

**Partnering to Build Wildfire Resilient Communities**



**ARIZONA 2  
WILDLAND 0  
URBAN 2  
INTERFACE 2  
SUMMIT 4**

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**Tucson, Arizona  
December 4-6, 2024**

Presented by:



# Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather for the Arizona Wildland Urban Interface Summit is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. We honor their enduring connection to this land and the cultures, knowledge, and traditions they continue to uphold. In acknowledging this land, we affirm our responsibility to foster respect, understanding, and collaboration with the Indigenous communities of this region.

## Welcome

### **Welcome to the Arizona Wildland Urban Interface Summit!**

We are excited to have you join us for this vital statewide event dedicated to enhancing wildfire preparedness, planning, and post-fire recovery. Together, we will explore innovative strategies for landscape-scale wildfire management and implementation. This summit is not just an opportunity to gain insights; it's a chance to connect with each other, build professional networks, and emerge with renewed confidence in our collaborative efforts to address wildfire concerns—before, during, and after the fire.

This year, our focus will be on establishing a cohesive framework crafted by leaders across the wildland urban interface. Throughout the summit, we will share best practices, highlight current initiatives, and delve into specific projects within the WUI. You can also expect to discover valuable tools and techniques aimed at fostering collective improvements in our wildfire management efforts.

We look forward to your participation and the rich discussions that will take place. Together, we can strengthen our strategies and ensure the safety and wellbeing of our communities.

# Thank you for your support!

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# AZ WUI Summit Agenda

Partnering to Build Wildfire Resilient Communities



Wednesday | December 4 | 2024

9:00 – 10:00 Registration and Check-in (*Main Foyer*)

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome and Opening Remarks** (*Pima/Madera*)

KEYNOTE

10:15 – 11:45 **Morning Keynote Presentations** (*Pima/Madera*)  
Nicole Gillet, Urban Forestry Program Manager, City Manager's Office, City of Tucson  
Neil Chapman, Wildland Fire Captain, Flagstaff Fire Department  
Tom Torres, State Forester, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management

11:45 – 1:00 **Lunch** (*provided - Sabino room*)

BUILDING BLOCK SESSIONS

1:00 – 1:35 **Fostering Fire Adapted Communities in Arizona** (*Pima/Madera*)  
Catrin Edgeley, Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Sociology, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University

1:35 – 2:30 **Strengthening Arizona Through Grants and Partnerships: A Guide to Agency Programs** (*Pima/Madera*)  
DFFM, BIA, DEMA and USFS

2:30 – 3:00 **Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI) Resources and Initiatives** (*Pima/Madera*)  
Lori Munn, DIFI Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Insurance & Financial Institutions

3:00 – 3:30 **Networking break with sponsors and exhibitors** (*Main Foyer*)

INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:30 – 4:15 **Unpacking Community Wildfire Protection Plans: From planning to process to putting them to use!**  
Emily Troisi, Director, Fire Adapted Communities Network / Community Navigators Initiative, The Watershed Research & Training Center

*Ventana*  
**Arizona Wildfire and Insurance Working Group**  
Frank Frievalt, Director, Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Institute, College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Science Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA  
Neil Chapman, Wildland Fire Captain, Flagstaff Fire Department

*Canyon ABC*  
**Rethinking Firewise Materials for Non-Forested Ecosystems**  
Cole Brant, Southwest Fire Science Consortium and Arizona Wildfire Initiative on the Fire Ecology Learning Lab \ Catrin Edgeley, Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Sociology, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University

4:20 – 5:00 **Protection Plans: From planning to process to putting them to use!**  
Emily Troisi

**Arizona Wildfire and Insurance Working Group**  
Frank Frievalt and Neil Chapman

**Rethinking Firewise Materials for Non-Forested Ecosystems**  
Cole Brant and Catrin Edgeley

5:00 – 6:30 **Evening Social and Exhibitor Networking** (*Main Foyer*)  
*Appetizers provided*

## Thursday | December 5 | 2024

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast (provided – Sabino room)

8:30 – 8:40 **Opening Remarks** (Pima/Madera)

8:40 – 9:00 **Introduction to the 2024 AZ WUI Summit Field Trip** (Pima/Madera)  
KP Maxwell, Wildland Coordinator, Tucson Fire Department

9:00 – 10:00

*Pima/Madera*

*Ventana*

*Canyon ABC*

### Track One: Data, Modeling and Tracking Systems to Support Implementation

Innovations around new models and tools that increase community engagement while measurably reducing wildfire risk – Jason Brooks

Coup D’oeil: Data Informed Decision Making  
Gabe Lavine and Tynan Heller

### Track Two: Showcasing Competitive Grants and Funded Projects

State Grants in Action: Inspiring Case Studies of Funded Projects  
Eva Depa and Don Pike

Navigating CWDG Success: Tucson Audubon Society’s Approach and State Guidance for the Next Round of Funding  
Jay Snowdon and Karl Gehrke

### Track Three: Case Studies of Work in the WUI Across Arizona

Prescribed Fire Case Study USFS

Santa Catalina Invasives Species Partnership: Panel Discussion  
Kim Franklin, Tony Figueroa, Hannah Lee, Christina Pearson, and John Goraj

10:00 – 11:00

11:00 – 11:15

**Networking break with sponsors and exhibitors** (Main Foyer)

11:15 – 12:15

Optimizing Landscape Strategy through Remote Sensing and Forestry Projects Tracking  
John Richardson, Wolfgang Grundberg, and Alex Spannuth

Tribal Lands – Collaborative WUI Treatments  
Melvin Hunter Jr., Raven Honga, and Ashton Lynch

Building a Firewise Community  
Sally Crum

12:30 – 4:30

**2024 Field Tour** (lunch provided – meet in the hotel lobby at 12:25)

## Friday | December 6 | 2024

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast (provided – Sabino room)

8:30 – 8:40 **Opening Remarks** (Pima/Madera)

