



Economic Relief and Recovery Efforts Continue in Wake of Dragon Bravo Fire



Firefighters work in tall grass on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon as flames from the Dragon Bravo Fire advance, part of the ongoing battle against one of the largest wildfires in the region's history.

Photo Courtesy of Arizona Forestry / National Parks Traveler (Jan Childs, July 30, 2025)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has declared an Economic Injury Disaster for Arizona following the Dragon Bravo Fire and the White Sage Fire. The White Sage Fire was fully extinguished on August 2, while the Dragon Bravo Fire remains active. This declaration opens up low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) for small businesses, agricultural cooperatives, and nonprofit organizations in Coconino County and surrounding impacted counties in Arizona and Utah. Navajo families, entrepreneurs, and community organizations impacted by the disaster are eligible to apply, with applications due by May 18, 2026.

The Dragon Bravo Fire, which began on July 4 due to lightning, has burned more than 145,000 acres across the Grand Canyon's North Rim. The most recent incident update from the Arizona Emergency Information Network on September 3, 2025 reported that the fire is 80% contained.

As recovery efforts continue, fire crews from around the southwest have already fixed over 30 miles of fire lines, repaired hand-dug paths, and checked nearly 50 miles of roads. They've also cleared dangerous burned trees along Highway 67 and are now working on Cape Royal Road and the 611 Road. Despite recent success in containing the fire, firecrews and emergency teams remain on standby as forecasted monsoon moisture brings the risk of flash flooding and debris flow over the burn scars.

For many residents of Coconino County, the combination of weather risks and economic impacts are wide reaching. This includes Navajo families and businesses in Coconino County, who depend on seasonal tourism and often provide essential services to the Navajo Nation. Thereby the EIDL program is designed to help offset financial losses rather than cover physical damages. Interest rates are 4.0% for small businesses and 3.625% for nonprofits without access to other forms of credit.

The Navajo Nation Washington Office has shared this SBA announcement with the Division of Economic Development and across the Nation to ensure awareness of this resource. Navajo residents and organizations in Coconino County are encouraged to review the program and apply if eligible.