

CONSENT TO ACTION  
THE CAREFREE MOUNTAIN ESTATES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
c/o AAM, LLC  
1600 W. Broadway Rd., Suite 200, Tempe, AZ 85282-1112  
602.957.9191 / Fax: 602.957.8802

The undersigned, constituting all of the members of the Board of Directors of The Carefree Mountain Estates Community Association, Inc., an Arizona nonprofit Corporation, hereby take the following action:

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors hereby adopts the following amendment to the Design Guidelines for The Carefree Mountain Estates Community Association.

THE FOLLOWING PLANTS SHALL BE ADDED TO APPENDEX E PROHIBITED PLANT LISTAS SET FORTH BELOW:

10. Desert Broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*) will be prohibited as a defined weed with the potential to spread throughout the development and also is a fire hazard.

11. Red Bromegrass (*Bromus Rubens*) will be prohibited as a defined weed and non-native plant and it is a major threat to the Sonoran Desert because it is so well established.

12. Buffel Grass (*Pennisetum ciliare*) will be prohibited as a defined weed and non-native plant and will burn while still green. When native plants die, Buffel Grass moves in and chokes out native seedlings.

13. Talmarkisk/Salt Cedar (*Tamarix spp.*) will be defined as a non-native plant. These trees use large amounts of ground water causing desert springs to dry up and crowding out native trees.

14. Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) is a non-native perennial. Fountain Grass is a highly aggressive fire-adapted species that crowds out native plants and spreads quickly.

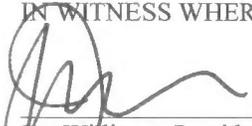
15. Malta Starthistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) is a non-native plant. This plant aggressively competes for space with native species and reduces wildlife habitat and food.

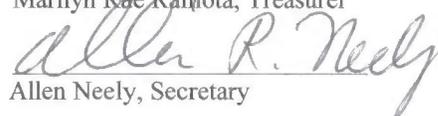
16. Saharan Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) is a non-native plant. As desert temperature rise, parts of the plant dies and increased wildfire fuel loads dramaticall.

17. Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is non-native and competes with native plants and invades disturbed areas. It is a leading cause of hay fever in the Sonoran Desert.

**EXCEPT** as amended by this Consent to Action, the Design Guidelines for The Carefree Mountain Estates Community Association remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this consent as of the 14th day of October, 2015.

  
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Jay Williams, President  
  
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Cheryl Orsburn, Vice President

  
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Marilyn Rae Kanota, Treasurer  
  
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Allen Neely, Secretary

## INVASIVE PLANTS IN THE SONORAN DESERT...AND AROUND ENTRADA

As development pushes into the Sonoran Desert, an unintended consequence has resulted in the introduction and spread of invasive plants into natural open spaces. Invasive plants are generally not native and tend to compete with and take over native plants. Unfortunately, due to landscaping and other choices on developed land outside but near Entrada (Carefree Mountain Estates), several invasive plants have been inadvertently introduced into the community by windblown seeds or carried by birds, humans or water. The ecological damage caused by invasive plants negatively impacts the desert landscape by replacing native plants, damaging lands for animal habitat, eliminating preferred plants for forage and significantly increasing the risk of potential fire damage. All of these elements can permanently alter the landscape of our Sonoran Desert and our community.

### What is an Invasive Plant?

An invasive plant is generally not native to the Sonoran Desert and Entrada. These plants compete with native plants and have the ability to take over an area. Invasive plants upset the sensitive and natural ecological balance of the surrounding area and can also disrupt the habitat for desert wildlife. In addition to the impact on native plants, this vegetation becomes a major fire fuel source during the hot weather when these weeds dry out.

### The Sonoran Desert

Carefree is located within the Sonoran Desert. The Sonoran Desert, in its entirety, only covers roughly 100,000 square miles, encompassing most of the southern half of Arizona, much of Sonora, a small portion of southeastern California and most of Mexico's Baja peninsula. This desert is a diverse mixture of plants, animals, geology and climate.

### Human Impact

Carefree citizens and members of Entrada's community should be proud of their efforts in saving, for perpetuity and in a sustainable form, the unique Sonoran Desert environment. But as with anything, human activity can also have negative effects. Unfortunately, due to landscaping and other choices on developed land outside but near Entrada (Carefree Mountain Estates), several invasive plants have been inadvertently introduced into the community by windblown seeds or carried by birds, humans or water.

### Fire

The locations where homes and the Sonoran Desert come together are known as wildland/urban interface areas. These areas can be difficult to manage and provide a unique challenge for the residents of the community and the Carefree Fire Department.

The invasive plants that have been introduced provide a substantial increase in the available fuel and can serve to increase the risk and intensity of wildland fire incidents. These types of invasive plants can more quickly regenerate themselves. This gives them a distinct advantage over the native plant species, which will take a much longer time to recover and regenerate after a fire incident. The result is the potential for hotter and more destructive fires in the Sonoran desert that can lead to the irreversible destruction of the native vegetation and local eco-system.

