

Sabino Canyon Arundo Removal Project  
Team Leader Training Agenda

**Introductions**

- Partners: UA: SAHRA/AZrivers, MWS; Sabino: SCVN, FOS; USFS: Josh

**Project Overview & Goals**

- Unknown source and slow spread upstream
- Disturbance of Aspen fire and 2005 debris flows upsets riparian ecosystem
- Arundo, Giant Cane, now poised to make rapid encroachment throughout lower canyon
- Good news is it is not too late and it is controllable – but will require several years of effort
- Primary goal is to dig-out or kill Arundo rhizomes – requires clearing out stalks first
- Original plan was to focus large public efforts on the largest stands – at and below Sabino dam
- Complicated by offer of Tohono Oodam to help “harvest” roots and cane – if this comes through, our second objective is to split volunteer efforts between big bend and below dam.
- Founded on belief that a small group of committed individuals can make a difference

**How we will do it – mostly common sense**

- Your help is critical to make this an effective, safe and satisfying experience for volunteers
- We will demonstrate and allow you to start developing your Arundo removal skills
- Basically entails: Site assessment, Team deployment, Cutting stalks, digging roots, hauling away
- Other critical factors include: command, communication, safety, priorities, logistics

**Command**

In the case of an emergency or for any critical issues, we will follow this command structure:

- The Forest Service is the land owner and we follow their rules: Josh Taiz is the FS lead; we will follow the directives of any Forest Service personnel
- Jim Washburne is the overall project coordinator
- Candice Rupprecht, Mark/Jean Hengesbaugh are Asst. Project Coordinators
- Team Leaders
- Volunteers

**Communication**

- Many of us have cell phones and these can be used in an emergency but otherwise we will use walkie-talkies to communicate with project coordinators, who will then contact FS personnel, if necessary. A list of emergency numbers will be distributed.
- Washburne’s cell phone is 520-260-2228

**Safety Briefing**

- Be aware of where your team members are – particularly when cutting cane
- Keep team/groups separated by at least 40 feet
- Watch for wild animals – always sweep work area for snakes, etc before starting work
- Wear gloves and other protective clothing – Arundo leaves can lacerate your skin
- No overhead pick swings; pick handles will break if pushed too hard
- Make sure everyone is drinking enough water and has sun protection

## Work priorities

- These will change daily and will be communicated to team leaders by the project coordinator
- Today's (10/26) schedule:
  - 8:00 – Team briefing
  - 8:30 – Walk to lower Sabino
  - 9:00 – Team practice removing Arundo
  - 10:30 – Walking tour of Arundo removal sites, Dam, ...
  - 11:30 – Wrap-up, Sign out and return tools

## Other logistics

- FS personnel will have medical radios and supplies
- Water and clothing are individual responsibilities, however, we will try to have extra water on the golden days
- We should always be within a short walk of restrooms so use them.
- Let other visitors know what we are doing and stay out of their way.
- Never block roads or pathways with bags or bundles
- Remember – please do not cut native vegetation if at all possible

## Responsibilities of Team leaders

- RSVP their participation
- Attend Team meeting during 8:00 volunteer safety briefing
- Check tools out
- Supervise your team; keep pathways open!
- Monitor team members for sun, exhaustion, early departures
- Enforce safety protocols
- Know where priority work sites and bundle/bag caches are
- Keep track of group's productivity
- Encourage future participation (future dates: 11/2, 9; 12/7)
- Check tools in
- Make note of any broken/non-functioning equipment

## Wrap-up and Evaluation

- Questions?
- We need your comments and recommendations to improve this experience. Please email us or add comments to your equipment check-out form
- Reminders for Golden Days on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>:
  - Arrive by 7:45
  - Bring your own, gloves, hat, water, snack, knife, extra loppers, ...
  - Review team leader packets.
  - “Be safe out there”

Any questions about the Golden Days or this training: Contact:

- RSVP participation: [Tucson.arundo@gmail.com](mailto:Tucson.arundo@gmail.com)
- Jim Washburne
  - 626-4107
  - [jwash@hwr.arizona.edu](mailto:jwash@hwr.arizona.edu)