

Agency/Organization: EcoCulture

Project Name: Evaluation of Screwbean Mesquite Ecosystem

Project Number: 2021-ECOCULTURE-2070A

Reporting Period: January 1 to March 31st, 2024

Project Contact Name and Information:

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**QUESTION 1: What did you accomplish during this reporting period?
How did these accomplishments help you reach the goal of your project?**

- Seedlings for the provenance garden were transplanted to larger pots (4x14") in mid-March. This is the final pot size before outplanting, bringing us one step closer to the establishment of the garden.
- Work Plan 2024 was completed.

QUESTION 2: What, if any, problems were encountered? Briefly describe those problems and the manner in which they were dealt.

After transplanting to the new pots, ~25% of the 550 seedlings (138) either died or stopped putting on new growth. We replanted all of these in the second half of March, but the new seedlings are now approximately four months behind the others.

QUESTION 3: What, if any, proposed activities were not completed? Briefly describe those activities, the reasons they were not completed and your plans for carrying them out.

All proposed activities were carried out.

QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?

We estimate that 35% of work has been completed for this project. This low number reflects the fact that the labor-intensive aspects remaining for common garden creation (completion of propagation and grow-out, planting of the common garden and maintenance of the common garden) have yet to be completed.

**QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities?
If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?**

The age difference between the original cohort of seedlings and the 138 seedlings planted in late-March could create variation in seedling size at the time of outplanting. We hope to minimize this by pushing the planting date back to late winter or early spring 2025. This should give the younger seedlings time for enough root development to fill out their pots which is more important for post-planting success than seedling aboveground size.

We are still planning aspects of the common garden at Clark County Wetlands, including the irrigation system to be employed but we are confident that satisfactory systems will be in place well before the planned late-winter 2025 planting date.

QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?

There is nothing else we would like to report at this time.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?

- Work Plan 2024