

## Wilderness Stewardship Program

# Arnett Creek Oleander Eradication Project December 3–4, 2016 (Saturday – Sunday)

<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate	<b>Camping:</b>	Car camping
<b>Mileage:</b>	Total mileage approx. 10	<b>Time:</b>	Start 8:00am Saturday End 4:00pm Sunday

### About Arnett Creek

The Arnett Creek project is intended to support a community development project for the nearby town of Superior by enhancing sustainable recreation opportunities associated with the Arizona Trail, for which Superior serves as a gateway community. The Town of Superior has undertaken efforts to diversify their economy from its former heavy reliance on copper mining. Restoring natural areas like Arnett Creek that can connect to the Arizona Trail advance that purpose, especially with this project's addition of interpretive signage and involvement from Friends of the Tonto volunteers to encourage appropriate recreational use of the area.



Approximately 10 acres and up to 1 riparian mile will be restored along Arnett Creek. Restoration work will remove the primary invasive threat species of Tamarisk and Oleander. The project area is particularly heavily impacted by these non-native species. Benefits are expected to accrue to migratory bird species, including the Yellow-billed cuckoo for which this area can support habitat; the Long-fin dace native fish, which is found in the project area; and many other native species found in the area, including bats, amphibians, reptiles, and more. Overall biodiversity should benefit by removal of encroaching nonnative vegetation.

### Trip Description

This project led by AWC in a collaboration between the Tonto National Forest and multiple NGO's including, Arizona Trail Association, Friends of Tonto National Forest, Prescott College, Back-country Horsemen, AZ Conservation Corp, and others. In order for this project to be successful we are needing help from all of our dedicated volunteers.

Crews from the AZCC have been cutting Tamarisk within Arnett Creek, volunteers are needed to stack Tamarisk slash in piles to be burned at a later date.

The project area starts approx. 0.75 miles from the trailhead. The project extends 1.5 miles. Volunteers should expect a 2 to 4 mile round trip hike along an established trail.

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We will be car-camping just down the road from the Picket Post trailhead, and there will be two porta-johns set up close to the camping area. AWC will be providing dinner on Saturday night for all the volunteers.

There will be water available in containers at the camping area. Please bring your own full water containers and refill from our stash if needed. You must wear closed toed shoes, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and eye protection. If you have gloves, please bring them as we have limited supplies.

As always, no recreational drug use will be allowed while participating.



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

For Arnett Creek, December 3-4, 2016

Questions? [brian@azwild.org](mailto:brian@azwild.org)

### Itinerary

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Approx. 5 miles

- 8:00 am **Rendezvous** at Picketpost trailhead, *directions below*
- 8:15 am **Safety talk and briefing**
- 12:00 pm **Lunch** along the trail  
Continue advancing down the trail
- 4:00 pm **End of work and clean-up**
- 5:30 pm **Dinner** provided by AWC

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Approx. 5 miles

- 7:30 am **Breakfast & break down camp**
- 8:00 am **Safety talk and briefing**  
**Continue to work on oleanders**
- 12:00 pm **Lunch** along the trail
- 4:00 pm **Arrive** trailhead Clean up all tools and supplies and pack up equipment prepare for transport. *Thanks for participating!*

### Gear List

- Day pack to carry supplies and trash (water, food, etc.)



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- Water — 4–6 liters/day. Can be refilled throughout the day if needed
- Food — Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks. *AWC will provide dinner Saturday night.*
- Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (NO SANDALS). Under our volunteer agreement with the Forest Service, *you must wear closed-toe shoes or you will not be able to join us.*
- Appropriate clothing. Warm layers for the evening. *See weather link below to plan appropriately.*
- Sun protection (sun screen, sunglasses, hat, etc.)
- Camping equipment: sleeping bag, sleeping pad, tent/shelter, flashlight (batteries), plate/bowl, utensils, toiletries/toothbrush, and first aid kit, other?

### Optional items

- Camera/Binoculars
- Hiking pole(s) or stick

## Weather

As the event gets closer, please check the weather to ensure you are properly prepared. Elevation is 2,450 ft. The weather forecast nearby: [Arnett Creek, 12/3-4//2016](#)

## Driving Directions

We will be meeting at the Picket Post Trailhead.

### From Phoenix metro area –

1. Take AZ–60 East towards Apache Junction
2. Continue east on Hwy 60 passing Hwy 79
3. In approx. 9.4 miles turn right (South) at the Picket Post trail sign
4. Continue south on the Uno trail approx. 0.4 miles
5. Turn left and follow road to the Trailhead

**Volunteers DO NOT need a Tonto Pass to park**



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**Trip Leader:** Stephanie Landers (928) 951–4041 (cell)

