

1 Report to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico							
2 Name of Project:	Purchase and Installation of Native Plants for Two Bird Blinds at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center						
3 Grant Recipient							
a. Organization: Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC)							
b. Name of person in charge of project: Paul Mauermann							
c. Address:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Location of SMNHC</u></td><td><u>Mailing Address</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>60 Columbine Lane</td><td>APS Education Foundation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cedar Crest, NM</td><td>Albuquerque, NM 87125</td></tr> </table>	<u>Location of SMNHC</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	60 Columbine Lane	APS Education Foundation	Cedar Crest, NM	Albuquerque, NM 87125
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60 Columbine Lane	APS Education Foundation						
Cedar Crest, NM	Albuquerque, NM 87125						
d. Telephone: 505-281-5259 (SMNHC)							
e. Contact/E-mail: Steven Henley, APS Resource Teacher; Henley_s@aps.edu							
f. Funded Amount: \$664							

The Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (SMNHC or “the Center”) is an environmental education center located in the Sandia Mountains. The facility is owned by the Albuquerque Public School System (APS), and is run by APS and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) funded a grant to install native plants in the meadow areas of two bird blinds at the Center. Before the project was started, both bird blind areas were in a relatively natural state with depressions to catch rain water. Native vegetation was slowly returning to the disturbed soils. The purpose of the project was to install native shrubs and other perennials and to sow native grass and wildflower seeds at the bird blinds to provide food and shelter that would draw in more birds and other wildlife. This will provide students and other visitors the opportunity to learn to identify native plant species and learn more about the how those plants are utilized by our feathered friends and other wildlife that frequent the area.

Native plants, native grass seed, and native wildflower seed were purchased from Plants of the Southwest for the entire funded amount (\$664). Irrigation supplies were purchased by SMNHC at a cost of over \$100. On April 23, 2015 four SMNHC staff and four volunteers dug holes, installed plants, spread seed and mulch, and put in place irrigation systems at each bird blind. Center staff maintained the irrigation system and removed weeds, primarily clover, for the rest of the summer. We were very fortunate to have had rain for several days before and after planting in addition to a fairly wet summer. We are very happy to report that the plants and seed have flourished, and wildlife is frequenting the areas! Before, during, and after photos are shown below.

We have provided the NPSNM a short article about this project for inclusion in the newsletter. Information about the project is also available on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SMNHC1>).



Lower bird blind before project.



Upper bird blind before the project.



Lower bird blind on planting day.



Lower bird blind on planting day.



Lower bird blind on planting day.



Upper bird blind on planting day.



Installing irrigation lines.



Lower bird blind in June 2015.



Upper bird blind in June 2015.



Fox at the bird blind in July 2015



MOULTRIE

23.30 inHg - 50°F (07/15/2015 02:23AM BIRD BLIND

Black bear at the bird blind in July 2015.