



*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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**THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE & BACK TO NATIVES RESTORATION PRESENT A
VOLUNTEER RESTORATION TRAINING PROGRAM**

IRVINE, Calif., August 27, 2007 – Back to Natives Restoration, in a cooperative agreement with the Cleveland National Forest, will provide hands on training for restoration volunteers over the course of a 9 month training program. The first class will occur on September 15, in the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County. Interested individuals should RSVP by September 14 to 949-509-4787 or restoration@backtonatives.org.

Ecological restoration is a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and reestablishing healthy ecosystems. This program is for those interested in the restoration and conservation of Orange County wildlands. Successful habitat restoration ensures that native species are protected while non-native species are removed efficiently with minimal human impact.

This program will acquaint participants with non-chemical, low impact weed removal methods. Each training session will focus on specific aspects of the restoration process from rudimentary tool identification and tool and trail safety training, to native and non native plant identification, proper site entry/exit protocol as well as mechanical/physical abatement techniques to reduce soil disturbance and possible weed seed germination.

Classes occur monthly on September 15, October 27, November 10, December 8, January 12, March 8, April 12, May 10, & June 14 in the Cleveland National Forest and other locations within Orange County.

Volunteers from all wildland agencies, organizations and non-profits are welcome to participate, then share the knowledge and skills gained to restore their own lands. Age requirement: 16 years and older. Individuals younger than 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Back to Natives Restoration is dedicated to the restoration and conservation of Orange County and California wildlands, though education and restoration programs featuring native plants as a centralizing theme. For more information, please visit www.backtonatives.org or call 949-509-4787.

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