8:40 – 9:00 **Final Day Messages** (Pima/Madera) – Holger Durre, Fire Chief, Prescott Fire Department

9:00 – 10:15 **Panel: Equity Driven Approaches to Wildfire Resilience** (Pima/Madera)  
Christina Greene, Research Scientist, Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS), Stephanie Miller, Emergency Preparedness Equity Educator, Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (AZSILC) and Vicki Cuscino, Center for Independent Living (CIL)

10:15 – 10:30 **Networking break with sponsors and exhibitors** (Main Foyer)

10:30 – 11:45 **Pre-fire Planning for Post-fire Recovery: Challenges and Opportunities** (Pima/Madera)  
Mick Lane, Program Manager, Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), Carl Melford, Emergency Manager Member at Large, Gila County Division of Emergency Management Arizona Association of Emergency Managers, Rose Beaton, Post-Fire Recovery Program, Forest Resilience Division at Washington Department of Natural Resources and Nicholas Smith, Disaster Program Manager, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA)

11:45 – 12:00 **Closing Remarks** (Pima/Madera)

# FIELD TRIP RUNDOWN



**5 DECEMBER 2024**

12:30 - 4:30 pm

**GENERAL AREA**

La Mariposa Resort, Tucson, AZ

**STOP 1**

## **Safe and Effective Wildfire Response**

*Highlighted topics: multijurisdictional command and control, and difficulties in the WUI*

Presentations by Golder Ranch Fire District, DFFM, and Tucson Fire Department

**STOP 2**

## **Fuels and Invasive Species**

*Highlighted topics: fuel break and fuel reduction in the Sonoran Desert, and current and future issues with invasives*

Presentations by Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Siphon Draw Environmental Services, and Tucson Audobon Society

**STOP 3**

## **Fire Adapted Communities**

*Highlighted topics: Firewise, building code and covenants, and notification for evacuation*

Presentations by DFFM and Tucson Fire Department

\*Groups will rotate between stops, visiting all three but not guaranteed to go in sequential order

# AZ WUI Summit Speakers



## ROSE BEATON

Rose Beaton is a project manager in the Post-Fire Recovery Program at the Forest Resilience Division at Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and is also the Community Resilience Coordinator for Kittitas and King County, Wildfire Management Division, WDNR. She has been working for WDNR for a little over 2 years. Prior to WDNR, she has had diverse employers with similar roles as it pertains to community-based fire adaptation. She holds a Masters in GIS for Sustainability Management from the University of Washington (2017) and a Bachelor's in Geography and Land Use Studies (2009) from Central Washington University. She is currently finishing her PhD in Natural Resources (fingers crossed 2025) from the College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho. She currently resides in Central Washington. She has dedicated the past 8 years to better understand the complexities of wildfire management and the places we call home.



## COLE BRANT

Cole graduated from Northern Arizona University with a degree in Forestry and a certificate in Fire Ecology and Management in 2022. After graduating, he spent a season on a fire crew in Northern California before returning to Flagstaff. Upon his return, he spent a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA before transitioning into his current role with the Southwest Fire Science Consortium and Arizona Wildfire Initiative on the Fire Ecology Learning Lab. He is excited to be back at NAU as a first-year graduate student, pursuing a Master of Science in Forestry. In his free time, Cole enjoys cooking, mountain biking, or hiking with his dog, Jasper.



## JASON BROOKS

Jason Brooks is the CEO and co-founder of Fire Aside, a public-private technology platform helping communities adapt and prepare for wildfire. Fire Aside is now used by local fire agencies, non-profits and Home Owner Associations in 8 states and has delivered millions of personalized recommendations to property owners. Jason has previously been an executive and founder in several data and technology companies. He has a MBA from the University of Florida and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan.



## NEIL CHAPMAN

Neil is a Wildland Fire Captain for the Flagstaff Fire Department. Neil leads the Forest Health, Prevention, and Preparedness functions of the Department's Wildland Fire Management Program. Neil directs the Flagstaff Watershed Protection Project and collaborative efforts within the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's Wildfire Resilience Initiative, and the Four Forest Restoration Initiative.

In 2022 Neil was appointed to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission. Neil is also the President of the Greater Flagstaff Forest Partnership Advisory Board, 2024 Chair of the Northern Arizona Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, and President of the Friends of Camp Colton Board of Directors.



## SALLY CRUM

Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Sally Crum has deep roots in the region, with a strong connection to the natural beauty of the area, particularly Mt. Lemmon. After a successful career, Sally retired as a Logistics Manager from Raytheon, bringing years of leadership and organizational expertise to her community roles.

A lifelong lover of Mt. Lemmon, her family has owned a cabin on the mountain since the mid-1950s, and it has been cherished by six generations. Since 2017, Sally has served as the leader of the Mt. Lemmon Firewise Community, working to protect the mountain and its residents from wildfire risks. With the help of an awesome team of volunteers, their Firewise Community continues to grow and 'Reduce the Risk of Wildfire' on Mount Lemmon.



## VICKI CUSCINO

Vicki Cuscino has dedicated most of her career to social justice, focusing on disability rights and justice, health equity, and ending violence against women. With 24 years' experience in the disability field, Vicki serves as Executive Director at Direct Advocacy & Resource Center. She has a Master of Social Work degree, is a Certified ADA Coordinator with advanced certification in Healthcare and Law Enforcement, and is a Certified Aging in Place Specialist. Vicki also has worked in senior management at four other disability organizations, for a nonprofit public entity HMO, and as a newspaper journalist. Her community involvement includes the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council and their committees on Statewide Emergency Preparedness and State Plan for Independent Living Development, ADHS Community Advisory Board on Accessibility and Inclusion, Pima County Health Department Ethics Committee, City of Tucson Commission on Equitable Housing and Development, and Southern Arizona Community Organizations Active in Disaster (SOAZCOAD).



