

Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Status Update on 2 Rare Mt. thistles of southern NM: *Cirsium grahamii* & *vinaceum*

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: John Gorey

2. Amount of Grant: \$2000.00

4. Was additional outside funding obtained? (check box that applies) Yes No
Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes."

5. Briefly, how was the grant money from the Carter Conservation Fund used?
The grant money was used to pay for the time and supplies needed to get into the remote wilderness. It was also used to pay for software used in mapping and data analysis.

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.)

During the 2022 summer season a total of 94 miles of land was surveyed in the Gila Wilderness for populations of *Cirsium grahamii*. When populations were detected the population size and density was conducted by counting 10m circles of occupied habitat. This included first year rosettes as well as second year flowering plants. Approximately 700 or 43% of plants were surveyed for weevil threats from both *Lixus pervestitus* and *Rhinocyllus conicus*. In addition to population monitoring wildlife use was also recorded. This was centered mainly around insect use.

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*.

Cirsium grahamii has been known to exist in the state of NM for a long time. This is the first effort to determine it's range and population density. By learning more about the plant's habitat and population size it fills in the initial baseline data gap necessary for future monitoring and protection. It also brings the species very existence into the public eye and to NPSNM members.

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

In conclusion a total of 4023 individual plants were counted. This was across 3 population centers. 700 plants or 43% of the individuals were inspected for weevil threats and there was no sign of damage from either species. Because of this grant I was able to spend the time necessary to determine how isolated and rare this species is in NM. There are very few

drainages in the Gila region capable of supporting this species. By observing the species I was also able to see how vital it is to the fauna of the Gila Wilderness.

Final Instructions

Please send your completed form in MS Word (not converted to pdf) as an email attachment to 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, **ora** 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 gave a presentation on zoom for GNPS on November 18th 2022.

This year end report is submitted by (name) John Gorey

eMail address johnpgorey@gmail.com

Date 11/28/22

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