

Join today.



You can help control invasive species in the Sonoran Desert.

Join the Sonoran Desert Weedwackers every third Saturday of the month

January-March and November-December

8:00 a.m.

April-May and September-October

7:00 a.m.

June-August

6:00 a.m.

For more information on this month's weedwacking location or to be put on the official Weedwacker e-mail list, contact:

Pima County
Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
Environmental Education

520.615.7855

or

eeducation@pima.gov



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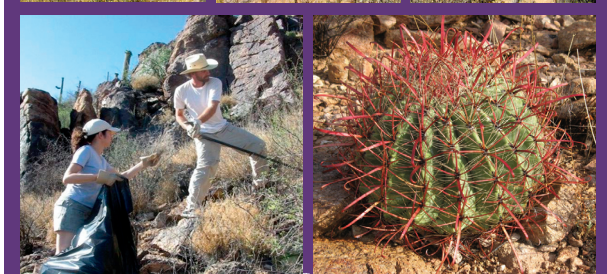
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Sonoran Desert WEEDWACKERS

Working to preserve



the Sonoran Desert.

Pima County
Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation

www.pima.gov/nrpr

Eradication

Invasive species threaten native plant and wildlife populations in the Sonoran Desert. Buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*) and fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) crowd out native plants and can fuel frequent and devastating fires in what has generally been a fireproof desert. Competition for water weakens and kills desert plants, while dense roots and ground shading prevent germination of native seeds. If left uncontrolled, buffelgrass and fountain grass will irrevocably alter the Sonoran Desert.

Know the invasives.

Invasive African grasses

Right: buffelgrass

Below: fountain grass



Invasive species pose a significant threat to the Sonoran Desert.

Dedication

The *Sonoran Desert Weedwackers* are an all-volunteer group dedicated to manually removing infestations of buffelgrass, fountain grass and other invasive species found along roadways, ridge tops and washes in the Tucson Mountains.



Weedwacker volunteers typically meet at a central location and take a short van ride to the weedwacking site. Seasoned volunteers and Pima County staff provide *grass classes* that cover plant identification and safe removal techniques. After manually removing infestations, plants are bagged, hauled out of the site and taken to the landfill.

Preservation



Weedwacking is hard work but the benefits are well worth the effort! Volunteers should be in good physical shape and able to hike on uneven terrain. Hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and lots of water are highly recommended.

Since 2000, the *Weedwackers* have successfully eliminated major infestations of invasive grasses in washes and on ridge tops in Pima County's Tucson Mountain Park.



For more information on how to identify buffelgrass and its devastating effects on the Sonoran Desert, go to:

www.buffelgrass.org