## JENY DAVIS

Jeny is the Southern Rockies Program Associate at the National Forest Foundation. She supports program and project operations in the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Regions through strategic planning, organizational development, coordination, and collaborative conservation. Prior to the NFF, Jeny worked at Desert Botanical Garden with the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance (CAZCA), EcoFlora, and Saguaro Census programs, immersed in collaborative conservation, community science and communications. She has earned an Associate of Applied Science in Horticulture from Tidewater Community College and her Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Ecosystems with a related discipline in Conservation Biology from Arizona State University. Outside of work, Jeny likes to take slow hikes to look at plants and rocks, ride her bike, read, make cyanotypes, enjoy music, eat tacos, bake, and generally nerd out about plants, ecology, and nature wherever she may be



## EVA DEPA

Graduated from James Madison University in 1975 with a BBA Degree in Marketing and General Electric's Financial Management Program in 1978. Held management positions in finance accounting for GE Nuclear, GE Information Services and Ball Corporation.

In 2023, I implemented Firewise in a small community in Gold Canyon, Arizona and successfully obtained \$190k financing for the eradication of invasives from the Dept of Forestry and Fire Management under the Healthy Forest Initiative.

Since retirement, I have hiked many miles in Colorado and Arizona and most recently enjoyed the outdoors while backpacking and camping.





## HOLGER DURRE

Chief Durre has 28 years of public safety experience and serves as the Fire Chief for the City of Prescott, Arizona. He began his career in EMS in Fort Collins, Colorado while completing a bachelor's degree at Colorado State University. He began his career in the fire service in 2000 at Poudre Fire Authority, ultimately promoting to Battalion Chief. In 2017, he was hired as a Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Boulder, and in 2022, he assumed his current role with the City of Prescott.

Chief Durre has an extensive background in continuous improvement in local government and has conducted several applied research projects on this topic. He consults in strategic planning and serves as a team lead for the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). In addition, he is very passionate about promoting mental wellness and resiliency for public safety personnel. Chief Durre holds a Master of Public Administration from Indiana State University and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer program. He is a credentialed Chief Fire Officer with CPSE.



## CAT EDGELEY

Catrín Edgeley is an Assistant Professor of Natural Resource Sociology in the School of Forestry at Northern Arizona University. She is a wildfire social scientist interested in understanding how socially diverse communities adapt to wildfire risk and impacts. Cat's research spans many components of this, including support or opposition for fuels treatments, evacuation behaviors, and post-fire recovery. Prior to joining NAU, Cat earned her Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho and a BSc and MSc from Durham University in the UK.



## FRANK FRIEVALT

Chief Frievalt (ret.) has served since 1979 with Special District, City, County, State, and Federal fire agencies in roles from Firefighter to Fire Chief. He holds a M.S. from Oklahoma State University in Fire and Emergency Management Administration, and currently serves as Director of the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Institute at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Frank is an SME for the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Wildfire Advisory Council, and previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Western Fire Chiefs Association, with an emphasis on the development of resilient Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities. His work is grounded in aligning key stakeholders around a core set of parcel and community level mitigations that will disrupt the fire pathways which lead to conflagration. He is pursuing the actuarial valuation of risk mitigations, for both the public and private sectors, because we share the same desired outcome, minimizing property loss to the peril of wildfire.



## NICOLE GILLETT

Nicole Gillett is the Urban Forestry Program Manager for the City of Tucson. She has worked at the intersection of people and the environment for over 10 years and holds a BA in Environmental Science and MS in Geography. Nicole is a true desert lover and when she isn't planting trees, you probably won't actually find her anywhere, since she will be out exploring her desert home.



## **JOHN GORAJ**

John is the Southern Arizona Program Coordinator for the National Forest Foundation. His work is centered on invasive species management, trail restoration, watershed restoration and forest health projects across Coronado National Forest. Prior to working for the NFF, John worked with Saguaro National Park on spray crews targeting buffelgrass, completed post-fire plant surveys for the USFS across the Sky Islands, monitored watershed health in the Angeles National Forest, and collected floristic and climatic data for the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) in the Santa Rita Mountains, AZ and the Jornada Plain, NM. John also served the State of Arizona, as an Arizona State Parks Ranger, managing the volunteer program at Catalina State Park just outside of Tucson. John holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from Oregon State University. In his free time he loves spending time his with wife and son, exploring the Southwest and writing and performing music



## **CHRISTINA GREENE**

Dr. Christina Greene is a Research Scientist with the Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS), a NOAA Climate Adaptation Partnerships Program, at the University of Arizona. She is a human-environment geographer who uses qualitative research methods to study the impacts of climate hazards such as drought, increasing aridity, and wildfire. Her research also examines equity and justice in the production of climate information. As a researcher with CLIMAS, she works with interdisciplinary teams on climate vulnerability, adaptation, and resilience in the US Southwest.



## **WOLFGANG GRUNBERG**

Wolfgang Grunberg is a GIS and Data Supervisor at the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM) where he works with the GIS and Data Team on Forestry's information systems and spatial analysis products. Trained in natural resource GIS and remote sensing at the University of Arizona, Wolfgang spent over two decades developing applied natural resource information and decision support systems for the University of Arizona, Arizona Geological Survey, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and now Arizona Forestry.



## **TYNAN HELLER**

Tynan joined the Genasys team two years ago as a Senior Product Manager. He manages the maintenance, development, and innovation of the EVAC solution to ensure the software continues to be an asset to those in the emergency management community.

While his kids were younger, Tynan spent 6 years as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown. Those years of service provided him with valuable experience and knowledge to be applied in his role at Genasys. He also recognizes (and appreciates) the need for always being open to learn.

Tynan and his family enjoy any activity which enables them to be in the outdoors. The family also enjoys their new adventures surrounding baseball. From attending big league games to little league, they have come to love watching, playing, and coaching the sport.



