

Alluvial Scrub Native Plants for the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed

2011 Accomplishments

This project was initiated to develop science-based plant lists and local plant materials for restoration of alluvial scrub habitats within the Santa Ana River Watershed. This project is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Region, NRCS Area Resource Conservation Agencies, a local organic farm, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

During April 2011, a second training workshop for volunteers in relevé and rapid assessment sampling techniques was hosted by Irvine Ranch Conservancy and the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (R-CRCD) and CNPS. The CNPS completed data analysis of 49 plots from this project and legacy data from other alluvial sage scrub sites. Plots were classified into 14 associations and 12 alliances. Potential plant lists for restoration sites and species suitable for seed production will be identified from the analysis results. Seed collection for grow-out trials is now in progress (Figure 1).

A two-day training workshop about farm production of native seeds for use in southern California ecoregions was held in September 2011. Dr. Arlee Montalvo, R-CRCD scientist, was the workshop's lead organizer. Participants learned about standards for collection of wild seeds for initiating fields, seed certification, field planting and cultivation techniques, harvesting techniques, seed processing, seed storage and more (Figure 2).



Figure 1. *Chaenactis glabriuscula*, the yellow flowering plant in this photo, is one of the species that will be grown out experimentally on the cooperating organic farm for this project.



Figure 2. The workshop on farm production of native seeds drew 85 participants to the historic Mitten Building in Redlands, California during September 2011.

Year Awarded: FY2011

Project completion: FY2013

Report number: 2 of 4

Expenditures (FY2011): \$7,000

Partners: U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station - Riverside; Riverside-Corona and Inland Empire Resource Conservation Districts; San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District; California Native Plant Society; and Three Sisters Farm



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