

"Grand Canyon's Plants: Removal and Restoration. A closer look at nonnative and native plant projects throughout the river corridor and how you can help."

Nonnative and nasty plants in camps: What you can do to help!

While most of our efforts for controlling invasive, non-native plants in the corridor have been targeted treatments done mostly by the vegetation crew and volunteers on specific trips, we are expanding our horizons! We would like to enlist the help of a handful of dedicated guides to stop at a particular camp throughout the season to either clip a small section of camelthorn (*Alhagi maurorum*) or pull Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*). Many guides report clipping or pulling nonnative plants at specific camps on their own to provide access to the toilet site or keep the kitchen area free from pokey plants and we are ready to capitalize on your work. We have chosen 10 sites to serve as a pilot program allowing guides to clip or pull throughout the season and report the numbers back to the vegetation program for analysis. The key to removing these two nasty plants from the camps is repeated removal. There is no feasible way to remove these exotics from the entire canyon, but we can learn a lot about the effectiveness of our control methods and at least control the spread in valuable camp sites with your help. Details on the program will be provided and a sign-up sheet ready for your name! Contact Melissa McMaster at 928.638.7465 or [Melissa\\_McMaster@nps.gov](mailto:Melissa_McMaster@nps.gov) for more information.

Native Plant Restoration in the River Corridor:

Over the past several years, Grand Canyon National Park staff have taken some new approaches to address visitor impacts to camps and sensitive areas along the river corridor. The staff is learning how to better eliminate social trails, improve desired trails and heavy use areas, reduce damaging pruning, and involve all invested parties. Parks crews are now installing live plants at locations such as Soap Creek Camp. In addition, they are refining irrigation techniques and improving seeding and mulching success. Each of these improvements has led to great success with pilot projects, ultimately improving the quality and protection of natural and cultural resources in the river corridor. The long-standing relationship with the guiding community and private river users has contributed substantially to the success of recent projects. Guides from several companies were able to participate in active restoration projects through the Cooperative Resource Conservation Program (CRCP) agreement with the Park. Volunteers from private user groups were also able to participate in campsite work in the Lower Gorge in February of this year. To further help protect Grand Canyon's resources, Park Staff are reaching out to backpackers who also use the river corridor camps. While Park Staff continue to improve techniques and expand restoration projects, they will also be looking forward to continued participation from the guiding community and private user groups. To get involved with restoration throughout the park, contact Kassy Theobald, at [kassandra\\_theobald@nps.gov](mailto:kassandra_theobald@nps.gov), or 928-638-7857.