

JOIN TODAY.



Please join the *Sonoran Desert Weedwackers* to protect our desert. The *Weedwackers* work three times each month, throughout the year. On the second and fourth Wednesdays the group hikes miles into steep and difficult terrain. The third Saturdays hikes are shorter distances and in less difficult locations. Join us as often as you would like – once a month or once a year. *It's all good – everyone can make a difference!*

January – February and November – December

8:00 a.m.

March – May and September – October

7:00 a.m.

June – August

6:00 a.m.

For more information on this month's weedwacking location contact:

**Pima County
Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
Environmental Education**

520.615.7855

or

education@pima.gov

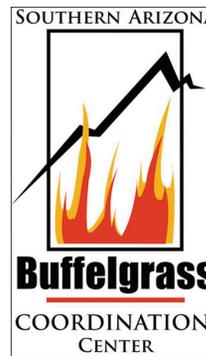


You can help control the spread of invasive species in the Sonoran Desert.

**The Arizona
Native Plant
Society**



P.O. Box 41206
Tucson AZ 85717
www.aznps.com



PIMA COUNTY

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- Sharon Bronson, Chair • District 3
- Ally Miller • District 1
- Ramón Valadez • District 2
- Ray Carroll • District 4
- Richard Elías • District 5

PIMA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

- C.H. Huckelberry • County Administrator
- John Bernal • Deputy County Administrator for Public Works

PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION

- Chris Cawein, Director
- 3500 West River Road, Tucson, AZ 85741
- (520) 877-6000 • www.pima.gov/nrpr

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

SONORAN DESERT WEEDWACKERS

*Working to conserve
the Sonoran Desert*

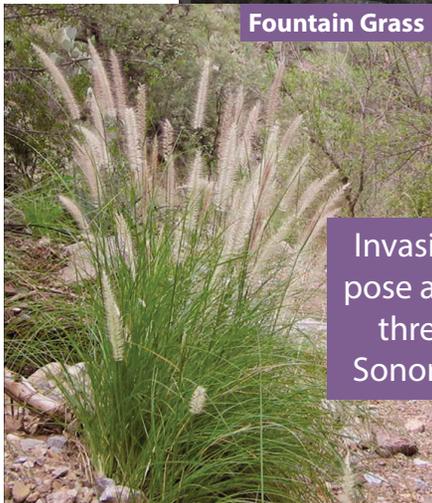


**PIMA COUNTY
NATURAL RESOURCES,
PARKS AND RECREATION**

CONTROL

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 devastating fires in an ecosystem that is not fire adapted. Without your help, saguaros and other signature plants and animals of the Sonoran desert are in jeopardy of being lost from this landscape.

Know the invasives.



Invasive species pose a significant threat to the Sonoran Desert.

CONSERVATION

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 chosen locations, sometimes taking a short van ride to a nearby work site. Seasoned volunteers and Pima County staff provide grass classes that cover plant identification and safe removal techniques. After manually removing infestations, plants are carefully placed side-by-side (like a thatched roof) and rocked to help contain seeds and plants until they decompose.

DEDICATION



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

Since 2000, the *Weedwackers* have successfully eliminated major infestations (1000s of acres and tons of invasive grasses) by working together to protect and conserve Tucson Mountain Park. They also teach individuals how to protect their homes and neighborhoods.



Want to know more? What's going on locally or how to identify buffelgrass, go to:

www.buffelgrass.org