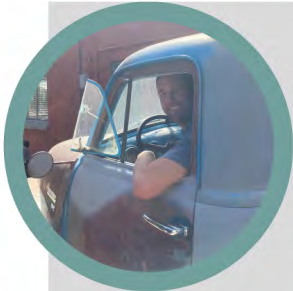
## **RAVEN HONGA**

Mr. Honga began his career as an Administratively Determined (AD) fire fighter for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). He continued his fire career while going to school and once he completed school he made the switch from Federal to Tribal, becoming a Forest Technician for the Hualapai Tribe. After pursuing that for a few years, he received the opportunity to obtain his Master's Degree in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia. In 2022 he returned to the Hualapai Tribe to become their Timber Forester, helping the Tribe to obtain and get a portable mill before finally becoming the Director of Hualapai Forestry and Wildland Fire Management.



## **MELVIN HUNTER**

I am a proud member of the Hualapai Tribe and a current employee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Western Region, Supervisory Regional Forester. I started my career at the BIA Truxton Canon Agency where I served as a Forestry Technician, Forester, and Natural Resource Officer. I then transferred to BIA Mescalero Agency in the Southwest Region, where I gained invaluable experience as the Forest Manager. Prior to my current position, I was the Hualapai Tribal Forestry & Wildland Fire Management Director aiding in contracting the Wildland Fire Management program via P.L. 93-638 contract. I received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry at Northern Arizona University which I continue to stay connected to the university. I deeply enjoy my career as a Forester and I am an advocator of Indian Self-Determination.

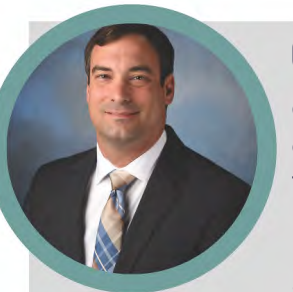


## **MONTY (MICK) LANE**

Mick Lane serves as program manager for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) in Arizona, a program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He has been an employee with the NRCS for thirteen years; serving as a rangeland management specialist, district conservationist, and watershed coordinator in several western states during that time.

Mick's professional focus is assisting local communities in Arizona respond to the increasingly frequent, severe, and widespread effects on watersheds from fire and flooding which risk lives and/or property.

Mick resides in Tucson and enjoys everything the region has to offer, especially spending time at Saguaro National Park.



## **GABE LAVINE**

Gabe Lavine serves as the director of the Arizona Division of Emergency Management, one of five divisions in the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs. In this role, he manages the state's emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts, and supports county and tribal emergency managers. Gabe has more than 20 years of experience in emergency services and management, public safety-first response, military combat arms, reconnaissance, specialized operations, diplomatic security, intelligence, special weapons and tactics, incident management team leadership, and recovery operations. His emergency management experience encompasses the city, county, and state levels, including serving in Arizona as the Cochise County Director of Emergency Management and Office of Emergency Services.



## **CHRISTINE MARES**

Christine Mares manages the Good Neighbor Authority Program for the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). Before starting with DFFM in 2020, she was a lecturer and wildland fire educator in the NAU School of Forestry working with the Southwest Fire Science Consortium and the Wildland Fire Education and Training Collaborative. Christine is a strong problem-solver who enjoys working on teams to create more fire-resilient landscapes in AZ. A native Arizonan, she has a BS from the University of Arizona and an MS from Penn State where she researched fuel treatment effectiveness. Christine lives in Flagstaff with her family, 2 dogs, and 3 cats.



## **KP MAXWELL**

K Paul Maxwell began his fire service in 1999 as a Crash Fire Rescue Firefighter with the Colorado Army National Guard. In 2000, he was hired by the US Forest Service where he spent the next five years with the Sacramento Hotshots, Lincoln National Forest, Cloudcroft, NM. KP joined the Tucson Fire Department in 2005 and is currently serving as the Wildland Coordinator.



## **CARL MELFORD**

Carl has served as the Emergency Manager for Gila County since 2015. Recently elected as Member-at-Large for the Arizona Emergency Managers Association (AZEM), Carl has directed the EOC for over 30 wildfire responses, including three of Arizona's ten largest. His strategic leadership has led to over 70 successful evacuations and numerous sheltering operations. Notably, his response, mitigation, and recovery work during the Mescal, Telegraph, and Backbone fires and post-fire flooding earned him the 2023 Distinguished Service Award from AZEM. His accomplishments also include leading Gila County's Congressional Award-winning COVID-19 response and acting as Incident Commander for the 2022 Star Valley Tornado recovery. Carl's extensive emergency management career is marked by dedication to public safety, preparedness, partnerships, and promoting positive morale in the face of disaster.



## **STEPHANIE MILLER**

Stephanie entered the world of emergency management in 2015, working for the Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management. Knowing that parts of the community are disproportionately affected by disasters, she utilized her bachelor's in justice studies to strive for inclusion in emergency management, especially for those who have disabilities. Her emergency management career pivoted in 2021 when she accepted a position with the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council where she continues to bridge the gap between emergency management professionals and the disability community.



## LORI MUNN

Lori Dreaver Munn joined the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions (DIFI) in May 2024 as the Assistant Director of Insurance. Before joining DIFI, she was the Director of Compliance and Government Relations at an advisory organization for the insurance industry. Her focus was on product compliance, government relations, insurance education, technology and modernization of insurance. Lori brings over 20 years of insurance knowledge to DIFI, with previous experience at several different insurance companies as well as having managed her own insurance compliance consulting firm. Lori completed a Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University and has been active with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and the Association of Insurance Compliance Professionals (AICP).



## DON PIKE

Don Pike is a University of Maine engineering graduate and retired from an executive position with the General Electric Company in 1999. While employed, Don traveled extensively throughout the world and lived in Germany for 13 years. Since retirement he has resided in Mesa, AZ, and is an avid hiker. He is a founding member with the non-profit Friends of the Tonto National Forest, and leads the invasive weed projects. In addition to leading regular volunteer grass removal events in the Tonto NF, Don has led the effort to map and monitor the removal efforts using Esri Field Maps in a map app he developed. He has also been a team leader for grant applications and project implementation. Don has been very active with community outreach in the Wildland Urban Interface areas to raise the awareness of the increased threats to their communities of fires resulting from the invasive.



