMENT AREA #1 (continued)

\*\*\* Chino Valley FD Has Jurisdiction in Multiple Management Areas\*\*\*  
(Management Areas 1 & 3)

CHINO VALLEY FD (CAFMA)

Total Full Cash Value	
Total Value of Improvements	
Total Parcel Count	1
Total Privately Owned Parcels	
Residential Parcels	
Total Improvements	
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	
Total Acreage	74
Privately Owned Acreage	





## Property Values Management Area #2

Total Full Cash Value	19,166,481,219
Total Value of Improvements	14,200,639,487
Total Parcel Count	46,334
Total Privately Owned Parcels	43,899
Residential Parcels	29,821
Total Improvements	54,660
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	11,873
Total Acreage	840,654
Privately Owned Acreage	79,505

### TOWN OF CLARKDALE

Total Full Cash Value	859,138,804
Total Value of Improvements	666,312,289
Total Parcel Count	3,033
Total Privately Owned Parcels	2,917
Residential Parcels	2,020
Total Improvements	3,224
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	813
Total Acreage	6,589
Privately Owned Acreage	4,529

### CITY OF COTTONWOOD

Total Full Cash Value	2,391,524,644
Total Value of Improvements	1,949,454,142
Total Parcel Count	6,102
Total Privately Owned Parcels	5,754
Residential Parcels	3,821
Total Improvements	8,695
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	1,143
Total Acreage	17,576
Privately Owned Acreage	6,037

### TOWN OF DEWEY HUMBOLDT

Total Full Cash Value	16,248
Total Value of Improvements	16,248
Total Parcel Count	
Total Privately Owned Parcels	
Residential Parcels	
Total Improvements	1
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	
Total Acreage	
Privately Owned Acreage	

### CITY OF SEDONA

Total Full Cash Value	5,000,036,711
Total Value of Improvements	3,615,479,491
Total Parcel Count	5,890
Total Privately Owned Parcels	5,730
Residential Parcels	4,350
Total Improvements	7,566
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	944
Total Acreage	7,689
Privately Owned Acreage	3,629

### TOWN OF JEROME

Total Full Cash Value	152,418,498
Total Value of Improvements	112,803,534
Total Parcel Count	602
Total Privately Owned Parcels	558
Residential Parcels	236
Total Improvements	383
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	259
Total Acreage	504
Privately Owned Acreage	464

### TOWN OF CAMP VERDE

Total Full Cash Value	1,782,596,229
Total Value of Improvements	1,287,091,862
Total Parcel Count	7,091
Total Privately Owned Parcels	6,601
Residential Parcels	4,028
Total Improvements	9,678
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	2,235
Total Acreage	28,525
Privately Owned Acreage	12,969

### CENTRAL YAVAPAI FD (CAFMA)

Total Full Cash Value	3,085,178
Total Value of Improvements	1,723,771
Total Parcel Count	15
Total Privately Owned Parcels	13
Residential Parcels	7
Total Improvements	17
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	6
Total Acreage	1,018
Privately Owned Acreage	204



CWPP MANAGEMENT AREA #2 (continued)

**COPPER CANYON FIRE & MEDICAL DIST**

Total Full Cash Value	2,527,529,428
Total Value of Improvements	1,866,058,983
Total Parcel Count	12,756
Total Privately Owned Parcels	12,100
Residential Parcels	6,552
Total Improvements	13,934
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	5,136
Total Acreage	65,499
Privately Owned Acreage	21,270

**SEDONA FD**

Total Full Cash Value	9,871,348,056
Total Value of Improvements	7,089,547,385
Total Parcel Count	12,750
Total Privately Owned Parcels	12,051
Residential Parcels	9,155
Total Improvements	14,692
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	2,294
Total Acreage	91,468
Privately Owned Acreage	10,005

**VERDE VALLEY FD**

Total Full Cash Value	3,872,688,906
Total Value of Improvements	2,996,617,543
Total Parcel Count	12,995
Total Privately Owned Parcels	12,527
Residential Parcels	9,706
Total Improvements	15,977
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	2,534
Total Acreage	58,641
Privately Owned Acreage	16,836



## Property Values Management Area #3

Total Full Cash Value	5,387,002,811
Total Value of Improvements	3,934,620,833
Total Parcel Count	34,643
Total Privately Owned Parcels	32,612
Residential Parcels	13,284
Total Improvements	27,927
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	18,632
Total Acreage	1,446,406
Privately Owned Acreage	815,479

### TOWN OF CHINO VALLEY

Total Full Cash Value	1,997,917,320
Total Value of Improvements	1,558,704,310
Total Parcel Count	7,659
Total Privately Owned Parcels	7,072
Residential Parcels	5,113
Total Improvements	11,069
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	1,652
Total Acreage	39,988
Privately Owned Acreage	34,086

### ASH FORK FD

Total Full Cash Value	56,729,989
Total Value of Improvements	47,902,540
Total Parcel Count	434
Total Privately Owned Parcels	384
Residential Parcels	200
Total Improvements	510
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	130
Total Acreage	1,780
Privately Owned Acreage	1,530

### CENTRAL YAVAPAI FD (CAFMA)

Total Full Cash Value	1,013,938,041
Total Value of Improvements	770,323,258
Total Parcel Count	2,150
Total Privately Owned Parcels	2,105
Residential Parcels	1,107
Total Improvements	1,659
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	993
Total Acreage	12,167
Privately Owned Acreage	8,765

### CHINO VALLEY FD (CAFMA)

Total Full Cash Value	3,225,288,478
Total Value of Improvements	2,484,733,714
Total Parcel Count	13,029
Total Privately Owned Parcels	12,271
Residential Parcels	8,974
Total Improvements	19,327
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	2,965
Total Acreage	50,002
Privately Owned Acreage	36,427

\*\*\* Chino Valley FD Has Jurisdiction in Multiple Mgt. Areas\*\*\*  
(Management Areas 1 & 3)

### SELIGMAN FD

Total Full Cash Value	56,347,601
Total Value of Improvements	52,795,288
Total Parcel Count	410
Total Privately Owned Parcels	378
Residential Parcels	234
Total Improvements	541
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	85
Total Acreage	391
Privately Owned Acreage	260

### WILLIAMSON VALLEY FD

Total Full Cash Value	336,399,084
Total Value of Improvements	235,833,073
Total Parcel Count	808
Total Privately Owned Parcels	782
Residential Parcels	246
Total Improvements	860
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	389
Total Acreage	38,680
Privately Owned Acreage	35,305



## Property Values Management Area #4

Total Full Cash Value	2,106,449,678
Total Value of Improvements	1,441,122,179
Total Parcel Count	9,594
Total Privately Owned Parcels	8,584
Residential Parcels	4,419
Total Improvements	9,660
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	3,788
Total Acreage	1,377,348
Privately Owned Acreage	240,044

### TOWN OF WICKENBURG

Total Full Cash Value	742,635,817
Total Value of Improvements	526,595,037
Total Parcel Count	1,843
Total Privately Owned Parcels	1,817
Residential Parcels	1,071
Total Improvements	1,354
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	722
Total Acreage	4,588
Privately Owned Acreage	4,447

### CONGRESS FD

Total Full Cash Value	286,926,372
Total Value of Improvements	160,821,671
Total Parcel Count	1,728
Total Privately Owned Parcels	1,646
Residential Parcels	1,259
Total Improvements	2,594
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	351
Total Acreage	6,019
Privately Owned Acreage	3,736

### PEEPLER VALLEY FD

Total Full Cash Value	125,559,358
Total Value of Improvements	90,938,461
Total Parcel Count	1,036
Total Privately Owned Parcels	994
Residential Parcels	333
Total Improvements	717
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	634
Total Acreage	11,365
Privately Owned Acreage	11,094

### WICKENBURG FD

Total Full Cash Value	273,422,958
Total Value of Improvements	183,144,997
Total Parcel Count	657
Total Privately Owned Parcels	583
Residential Parcels	361
Total Improvements	813
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	216
Total Acreage	9,510
Privately Owned Acreage	5,271

### YARNELL FD

Total Full Cash Value	130,917,207
Total Value of Improvements	95,065,144
Total Parcel Count	886
Total Privately Owned Parcels	830
Residential Parcels	475
Total Improvements	973
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	299
Total Acreage	5,766
Privately Owned Acreage	2,722



## Property Values Management Area #5

Total Full Cash Value	433,689,807
Total Value of Improvements	257,695,739
Total Parcel Count	2,811
Total Privately Owned Parcels	2,465
Residential Parcels	1,424
Total Improvements	3,365
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	921
Total Acreage	682,296
Privately Owned Acreage	53,891

### CITY OF PEORIA

Total Full Cash Value	4,199,079
Total Value of Improvements	272,271
Total Parcel Count	26
Total Privately Owned Parcels	19
Residential Parcels	1,424
Total Improvements	7
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	15
Total Acreage	13,367
Privately Owned Acreage	1,776

### DAISY MOUNTAIN FD

Total Full Cash Value	348,625,672
Total Value of Improvements	227,789,110
Total Parcel Count	2,039
Total Privately Owned Parcels	1,843
Residential Parcels	1,379
Total Improvements	3,099
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	385
Total Acreage	36,771
Privately Owned Acreage	9,097

### MAYER FD (WVFD)

Total Full Cash Value	1,246,754
Total Value of Improvements	1,209,406
Total Parcel Count	6
Total Privately Owned Parcels	3
Residential Parcels	
Total Improvements	11
Vacant Privately Owned Parcels	
Total Acreage	771
Privately Owned Acreage	133

\*\*\* Mayer FD Has Jurisdiction in Multiple Management Areas\*\*\*  
(Management Areas 1 & 5)



## Growth Projections

Population growth in Yavapai County increased by 12% over the last ten years and over 40% in the previous twenty years. With comparatively cooler temperatures than other areas in the region, Yavapai County has become a popular destination for travelers from all over the Southwest and beyond, where families enjoy mild temperatures, and heavily forested lands, in communities with unique scenery and experiences. Tourism in and around the forested regions of Yavapai County provides substantial funding to the local economies throughout the County while the number of people increases wildfire hazard risks.

Community	US Census			*Population Projections		
	1990	2000	2020	2025	2030	2035
Yavapai County	167,574	211,033	236,209	245,868	256,446	267,484
Bagdad	1,578	2,016	1,774	1,563	1,494	1,467
Black Canyon City	2,697	2,878	2,825	3,488	3,657	3,840
Camp Verde	9,451	10,873	12,147	12,192	12,331	12,334
Chino Valley	7,835	10,817	13,020	13,492	13,210	13,364
Clarkdale	3,422	4,110	4,544	4,549	4,669	4,855
Congress	1,717	2,037	1,632	2,428	2,546	2,673
Cordes Lakes	2,058	2,770	2,586	3,732	3,995	4,238
Cottonwood	9,179	11,197	12,029	12,599	12,857	13,302
Dewey-Humboldt	3,556	3,894	4,326	4,208	4,295	4,445
Jerome	429	444	453	433	418	410
Mayer	1,408	1,386	1,930	1,840	1,929	2,026
Lake Montezuma	3,344	4,775	5,111	6,670	7,139	7,576
Page Springs / Cornville	3,335	3,433	3,811	3,852	3,898	3,922
Paulden	5,003	5,231	5,567	7,413	7,935	8,421
Prescott	33,938	39,843	45,827	42,063	41,690	42,211
Prescott Valley	23,535	38,839	46,854	47,715	49,839	53,318
Sedona	10,192	10,031	9,684	10,396	11,160	11,980
Spring Valley	1,019	1,122	1,596	1,627	1,742	1,848
Verde Village /Bridgeport	10,610	11,605	12,019	11,697	11,819	12,166
Village of Oak Creek	5,245	6,335	6,128	6,134	6,139	5,153
Wickenburg	5,082	6,363	7,474	7,646	7,646	7,663
Wilhoit	664	879	1,009	1,068	1,119	1,175
Yarnell	645	654	739	541	517	507
Rural Unincorporated	82,168	71,460	79,978	89,100	97,755	104,964

Figure 4- County Communities Population Projections

\*from [Yavapai County Comprehensive Plan](#)

## Projected Climate Changes

From 2022 to early 2023, a [climate profile](#) was completed of the Prescott Basin, the most populous area in central Yavapai County. The University of Arizona (U of A) and The Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS) conducted research for the climate profile. This profile documented climate changes such as rising temperatures, a lower number of days with precipitation, and more intense storms. The primary subjects for climate change impacts included Forest Health, Wildfire Risk, and Flooding.

Climate changes over the past decades have had and will continue to affect forest health. The lack of moisture and elevated temperatures will have continued heat stress on vegetation. Increased insect outbreaks are also documented as climate change consequences, contributing negatively to the health of forests by causing added stress to trees. These three stressors already contribute to tree mortality in the Southwestern United States. They will be a more prominent factor as climate changes continue in a similar future trend.

The trend of increased wildfire risk due to climate changes is evident with an increase in burned areas and extended fire season months. The U of A and CLIMAS profile expects this trend to continue as drought conditions become more prevalent and average temperatures keep slowly rising. The frequency of large fires could multiply with these climate factors, increasing the risk for communities in the wildland-urban interface.

Flooding in Yavapai County has historically been at high risk for riverine flooding. Areas already in flood-prone locations may experience larger and more frequent water flows, as rivers will overflow more frequently with rising numbers of extreme precipitation events. With these expected climate change effects, the County can expect more intense debris flows, decreased water quality, and possible geomorphological changes in future years.

The eastern side of Yavapai County has numerous communities at lower elevations than the Prescott Basin. The communities in what is considered the Verde Valley have been affected by rising temperatures and reduced rain events during the current twenty-three-year drought. Combinations of increasing temperatures from climate change, lightning strikes, and growing populations relying on tourism are expected in this portion of the YCWPP area. All these factors, especially in an extended drought, may result in higher wildfire risk and expansion of wildfire seasons.

The secondary effects of wildfires and another climate change concern is flooding. While rain events may become more infrequent with climate changes, the Verde Valley may experience more intense storms with increasing amounts of rain during individual events. The [FEMA National Risk Index](#) places Yavapai County at relatively high risk for riverine flooding.

Post-fire flooding may be even more dangerous and difficult to predict. Flooding within a fire footprint may have increased debris washed downstream, potentially damaging roadways or residences for years until vegetation roots and ground cover are able to return to a normal absorption rate. Post-fire floods may also affect water quality in private wells and public water basins. This type of flooding is even more detrimental to the YCWPP social, economic, and general health risks of the population.

## Risk Assessment

### Fire Regime and Condition Class

For centuries fire has played a natural role in forest health and responsible land use. A fire regime can be described as a cycle of repeating fires where the repetition can be counted and measured in various ways over time, from frequencies, size, severity, or other measurable statistics for specific areas. Time is the greatest denominator in determining a fire regime area because it can be affected by specifics such as soil diversity, vegetation types, elevations, or weather patterns, making it difficult to compare with other areas. While some fires are inevitable, their effect can be manageable through mitigation tactics, such as removing or modifying vegetation. Ecological processes such as seral stage development, nutrient cycling, fuel accumulation, and potable water availability can all be influenced by fire.

The condition class of fire regimes in wildland areas describes the degree to which the regime has been altered from an average historical range, the risk of critical ecosystems, and the change of vegetative conditions. The following condition class definitions are provided through the Arizona State Forester and commonly used by other Arizona Counties.

#### Condition Class 1:

Fire regimes are within a historical range, and the risk of losing key ecosystem components is low. Vegetation attributes of species composition and structure are intact and functioning within the historical range.

#### Condition Class 2:

Fire regimes have been moderately altered from their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by one or more return intervals. This results in moderate changes to one or more of the following: fire size, intensity and severity, and landscape patterns. Vegetation attributes have been moderately altered from their historical range.



### Condition Class 3:

Fire regimes have been significantly altered from their historical range. The risk of losing key ecosystem components is high. Fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by multiple return intervals. This results in dramatic changes to one or more of the following: fire size, intensity, severity, and landscape patterns. Vegetation attributes have been significantly altered from their historical range.

## **Community Wildfire Risks**

The risk of ignition comes from a combination of human-caused and lightning starts. The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) evaluates all Arizona communities to ensure the prioritization of fuel assessments and fuel reduction projects. Yavapai County has sixty-three communities with a High Risk or Moderate Risk listed. Fifty of those communities listed are rated as having a High Risk of wildfires. The number of communities having these risk factors is second highest in Arizona by County, with the lesser populated Gila County having sixty-five communities on the same list.

## **Community Values at Risk**

Development on private and leased property has evolved into a complex wildland/urban interface throughout the YCWPP area. Community values at risk of a general nature include public safety, aesthetics, and economic viability. At-risk ecological components valued by the communities include soil, water, air, and wildlife habitat.

At-risk private property is found throughout the YCWPP area as residential communities, camps, and other structures built in areas prone to wildfire. According to the Yavapai County Assessor's Office, the assessed total cash value of the improved property in these categories is approximately \$45,984,603,058 U.S. dollars.

Critical infrastructure is present within every YCWPP Management Area, including roadways, railroads, overhead utility transmission lines, water lines, gas distribution systems, and telecommunication sites. These infrastructure necessities are expansive and critical to many essential life needs and public safety. Critical infrastructure is considered vulnerable to wildfire due to the stationary placement of equipment in populated and remote areas, providing services to virtually every resident and guest in the region. Damages to infrastructure could affect numerous communities within and surrounding the YCWPP area, which could impact secondary damages and lengthen repopulation and recovery times. Infrastructure stakeholders in the YCWPP area are included in the planning and exercise cycle, frequently working with numerous agencies throughout the year. Infrastructure stakeholders also continuously participate in wildfire mitigation tactics in cooperation with community partners such as Homeowner Associations, PAWUIC, and wildfire fuels teams at all levels of government.



## Communities at Risk – Management Area 1

In Yavapai CWPP Management Area 1, 21 of the 63 communities were identified as high risk for wildfire in a [2019 Arizona Department of Fire and Fuel Management Document](#). Twelve of the communities in this management area are rated in the top 20 for highest risk in the county. Vegetation in Management Area 1 is primarily denser than in other parts of Yavapai County and consists of chaparral, juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed underbrush.

There are many dirt roadways that are difficult to maintain or not maintained at all, making the response to wildfires and evacuation procedures adding to the risk factor. Many communities in this management area are in the wildland-urban interface and prone to wildfires, especially west and south of the Prescott Basin. With the largest affected areas of previous wildfires over the past two decades, this management is primarily considered in Fire Condition Class 2.

