

RESOLUTION NO. 2005- 265
PIMA COUNTY
RESOLUTION TO MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES IN PIMA COUNTY

WHEREAS, Pima County's land, water and other resources may face severe impacts from harmful, undesirable non-native ("invasive") plant and animal species that are increasing yearly in number and area in the County; and

WHEREAS, these impacts result in ecological damage and damage to the Pima County economy and human health by: (1) decreasing land productivity; (2) impairing water quality and reducing water yield; (3) increasing instances of livestock poisoning; (4) degrading fish and wildlife habitat; (5) impairing forest and rangeland health by altering natural or desired fire regimes; (6) creating disease vectors; (7) increasing allergens; (8) increasing erosion and watershed degradation; (9) altering landscapes that affect visual aesthetics; (10) destroying agricultural crops, wetlands, waterways, and recreational areas; and (11) out competing and replacing native flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, a preliminary list of potentially problematic species of plants and wildlife has been identified for Pima County in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and are addressed in the Draft Multi-Species Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, Pima County seeks coherent organization of its invasive species management strategies and would benefit from a comprehensive review of existing policies across and within agencies to ensure they are up-to-date, consistent, coordinated, and targeted appropriately; and

WHEREAS, prevention, early detection, rapid response, and eradication of invasive species are the most effective and least costly strategies to combat new biological invaders before they expand their population; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the above strategies requires coordination at the County level, and coordination with federal, tribal, international, and local partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following actions be initiated by Pima County agencies, under the leadership of the Pima County Public Works Department, as follows:

1. Establish an inter-agency County work group (the "Pima County Invasive Species Work Group") to coordinate and prioritize invasive species identification, mapping, control and

eradication efforts on Pima County lands and invasive source lands that will directly impact County lands where possible.

2. Encourage the agencies in the Pima County Invasive Species Work Group to diligently share information, financial resources, staff resources and volunteers.
3. Establish a primary stakeholder relationship with the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council established by Executive Order 2005-09.
4. Develop public outreach programs to educate County residents about threats posed by invasive species, what is being done to control or eradicate them and how County residents can assist in these efforts on their own property or in their own neighborhoods, and as volunteers on County lands.
5. Support and provide access to County resources to assist with multi-jurisdictional or County-wide task force level invasive species programs and activities.
6. Support any action or effort by the Arizona Department of Agriculture to classify buffelgrass as a "prohibited" noxious weed.
7. Ensure that concerns and lists of invasive species in Pima County identified under the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and the Pima County Multi-species Conservation Plan are routinely updated and addressed.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this ___ day of ____, 2005

Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Clerk of the Board



Deputy County Attorney