

Progress Report on the Sweetwater Center USFWS Partners Grant

October 1, 2016

Work began on August 25th, 2016 at Site #1. Site #1 is located on the north edge of the east side of the El Potrero farm in a sandy clearing that includes mesquite, graythorn, catclaw acacia, and associated plants. A water line was extended to the site and an irrigation system consisting of a timer and drip hose was installed. Holes on the drip hose are spaced at 18 inch intervals and are set to provide 1-gallon irrigation water per hour.

On August 26th, Nancy Ferguson and Tom Orum picked up pollinator plants from Francesca Claverie at the Borderlands Restoration Nursery in Patagonia. With help from Carianne Campbell, the plants were donated by the Sky Island Alliance to Sweetwater Center. The following species shown in photo #1 were included:

Conoclinium gregii 25 plants (pot label: P16-0194; 2015-0113; CNF/San Simon)

Asclepias asperula 100 plants in small tubes (pot label: P16-0257; 2013-0589; Upper Santa Cruz/Pata Lake)

Asclepias Linaria 13 plants in 4"x10" containers (pot label: P16-0174; 2014-0213; LLPMC)

Sarcostemma cynanchoides (*Funastrum cynanchoides*) 10 plants in 4"x10" containers

1



Half of the plants were transplanted to Site #1 on September 2nd and the other half on September 20th (#2 & #3)

2



3



We kept the native perennials that were growing in and near the plot and transplanted the new plants among them where possible. For example, a stand of plains bristlegrass (*Setaria macrostachya*) is part of the plot (#4), and *Asclepias asperula* is planted near burroweed (*Isocoma tenuisecta*) (#5).

4



5



A naturally occurring *Sarcostemma cynanchoides* that was kept in the plot with *Asclepias Linaria* and *Conoclinium greggii* transplanted nearby (#6). We have collected seed from a nearby naturally occurring *Sarcostemma* for propagation next year. The Borderlands Restoration *Sarcostemma cynanchoides* plants were transplanted along the fence (#7).

6



7



On September 27, 2016 we were rewarded by a queen butterfly who visited the *Conoclinium greggii* plants that have just begun to flower (#8). Woody Hume reported that a day later a large number of butterflies, including fritillaries, queens, and one monarch visited a large established *Conoclinium greggii* that he is growing in a pot on the southern edge of the El Potrero farm about 300 feet south of Site # 1.

8



Work has begun on getting the waterline extended to Site #2 behind the Volunteer Trailer (#9).

9

