

## Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Seedlings to Saplings

*Begin answering in the shaded box right beside or below each question and it will expand to accommodate as you type. Use up to a total of two and a half pages for questions 1-8. More detailed presentations, a final report, articles or posters are welcome separately\* (See final instructions at the end of this form.)*

1. Organization name or Individual who received the grant: Upper Gila Watershed Alliance

2. Amount of Grant: \$ 1,000

4. Was additional outside funding obtained? (check box that applies) Yes  No

Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes." Silver City Food Co-op, Lineberry Foundation

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

We purchased 600 seedlings of mixed species trees and shrubs, and we purchased 600 appropriate-sized pots for transplanting the seedlings. We also provided a free workshop teaching how to grow trees from seeds, focusing on oaks.

6. Write an abstract or 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 sections, 7&8.)

UGWA has an existing native tree nursery called Seedlings to Saplings and the Carter Conservation Fund assisted in amplifying this program.

We used funding from three sources, NPSNM, Silver City Food Co-op, and Lineberry Foundation to purchase 600 seedlings of mixed varieties of native plants from the Conservation Seedling Program of New Mexico's Forestry Division during their low-cost seedling sale in July 2024. Species such as Velvet Ash, Chokecherry, Hoptree, Buffaloberry, Goodings Willow, Nettleleaf Hackberry, Ponderosa Pine, Piñon Pine, Arizona Cypress, and Aligator Juniper were purchased.

We also purchased 600 appropriate-sized pots for transplanting the seedlings. We provided a free workshop for folks in our community teaching them how to grow trees from seeds, focusing on oak trees. The workshop also covered the basics of soil health. About 35 people attended this four-hour workshop and some folks remained for another hour asking the facilitator questions.

Young people were hired to transplant the seedlings and to care for them daily so they could grow strong before transplanting into the ground.

7. How does your project further a Native Plant Society mission area, namely: *plant or ecological education; conservation/restoration of native plants and/or their habitats; adds to*

*botanical research; promotes appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land and/or wildlife.*

Most communities and habitats are facing numerous challenges due to our changing climate. Erratic weather patterns are either shifting plant zones or are paving the way for increased exotic species to thrive. One way to mitigate these changes is to increase the number of native plant species in an ecosystem. Fortunately, the number of restoration projects that are taking place after catastrophic forest fires or on a watershed scale is plentiful around the Silver City area. UGWA aims to grow our native tree nursery to provide restoration projects with the native trees needed to complete this work. Our nursery is a natural advancement of our New Earth Project that grows microbes in an innovative compost system called Johnson-Su composting bioreactors. We now have thousands of pounds of maturing 'Living Earth' that we use as the growing substrate for our native trees. Spreading knowledge of how to germinate tree seeds to keep the local genetics that are more resilient to climate changes is one way to conserve native tree communities.

8. Any other conclusions., lessons learned, benefits to you, the community or the environment hopefully result from your work as assisted by this grant.

Our human community benefitted from increased knowledge in attending the tree seed planting workshop, and our ecosystems will benefit by having native trees and shrubs for planting in restoration projects. Young people hired to transplant and water the trees benefitted financially, and their participation increased their knowledge about the care of native trees and why they are important in our environment.

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#### **Final Instructions**

**Please send your completed form as pdf as an email attachment to [cartergrantapps@gmail.com](mailto:cartergrantapps@gmail.com) by November 1.**

*\* To remain in good standing for any future funding from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, we ask that you educate our membership more fully in some way. This could be an article (250 words minimum, at least 1 high resolution illustration or photo) for our newsletter, **or** a paper or electronic copy or link to a published article connected with the past year's work, **or** by making an educational and visual presentation to one of our chapters. Contact information for our 7 area chapters is found on our website at [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org) under the Chapters tab.*

*What are your intentions in this regard?* We are submitting an article in our fall 2024 newsletter that will come out in November 2024. The article and photo are attached.

This year end report is submitted by (Type your name) Carol Ann Fugagli

My typed name is equal to my handwritten signature in testifying to the accuracy and truth of this report to the best of my knowledge today.

eMail address [Director@ugwa.org](mailto:Director@ugwa.org)

Date Oct. 29, 2024

*Please contact us again at [cartergrantapps@gmail.com](mailto:cartergrantapps@gmail.com) if you have any questions or alternate suggestions.*