

**Support for the 2007 Buffelgrass Summit: Developing a framework for buffelgrass control
in Southern Arizona**
2007 IPM Grant Report

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Project Objective: The purpose of the Buffelgrass Summit was to engage the relevant stakeholders from local, state, and federal land management agencies, as well as local, county, and state government and encourage them to identify priority needs for a buffelgrass control program.

Summary and Outcomes: The funds were used as partial payment for the conference room rental cost at the J.W. Starr Pass Marriott resort. This allowed us to host approximately 200 attendees in a location where conservation threats from buffelgrass and on-the-ground control and mapping efforts could be pointed out.

Results of the Summit include the drafting of a regional buffelgrass strategic plan (available in early Feb 2008), increases in buffelgrass mapping and control efforts regionally, including efforts on Tumamoc Hill, "A" Mountain, Saguaro National Park, Tucson Mountain Park, Phoenix Parks and Preserves, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and others, and the continued round-table discussions of the buffelgrass summit working group to keep everyone all stakeholders updated about the status of current and future buffelgrass projects.

Participation: Participants included the City of Tucson, City of Phoenix, Town of Marana, Town of Oro Valley, Pima County, Arizona Legislature, Arizona Dept. of Agriculture, Arizona DOT, Arizona State Parks, Arizona Game & Fish Dept., Arizona State Land Dept., U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S Forest Service, USDA Natl. Res. Cons. Service, U.S. Dept. of Defense, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Sonoran Desert Weedwackers, Phoenix Weedwackers, Audubon Society, Sonoran Institute, and the University of Arizona, among others.

Leveraged Resources: An additional \$8800 was supplied by Pima County, Pima Association of Governments, and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum to pay for room rental, meals, video filming and editing, and the printing and distribution of educational materials.

Current Status and Continuing Need: Considerable success has been made in bringing this issue to the public eye, but significant regional action has not yet been achieved. There still exists a continuing need to survey fast spread of buffelgrass, especially in wildland/urban interface areas, to discuss its immediate consequences for the regional biology, economy and welfare, and to help implement mitigation and adaptation strategies defined in a recently completed Buffelgrass Strategic Plan for Southern Arizona.

We believe that the buffelgrass issue is the most serious environmental problem currently facing Tucson, Pima County and Southern Arizona and we solicit your counsel and support in addressing this critical challenge.