

## Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Tamarisk Eradication on the Gila River

*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: \$2,000

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

Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes." The Upper Gila Watershed Alliance contributed funding for mileage, purchase of herbicide, and project administration.

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

The Carter Conservation Fund was used to eradicate invasive tamarisk along approximately five miles of the Gila River in the Gila River Bird Area of the Gila National Forest.

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.)

On November 29, 2022, I wrote and submitted a final report stating that the work was not yet completed because we encountered two unexpected delays. The first delay, a new Forest Service requirement to complete a Notice of Intent to use herbicides, was reported in our November final report. The second delay was caused by weather. After submitting the November report stating that the work would be completed by mid-December, southwest New Mexico received enough precipitation to raise the level of the Gila River. Because most of the tamarisk work requires crossing the river on foot, we were forced to wait until May 2023 for the river to recede sufficiently (and for the water to warm up!) that the work could safely be accomplished. Treatment consists of cutting all tamarisk stems and treating the stumps with herbicide Garlon 3A. Our contractor records GPS locations of treated trees, number of trees and stems, size classes of stems, and other pertinent notes. In addition, he takes before-and-after photos of some stands. Our contractor completed all the tamarisk removal work in the Gila River Bird Area, on both sides of the river, floodplains, and one canyon with tamarisks. I do not yet have the contractor's data on number of trees cut and treated with herbicide, but I should receive that by the end of July. That information will be reported in the article I will write for the NPSNM newsletter.

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 aligns with the Native Plant Society's mission to conserve and restore native plants and their habitats.

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

As stated in our November 2022 final report, we now know the importance of communicating early with the Forest Service to make sure there are no new requirements that could cause delays. More importantly, after working on tamarisk eradication since 2016, it has been our experience that an effective way to kill tamarisk is to treat them for two consecutive years and then wait one or two years before revisiting the area to re-treat any resprouts or new seedlings.

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### **Final Instructions**

**Please send your completed form in MS Word (not converted to pdf) as an email attachment to [cartergrantapps@gmail.com](mailto:cartergrantapps@gmail.com) by December 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 (500-1000 words, illustrations welcome) 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?* I have emailed with newsletter editor Margaret Menache and will write an article for the last quarter of 2023 issue of NPSNM's newsletter.

This year end report is submitted by (name) Donna Stevens

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

Date July 3, 2023. This final report updates the report submitted on November 29, 2022.

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