### *Communities in Yavapai County CWPP Management Area 1 Ranked in order of most ‘at-risk’:*

<u>Name of Community (Ranking)</u>	<u>Name of Community (Ranking)</u>
• Ponderosa Park (1)	• Prescott (18)
• Highland Pines (2)	• Breezy Pines (20)
• Potato Patch (3)	• Spring Valley (22)
• Crown King (4)	• Bensch Ranch (24)
• Walker (5)	• Cordes Lakes (27)
• Sweet Acres (6)	• Prescott Valley (28)
• Groom Creek (7)	• Dewey Humboldt (35)
• Iron Springs (14)	• Poland Junction (37)
• Wilhoit (15)	• Yavapai Prescott (50)
• Mayer (17)	• Ruger Ranch (57)
	• Poquito Valley (61)

## Communities at Risk – Management Area 2

In Yavapai CWPP Management Area 2, 24 of the 63 communities were identified as high risk for wildfire in a [2019 Arizona Department of Fire and Fuel Management Document](#). Thirteen of the communities in this management area are rated in the top 30 for highest risk in the county. Vegetation in Management Area 2 is diverse, with elevations of populated areas ranging from 3,100 to 5,000 feet above sea level. Yavapai CWPP Management Area 2 also includes the heaviest tourist population, with [Sedona's Sustainable Tourism Plan](#) touting an estimated three million visitors annually. The main access to all communities in this area is the heavily traveled Interstate 17, which is also the primary roadway between Phoenix and Flagstaff, connecting Interstate 10 to the south and Interstate 40 to the north. The most populous communities in this area include Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Cornville, Rim Rock, Jerome, Clarkdale, Cordes Lakes, Black Canyon City, and the Yavapai Tribal Reservation.

Rapidly changing terrain elevations are common for the communities in eastern Yavapai, with mixed hazardous fuel vegetation types. Many communities in this management area are in the wildland-urban interface and prone to wildfires.

The Verde River in this management area is the largest perennial river within the County, traveling through numerous populated communities. There are many tributaries that flow into the Verde River, such as Oak Creek from the north, Agua Fria River from the west, and Wet Beaver Creek from the east. The Verde River has a history of flooding with annual snowmelt in higher elevations of the State and monsoonal rains. The flooding from the Verde River directly affects residences in Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Rim Rock, Camp Verde, and populated rural areas between these communities. Wildfires and subsequent post-fire flooding event hazards in Management Area 2 will likely be fed by lower vegetation types, a high number of tourists, and the largest percentage of populated land for the five Management Areas as the main contributing factors for concern. Considering these factors, Management Area 2 is primarily considered as Fire Condition Class 2.

***Communities in Yavapai County CWPP Management Area 2  
Ranked in order of most 'at-risk':***

<u>Name of Community (Ranking)</u>	<u>Name of Community (Ranking)</u>
• Jerome (8)	• Clarkdale (30)
• Mingus Camp (10)	• Sedona (33)
• Village of Oak Creek (11)	• Michaels Ranch (34)
• Little Creek (12)	• Cottonwood (38)
• McGuireville (13)	• Camp Verde (39)
• Rim Rock (16)	• Boynton Canyon (40)
• Red Rock Crossing (19)	• Sedona Shadows (41)
• Whitehorse (21)	• Cornville (42)
• Cherry Ridge (23)	• Orme School (47)
• Cherry (25)	• Tapco (49)
• Page Springs (26)	• Yavapai Apache (50)
• Orme Road (29)	• Sycamore Pass (58)



*USFS Photo by Kerri Greer Gladiator Fire*



## Communities at Risk – Management Area 3

Yavapai CWPP Management Area 3 has the most amount of private land and covers the northwest portion of Yavapai County. There are only three main paved roadways for transportation through this Management Area, including just over 50 miles of the heaviest traveled Yavapai County roadway, Interstate 40, which travels through Seligman and Ash Fork. The other two paved roadways include the historic and tourist-popular US Hwy 66 traveling through Seligman and US Hwy 89, which connects Interstate 40 to Chino Valley and other portions of Yavapai County. The only community with a population over 10,000 is Chino Valley, with a population barely exceeding 13,000 at the south of the Management Area, and Paulden is the second most populated at just over 5,500. Other communities in this Management Area are rural and have limited wildfire-fighting resources available. From Williamson Valley, located on the southern portion of this Management Area, to Paulden, Ash Fork, Seligman, and Page Springs at the northwest corner of the county, includes the largest number of plains and grassy type areas. Primary vegetation consists of petran montane conifer, great basin conifer woodland, and great basin grassland. While elevations are generally higher than areas that flood in Management Area 2, there is frequent localized flooding in Management Area 3 in areas of the US Hwy 89 corridor, which include Chino Valley, Paulden, Ash Fork, and other unincorporated communities. Management Area 3 is at moderate risk of fast-moving grassland fires but has not had an extensive history of wildfires. This Management Area has not exceeded historical ranges and is considered to be in condition class 1.

### *Communities in Yavapai County CWPP Management Area 3 Ranked in order of most 'at-risk':*

- | <u>Name of Community (Ranking)</u> |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| • Chino Valley                     | (46) |
| • Seligman                         | (48) |
| • Ash Fork                         | (53) |
| • Williamson Valley                | (54) |
| • Paulden                          | (59) |



## Communities at Risk – Management Area 4

Yavapai CWPP Management Area 4 encompasses the southwest portion of the County. It has various types of terrain landscapes ranging from mountainous elevations south of Prescott to desert-type areas on the Maricopa County border. Primary vegetation includes interior chaparral, semidesert grasslands, upland Sonoran desertscrub, and Mohave desertscrub.

There are at least a dozen rural communities in the wildland-urban interface in this Management Area, with the most notable being Yarnell, the site of the historic Yarnell Hill Wildfire, which damaged or destroyed 139 homes and killed 19 firefighters in 2013. Since that catastrophic wildfire, mitigation efforts have been made in surrounding communities to minimize future damages. Yarnell established a fuels mitigation team that assisted with maintaining fire breaks during the 2016 Tenderfoot Fire. The Yarnell Fire Department was awarded the 2017 Wildfire Mitigation Award for its efforts in the area. The community of Peeples Valley has also been coordinating fuel mitigation work in recent years and developing its community wildfire protection plan.

In the northern half of Management Area 4, the Town of Bagdad is a unique mining area of approximately 2,800 residents. There is only one paved road to enter or exit this area, and it is home to a large mine owned by Freeport-McMoran. There are frequent commercial vehicles transporting hazardous materials through this community, adding risks other than wildfire.

Other than US Highway 93 on the western border of this Management Area, there are only two-lane paved roads and limited numbers of maintained dirt roads for residents. The lack of roadways in this region could be challenging when an evacuation of residents is necessary and hinder supplementary resources to contain wildfires in a timely manner. Considering these factors and increasing wildfires over the ten years, Management Area 4 is considered a Fire Condition Class 2.

### *Communities in Yavapai County CWPP Management Area 4 Ranked in order of most 'at-risk':*

- | <u>Name of Community (Ranking)</u> |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| • Yarnell                          | (36) |
| • Wickenburg                       | (43) |
| • Skull Valley North               | (44) |
| • Peeples Valley                   | (45) |
| • Stanton                          | (51) |
| • Skull Valley                     | (52) |
| • Congress                         | (55) |
| • Bagdad                           | (56) |
| • Kirkland                         | (60) |
| • Hillside                         | (62) |
| • Yava                             | (63) |



## Communities at Risk – Management Area 5

Yavapai CWPP Management Area 5 encompasses the southeast portion of the County. There are various types of terrain landscapes ranging from mountainous elevations south of Crown King and the eastern County boundary with Gila County to desert-type areas on the Maricopa County border. Primary vegetation includes great basin conifer woodland, plains and grasslands, interior chaparral, and upland Sonoran desertscrub.

This is the least populated Management Area in Yavapai County, with the lowest number of paved roadways and the highest number of visitors. High tourist areas include the northern portions of Lake Pleasant recreational areas, the Castle Hot Springs Resort north of Lake Pleasant, and Interstate 17, which boasts more than [one million vehicles annually](#). Interstate 17 in this area has steep grades and frequent traffic congestion, especially on weekends. The Interstate 17 corridor, which includes Black Canyon City and provides access to Bumble Bee, has begun a [long term project](#) to expand lanes and facilitate more vehicles to travel through this area in the future.

Other than Interstate 17 traveling through this Management Area, connecting Phoenix with other tourist destinations such as Prescott, Sedona, Flagstaff, and farther destinations on Interstate 40, there are few paved roadways and limited numbers of maintained dirt roads for residents. The frequency of wildfires adjacent to Interstate 17 is higher than in other areas due to a variety of factors, such as vehicle fires, dragging chains, and other human causes—most wildfires on the Interstate corridor range in size due to the changing elevations and vegetation. The lack of roadways in this region could be challenging when an evacuation of residents is necessary.

Resources are generally closer than in Management Areas 3 and 4 due to the frequency of emergencies on Interstate 17 and the proximity of Phoenix. Considering these factors and increasing wildfires over the ten years, Management Area 5 is considered a Fire Condition Class 2.

### *Communities in Yavapai County CWPP Management Area 1 Ranked in order of most 'at-risk':*

- | <u>Name of Community</u> | <u>(Ranking)</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| • Black Canyon City      | (9)              |
| • Long Canyon            | (31)             |
| • Bumble Bee             | (32)             |

## Floodplains in Yavapai County

There are approximately [5450 miles of watercourses](#) within Yavapai County. Primary flooding concerns along these watercourses within Yavapai County are post-fire, rain-on-snow, and monsoon flooding. Many of these waterways are ephemeral, but a few significant waterways have perennial flow. The following maps show watercourses, designated floodplains, and historic fire perimeters labeled by year for the five Management Areas in Yavapai County. While the risk of flooding is present throughout all Management Areas, Management Area 2 has the greatest amount of residential development in areas at high risk of flooding. It should also be noted that Management Area 2 is affected by substantial areas in the upper watershed, which includes portions of CWPP Management Areas 1 and 3 along with portions of Southern Coconino and Northern Gila Counties which are in locations of high-risk catastrophic fire. Hence, Management Area 2 has the greatest history and future potential for loss of life and property damage caused by post-fire flooding.



