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To "RAREPLANTS" <NMRAREPLANTS-l@list.unm.edu>  
cc <Wendy\_Brown@fws.gov>, <Patricia\_Zenone@fws.gov>, <Eric\_Hein@fws.gov>

bcc

Subject Cirsiium wrightii

History:

 This message has been forwarded.

Brian Lang and I spent Tuesday afternoon at Blue Spring near Black River Village and found a fairly large, stable population of Wright's marsh thistle (*Cirsium wrightii*). This is the first record of this rare wetland plant for Eddy County. The spring run is about 2 miles long and the thistle occurs along the lower 1 mile (from the irrigation diversion down to the confluence with Black River). Most are in the lower spring run marsh just above the Black River confluence – I estimate several hundred to a few thousand plants. This population has pink flowers (like Bitter Lake and Santa Rosa plants) and robust stems (several were 8 feet tall). The Pecos Basin populations are consistently dark pink-flowered instead of the white or very pale pink of all the other populations. This specimen (Sivinski and Lang 7403) will go to UNM.

A few plants of the closely related sister species, *Cirsium texanum*, occur in the riparian area (not marshy) just below Blue Spring. These have more pubescence on the mature leaves; branches from the bottom of the plant; and generally finish blooming by mid-summer. Mature leaves of *Cirsium wrightii* are glabrous; stem is single, strict, mostly branching above the middle; and just beginning to bloom in late August.

Many thanks to the Bounds Family for giving us access to this beautiful and biologically diverse spring.

Bob Sivinski



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