### Habitat Loss

Because invasive plants can displace native plants, this can also result in negative impacts on desert fauna. Entrada/Carefree Mountain Estates is an attractive home to desert wildlife. If forced to feed on invasive species, animals can become sick, leave the area for a more palatable food source or possibly die.

### The Culprits

Although no detailed study of all invasive plants in our community has been carried out, eight vegetation types have been identified in the Sonoran Desert and are outlined below:



**Desert Broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*) native**  
 This native desert shrub, that is almost always green, grows quickly to nearly 10-feet high. In autumn, the blooms, containing a mass of seeds with white bristles, easily become airborne and spread freely. Desert Broom is viewed as an invasive plant because of its aggressiveness in overtaking disturbed areas (such as roadsides and new landscaped areas), and because it burns fiercely and is a significant threat to nearby structures.



**Red Brome grass (*Bromus rubens*) non-native**  
 Found in very dense patches to widely dispersed as individual plants, the Red Brome grass is a fast-growing annual grass that reaches over 10-inches tall. Characteristic brush-like heads start out green in color, become reddish purple when mature and then light brown when seeds dry. The seed carrying portion of the grass have sharp ends and easily attach to animals or clothing for transport to other locations where the seeds then germinate. Red Brome grass has become a major threat to the Sonoran Desert because it is so well established.



**Buffel Grass (*Pennisetum ciliare*) non-native** This perennial bunchgrass grows up to 4-feet tall and has a mass of long, tough roots that can grow up to 8 feet deep. Narrow, light green leaves are 1 to 4-inches long. Bristly flower heads may be purple, gray or yellowish and turn a distinctive golden-brown when dry. Buffel Grass will burn while still green. When native plants die, Buffel Grass moves in and chokes out native seedlings.



**Tamarisk/Salt Cedar (*Tamarix* spp.) non-native** This shrubby tree grows up to 15-feet with gray-green foliage and slender branches. Pink-white flowers appear from January to October. Tamarisk spreads rapidly and forms dense thickets. Once established, it is difficult to eradicate. These trees use large amounts of ground water causing desert springs to dry up and crowding out native trees such as cottonwood, mesquite and desert willow. Because this plant is difficult to remove, it is advised to contact a specialist if you detect a Tamarisk in your area or in the Preserve.



**Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) non-native** This perennial bunchgrass grows up to 3-feet high and has long, slender green leaves and purple to white feathery spikes. Fountain Grass is a highly aggressive, fire-adapted species that crowds out native plants and spreads quickly. Fountain Grass has been used in landscaping. Native ornamental grasses should be used instead of Fountain Grass.

Alternatives: Purple Threeawn, Arizona Cotton Top or Bull Grass.



**Malta Starthistle (*Centaurea melitensis*) non-native** This erect winter annual grows up to 2-feet tall and in dense stands. It has grayish-green foliage and yellow, thistle-like flowers with sharp spines of a purplish or brown color that appear in May and June. Malta Starthistle aggressively competes for space with native species and reduces wildlife habitat and food.



**Saharan Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) non-native** This annual, spring herb forms rosettes 6 to 12-inches in diameter. Leaves vary in size and have tiny bristles on the undersides. Small plane yellow flowers appear from January to April or May. Tiny reddish seeds are formed in narrow pods. Saharan Mustard can grow in large stands, creating barriers to normal wildlife movement when plants are alive. As desert temperatures rise, parts of the plant die and increase wildfire fuel loads dramatically.



**Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) non-native** This perennial grass is common to many lawns in southern regions and grows well in our hot, desert climate. It is the most common summer lawn choice in the desert southwest. Bermuda Grass competes with native plants and invades disturbed areas. It is a leading cause of hay fever in the Sonoran Desert.

## How Can You Help?

- Learn to identify problem plants
- Remove invasive weeds from private property
- Work with your landscaper/gardener so native plants take priority in your own yard
- Report infestations in common areas to homeowner association board
- Learn about proper eradication methods
- Join a recognized volunteer weed removal group, getting trained and participating
- Ask the nursery where you buy landscape material to stop carrying these plants
- Help the Carefree Fire Department by providing defensible space on the portions of your property that are nearest to structures and adjacent to natural Sonoran Desert areas.

Please remember that prior to modifying any portion of a dedicated Natural Area Open Spaces – NAOS – you must get approval from the Entrada Design Review Committee.

- For more information on community guidelines and Entrada’s List of Approved Landscape Materials, please visit the Entrada community website [www.carefreeentrada](http://www.carefreeentrada.com)
- For a detailed set of references to economic and ecological damages by invasive plants, <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants>.
- This document is adapted to Carefree/Entrada and Carefree Mountain Estates from a document published by the City of Scottsdale. <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/asset17456.aspx>