*County Flood Control Photo from Verde Valley, spring of 2023*



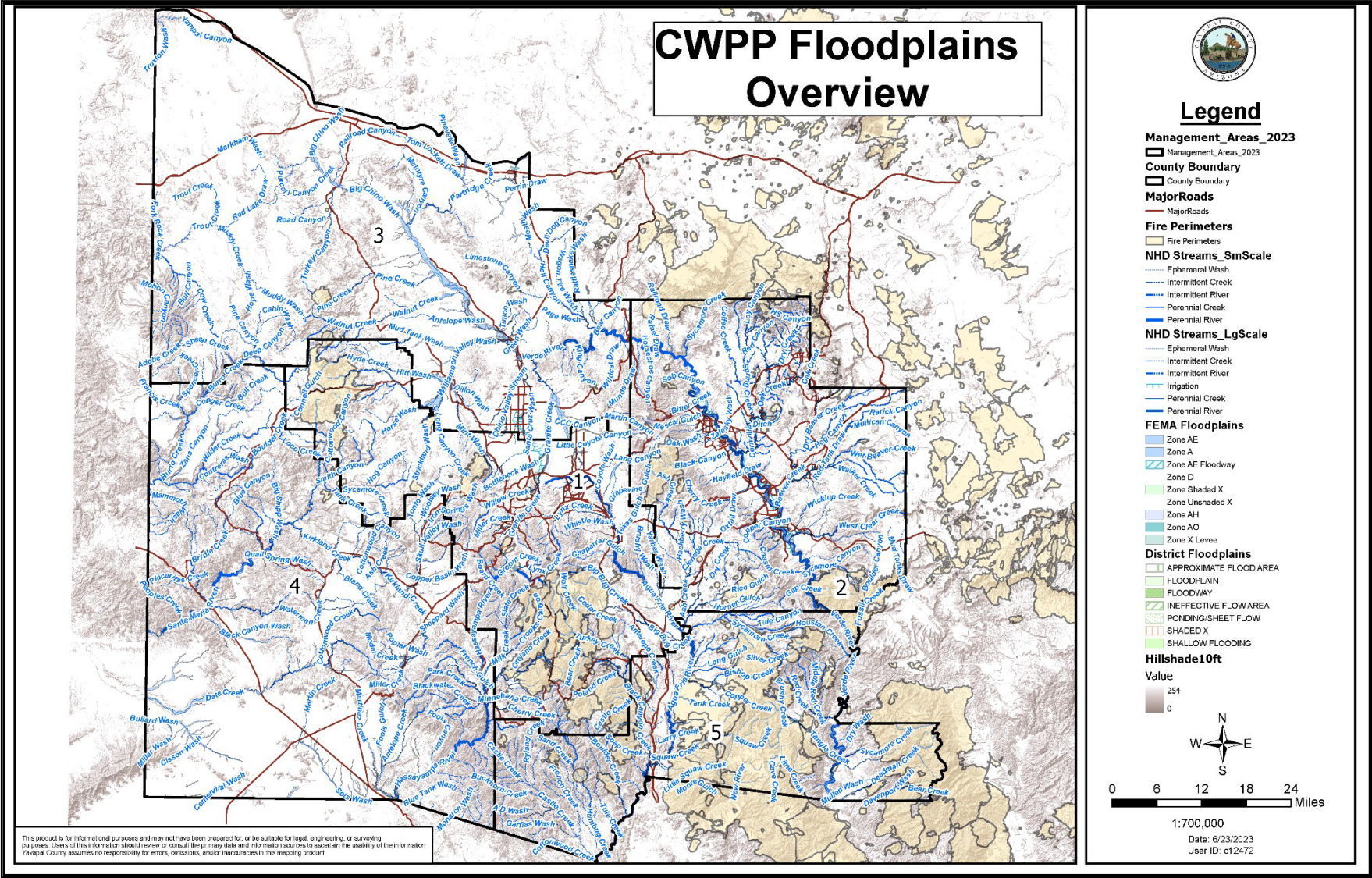


Figure 5- Floodplains Overview Map

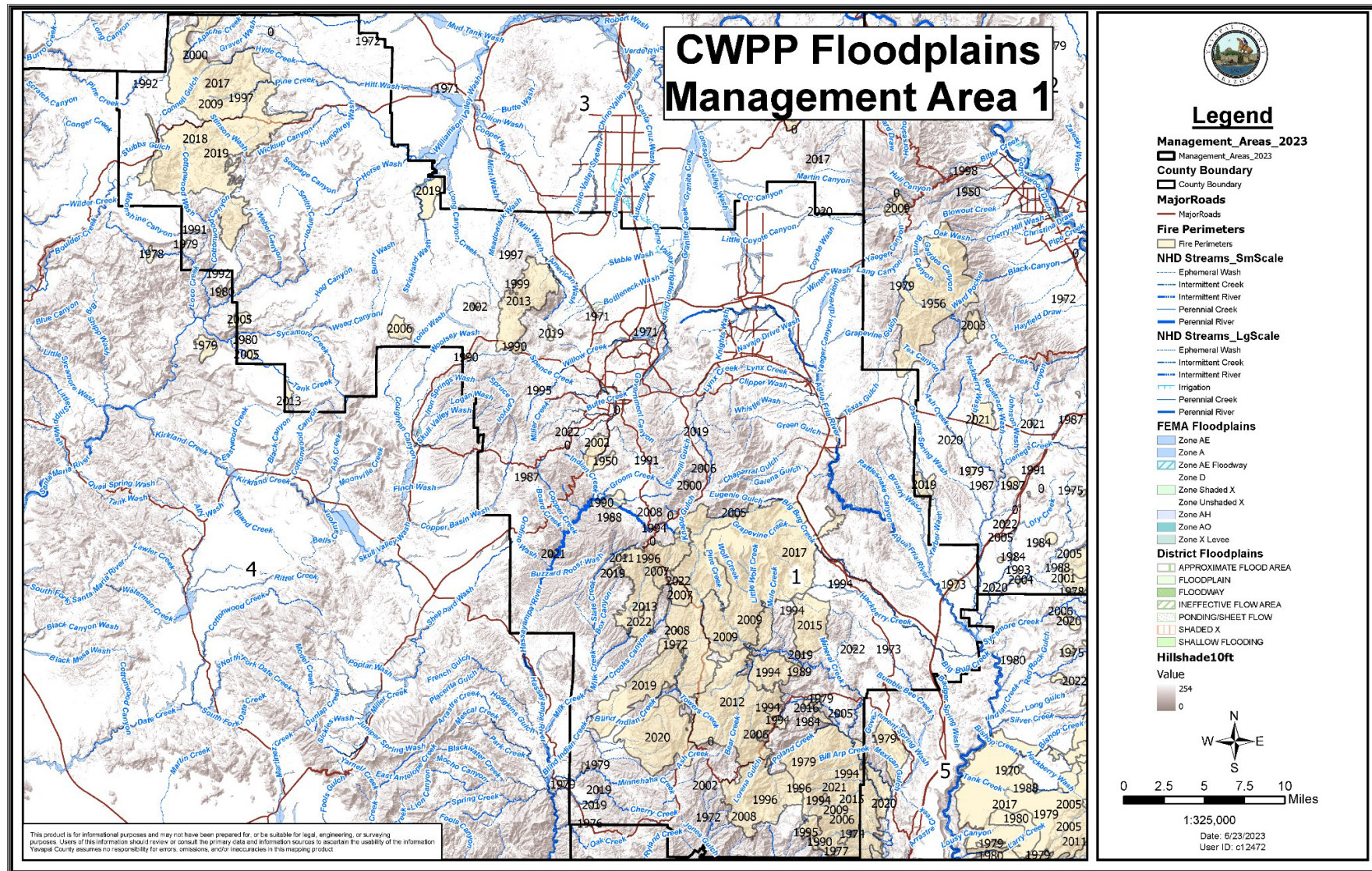


Figure 6- Floodplains; Management Area 1

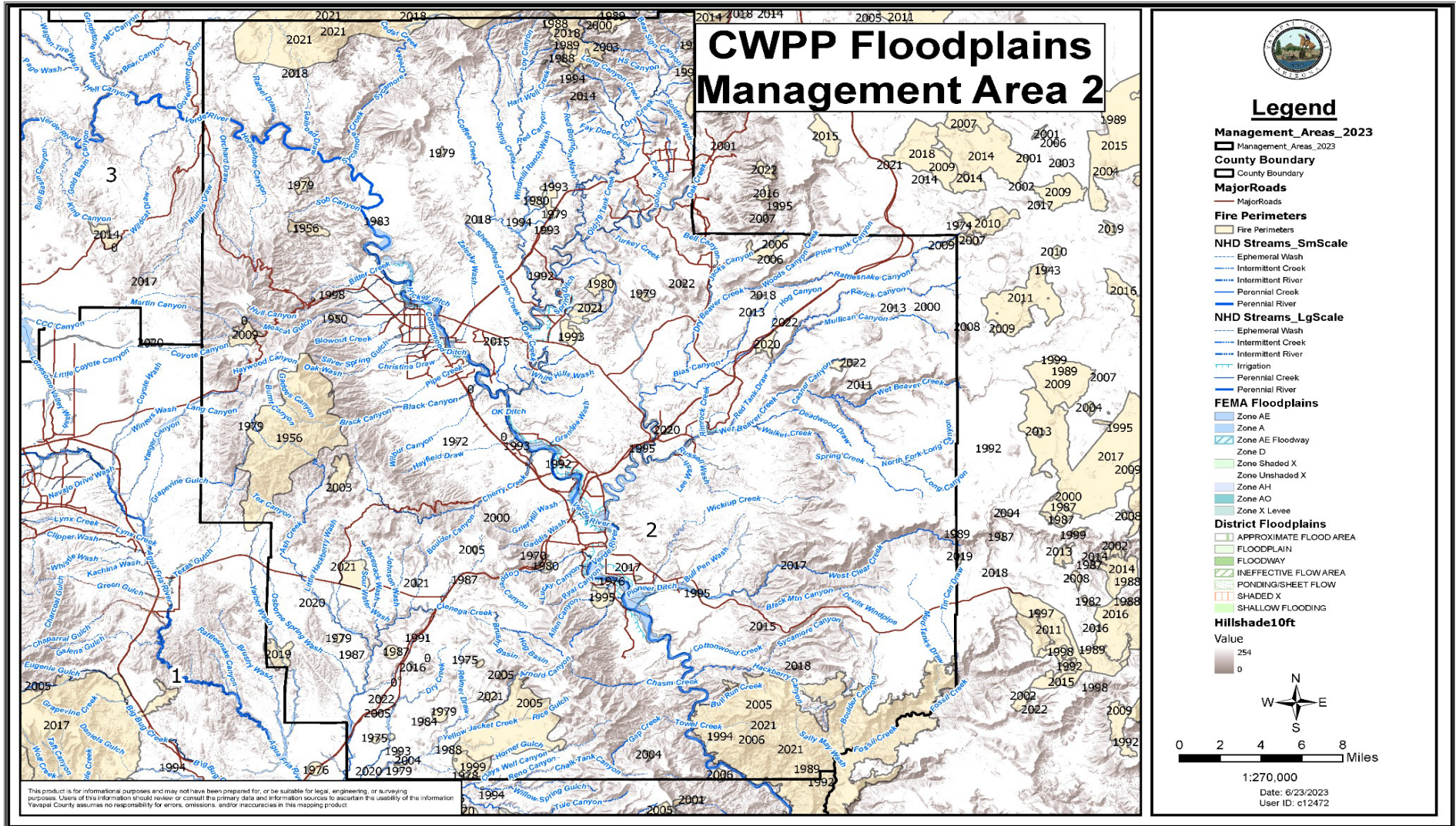


Figure 7- Floodplains; Management Area 2

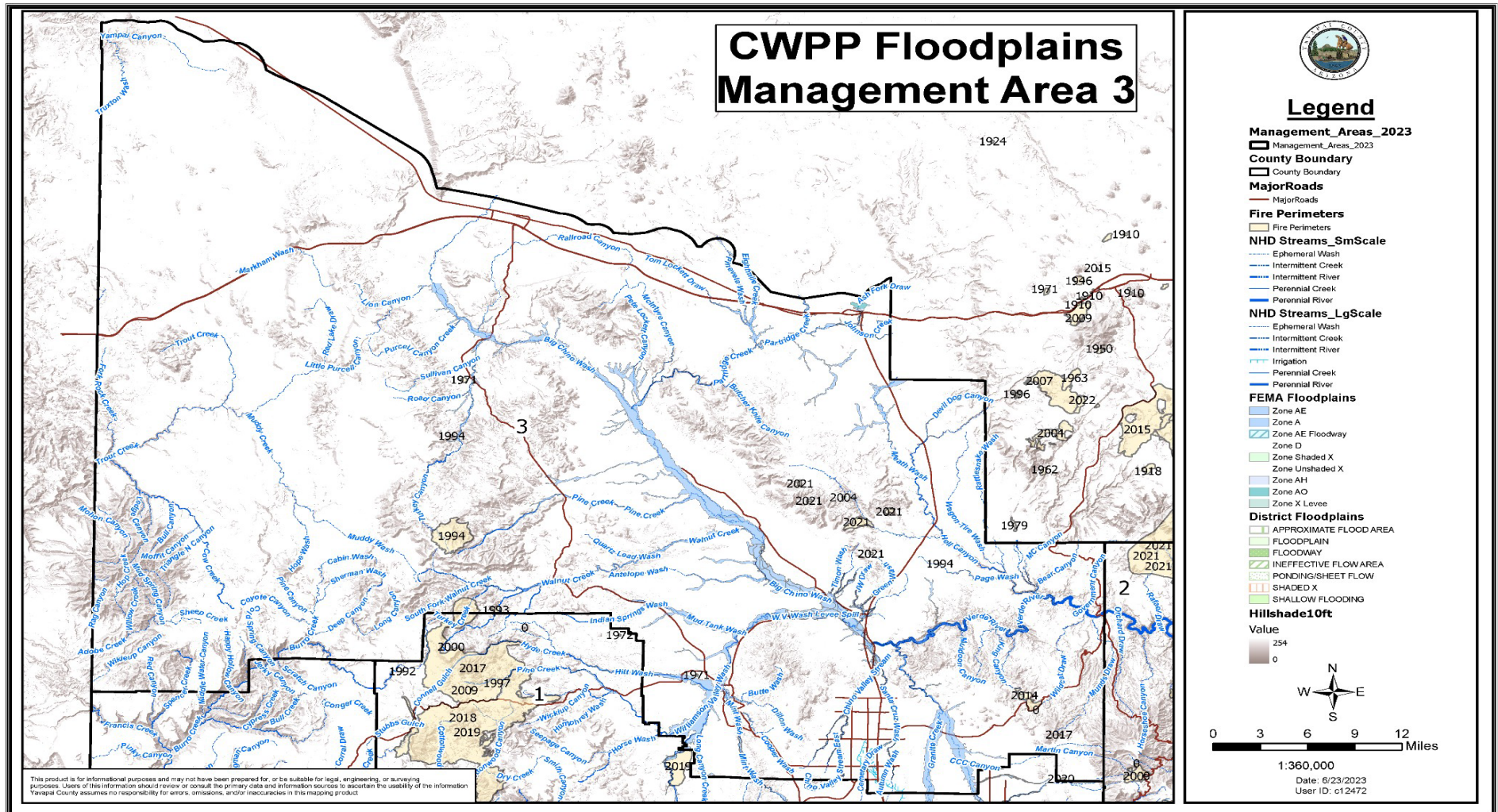


Figure 8- Floodplains; Management Area 3

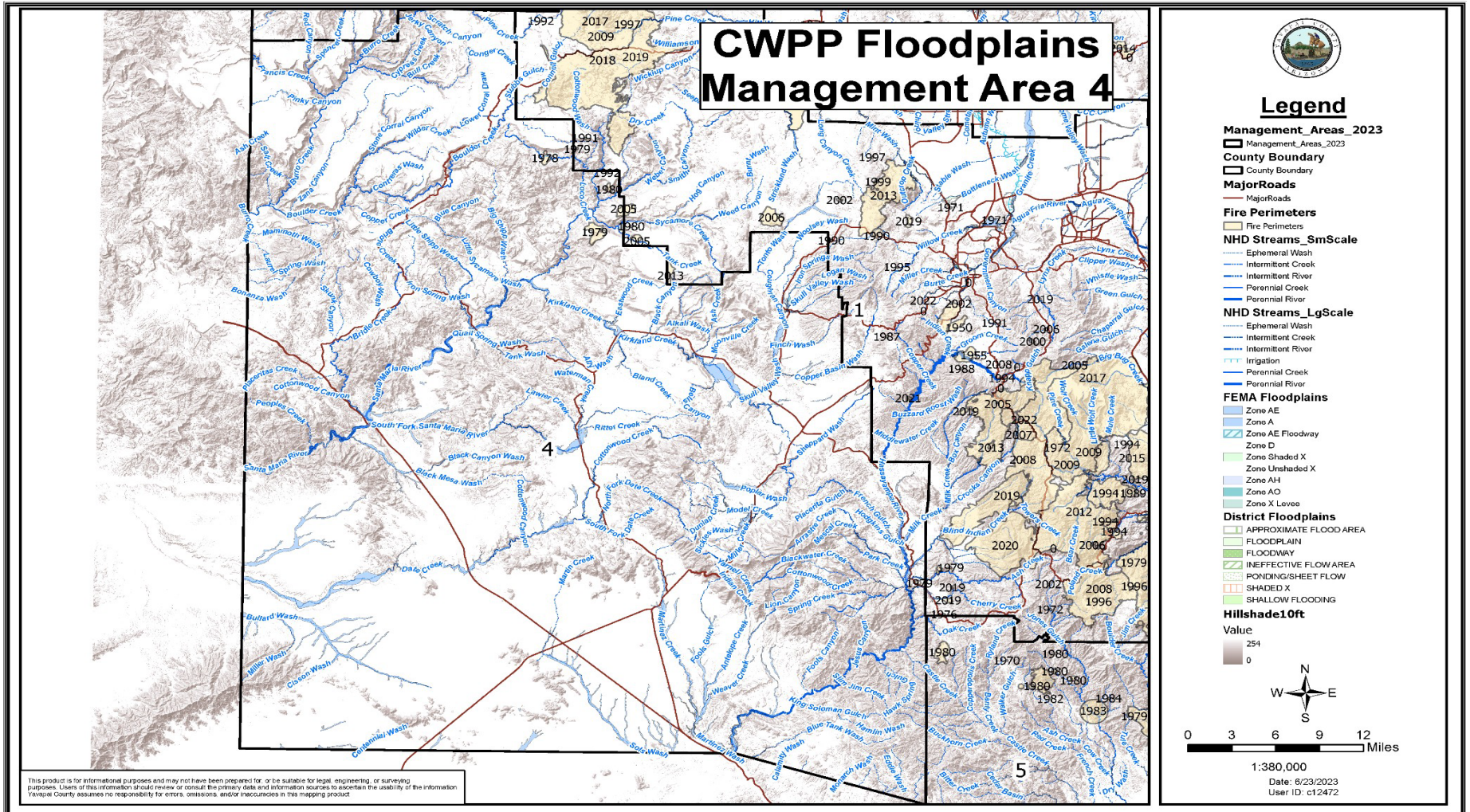


Figure 9- Floodplains; Management Area 4

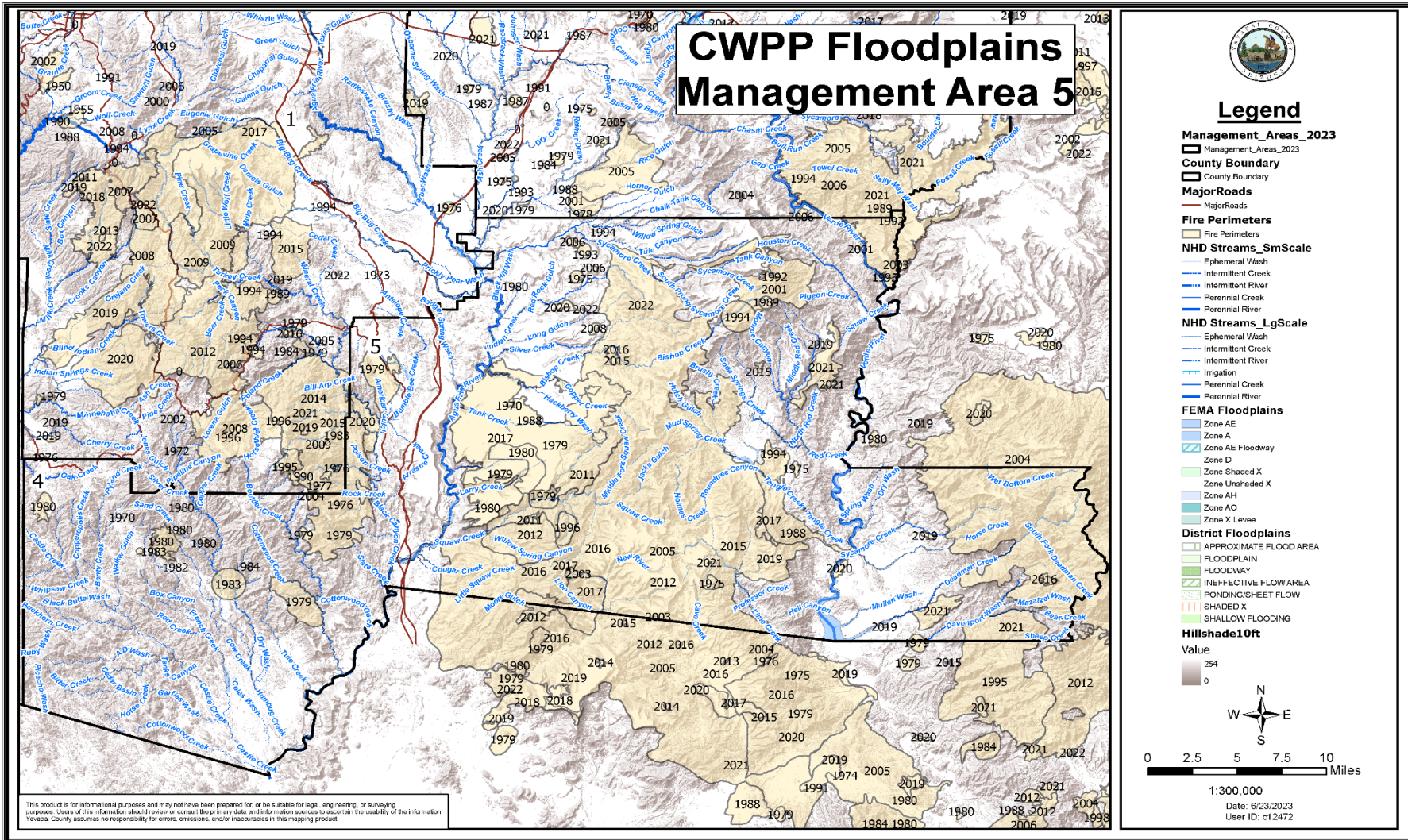


Figure 10- Floodplains; Management Area 5

## Fuel Hazards

The arrangement of vegetative fuel, relative flammability, and potential of vegetation to support wildland fire will continuously change throughout each of the YCWPP management areas. All vegetation in the YCWPP management areas is combustible to varying degrees. Throughout the YCWPP locations, Ponderosa Pine, Pinyon-Juniper, Grassland, and Desert Shrubs may be prevalent based on elevation, and Chaparral has a significant presence in all management areas.

The combustibility of structures in Yavapai County is exaggerated in many communities by topographic position, which may or may not include the proximity of steep slopes or topographic features such as canyons or ridge tops. Other factors affecting the combustibility of structures are commonly used architectural design and construction materials for the region. Architectural design throughout Yavapai County often includes numerous embers catch points, exposed decks, open crawl spaces, and accommodations for native vegetation, such as trees through the deck and eaves, to add visual appeal.



*USFS Photo by unknown photographer of Crooks Fire*