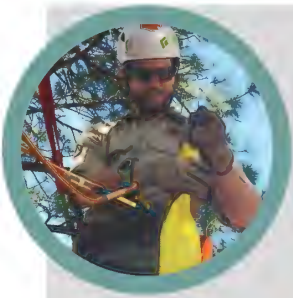
## JOHN RICHARDSON

John Richardson is the Assistant Director for Forestry Programs with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). John has been with DFFM since 2012 and has worked extensively developing the Hazardous Fuel Reduction, Forest Health, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Good Neighbor Authority, and related grant programs. John is responsible for the implementation of DFFM's Wildfire Mitigation program (also known as the Healthy Forest Initiative) which focuses on reducing the risk of wildfire, improving forest health, and enhancing watershed conditions. John works collectively in collaboration with local government, other state and federal agencies, Arizona universities and organizations involved in managing forest, woodland, and rangeland conditions in Arizona. He is a Northern Arizona University - School of Forestry graduate, ISA Certified Arborist, and Qualified Tree Risk Assessor.



## NICHOLAS SMITH

Nicholas Smith is a Disaster Program Manager who helps communities recently affected by disasters and fires in the State of Arizona through the long-term recovery process. He is an expert in Federal Grants such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire. Nicholas is passionate about public service and has served 7 years in the Arizona Army National Guard, and continues to serve as a Computer Specialist. Nicholas completed his Bachelor's of Science degree from Arizona State University in Emergency Management and Homeland Security in 2023. Nicholas is currently in pursuit of cybersecurity and networking certifications. In his free time, Nicholas enjoys spending time with his wife and three dogs, working out, and playing video games.



## JAY SNOWDON

Jay Snowden is an ISA Certified Arborist®, AZPMD Certified Applicator, chainsaw trainer, and career conservation-based nonprofit worker. As Tucson Audubon Society's Community Forestry Program Manager, he has overseen over \$3M in operating budgets across numerous grants for his invasive plant focused urban forestry team, including recently being awarded the state of Arizona's largest Community Wildfire Defense Grant, which was also the #1 rated application for Round 2 nationwide. Jay has also secured various other grants, agreements, and contracts from Arizona to Idaho and Oregon to Vermont at all levels of government and is excited to share what he has learned through the years working with different funders and partners to complete high-priority conservation projects throughout the country.



## ALEX SPANNUTH

After undergraduate education in NAU Forestry (2010) Alex started a career in Fire Ecology with the National Park Service; working in Grand Canyon, Saguaro, and Grand Teton National Parks. In 2018 Alex moved to the Kaibab National Forest as the first titled Fire Ecologist developing new fire effects monitoring and analysis techniques that cover spatial and temporal scales required to make informed land management decisions. During that time Alex was also fortunate to receive graduate level education with NAU Forestry, Mathematics, and Informatics focusing on ecology, statistics, and remote sensing. In 2023 Alex accepted a job as the Regional Fire Ecologist for USFS R3, with the primary goals of landscape scale fire effects analysis and supporting interorganizational fire ecology research efforts. The greater wildland fire community has treated Alex very well over his short career and he looks forward to contributing and giving back to this amazing community!



## TOM TORRES

Thomas (Tom) Torres is the Arizona Department of Forestry & Fire Management State Forester. He started his forestry career with the US Forest Service as a Civil Engineer on the Kaibab National Forest in Northern Arizona working on transportation issues. Prior to his role as the AZ State Forester he served 33 years with the US Forest Service in duty locations that included NM, CA, OR, WA, OR, and AZ. The last 10 years Tom worked on the Tonto National Forest in Phoenix, AZ as the Deputy Forest Supervisor. His favorite outdoor activity is exploring the awesome landscapes of Arizona. Whether he is hiking, driving, or riding his bike, discovering new areas in the state never disappoints!



## EMILY TROISI

Emily Troisi grew up in Maryland and spent the majority of her adult life in Colorado before relocating to North Carolina. She has a passion for community disaster preparedness and resilience and pursued college and post-graduate studies for Natural Resources Management, centering community engagement, at the University of New Hampshire. Emily has been with The Watershed Research & Training Center for 10 years. As the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Director for WRTC, she leads the Community Navigator Initiative work. Emily also worked for her local Office of Disaster Management for six years and hopes to continue engaging in local response work on the side in her new home.

# AZ WUI SUMMIT SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

## Silver Sponsor



**SOUTHWEST  
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### **Southwest Fire Science Consortium**

<https://www.swfireconsortium.org/>

The Southwest Fire Science Consortium is a regional organization focused on knowledge exchange and dissemination of fire research and information across agency, administrative, and state boundaries in the Southwest. Topics include anything fire related: before, during, and after fire.

## Bronze Sponsors

### **Fire Aside**

[www.fireaside.com](http://www.fireaside.com)

Fire Aside provides the platform for communities to identify, prioritize and engage residents for wildfire risk reduction. Fire Aside is trusted and used daily by fire agencies, non-profits, and HOAs in 8 states.



**fire aside**

### **Salt River Project (SRP)**

<https://www.srpnet.com/about/about-srp>

SRP is a community-based, not-for-profit public power utility and the largest electricity provider in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area, serving approximately 1.1 million customers. SRP provides water to about half of the Valley's residents, delivering more than 244 billion gallons of water (750,000 acre-feet) each year, and manages a 13,000-square-mile watershed that includes an extensive system of reservoirs, wells, canals and irrigation laterals. By providing these essential resources for more than a century, we've helped the Phoenix metropolitan area develop and thrive. Our guiding principles have remained the same since our founding – to act in the best interest of the people we serve and strive to help build a better future for Arizona.



