

REPORT ON THE CREATION OF AN APP OF NEW MEXICO RARE PLANTS

By FLORA ID

A Android app has been completed for identifying the plants of New Mexico with emphasis on the rare plants of the state. This had been made possible by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, the New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council, and the nonprofit botanical organization Flora ID.

In August, 2016, Daniela Roth Contacted me regarding the possibility of creating mobile app of the rare plants of New Mexico for use in the field, and especially for the Rare Plant Council. I had been producing interactive software for identification of plants for 20+ years, including PC software and apps for the vascular plants of New Mexico. We discussed how such an app might best work, and a grant proposal was submitted to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico in December for funding from the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund, and approved around February, 2017. The grant request noted that as of January 2017, I would be turning over the rights to produce the plant software to a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Flora ID, dedicated to promotion of botanical education and research and to development of plant identification tools. The grant also indicated Daniela Roth would review the final product prior to its approval to assure it was satisfactory.

The app itself runs only on Android phones or tablets. It includes an interactive key which allows the user to identify any of the vascular plant species present in New Mexico, along with additional text regarding each species, and color photos of 99+% of the species. For the rare plants, it includes all the information on each of them that is shown on the New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council's website.

The funding provided by the grant was \$1,350, to which Flora ID added an additional \$1,640 to cover the full cost. The app was completed in June and transmitted to Daniela Roth who approved it. In June it was presented to the NPSNM board. It is up to NPSNM to determine how and to whom the app would be made available.

I look forward to when the NPSNM may make the app available for people to use.

Respectfully,

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