

**The Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
2021 Scientific Research Project Grant Report
Due June 30, 2022**

Name: Jesse Sikora

Address: 735 Fotis Drive Apt 1, DeKalb, IL 60115

Phone: 609-304-1153

Current E-mail: sikoraj8@gmail.com

2021 grant amount: \$5,150

Please answer the following questions with 1- to 2- sentence summaries:

Research Project Topic: Beaver activity and impacts at Nachusa Grasslands

Research Project Purpose: Purpose of research was to survey presence of beaver throughout Nachusa Grasslands. Previously little was known of the full scope of where beavers were or where they built dams.

Research Project Outcomes to date: Map of beaver structures along all Nachusa streams including dams and lodges along with preliminary analysis of dam density and potential carrying capacity.

Describe how the grant funds you have received from the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands have been used in regard to the above topic, purpose, and/or outcomes: Funds were used to purchase equipment and field help to survey and monitor beaver activity.

Describe how your project has benefited the work and goals of Nachusa Grasslands: Managers at Nachusa Grasslands have a better understanding of just how much beaver activity takes place across the landscape, a major goal for Nachusa.

Describe how your findings can be applied to challenges in management practices for restoration effectiveness and species of concern: Knowing the reach and impact beavers have on the landscape can help land managers with stream restoration decisions and potential methods of avoiding wildlife/human conflict.

Please list presentations/posters you have given on your research: Nachusa Science Symposium 2022 poster, BeaverCON 2022 presentation, Ecological Society of America Conference 2022 poster.

Have you submitted manuscripts to scientific journals? If so, which ones? If not, do you anticipate doing so? (Please send digital copies of published articles to the Friends so that we can learn from your work.) No, but I do anticipate publishing.

What follow-up research work related to this project do you anticipate (if any)?

Optional: Suggestions for improving the application and award process for future Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Scientific Research Grants: I received the 2022 Nachusa Grant to continue this research to conduct in-stream measurements around dams to better understand direct impacts of beaver activity and where it is happening. Specifically, at what scale are the dams retaining water and sediment?