## Supporting Sponsor

### **International Association of Wildland Fire**

[www.iawfonline.org](http://www.iawfonline.org)

IAWF is a professional membership association for wildland fire professionals. We are uniquely positioned as an independent organization whose membership includes experts in all aspects of Wildland fire management. IAWF independence and breadth of global membership expertise allows it to offer a neutral forum for the consideration of important, at times controversial, Wildland fire issues. Our unique membership and organization allow the IAWF to creatively apply a full range of Wildland fire knowledge to perform its stated mission. IAWF is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) professional association representing members of the global wildland fire community.



**International  
Association  
Wildland Fire**

# AZ WUI SUMMIT EXHIBITORS

## Exhibitors

### Arizona Wildfire Initiative

<https://azwildfire.org/>



Launched in the Spring of 2023, the Arizona Wildfire Initiative aims to become a center of excellence for wildland fire education, science communication, workforce development, and community outreach in the Southwest, prioritizing the needs of all communities through responsive programs and resource development.

### Forest Stewards Guild

[foreststewardsguild.org](http://foreststewardsguild.org)

The Forest Stewards Guild practices and promotes responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. The Guild engages in education, training, policy analysis, research, and advocacy to foster excellence in stewardship, support practicing foresters and allied professionals, and engage a broader community in the challenges of forest conservation and management.



### National Forest Foundation

<https://www.nationalforests.org/>

Chartered by Congress, the National Forest Foundation was created with a simple mission: bring people together to restore and enhance National Forests and Grasslands.

The National Forest Foundation is the leading organization inspiring personal and meaningful connections to our National Forests, the centerpiece of America's public lands. Working on behalf of the American public, the NFF leads forest conservation efforts and promotes responsible recreation. We believe these lands, and all they provide, are an American treasure and are vital to the health of our communities.



### Northern Arizona University School of Forestry

<https://nau.edu/forestry>



School of Forestry

NAU's School of Forestry offers a nationally accredited Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree. The school also has two other bachelor's programs, three master's programs, a doctoral program, and both undergraduate and graduate certificates.

The School of Forestry is perfectly located to give students pursuing forestry degrees an exceptional learning environment. With five life zones within fifty miles of campus and six climate zones in the state. The NAU School of Forestry has the Centennial Forest learning lab, which provides many learning and research opportunities for students.



## **SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA)**

<https://www.swca.com/>

<https://www.swca.com/services/climate-driven-services/wildfire-planning-services>



Founded in 1981, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) is an employee-owned environmental consulting firm with 43 offices across the United States, including our headquarters in Phoenix, and additional offices in Tucson and Flagstaff. With over 25 years of experience, SWCA specializes in fire management planning, including Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), Hazard Assessments/Fuels Planning, Post-fire Planning, Education/Outreach, and compliance projects. We align all our fire management plans with local, state, and federal policies and guidance related to wildfire management. To date, we have completed over 260 projects across 32 states with each project being meticulously customized to address the specific needs of our clients and their communities.

## **United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/arizona>



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

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**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

For more than 80 years, we have helped people make investments in their operations and local communities to keep working lands working, boost rural economies, increase the competitiveness of American agriculture, and improve the quality of our air, water, soil, and habitat.

**Our Mission:** We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

**Our Vision:** A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

**Our Work with Producers and Partners:** Today, through voluntary conservation programs, NRCS helps producers, soil and water conservation districts, and other partners protect and conserve natural resources on private lands throughout the United States. With approximately 2,300 Service Centers in communities nationwide, NRCS and other USDA employees work side-by-side with producers in every State and territory. Producers can learn more or apply for a program by contacting your local Service Center. You can also learn more about our conservation solutions by watching our [Conservation at Work video series](#) or using our [Conservation Concerns Tool](#).

Meanwhile, we know we can't do this work alone, and we work with conservation partners to develop conservation solutions.

## **Verisk/ISO Community Hazard Mitigation**

Verisk/ISO Community Hazard Mitigation works to foster an active relationship with fire departments, building departments, water suppliers, and communities with two programs:



First, FireLine® is Verisk's address-level wildfire risk assessment tool that provides a score of 0–30, with the 30 being the highest risk and 0 being negligible risk. The score is derived from an objective assessment of structure's propensity to burn in the event of a wildfire based on the most current assessment of vegetative fuels, slope, and road access. FireLine risk scores are available in the following U.S. states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

[www.verisk.com/solutions/extreme-event-risk/natural-hazard-risk-response/wildfire-mitigation](http://www.verisk.com/solutions/extreme-event-risk/natural-hazard-risk-response/wildfire-mitigation)

Second, your participation in our Verisk/ISO–Public Protection Classification (PPC™) program is critical in attaining our shared goal: safer communities. To learn more, go to [www.isomitigation.com](http://www.isomitigation.com). PPC is an evaluation program that provides important information on the quality of public fire protection in nearly 38,000 fire protection areas across the United States. We analyze fire departments, water supply systems, emergency communications, and community risk reduction efforts and assign a PPC grade from 1 (superior property fire protection) to 10 (does not meet ISO's minimum criteria).

# AZ WUI SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

**Adams, Logan**

Division Chief  
Elfrida Fire District

**Adams, Mark**

Community Wildland Risk  
Reduction Specialist  
Flagstaff Fire Department

**Ah You, Brandon**

Captain  
Davis Monthan Fire &  
Emergency Services

**Ahlquist, Ashley**

Emergency Manager  
Yavapai County

**Aldrich, Travis**

Assistant District Forester  
Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Allred, Jason**

Captain  
Mesa Fire and Medical  
Department

**Ammon, James**

Board Member  
LSHOA

**Amthor, Jeffrey**

Principal Scientist/Assistant  
Vice President  
Verisk

**Anastassatos, JulieAnna**

Senior Director, Wildfire  
Verisk

**Anderssen, Saliane**

Forestry Technician  
DFFM

**Atkinson, Andrew**

Fire Mitigation Prevention and  
Education Specialist  
Bureau of Land Management

