



Project Spotlight

In May 2026, the 1,375-acre Christina Goddard community protection project was launched southwest of Cottonwood and Clarkdale in Yavapai County to mitigate severe wildfire risks and safeguard the Verde River Watershed. Located within the Prescott National Forest's Verde Ranger District—specifically targeting the Christina Draw, Goddard Draw, and Quail Springs units—the project directly borders Cottonwood's Blue Ranch and Quail Springs neighborhoods.



Pre-treatment



Post-treatment

Because the area lacked historic fuels management, contractors completed a "first entry" treatment that combined mechanical mastication and hand thinning to break up dense vegetation. The project aims to reduce the severity of damaging wildfires near residential areas, enhance the safety and effectiveness of future prescribed fire treatments, and improve overall ecosystem health. Completion is expected in August 2026.



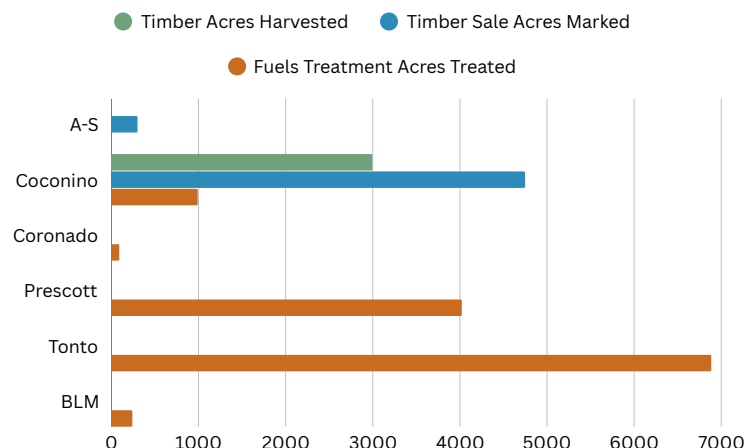
Masticator on the Goddard Draw unit

Community Wildfire Protection Efforts on Federal Land Support the DFFM Mission

A core mission of the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) is to strengthen community resilience to wildfire. With more than 32% of Arizona's land area owned by the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, federal lands may pose significant wildfire threats to communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface across the state. The following projects were implemented in 2026 with the objective of reducing wildfire risk to neighboring communities:

- Bourdon Ranch, BLM Gila District (241 acres in Navajo County)
- Middle March, Coronado NF (165-acre fuelbreak in Cochise County)
- Christina Goddard, Prescott NF (1375 acres in Yavapai County)
- Dude Fire Restoration Phases 3 & 4, Tonto NF (2,778 acres in northern Gila County)
- Winged Victory, Tonto NF (2,303 acres SW of Payson, Gila County)
- Haigler Phase 1, Tonto NF (1,339 acres W of the Haigler Creek Subdivision, Gila County)

Accomplishments Across the State



2026 HIGHLIGHTS

6 of 6
National
Forests

1 BLM
District

17 Active
Projects

15,223 acres
treated



Johnson, Coconino NF

5 Pre-sale projects
completed

5,048 Pre-sale
acres marked

89 Pre-sale boundary
miles marked

720 Pre-sale cruise plots

Funding

State \$1,703,400

Federal \$3,162,977

Salt River Project \$758,777



\$6.4M

Paid to the private
sector

11

Businesses
received contracts

Objectives



Watershed
Restoration
2,995 acres



Wildlife Habitat
Improvement
4,425 acres



Hazardous Fuels
Reduction
7,803 acres

Impact



of Loads



Tons Removed

3,183

Timber

93,576

1,804

Biomass

46,626

Accomplishments

Timber
Removal

2,995 acres

Hand
Thinning

4,514 acres

Mastication

7,714 acres

Botany
Survey

7,411 acres

Archeological
Survey

9,280 acres

Wildlife
Survey

10,232 acres

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2027 Outlook

New forestwide restoration agreements will be executed with the Apache-Sitgreaves, Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests. Will fill critical preparation roles on 85% of FFY27 4FRI planned timber offerings. Two new GNA team members will be hired, bringing the team total to four.

Planned Acres: 16,376

Expected project awards: 13

Expected sale prep awards: 16

Timber removal: 5,600 acres

Mastication: 6,054 acres

Hand thinning: 4,305 acres

Herbicide: 417 acres