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## **Balloon Busting Crew**

Intentional balloon releases are a constant threat to wildlife and the environment, traveling thousands of miles and ultimately ending up as litter.

In our waterways and on land, the ragged and floating pieces are consumed by wildlife that mistake balloons for food. In addition, they cause power outages and are a waste of Helium, a finite resource.

The bottom line is balloons kill or entangle wildlife including those misleadingly labeled as "biodegradable".

Intentional balloon releases are illegal in several cities, states and countries, and they should be illegal because they are simply acceptable littering.

In order to justify legislation for a ban on intentional balloon releases, we must show evidence of their prevalence in our waterways and on land.

Turtle Island Restoration Network would like to invite you to be a partner in a new campaign, called Balloon Busting Crew, that encourages individuals to report balloons they discover out in nature.

We are asking people to report their location, upload photos, number of balloons collected and if there are any identifying marks on the balloon to determine how far it traveled. The data will support legislation to ban intentional balloon releases and protect the environment and wildlife from the deadly impacts of balloon debris.

If you would like to join our effort, please share your logo and website with me and we will post your organization on the newly-created <u>Balloon Busting Crew Facebook</u> <u>Group</u>, notifying members of your commitment to keep the environment balloon-free.

Sincerely,

Joanie Steinhaus

Program Director, Gulf of Mexico