**Avila, Jacob**

Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Baker, Noah**

Wildfire, Climate, and  
Community Health Specialist  
Flagstaff Fire Department

**Barton, Elvy**

Senior Manager Water and  
Forest Sustainability  
Salt River Project (SRP)

**Bell, Rachel**

Natural Resource Grants  
Coordinator  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Benford, Russell**

Forestry Projects  
Administrator  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Benning, Maxwell**

Forestry Community  
Engagement Coordinator  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Bez, Gregory**

Chairperson Common Area  
Landscape Committee  
Stoneridge HOA Firewise

**Brooks, Jason**

CEO  
Fire Aside

**Brown, Matthew**

USDA

**Burkhart, Jason**

Battalion Chief  
Mesa Fire and Medical  
Department

**Busco, Amanda****Casem, Aaron**

Prevention Division Chief  
AZ Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Chapman, Neil**

Wildland Fire Captain  
Flagstaff Fire Department

**Cintron, Callum**

Tribal Liaison  
AZ Wildfire Initiative - NAU

**Colorado, Destiny**

State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
AZDEMA

**Cooper, Edward**

Crew Supervisor  
DFFM

**Crum, Sally**

President  
Chairperson  
Mt. Lemmon Homeowners  
Association  
Mt. Lemmon Firewise  
Community

**Cuscino, Vicki**

Executive Director  
Direct Advocacy & Resource  
Center

**Dadashi, Sepideh**

GIS & Data Analyst  
DFFM

**Davis, Jeny**

Southern Rockies Program  
Associate  
National Forest Foundation

**Deleskiewicz, Mike**

Prevention Captain  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Dolan, Cori**

Deputy Assistant State  
Forester  
Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Dorey, Dylan**

Forestry Technician  
State forestry

**Dropik, Andrew**

GNA Program Coordinator  
Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Ducker, George**

Communications Coordinator  
New Mexico State Forestry  
Division

**Durre, Holger**

Fire Chief  
City Of Prescott

**Duval, Dari****Eberspacher, Jacob**

Forester  
DFFM (A4S)

**Edgeley, Catrin**

Assistant Professor  
Northern Arizona University

**Engbring, Matthew**

Fire Prevention and  
Community Wildfire Mitigation  
Specialist  
USFS

**Fitzhugh, Amanda**

Forestry Technician  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Frievall, Frank**

Director  
WUI FIRE Institute, Cal Poly  
San Luis Obispo

**Gillespie, Collin**

Forestry Technician  
AZ DFFM

**Gillett, Nicole**

Urban Forestry Manager  
City of Tucson

**AZ WUI Summit – December 4-6, 2024, Tucson, AZ**  
**List of registrants (as of November 30)**

**Glauksinger, Lorna**  
firewise Assessor  
Morningside HOA board  
member

**Glazener, Cody**  
Wildland Fire Operations  
Engineer  
Flagstaff Fire Department

**Goff, Greta**  
Fire Prevention, Education,  
and Mitigation  
BLM

**Goodman, Brea**  
Forestry Technician  
A2S

**Goraj, John**  
Southern Arizona Program  
Coordinator  
National Forest Foundation

**Graybill, Milles**  
Forester  
Arizona Department Of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Greene, Christina**  
Research Scientist  
Climate Assessment for the  
Southwest (CLIMAS)

**Grunberg, Wolfgang**  
GIS and Data Supervisor  
AZ Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Guerin, Corey**  
Prevention Lead  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Gunia, Joseph**  
Fire Chief  
Mount Lemmon Fire District

**Guo, Beihua**

**Hallmark, Brian**  
Associate Director for  
Conservation

**Hardin, Floyd**  
Fire Management Officer  
Salt River Project (SRP)

**Hasler, Charles**  
Forest Technician  
DFFM

**Heisler, Taber**  
Chief of Operations  
Timber Mesa Fire and Medical  
District

**Heller, Tynan**  
Sr. Product Manager  
Genasys

**Helvig, Wes**  
Fire Inspector  
Golder Ranch Fire District

**Hernandez, Joseph**  
Training Coordinator  
University of Idaho

**Hines, F Dee**  
Central - District Forester  
Arizona DFFM

**Holder, Marisol**  
NAU School of Forestry

**Hudson, Terry**  
Consultant  
Hudson Environmental LLC

**Irwin, Tim**  
Fire Chief  
Camp Navajo Fire Department

**Irwin, Stephanie**  
Mayor  
Town of Pinetop-Lakeside

**Jackson, Conrad**  
Wildfire Risk Manager  
Prescott Fire Department

**Johnson, Keith**  
Manager  
Town of Pinetop-Lakeside

**Kehmna, Kenneth**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Ken Kehmna

**Kennan, Nicole**  
Forest Program Project  
Manager  
The Nature Conservancy

**Kerchief, Robert**  
Assistant Chief of Special  
Operations  
Davis Monthan Fire &  
Emergency Services

**King, Megan**  
Forester  
AZ Dept. Forestry and Fire  
Management

**Knorr, Robert**  
Retired  
Quail Creek

**Kohler, Gabriel**  
Program Manager  
Forest Stewards Guild

**Kunow, Troy**  
Forestry Tech A5S  
Arizona department of forestry  
and fire management

**Labas, Jimmy**  
Engineer/wildland Plans  
Manager  
Golder Ranch Fire District

**Lane, Mick**  
Program Manager  
Emergency Watershed  
Protection Program (EWP)

**Larsen, John**  
Forestry Crew Supervisor  
DFFM

**Lavine, Gabe**  
Director, Emergency  
Management Division  
AZ Department of Emergency  
& Military Affairs

**Lavine, Gabriel**  
Director  
Az Division of Emergency  
Management

**Leon, Toby**  
Wildland Firefighter  
Flagstaff Fire Department

**Leon, Zach**  
Captain  
Superstition Fire & Medical  
District

**LeRoy, Sarah**

**Lindsay, Erica**  
Forester  
Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Little Jodi**  
Fire Chief  
Martinez Lake Fire District