## Recent History of Wildfires in Yavapai County

Yavapai County is primed for wildfires, with many types of vegetation, large, forested areas, and growing areas of WUI in many communities. Considering these factors, with the mountainous terrain throughout the County, and frequent wind gusts that are normal to this area, the threat of wildfire is prevalent. Yavapai County has had a long history of wildfires, as stated in the history section of this document. The paragraphs below will provide a brief history of large wildfires in this County over the previous ten years:

- The Gladiator Fire started on May 13, 2012, near Crown King, Arizona. This wildfire burned more than 16,000 acres and evacuated four communities, destroying six structures, threatening about four hundred other structures, and causing eight injuries before being fully contained on June 13, 2012.
- The Doce Fire began on June 18, 2013, northwest of Prescott, Arizona. This wildfire spread quickly, initiating evacuations of five communities, and burned 6,800 acres before being fully contained, including the first 5,000 acres being burned on the first day.
- The Yarnell Hill Fire started on June 28, 2013, near Yarnell, Arizona. This wildfire burned more than 8,300 acres, destroyed 129 structures, and killed 19 Wildfire Fire Fighters known as the Granite Mountain Hotshots.
- The Tenderfoot Fire started June 8, 2016, east of Yarnell, Arizona. This wildfire burned about 4,100 acres and did not destroy any structures or have any injuries. The Yarnell Fire Department was awarded a Wildfire Mitigation Award for their fuel mitigation work prior to this fire starting, which was found to be a significant factor in preventing further damage.
