



CALIFORNIA UPLAND GAME PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: P1680048 – FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

(a) Knoxville Wildlife Area (KWA) is a very popular wildlife area for hunters targeting upland game birds, black-tailed deer, wild pig, and even offers limited waterfowl hunting opportunity. However, as with many of California's rural lands, large expanses of KWA are infested with invasive exotic plant species. The two main culprits being yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and medusa head (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*). Yellow star-thistle (YST) is a very aggressive invasive that contains a large taproot extending 2-3 feet below the soil surface. This allows YST to out-compete native annual species and dominate entire sections of the landscape. The recent drought has amplified YST's stronghold in many areas. Medusa head (MH) is also a strong aggressor that out-competes native annuals. Once established, MH can create densities of 1,000-2,000 plants per square meter, not only eliminating native grasses and forbs but also creating high fire danger. YST and MH serve very little wildlife value due to their homogenous thick cover and un-palatable plant bodies. The National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with CDFW and the California Deer Association, helped to restore a 60 acre section of vital upland game bird habitat back to native annual grasses and forbs on Knoxville Wildlife Area.

(b) After recently experiencing the most impactful drought on record in the state of California, the effects of climate change are becoming increasingly known. With rising global temperatures and severe unpredictable weather patterns, effects on wildlife habitat and suitability are constantly in question. KWA contains large tracts of high quality upland game bird habitat that supports several species, mainly California quail, wild turkey, and mourning dove, and is very popular among upland game bird hunters. However, due to KWA's location in the upper reaches of a watershed and its rugged mountainous terrain, high quality habitat becomes fragmented due to the scarcity of water for approximately 3 months of the year (September – November) during years of average precipitation. Average daily temperatures during this period at KWA typically range between a high of 90-100 degrees Fahrenheit. The recent drought has only made things more difficult for wildlife on the area. This severe reduction in a limiting resource handicaps upland game bird populations, and highly limits their range expansion into otherwise very suitable habitat. The National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with CDFW, purchased and installed two 1,000 gallon water guzzlers in water-limited areas on KWA that help to benefit upland game birds, black-tailed deer, and many other diverse species of wildlife throughout the year.





ACTIVITIES

(a) In the summer of 2016, CDFW staff coordinated with CAL FIRE to implement a prescribed fire over the project site, which removed the standing thatch and exposed the bare soil. CDFW then treated the site with herbicide in the fall of 2016 and the spring of 2017 to rid the site of any growing invasives. The herbicide treatment was funded through funds from California Deer Association. CDFW then mowed the site in the fall of 2017 in preparation for seed drilling. The entire project area was seed drilled in November and December of 2017. CDFW first drilled in cereal crops of triticale surrounding the project site as a buffer between invasive plant species and the restoration. They then planted the native seed mix purchased with the funds from California Deer Association as well as the seed purchased through this grant. All native seed was purchased from Hedgerow Farms in Winters, CA and the seed was harvested locally to the project site in both Napa and Yolo counties.

(b) Originally, NWTF and CDFW staff planned to install the guzzlers in the spring of 2017. However, the record rainfall that was experienced in the 2016-2017 water year greatly impacted Knoxville Wildlife Area's road system, delaying access into the guzzler sites. The guzzlers were then ordered in winter of 2017 and arrived to Knoxville Wildlife Area headquarters in the spring of 2018. A subcontractor was hired, and both guzzler sites were constructed and installed in May 2018. Each guzzler was inspected and approved by CDFW staff prior to the subcontractor moving equipment off the wildlife area.





COSTS LIST FOR GRANT

	California Upland Game Program				
	Knoxville WLA Project				
	Agreement # P1680048	Start Date	5/19/2017		
	Project Manager: Kevin Vella	End Date	6/30/2018		
			Date	6/14/2018	
43500-1-07-27-0002					
			FY 18	FY 19	Remaining
Account Number	Budget Item	Budget	Expenses	Expenses	Budget
79501-1-07-27-0002	NWTF District Biologist (40 hours @ Actual Rate)	1,648.40	1,978.56		(330.16
79502-1-07-27-0002	Travel (800 miles @ \$0.535/mile)	428.00	541.94		(113.94
79503-1-07-27-0002	Supplies, Equip, Misc, etc				
A	Guzzler (2 @ \$2,806.75 each)	5,613.50	5,750.00		(136.50
В	Ground shipping cost (2 guzzlers @ \$150 each)	300.00	472.00		(172.00
	Roofing (16 @ \$15/each)	240.00	250.00		(10.00
	Collection Frame (2 @ \$300/each)	600.00	600.00		1. S. S.
	Native Grass Seed (47.5 acres @ \$630/acre)	29,925.00	29,924.39		0.61
79506-1-07-27-0002	Subcontractor				84
A	Backhoe (16 hours @ \$110/hour)	1,760.00	1,760.00		
	Subcontractor Supervisor (20 hours @ \$50/hour)	1,000.00	1,000.00		
	Subcontractor Laborer (20 hours @ \$20/hour)	400.00	400.00		82
D	Equipment Mobilization (2 hours @ \$1000/hour)	2,000.00	2,000.00		e .
79510-1-07-27-0002	Indirect 20.18%	7,820.74			7,820.74
41636-1-04-24-0002		51,735.64	44,676.89	-	7,058.75
		Grant AR	44,676.89		
		Less Payments	0.00		
1,978.56	Salary Clearing	Grants AR	44,676.89		
541.94	Travel Clearing		4,790.00	Due from CA	State Chapte
2	Indirect Clearing	33	(4,790.00)	Rec'd ck 5/29/	18
			44,676.89		







Project site just after drilling in the native seed December 2017.



Native grasses and cereal grain crop in the foreground May 2018.







A flock of wild turkeys utilizing the project area March 2018.



Subcontractor installing one of the guzzlers May 2018.







Guzzler site #1 complete May 2018.



Guzzler site #2 complete May 2018.





DISCUSSION

(a) The grassland restoration portion of this project is complete. The native grass plantings were moderately successful due to environmental conditions that the NWTF and CDFW have no control over (i.e. the lack of precipitation immediately following seed drilling). Due to the described conditions, many annual forbs were able to out-compete portions of the project area. The species that had the most success was purple needlegrass (*stipa pulchra*), while the rest of the grass species were not as successful. However, due to the aforementioned environmental conditions, a diverse mosaic of native annual grasses and forbs was created (with little to no yellow starthistle) throughout the entire project area. A HUGE success considering that yellow starthistle dominated the landscape prior to beginning operations. For the next several years maintenance will be crucial, and CDFW plans to spot-treat any undesired plant species within the project boundary through the use of herbicide. This type of intensive management will give the native grasses and forbs the best chance of long-term establishment, as well as the greatest overall benefit to upland game bird species. CDFW Environmental Scientist, Stacy Martinelli, stated that this spring she visually recorded the greatest use of the project site by wild turkeys and mourning doves than in any years prior. Hopefully this is a trend that will continue!

(b) The guzzler portion of this grant is complete. CDFW staff plans to manually fill both guzzlers for the dry months in 2018, however, the rainwater catchment systems will be utilized in filling the guzzlers throughout the foreseeable future. Both sites will now provide year-round water sources that will benefit upland game birds as well as all species of wildlife on Knoxville. CDFW also plans to install motion-sensing cameras at each site to index the amount of use by wildlife. The NWTF is very pleased with the outcome of this project and its benefit to upland game birds on Knoxville Wildlife Area.







Date: 11/9/2017

Customer: CA Fish and Wildlife Contact: Stacy Martinelli Tel: (707) 576-2868

Cell:

Email: stacy.martinelli@wildlife.ca.gov From: eallen@hedgerowfarms.com Email: Emily Allen

Project: Knoxvville Wildlife Area Seeding Notes: Drill seeding using McLaughlin Drill Funding from National Turkey Federation harsh soils not ideal weed control but some has been done would like flowers

Estimated Project Date: fall 2017

Seed mix subtotal:	\$27,541.53
Subtotal for Asclepias eriocarpa:	\$360.00
Seed Subtotal:	\$27,901.53
Tax (7.25%):	\$2,022.86
Estimated Total:	\$29,924.39

