

Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: **Socorro Bosque Native Plant Enhancement Project**

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:

Save Our Bosque Task Force

2. Amount of Grant:

\$1000

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

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

This money was used to purchase native containerized shrubs as well as native seed to be planted in one of the riverside parks in the Socorro Bosque for the purpose of native habitat improvement.

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.)

The project area is at a 4.3 acre park along the Rio Grande outside of Socorro, New Mexico, approximately half of which is cottonwood bosque. This project is focused on improving native shrub and forb diversity over 1.2 acres of open area adjacent to the cottonwoods. Native containerized plants were purchased from local nurseries in Albuquerque and Santa Fe in late summer for fall planting. A native forb seed mix designed for US Fish & Wildlife projects in New Mexico was also purchased. Planting locations at the selected riverside park were identified based on the ability to be watered, ability to effectively enhance the native bosque understory habitat, and possible future educational/interpretive use at the park. In an effort to develop some climate change resistance, plants selected were native to central New Mexico, southern New Mexico, southwest Texas, and southeast Arizona, with other ecological factors taken into account. Containerized plants were planted over two days in September. Soil conditions were adequate for watering once a week for a month. As dormancy sets in,

watering is supplemented as needed. Broadcast seed planting will take place in early December as conditions allow.

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.*

The primary mission area our project applies to is conservation/restoration of native plants and/or their habitats. The ecological integrity of the Middle Rio Grande bosque is a serious concern, and a century of intensive engineering and water management along many parts of the Middle Rio Grande have heavily degraded native habitat and ecosystem functions while simultaneously reducing the ability of the bosque ecosystem to remain resilient in the face of climate change and other factors, such as changing water cycles in the Rio Grande. This project represents new habitat management practices in New Mexico that seek to build diverse, functional, and resilient ecosystems for the future, rather than attempting to restore past habitats that are no longer realistic in many areas of the Socorro Bosque. Another focus of this project was to utilize a bottom up, ecological approach, where the habitat provides as many benefits as possible to as many species as possible by increasing plant and structural diversity on site.

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

This grant provides us with an opportunity to engage in small-scale but meaningful habitat restoration projects targeted at specific priority areas. For this project, we have been able to improve the habitat of a recreation area while we also work to improve the recreational infrastructure on site. As further development of the Rio Grande Trail and its associated infrastructure continues in the Socorro Bosque, our ability to engage in habitat restoration and improvement in concert with recreational development will be vital to ensuring that the bosque in the Socorro Valley remains a functional and vital ecosystem. We believe that quality habitat in these recreation areas will create new opportunities for outreach and education in our community over the coming years, so that more of our community will enjoy and value the Socorro Bosque.

Final Instructions

Please send your completed form as 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 (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?

We will be happy to provide an article on our project for your newsletter.

This year end report is submitted by **Danielle Hensley, Executive Director, Save Our Bosque Task Force**

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.

programdirector.sobtf@gmail.com

11/28/2023

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