- The Goodwin Fire began on June 24, 2017, southeast of Prescott Valley, Arizona. This wildfire burned more than 28,500 acres causing the evacuation of more than 7,500 people in at least three communities. Five structures were destroyed, and the damage from this fire burn scar was the primary factor of monsoonal flooding, which caused damage to 122 residences that year.
- The Viewpoint Fire started on May 11, 2018, in Prescott Valley, Arizona. This wildfire traveled quickly through low vegetation, destroying 14 structures, four camping trailers, and six vehicles, burning over 5,600 acres in just six hours before being contained.
- The Cellar Fire started on July 14, 2019, south of Prescott, Arizona. This wildfire burned more than 7,500 acres and took more than two weeks to contain, but there were no structures destroyed or injuries reported.
- The Horse Fire began on October 15, 2020, northwest of Crown King, Arizona. This wildfire burned more than 9,500 acres causing the evacuation of Crown King. There were no destroyed structures or injuries reported in this event.
- The Spur Fire started on May 27, 2021, in Bagdad, Arizona. This wildfire only burned 150 acres, but damaged or destroyed 24 structures, caused evacuations to a large part of the city, and caused a power outage for the entire area.
- The Cornville Fire began on June 11, 2021, near Cornville, Arizona. This wildfire initiated an evacuation of multiple communities within this city, burning over 1,240 acres and damaging



*USFS Photo by unknown photographer of Tenderfoot Fire*



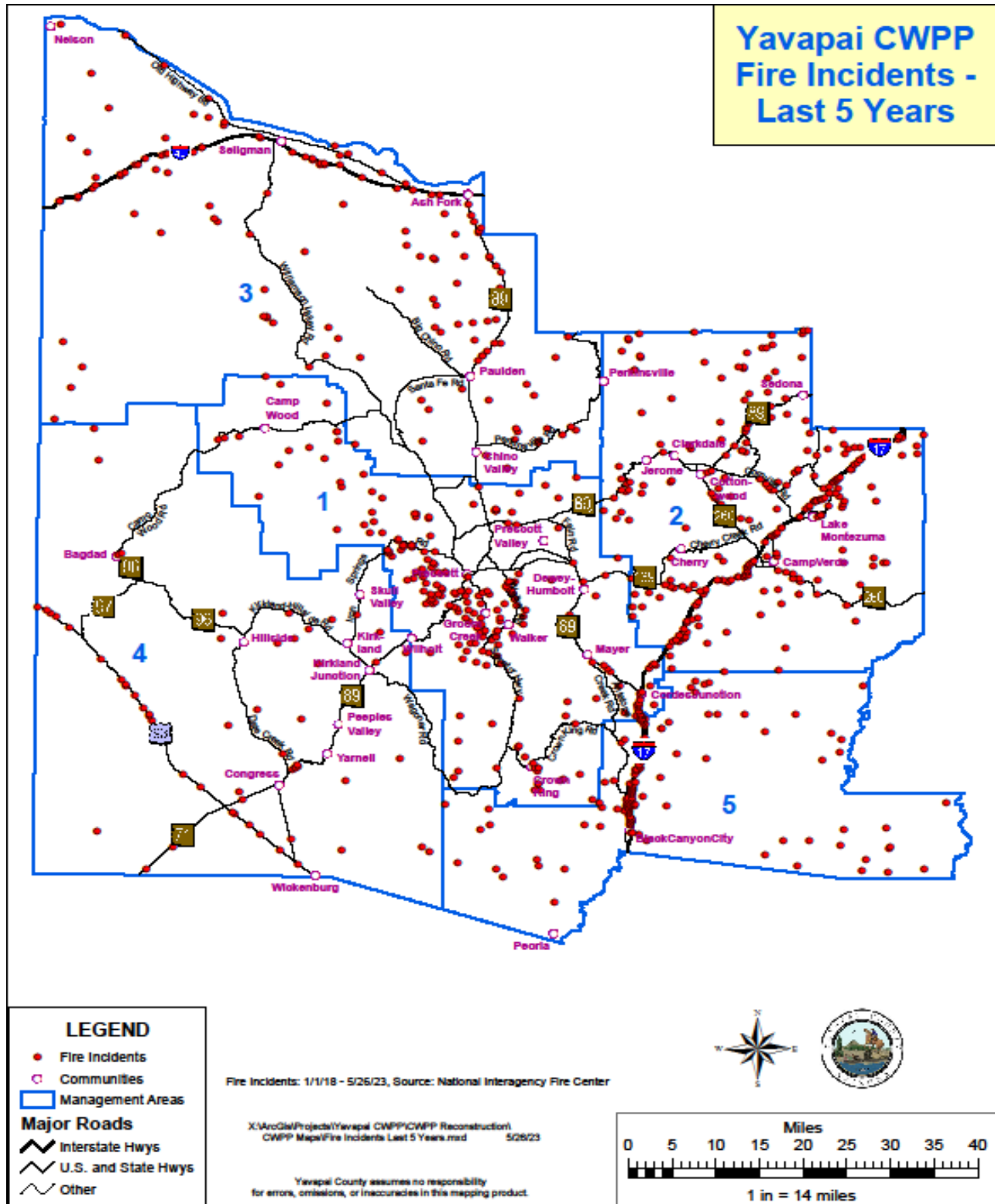
one structure.

