Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Driving Factors of Success of Agave Restoration in Southwestern New Mexico

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: Liz Plazewski

2. Amount of Grant: $ 2,000

4. Was additional outside funding obtained? (check box that applies) Yes ☒ No ☐
Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes." New Mexico State University and Bat Conservation International

5. Briefly, how was the grant money from the Carter Conservation Fund used?
Funding was used to support myself and field technicians in our summer sampling events detailed below.

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.)
In 2026 we completed 6 field sampling events between our two project sites (3 sampling events each)- Apache Box and the Pyramid Mountains. In February we spent 3 days at each site measuring Agave health metrics. In May we spent 3 weeks at Apache Box collecting plant cover/diversity data and monitoring Agave health. In July we spent 3 days at the Pyramids collecting soil moisture and Agave health data. In August we spent 2 weeks at Apache Box collecting plant cover/diversity and Agave health data. In September we completed our data collection with a 1 week event at the Pyramids collecting soil moisture and Agave health data. Additionally, we collected herbarium specimens of the dominant plant species at Apache Box to submit to the NMSU herbarium.

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.*
Our project supports the conservation and restoration of native plants and their habitats. We have planted 888 Agave palmeri in native habitat. Our research on the Agave will inform future restoration actions, namely what conditions are best for transplanting A. palmeri. Additionally, our research benefits the Endangered Mexican long-nosed bat which relies on A. palmeri. Future Agave transplant efforts informed by our research will create more critical habitat for the Endangered bat which in turn protects the bats, the Agave, and the wider ecological community.

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 conclusions are preliminary while we are currently conducting data analysis. We are notcing trends that Agave planted after monsoon season, in botanically diverse habitats, and with simple dam structures built beneath have higher survival rates. These conclusions

wouldn't have been possible without the Wootten Grant supporting additional data collectors in the field.

Final Instructions

Please send your completed form as a PDF email attachment to cartergrantapps@gmail.com by November 1, 2026.

** 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 under the Chapters tab.*

What are your intentions in this regard? I will be submitting an article for the newsletter.

This year end report is submitted by (Type your name) Liz Plazewski

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 plazewsk@nmsu.edu

Date 10/30/2026

Please contact us again at cartergrantapps@gmail.com if you have any questions or alternate suggestions.