**Lockwood, Roses**  
Forest and Conservation  
Associate  
Campbell Global

**Louis, Timathia**  
Emergency Management  
Manager  
Acoma Pueblo

**Loyd, Jeremiah**  
Community Development  
Director  
Town of Pinetop-Lakeside

**Lozano, Salvador**  
Forestry Crew Supervisor  
AZDFFM

**Lozano, Salvador**  
Crew supervisor  
AZDFFM

**AZ WUI Summit – December 4-6, 2024, Tucson, AZ**  
**List of registrants (as of November 30)**

**Mares, Christine**  
GNA Program Manager  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Martinez Molina, Karina**  
Community Relations  
Coordinator  
City of Tucson

**McCormick, Molly**  
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**McEuen, Caleb**  
Forester (A2S)  
AZ DFFM

**McGee, John**  
Logistics  
Greater Green Valley CERT

**McGlone, Matthew**  
Community Outreach  
Manager  
Pima County Office of  
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**Melford, Carl**  
Emergency Manager  
Gila County Division Of  
Emergency Management

**Metzger, Kelci**  
Senior Logistics Specialist  
SWCA Environmental  
Consultants

**Miller, Stephanie**  
Emergency Preparedness  
Equity Educator  
Arizona Statewide  
Independent Living Council  
(AZSILC)

**Miranda, Todd**  
Battalion Chief  
Sedona Fire District

**Morash, Mike**  
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Verisk/ISO

**Moreno, Mayra**  
Forester  
A3S

**Morgan, James**  
Fire Chief  
Pinetop Fire District

**Mrotek, Aaron**  
Patagonia-Sonoita Creek  
Preserve Manager  
The Nature Conservancy

**Mungarro, Pedro**  
Deputy Prevention Chief  
AZ Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Olivas, Laura**  
Forestry Technician  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management  
(A4S)

**Oltrogge, Paul**  
Wildland Fire Battalion Chief  
Flagstaff Fire Department

**Ortega, TJ**  
Crew Manager  
DFFM

**OShea, Laurie**  
Admin Assistant  
Scottsdale Fire Department

**Pansini, Colette**  
Water & Forest Planning  
Analyst  
Salt River Project

**Pepper, JD**  
Fire Marshal  
Timber Mesa Fire and Medical  
District

**Peterson, Jayden**  
Project Manager & Forest  
Ecologist  
SWCA Environmental  
Consultants

**Philpott, Cody**  
Firefighter  
Flagstaff Fire Department

**Piqosa, Shirley**  
Forester  
Pueblo of Acoma

**Pischke, Phillip**  
Forester  
AZ DFFM

**Porterie, Gaston**  
Forester  
DFFM Northeast District A2S

**Portteus, Matthew**  
Operations Advisor  
WFCA

**Powers, Colby**  
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Fire Management

**Prentice, William**  
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Puerco Valley Fire District

**Priestley, Jane**  
Board Member  
Dewey-Humboldt Firewise

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Program Assistant Manager for  
Community Resilience  
Arizona Wildfire Initiative |  
NAU School of Forestry

**Rice, Jason**  
Assistant Chief of Training  
Davis Monthan Fire &  
Emergency Services

**Richardson, John**  
Assistant State Forester  
(Forestry Programs)  
Arizona Department of  
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**Rigby, Teresa**  
Fire Mitigation & Education  
Specialist  
BLM NM/OK/TX/KS State  
Office

**Robinson, Mikel**  
Executive Director  
International Association of  
Wildland Fire

**Ruscansky, Stephanie**  
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ISO/Verisk

**Ryker, Todd**  
San Carlos Apache Tribe

**Salgueiro, Julian**  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Savage, Mark**  
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Fry Fire District

**Schlaiss, Andrew**  
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Department

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**AZ WUI Summit – December 4-6, 2024, Tucson, AZ**  
**List of registrants (as of November 30)**

**Smith, Nicholas**  
Program Manager  
AZDEMA

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City of Show Low

**Wood, Tami**  
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Puerco Valley Fire District

**Snowdon, Jay**  
Community Forestry Program  
Manager  
Tucson Audubon Society

**Troisi, Emily**  
FAC Net Director  
Watershed Research &  
Training Center

**Wyatt, Corey**  
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DFFM

**Spanarella, John**  
Battalion Chief  
Golder Ranch Fire District

**Villalpando, Benjalina**  
Executive Secretary  
SRPMIC Fire Department

**Zazueta Castro, Lorenzo**  
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AZDEMA

**Spannuth, Alexander**  
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USFS

**Waldorf, Mike**  
Captain/Deputy Wildland  
Coordinator  
Golder Ranch Fire District

**Stockley, Bill**  
Perimeter Solutions Account  
Manager  
ShurSales and Marketing

**Warner, Jessie**  
District Forester  
DFFM

**Strieter, Kurt**  
Captain/Wildland ENGB  
Golder Ranch Fire District

**Webb, Amanda**  
Forestry Planning Program  
Manager  
Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Tallas, Shaina**  
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Coordinator  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

**Whelan, Matthew**  
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Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Tembe Mwela, Valentin**

**Temerowski, Ed**  
Fire Chief  
Town of Wickenburg Fire

**Whitesinger, Dawnafe**  
Supervisor, District V  
Navajo County Board of  
Supervisors

**Thode, Andi**  
Professor Fire Ecology and  
Management  
Director, Arizona Wildfire  
Initiative  
Southwest Fire Science  
Consortium, Principal  
Investigator

**Wikle, Eugene**  
Special Project and Policy  
Manager  
Arizona Department of  
Forestry and Fire Management

**Tracy, Hunter**  
Forestry Crew Supervisor  
AZ Department of Forestry and  
Fire Management

**Wilson, Joshua**  
Emergency Management  
Coordinator  
Maricopa County Department  
of Emergency Management