- The Rafael Fire started on June 18, 2021, northwest of Sedona. This wildfire burned more than 78,000 acres in Yavapai and neighboring Coconino County, leading to numerous community evacuations before wildland crews were able to contain it four weeks later. One structure was destroyed in this incident.
- The Tiger Fire began on June 30, 2021, southeast of Crown King, Arizona. This wildfire led to the evacuation of Crown King and the surrounding area, burning over 16,000 acres. There were no structures destroyed or injuries reported.
- The Crooks Fire started on April 18, 2022, south of Prescott, Arizona. This wildfire caused evacuations of multiple communities while burning more than 9,400 acres. There were eight structures damaged or destroyed.

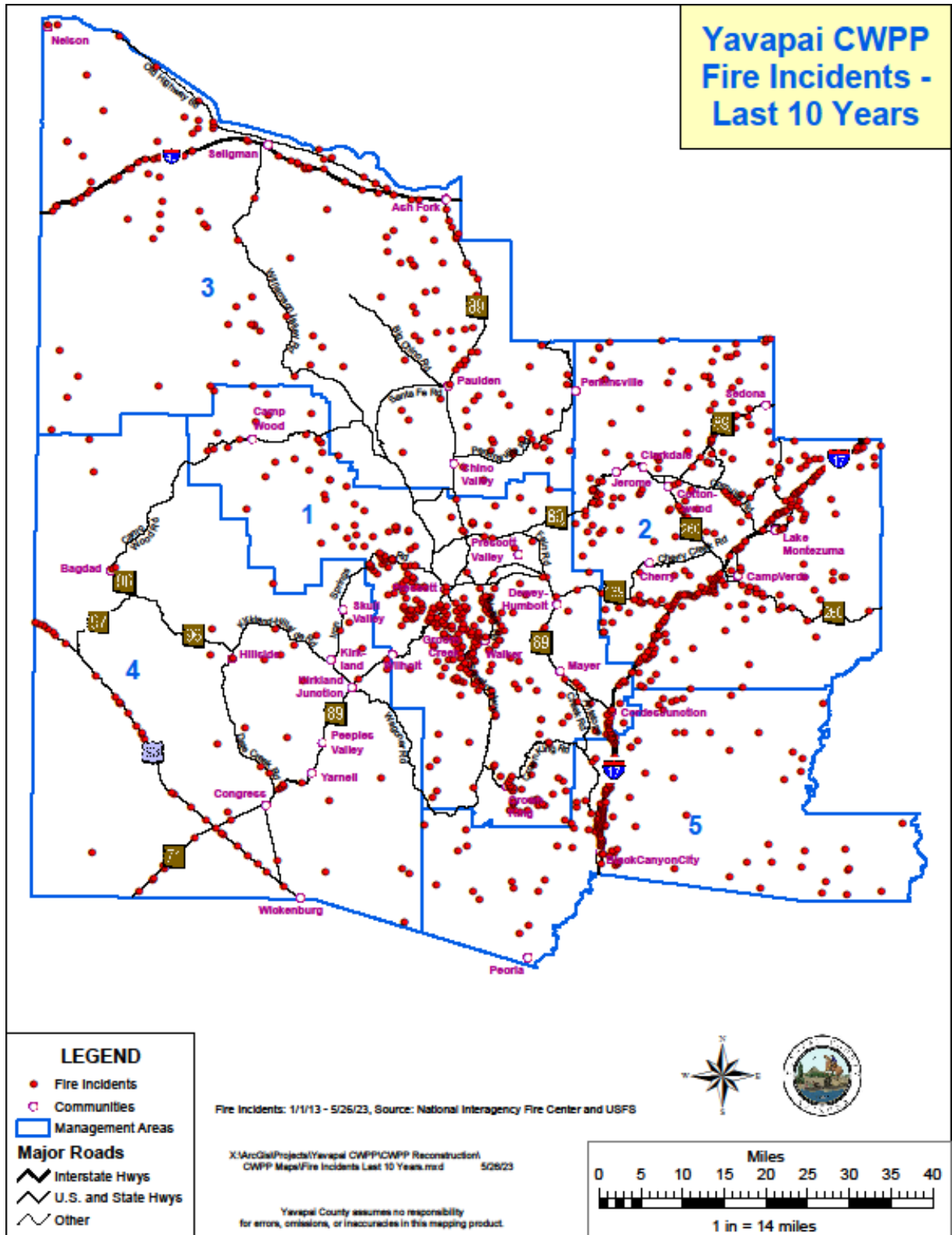
Smaller wildfires are additionally a constant threat in Yavapai County. With the rural landscapes and diverse vegetative environment in Yavapai County, inevitable wildfires will start either by lightning strikes or human actions. The two maps that follow are a representation of wildfires over the past five, ten, and twenty years. While the maps show sporadic ignitions over the entirety of the County, there is a pattern of heavier concentration in the forested mountains south of the most populous regions Prescott and Prescott Valley, and along major highways of Interstate 17, Interstate 40, US 93, and State Route 89A. Wildfire mitigation may have increased focus on areas in higher concentrations of ignition with frequency of projects, but it should not be a deciding factor of where projects are prioritized.



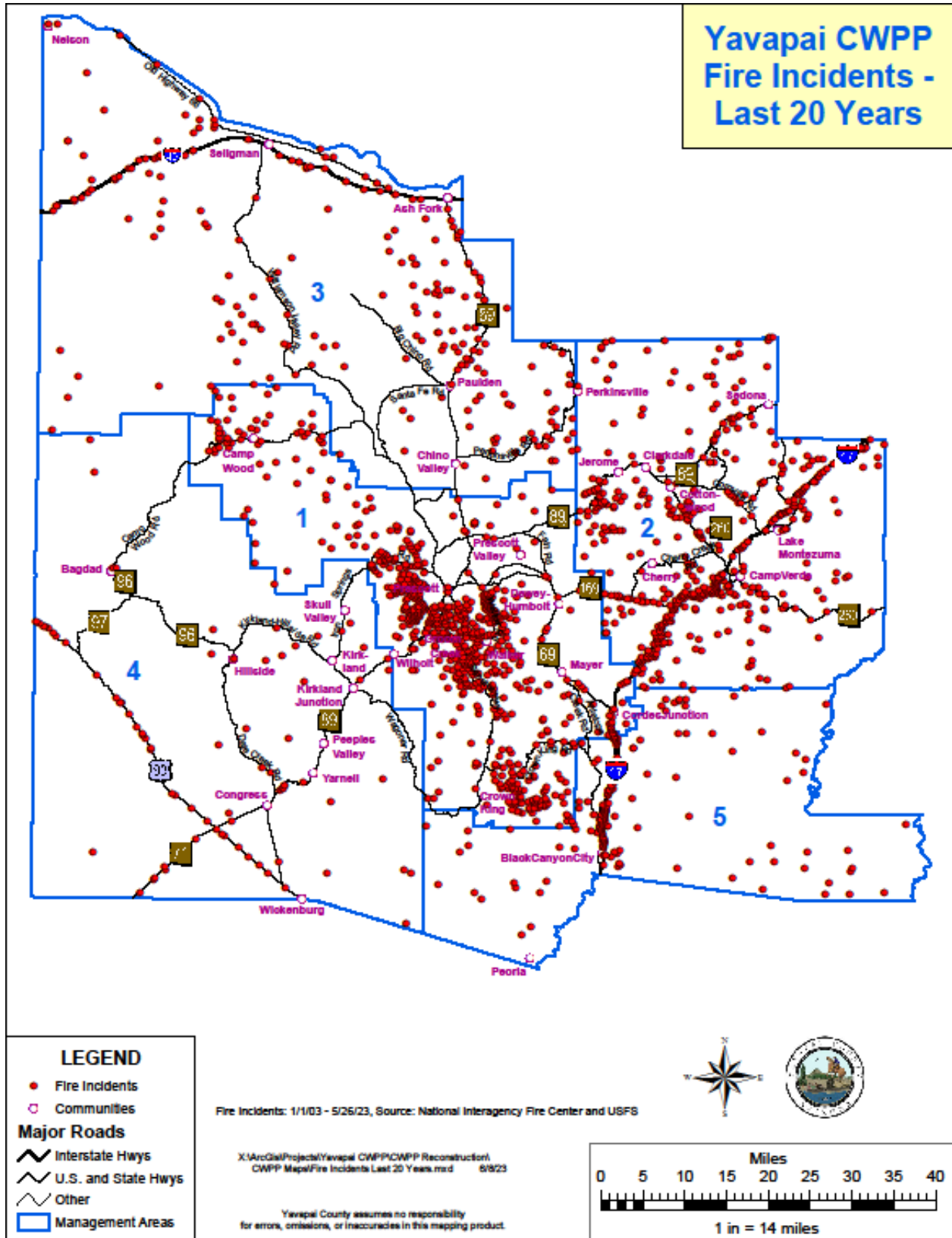
*USFS Photo by unknown photographer of Crooks Fire*



