



Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center Newsletter

December 2010

In This Issue

[Public Lands Foundation Citation](#)

[2010 Accomplishments](#)

Up Coming Events

**Beat Back Buffelgrass Day
Feb 5th, 2011**

[More information](#)

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Dear SABCC Supporter,

On behalf of SABCC, I would like to thank all of our partners and supporters for your unwavering commitment. Even in the midst of hard economic times, we have been able to move forward with developing a regional risk assessment, data management system and decision support system. Reports on these endeavors are available on our website (www.buffelgrass.org).

In April, Representative Raul Grijalva convened a Congressional Field Hearing in Tucson on "Losing Ground: The War On Buffelgrass In The Sonoran Desert". Among the regional luminaries who gave testimony were Ned Norris, Chairman of the Tohono O'Odham Nation, Sarah Smallhouse, President of the Thomas R. Brown Foundations and Chair of the SABCC Board of Directors and Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator, as well as regional representatives of the Federal Land Managers. An outcome of this high profile hearing was the commitment of our Federal Land partners to provide funding for regional buffelgrass mitigation efforts across jurisdictional boundaries. These projects engage federal, state and regional entities in cooperative projects that benefit the entire community.

Beat Back Buffelgrass Day 2011 is shaping up to be our best ever. We have engaged Coach Mike Candrea and the University of Arizona Softball Team in promoting the event and even participating in it! Our media blitz will begin January 1st 2011. Look for the Teams public service announcements on our local TV and radio stations and don't forget to spread the word to the community. Registration begins January 1.

The following articles highlight SABCC's numerous projects and accomplishments for 2010

Public Lands Foundation Citation



Henri Bisson, President of the Public Lands Foundation, presenting to Lindy Brigham Executive Director of SABCC.

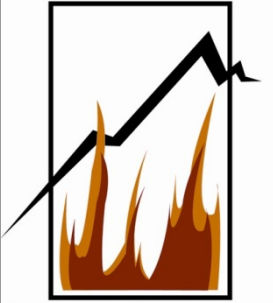
Wednesday, December 15th, 2010

The Public Lands Foundation ([PLF](#)) honored the Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center with the Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation for

"invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes"

SABCC was nominated for the award by Mark Lambert, Ironwood National Forest National Monument ([IFNM](#)) Manager. In his recommendation he stated that "The SABCC is a symbol of how partnerships can be successful. The SABCC takes the lead on providing not only BLM but a variety of partners the opportunity to identify funding opportunities for research, education, and physical removal of buffelgrass." The citation recognizes SABCC's assistance to BLM in its effort to educate the public and bring together a variety of stakeholders that share BLM's vision of extinguishing the invasion of buffelgrass.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA



Buffelgrass
COORDINATION
CENTER

Our Mission
is to provide a regional
information center that
emphasizes an integrated
management approach to control
buffelgrass in Southern Arizona.

Congressman Raul Grijalva's representative, Jose Miranda, also presented a certificate of appreciation to SABCC at the ceremony.

2010 Accomplishments

Legislative Affairs

Congressional Field Hearing, Saturday, April 10, 2010: Representative Raúl M. Grijalva, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, held a formal congressional field hearing in Tucson on "Losing Ground: The War on Buffelgrass in the Sonoran Desert" to inform the committee on the resources needed to control buffelgrass in Southern Arizona. The testimony from this hearing is on the website ([pdf](#)) and became part of the permanent congressional record.

Appropriations Request for Federal Land Managers in Southern Arizona: In July, 2010, the House Interior and the Environment Subcommittee passed SABCC's \$1M request for a Federal Lands Buffelgrass Planning and Mitigation Exercise in Southern Arizona within the FY-11 Appropriations Bill. This was one of only three appropriations requests by Arizona Congressmen passed in this bill. Another \$1.2M will be requested in FY-12 to complete this 2-yr project. This new funding will be used to design, implement and monitor/evaluate buffelgrass control treatments across 14 national parks, monuments, forests, wildlife refuges, and military reservations in southern and Central Arizona. Ironwood Forest NM will be a major player in this initiative, which is awaiting approval by the President. The main benefits of this project will be a coordinated approach, increased control capacity across all federal lands, a 10-yr plan to sustain the effort, and reduced risk of re-infestations onto other public and private lands. Recent events in Congress led to the removal of this appropriations from the final bill. However, SABCC is working with the Land Managers to accomplish the project using other avenues of funding.

Pending Proposals

FEMA Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant: In November 2010, SABCC, the Tucson Airport Authority, Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and Logan Simpson, Inc. submitted a \$3.4M proposal to FEMA to control buffelgrass populations around the airport and the Mission Road Complex that houses the Adult Detention Center. If you would like to receive a copy of the proposal, please contact [Lindy](#)

Technical Support Projects

Risk Assessment and Abundance Mapping: In May 2010, SABCC and Logan Simpson, Inc., a regional environmental firm, used local expert knowledge from the Buffelgrass Working Group to complete a regional vulnerability and risk assessment for Pima County and southern Arizona. ([pdf](#))

Science Workshop to Develop Data Management and Decision Support

Systems: On May 4-6, 2010 SABCC convened a stakeholder workshop at OALS, entitled "Science and Management Priorities for Mitigating the Impacts of Buffelgrass Invasion and Novel Fire Regimes in the Sonoran Desert." This was the first of a series of annual workshops devoted to this topic. The workshop had two principal objectives: (1) design and implement a web-based monitoring, control, and reporting tool specific to the buffelgrass invasion and its mitigation, under the guidance of the USGS Invasive Species Science Branch in Ft. Collins, and (2) parameterize and run a formal decision support/adaptive management simulation model, using buffelgrass infestations on the south slope of the Santa Catalina Mountains as a test case.

- The Data Management System is near completion and will be deployed this fall

▲ In November, 2010, Version 1 of the Buffelgrass Decision Support Model was

completed and used to simulate buffelgrass spread and alternative control scenarios in the Catalina Mountains. ([pdf](#))

Awards and Cooperative Agreements

Cooperative Agreements: Following the April 10th Congressional Hearings, SABCC received notice that the National Park Service and the BLM had funding for SABCC for specific projects on lands surrounding Saguaro National Park and the Ironwood National Monument.

Saguaro National Park

- \$35,000 for two years for education and mitigation on lands surrounding the Park.

Bureau of Land Management

- \$500,000 for 5 years for education, mapping, treatment and monitoring on lands surrounding the Ironwood Forest National Monument.

Public Lands Foundation: In August 2010, SABCC was awarded the Landscape Stewardship Award from the Public Lands Foundation

Beat Back Buffelgrass Day 2011

SABCC and the Pima Association of Governments sponsors Beat Back Buffelgrass Day each year to promote citizen awareness and garner support for our efforts at securing funds to mitigate the buffelgrass threat across Southern Arizona,

On Saturday, February 6th 2010, we held the Third Annual Beat Back Buffelgrass Day. Twenty jurisdictions and groups participated with 24 sites which drew over 500 citizens who each spent 3 - 4 hours pulling buffelgrass. .

For 2011, SABCC and Pima Association of Governments are organizing the Fourth Annual Beat Back Buffelgrass Day on Sat., Feb. 5, 2011. Coach Mike Candrea and the UA women's softball team will be helping SABCC promote the event. This year the goal is to recruit 1000 volunteers, and with the team's support we could easily exceed it! Coach Candrea would like to make the team's involvement an annual event. Find out more and register at www.buffelgrass.org.

Sincerely,

Lindy Brigham
Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center

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