

Project Update: February 2008

Since the last report, the Mintzita Wetlands Project has followed two major lines of work; first, talks to school-children at local schools, and second, work with the people of the Ejido de San Nicolás Obispo for conservation and sustainable use of the lands surrounding the main springs and the best preserved wetland area.

A total of 1400 posters were delivered to schools within the City of Morelia with help from the Secretariat of Education. Two different posters were produced that address the importance of the Mintzita Wetlands and their conservation. Resulting from this effort and until February 2008, 11 schools have been visited and 17 talks have been given to more than 350 children. More talks have been arranged and will be delivered through the remainder of the year. More posters will be delivered during the month of March to have complete coverage of the elementary schools in the region. As part of this effort, we have been invited to write about the Mintzita in local newspapers. Within the Ejido de San Nicolás Obispo, posters were posted in communal areas and other public places, raising awareness that has increased attendance at public meetings to discuss the future of the Mintzita. Demonstrative plots at the Mintzita allowed us to show Ejido officials the effects of different management practices; as a result, an initiative is under way to preserve the lands of the Mintzita, exclude cattle from the wetlands and prevent fires. Early this year a fire break was established that partially protected the wetlands; if the initiative is approved by the Ejido's assembly full protection will be granted and negotiations with local, state and federal government agencies will begin.



Posters delivered to schools in the area of the city of Morelia.



Talk with schoolchildren