

### Mowing all your acreage?

You don't have to. And, frankly, who wants to? The time, gas, expense, noise, and dust ... Ouch! Our HOAs don't require stake-to-stake clearcut mowing. So ask yourself this: how much do I really need to mow — for a dog run, a play area, or a wildfire buffer?



# Mow in Moderation

### Grasslands, not grazing land.

Your home is in the beautiful Chihuahuan Grasslands of Hereford, Arizona. Not a mowed estate in Connecticut, nor a manicured golf course up in town. Embrace the different colors and textures of this landscape. We all chose to live in a special place and maintaining the character and quality of our grassland neighborhood is important.



### But what about animals? And wildfires?

There's a saying, "If you live in the country, you're gonna get critters." Javelina, coyotes, rodents, mule deer, skunks, and snakes are an immutable part of life here. It's simple: mow where needed to maintain visibility in "use areas." And be realistic, a deer coming to munch trees or a snake seeking a warm concrete patio or driveway won't be deterred by simply mowing more grass. Wildfires? A good 100' defensible space starts with rock and gravel and extends by mowing a band around buildings and utility areas (*above and right*).



### How to get started, "Mowing in Moderation."

Edge and contour to form an interesting non-straight-line perimeter leaving a visible and fire-defensible buffer (*right*). Mow along driveways, walkways, gardens, and rock areas to leave a well-tended but natural appearance (*left*). And give arroyos a generous no-mow border. It's easy to preserve 1/4 to 1/2 of your lot unmowed and, best yet, work with your neighbors to combine adjacent no-mow areas. Be creative!



### You aren't the only one who lives here.

Allergies? Peace and quiet? Remember, your mower-created noise, dust, and pollen force downwind neighbors to close their windows. And a little less mowing is a big help to our grassland residents. No more grassland means no more quail babies. And no foxes and coyotes to control mice and packrats. We have so many unique grassland birds here: Gambel's, Scaled, and Montezuma Quail; Botteri's Sparrows; and our very own Chihuahuan Meadowlarks singing "tortilla con chile." Acre by acre, right in our own backyards, we're mowing them out of existence!

### Together, we can make the difference.

This poster was created by neighbors concerned about the loss of our grassland community. Contact your HOA Board and/or Design-Landscape Committee for more information and ideas. Plus, many of your friends and neighbors are very knowledgeable — they'd love to help!



Black-tailed Jackrabbits rely on wild corridors for safety.



Coyotes work the grasslands to reduce rodents.



Botteri's Sparrow, unique in the U.S. to SE AZ grasslands, sings its bouncing ball song.



Swainson's Hawks migrate from Argentina to raise young in our grasslands.



The coveted and reclusive Montezuma Quail.



Roadside wildflowers benefit butterflies like this Monarch.