

Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Sandia High Nursery and Outplanting Project

Text boxes expand as needed to contain your answers, but keep your report to two pages if possible. More detailed presentations, articles or posters are welcome separately.*

1. Organization or Individual who Received the Grant: Institute for Applied Ecology

2. Amount of Grant: \$ 1,500

3. Was additional outside funding obtained? Yes No

Source(s) Bureau of Land Management and Southwest Region Forest Service

4. Briefly, how was the grant money from the Carter Conservation Fund used?

Paid a high school intern to care for 5000 native plants over the summer (approximately 3 months). Purchased watering wand, bleach and scrubbers for washing pots, and 2000 additional conetainer pots needed for growing nursery plants. Supported travel by IAE to provide horticultural workshops to Sandia High students in Jason Roback's AP classes (2 classes) and to support summer intern.

5. Write an abstract or complete summary of the activities performed and the progress that was made this year on your project. Save any conclusions, lessons learned, and benefits achieved for the final section 6.

More than 5000 native plants - of Cota (*Thelesperma megapotamicum*), showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), and white prairie clover (*Dalea candida*) grown to maturity (May-August) and outplanted by Sandia High school students at Grow the Growers seed production field in Albuquerque's South Valley. Milkweed planted at restoration site in Taos NM. Horticultural training workshops were provided to students May-August covering the following topics: 1. native species production project introduction and orientation 2. breaking seed dormancy (did cold stratification on 2 species as a class) 3. nursery management, pests and pathology, and pot washing (did this as a class), 4. proper seeding techniques (seeded 5000 pots as a class), 5. tracking source populations, proper watering and data recording (trained student nursery manager). This included more than 10 visits by IAE staff, and full class periods committed to trainings x 2 classes.

6. State any conclusions. What benefit to you, the community or the environment has resulted or will result from your use of our funding? Include any lessons learned that would assist others. This project benefited IAE because it supported our Southwest Seed Partnership to have a greenhouse and student assistance with plant care to grow production and restoration species. It also directly supports IAE's mission to provide native plant education. The educational experience for Sandia High students was hands-on and very applied. Students benefited from the practical skills that they gained as well as a memorable day spent outdoors in the sun (outside of the classroom) where they got their hands dirty and worked side by side with botanists and local farmers. The teacher (Jason Roback) benefited from funding support for greenhouse supplies, horticultural workshops provided to his classes by professionals in

the field, and an active greenhouse full of native plants. We gained some interesting knowledge through this project: We were told that Cota didn't require any dormancy breaking techniques, but germination was slow and low. Next time we will experiment with cold stratification, scarification, and other techniques. Milkweed had excellent germination and grew fast, quickly becoming chlorotic. From this we realized it would have been helpful to provide additional training to the students on micronutrients and fertilization. The milkweed plants at time of planting had vigorous root systems. We erected popup tents outside of the greenhouse to harden the plants off before outplanting. We were worried these might blow away, but they worked great as temporary structures! Lastly, we learned that working with a passionate teacher is priceless. We couldn't have done it without the support and enthusiasm of Jason Roback.

Please send your completed form as an email attachment to cartergrantapps@gmail.com.

* To be in good standing for any future funding from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, plan to write an article (600-1000 words) for our quarterly newsletter, **or** create and present a poster at our annual statewide conference, **or** send us a copy of a published article on the past year's work, **or** work with a chapter of NPSNM to make an illustrated, educational presentation.

Find information about the upcoming conference and about the regional chapters on our website www.npsnm.org. Contact cartergrantapps@gmail.com at any time with questions.