

News Release
USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
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Effective Immediately

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NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY AT SABINO CANYON
Everyone Runs, Buffelgrass Pull September 25

TUCSON, AZ (September 16, 2010) – On September 25, 2010, more than 170,000 Americans are expected to volunteer to help restore the beauty and vitality of our public lands as part of the 17th Annual “National Public Lands Day.” The Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District and the Friends of Sabino Canyon will be hosting “Everyone Runs,” a four-mile run and a one-mile fun run/walk for kids. The Forest will also coordinate a buffelgrass pull to remove the invasive African grass. Standard amenity fees will be waived for the day.

The Sabino Canyon Classic four-mile run begins at 6:15 a.m. at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. The route follows the main road into Lower Sabino and Bear Canyons to the turnaround at the Bear Canyon Trailhead and back. Custom awards will be presented to the top finishers and in five-year age groups. The \$35.00 registration fee includes a Mexican breakfast, smoothies, free post-race photos, massage and a T-shirt. Registration is available 24 hours a day at www.everyoneruns.net. Participants can also register (cash or check only) at Fleet Feet, 7301 E. Tanque Verde Road on September 24 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and at the race from 5:00 to 6:00 a.m.

The one-mile Kid’s Fun Run begins at 7:45 a.m. at the visitor center. There is no registration fee. The events benefit the Friends of Sabino Canyon, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of Sabino Canyon, and support children and adults enjoying the great outdoors on National Public Lands Day to exercise on their public lands.

The Sabino Canyon Weedwackers will be out in force on National Public Lands Day eradicating buffelgrass in the canyon. The general public is welcome, and families and organized groups are encouraged to volunteer with this ecologically important work.

Buffelgrass is an invasive plant which colonizes the desert, and outcompetes and displaces native vegetation. It is fire-adapted, where desert vegetation is not, and threatens the Sonoran Desert ecosystem.

Participants should meet at the Southern Arizona Rescue Association parking lot between 6:30 and 7:00 a.m. for registration. Follow Sabino Canyon Road north past the Sabino Canyon parking lot. Turn right (east) on the next road which is approximately ½ mile north of the parking lot and follow the “Sabino Canyon Weedwacker” signs.

Volunteers should wear long pants and sleeves, sturdy hiking boots, a hat and sunscreen, and should bring snacks and a water bottle. Gloves, tools and water to refill bottles will be provided.

For more information please call the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center at (520) 749-8700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekends.