Agency/Organization: US Geological Survey

Project Name: Clark County Rare Plant Propagation Research Phase II

Project Number: 2021-USGS-2075A

Reporting Period: July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026

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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? If relevant, what indicators or benchmarks were used to determine your progress?

We collected seed from bagged *Eriogonum viscidulum* (ERVI) individuals at the Upper Muddy River and Toquop Wash populations in late summer 2026 (M28). We after-ripened seeds in the USGS shade house under prevailing summer temperatures, cleaned the seeds and conducted germination trials, and delivered these seeds to the County in September (D22 & D33).

We collected mature *Astragalus geyeri* var. *triquetrus* (ASGET) fruits from the California Wash and Weiser Wash populations in late May 2026. No fruits were produced by the small number of plants we located at the Muddy River population. We then sorted the seeds in the USGS laboratory and tested viability to fulfill conservation collections for the County (D23).

The surviving *Arctomecon californica* (ARCA) nursery stock propagated from seed and from soil seed bank were made available to the County (D20 & D39) and are currently being maintained at the USGS greenhouse.

In conjunction with subcontractor (Utah State University graduate student), we completed the *Penstemon albomarginatus* (PEAL) cutting propagation study, analyzed the data, and prepared the final report and data deliverable for that species (D34 and D35).

In early October, we conducted a final assessment (M30) of the *Cylindropuntia multigeniculata* (CYMU) plants propagated from joint cuttings and planted into habitat at Blue Diamond Hill during mid-December 2025 (M27). Assessments are currently being entered in preparation for analysis for the final report on this species (D40).

Lesley DeFalco presented project progress at the annual Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Progress Report Symposium in August 2026, completing Milestone 29.

These Milestones are instrumental in field and greenhouse work and developing our final deliverables for this project.

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

The larger Red Rock area experienced rain storms the entire day we had planned to conduct the final assessment of CYMU planted at Blue Diamond Hill, September 29. The planting area consists of very steep slopes with shallow soils, exposed bedrock, and loose rocks and is treacherous when wet. We therefore allowed a few days afterward for the soil to dry before conducting the

assessment. We conducted the final assessment without incident on October 2, and removed all cages and tags.

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.
None.

QUESTION 4: What is the calculated percent of work completed?
We are approximately 50% toward project completion.

QUESTION 5: Do you foresee any upcoming problems with future project activities? If so, how do you propose to overcome those problems?
None anticipated.

QUESTION 6: Is there anything else you want to tell the DCP about this project?
We have nothing additional to note concerning this project.

QUESTION 7: What was produced during the reporting period?
During the reporting period, we produced Nursery Stock for ARCA propagated from seed (D20), Nursery Stock for ARCA propagated from soil seed bank (D39), Seed for ERVI from field collections (ERVI2025) (D22), Seed for ERVI from field collections (ERVI2026) (D33), Seed for ASGET from field collections (ASGETirr2025) (D23), Final Report for PEAL (D34), Final Project Data for PEAL (D35), and this Quarterly Progress Report (D36).