Fire Incidents – 5 Year



Fire Incidents - 10 Year



Fire Incidents - 20 Year



## Emergency Management

The Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management (YCOEM) is responsible for supporting preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation of emergencies and disasters throughout the County, which includes wildfire events. YCOEM maintains current contacts and encourages collaboration between government agencies and communities throughout the year, including involvement during community events and meetings with shareholders. The Yavapai County Emergency Operations Plan is maintained by YCOEM personnel, updated every two years, and is available for public access on the Yavapai County website.

The Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management coordinates sheltering for the public when needed due to local disasters. Sheltering needs include persons able to self-evacuate and those with functional needs using the American Red Cross and other volunteer groups. The Office of Emergency Management also coordinates sheltering for animals, including Animal Disaster Services (ADS) and Large Animal Sheltering and Emergency Readiness (LASER).

YCOEM also has responsibility for grant funding for some Firewise projects, including The Secure Rural Schools Act Title III Grants for Yavapai County. Title III Grants for The Secure Rural Schools Act, when reauthorized by the U.S. Congress, are funded by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) through the State of Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM), which distributes grant funding to each eligible Arizona County. Funds received under these Title III Grants may be used to:

- Carry out activities under the Firewise Communities Program.
- Reimburse the County for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols.
- Cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to emergency services.
- Develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans.
- Provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services.

Title III Grant requests from public agencies and private communities are submitted annually, and the grant amount allotted by DFFM is distributed at the determination of YCOEM through a formulated process that includes writing content and a history of grant allocation spending. After the determination of funding is made public, there is a required 45-day public comment period before disbursement and use.

A majority of wildfire protection projects in the YCWPP area are coordinated and tracked by the U.S. Forest Service Wildland Fuels Group. This group consists of YCOEM, PAUWIC, and wildland fuels mitigation teams from communities, Arizona Public Service (APS), fire departments, fire districts, DFFM, and USFS. Wildland fuels projects coordinated and tracked through this group assist in prioritizing and taking action in wildland fuels mitigation practices throughout the County on private, County, State, and Federal lands, physically meeting at least bi-annually and collaborating frequently between meetings. Individual working groups within the Wildland Fuels Group are



responsible for submitting grants and soliciting opportunities to implement wildland fuel mitigation projects and support public education and outreach in the YCWPP area.

## **Emergency Operations Plan**

The County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was officially implemented in 2015, replacing what was previously established as the Disaster Response Plan. The County EOP is reviewed periodically throughout each year, and YCOEM ensures accuracy by providing training opportunities, webinars, and using during an annual exercise. This plan is maintained by YCOEM and available to the public through the YCOEM website.

## **Emergency Notification Systems**

Communities throughout Yavapai County use various emergency notification systems to alert citizens and maintain communications with responders. These systems enable agencies to send emergency or warning messages to the entire County or specific populations. The systems used have a wide range of functions, including voice, text, email, social media, and traditional media alerts. Systems used require citizens to register with each jurisdiction using various means, depending on the type of system. Citizens may register for more than one notification system concurrently. At the time of this CWPP update, the communities of Prescott Valley, Clarkdale, and Sedona are using emergency notification systems for their constituents at the local level.

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office has the capability to use the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) for wide-scale alerts in the County in addition to the general emergency notification system the public may register for. "IPAWS" is FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts, to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System, and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Radio. IPAWS does not require any registration by citizens. Other agencies having the capability to activate IPAWS in Yavapai County include the National Weather Service and the Arizona Department of Emergency Management.

Yavapai County Community Health Services maintains a list of citizens with access or functional needs, for the purpose to identify individuals who may require additional assistance during evacuations. For the purposes of this CWPP, an access or functional needs person is defined as a private citizen who voluntarily registers as elderly, handicapped, disabled, injured, anyone without means of reliable transportation, or a minor child unable to maintain basic self-care during an emergency situation or disaster. This voluntary list is updated continuously and advertised through media campaigns each year. The information collected for the access or functional needs list is confidential and disseminated to limited personnel only during emergencies.



## Strategies for Fuel Hazard Reduction and Mitigation

There are numerous collaborative strategies used throughout the YCWPP area. Each process is part of continued efforts to prioritize and mitigate properties with high wildfire risk. All previously mentioned Fire Departments and Fire Districts serving communities throughout Yavapai County perform similar wildfire mitigation project types, varying in size and scope depending on each wildland-urban interface area. This YCWPP works collaboratively with Federal and State lands pertaining to silvicultural prescription forestry plans as a wildfire mitigation effort. The following components listed may be used and are not inclusive of every strategy, which is continually evaluated and modified to best fit the needs of each area.

- Implement collaborative projects characterized as high wildfire risk, accomplishing a reduction or modification of combustible vegetation.
- Establish effective communication and educate property owners and managers on mitigation procedures if appropriate. This may include a formal written agreement with private landowners or other documentation on State or Federal lands.
- Support agency relationships to maintain effective communications while accomplishing mitigation techniques and planning for the next inevitable wildfire to work together as one team.
- Encourage and coordinate community brush clearing events to include means of disposing of unwanted vegetation, which could be wildfire fuels.
- Removal or disposal of woody vegetation in some circumstances may also include piling and burning on site.
- Maintain a presence of visibility and education in high wildfire risk areas, attending community events and maintaining continued collaboration with PAWUIC to support their mission.
- Combustible vegetation should be retained so the primary fuel layer is discontinuous and the vertical continuity from ladder fuel arrangements is uncommon or isolated.
- Establishing and maintaining safe fire access/egress routes for public safety response and evacuations.
- Practicing and educating the public on creating defensible spaces to mitigate damages caused by wildfires. For the purposes of the YCWPP, defensible spaces are divided into three zones and defined as the following:
  - Zone 1 - 0 to 15 feet from the edge of a structure. Minimize the amount of flammable vegetation and prevent ladder fuel arrangements. Maintain non-combustible ground material adjacent to a structure, such as pathways, planter beds, and rock belts. Maintain the area free of accumulated surface fuels such as needles and leaves. Native woody plants should be occasional and only partially within this zone. Limbs of trees should not touch or hang over the structure. Living plants should be free of dead wood and arranged irregularly so that fuel arrangement is discontinuous.
  - Zone 2 - 15 to 50 feet from a structure. Maintain low combustible ground cover and accumulated surface fuels at less than one inch in depth. Minimize and



isolate ladder fuel arrangements. Native plants should be free of dead wood, lightly stocked, and irregularly arranged. Space between plants or groups of plants should be clear of woody vegetation and typically greater than fifteen to twenty feet.

- Zone 3 - 50 to 100 feet from a structure. Retain native trees and bushes at combined densities from twenty to seventy per acre. Minimize and isolate ladder fuel arrangements. Maintain accumulated surface fuels at less than one inch in depth.

Other mitigation efforts include reducing the combustibility of structures in the YCWPP area. This will be done through educational opportunities to encourage architectural design modifications, using fire-resistant construction materials, and installing underground utilities when practical.

## **Other Strategies In Practice**

The United States Forest Service (USFS) conducts mitigation efforts through controlled burns of wildland fuels in Yavapai County. In 2018 there were five burns conducted by USFS across Yavapai County, totaling approximately 295 acres. In 2019, USFS burned four areas totaling 2,595 acres; in 2020, they had seven projects which burned 1,512 acres. In 2021, the USFS had five projects totaling 2,090 acres; in 2022, fuels mitigation projects expanded to nine projects covering 2,348 acres. At the time of this update, the USFS has scheduled or completed seven mitigation projects throughout Yavapai County, covering approximately 741 acres in 2023.

Other Federal, State, and Local Fire Districts in Yavapai County participate in ongoing mitigation efforts for community wildfire protection. Prescott Fire Department expanded its Wildfire Fuels unit in 2022 to a dedicated full-time team, increasing projects throughout the Prescott Basin. Many communities throughout Yavapai County, however, have struggled with finances and worker shortages to maintain consistent monitoring of wildland-urban interface areas, maintain equipment needed to respond to wildfires, and complete mitigation projects. These challenges are expected to continue for an undetermined amount of time. Still, agencies throughout the area are aware of the hazards and continue to look for resources and educational opportunities to reduce wildfire risk.

The Yavapai County Flood Control District is, in collaboration with the University of Arizona and the Arizona Geological Survey, working on an assessment related to wildfires in this region. The study is titled "Yavapai County Pre-Wildfire Assessment of Potential Post-Fire Flows, a FEMA PDM Advance Assistance Program Study." This study is to identify vulnerable areas at risk from post-fire flooding and debris flows. This study does not currently have an anticipated completion date but is expected to be completed prior to the next YCWPP update.





*Photo by Ashley Ahlquist of Granite Mountain*