		SEED QUOTATION		A	cres for Mix	: 36.1651		
Botanical Name	Common Name	Ecotype/Origin	Approximate Live Seeds/ PLS Lb.	Approximate Live Seeds/ Square foot	PLS Ibs/acre	PLS lbs for area		Cost/ Acre
Stipa pulchra	purple rieedlegrass	Fiske Creek, Yolo Co.	70,000	10	6.00	216.99	\$43.00	\$258.00
Poa secunda ssp. secunda	one sided bluegrass	Upper Fiske Creek, Yolo Co.	800,008	28	1.50	54.25	\$36.00	\$54.00
Elymus glaucus	blue wildrye	Anderson, Yolo Co.	122,000	11	4.00	144.66	\$20.00	\$80.00
Bromus carinatus	California brome	Arastradero Preserve, Santa Ciara Co.	70,000	2	1.50	54.25	\$18.00	\$27.00
Festuca microstachys	three weeks fescue	Fiske Creek, Yolo Co.	430,000	15	1.50	54.25	\$22.00	\$33.00
Elymus multisetus	big squirreitail	Tehama Co.	95,000	2	0.75	27.12	\$105.00	\$78.75
Hordeum brachyantherum ssp. californicum	California barley	Bear Valley Serpentine, Colusa Co.	220,000	10	2.00	72.33	\$45.00	\$90.00
Melica californica	California oniongrass	Fiske Creek, Yolo Co.	260,000	4	0.75	27.12	\$50.00	\$37.50
Amsinckia menziesi	small flowered flddieneck	Esparto, Yolo Co.	125,000	1	0.25	9.04	\$32.00	\$8.00
Phacella imbricata	Imbricate phacelia	Colusa and Yolo Cos.	275,000	1	0.10	3.62	\$75.00	\$7.50
Clarkia ungulculata	elegant clarkla	Rumsey Canyon, Yolo Co.	1,400,000	8	0.25	9.04	\$48.00	\$12.00
Eschscholzia californica	California poppy	Lodoga Hills, Colusa Co.	350,000		0.50	18.08	\$40.00	\$20.00
Achillea millefollum	yarrow	Cache Creek Watershed, Lake Co.	3,000,000	10	0.15	5.42	\$64.00	\$9.60
Eriophyllum lanatum	wooly sunflower	Rumsey Canyon, Colusa Co.	1,150,000	3	0.10	3.62	\$120.00	\$12.00
Calandrinia menziesi	red maids	North of Winters, Yolo Co.	850,000	4	0.20	7.23	\$94.00	\$18.80
Plantago erecta	dotseed plantain	North of Winters, Yolo Co.	250,000	3	0.55	19.89	\$28.00	\$15.40
18 3	2 ())	544	subtotals:	116	20.10	726.91	cost/acre	\$761.5

subtotal for 36.1651 acre: \$27,541.53

Milkweed to sow in	wetter area with little	weed competition.					
Botanical Name	Common Name	Ecotype/Origin	Approximate Live Seeds/ PLS Lb.	Approximate Live Seeds/ Square foot	PLS lbs	Cost/ PLS lb	Subtotal
Asciepias eriocarpa	Indian milkweed	McLaughlin Natural Reserve, Lake Co.	27,500		1.00	\$360.00	\$360.00

Quote does not include Tax or Shipping, Prices good for 30 days, Subject to availability







Rainmaker Products, LLC PO Box 31697 Bellingham WA 98228 360-739-6361

tim@rainmakerwildlife.com www.RainmakerWildlife.com

NWTF

Ship To: 9848 Berryessa Knoxville Rd Napa, CA 94558

Account Number 2543 Quote Number 25432155 Issue Date 1/16/2017 Due Date 1/2/1/2017

Date	Project/Item	Order Q	TY Price	Taxes	Total
11/16/2017	DT-1000 Dome-Top 1000 Gallon Guzzler		2 2,875.0	D	5,750.00
11/16/2017	Freight		1 472.0	D	472.00
			Sub-Tot	al:	\$6,222.00
			Total:		\$6,222.00

Balance Owing: \$6,222.00

QUOTE ONLY

You also have the option to pick up at the Sacramento Freight Terminal. Cost \$426.





Todd Pfyl Excavation PO Box 172 Artois, CA 95913 Bill To Kevin Vella 5341 Spreading Oak Ln El Dorado, CA. 95623 P.O. No. Terms Project Knoxville WA. Quantity Description Rate Amount mobilization Roofing tin Metal frame Steel posts Hardware 1,900.00 250.00 1,900.00 250.00 600.00 600.00 150.00 150.00 50.00 140.00 50.00 7,000.00 50 Excavation, 50 HRS @ 140.00, Installation time Phone # Total \$9,950.00 530-961-2511

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
5/13/2018	267