Sonoran Desert
Buffelgrass

Phoenix Mountain Preserves
Tucson Mountain Park
Saguaro National Park
Tanque Verde Valley
Town of Marana

October 16, 2009

James Kendler, President

Porsche Club of America, Southern Arizona Region

[redacted]

Dear James Kendler,

As many of us know, buffelgrass and the fire it brings are poised to destroy our Sonoran Desert ecosystem and threaten public safety, possibly more effectively and faster than drought, development, or almost any other potential disaster. We also know that buffelgrass without rain can only be eliminated by digging it out one plant at a time.

The Porsche Club of America-Southern Arizona Region decided to take on the difficult task of removing the invasive grasses from its adopted roadside. On its own initiative, the club organized a small group of members to meet with a Buffelgrass Educator to learn what was involved with the roadside clearing of invasive grasses. After that activity, the club added information on its local website about the dangers of these invaders. The group then educated its members with a buffelgrass presentation at one of its meetings, took a survey of interest in weedwacking and set up a weed attack date and location.

These weedwackers have made a huge difference along their adopted roadway by digging out the grass and bagging it, reducing the fire risk and preserving the natural desert. This activity will continue until the invasive grasses no longer grow along the roadway. Pima County has rewritten their Adopt-a-Roadway Guidelines, incorporating the procedures of this group in their revision.

The action of this band of intrepid weed warriors provides a model of community action that could be repeated throughout Tucson. This group has made a difference and I hope that other Adopt-a-Roadway groups follow this example.

Marilyn Hanson

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Volunteer Coordinator

Sonoran Desert Weedwackers

Cc: Cynthia Henry, Pima County Adopt-a-Roadway
Meg Quinn, Pima County, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation