



Saguaro National Park News Release

For Immediate Release

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14-18

Saguaro National Park is Looking for Volunteers to Beat Back Buffelgrass on Saturday

Tucson, AZ - Saguaro National Park will host a Beat Back Buffelgrass event Saturday, January 25 in the Tucson Mountain District (west) as part of the seventh annual Beat Back Buffelgrass Day, a coordinated region wide effort to combat this invasive weed which threatens our iconic Sonoran Desert. Volunteers are invited to join park staff from 8:00am to noon and remove buffelgrass plants from Tucson's backyard national park or one of the other sites across the Tucson valley.

The Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Center is organizing volunteer sites across Pima County, from Sahuarita to the Catalinas. Mayor Rothschild will join Beat Back Buffelgrass volunteers at the Mortimore Neighborhood site where he will officially proclaim the day. Officials from Tucson Airport Authority, PAG, Pima County Office Emergency Management, and Tucson Fire Department will be there to support this effort that is critical to our health and safety. Join us for a morning dedicated to helping our friends and neighbors reduce the threat of buffelgrass where we live and where we play. To see all the volunteer sites on Beat Back Buffelgrass Day and sign up to help, visit: <http://www.buffelgrass.org/>

Buffelgrass spreads rapidly and burns hot enough to melt aluminum at 1400 degrees Fahrenheit. Buffelgrass fires move at a rate of three feet per second, fast enough to burn a football field in three minutes. Native vegetation, unaccustomed to fire, is permanently destroyed while the buffelgrass recovers quickly. As buffelgrass colonizes more areas, native plants and animals are displaced and the threat of fire increases across the landscape. Additional information on buffelgrass can be found at the Saguaro National Park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/naturescience/invasive-plants.htm>

Join us, bring a friend, and help out for a few hours on Beat Back Buffelgrass Day. It's a great way to get great exercise and have some fun. Sign up now at www.buffelgrass.org

Details:

Where: Saguaro National Park, Tucson Mountain District (west)

When: Saturday, January 25, from 8am – 12noon

Sign up: www.buffelgrass.org

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