

**FYRES: Dunes Research Report:** Gerber, Kathryn E., Christina J. Bohnet, Lauren B. Ebels, and Madison B. Springer (2016). Environmental Assessment of a *Cirsium pitcheri* Restored Population on the Coast of Lake Michigan. FYRES: Dunes Research Report #19. Grand Rapids (MI): Department of Geology, Geography and Environmental Studies, Calvin College. 15 p.

**Abstract:** Ecological restoration poses a greater challenge when rare plants depend on specific environmental conditions. Endemic to the Great Lakes region, *Cirsium pitcheri* is a federally-protected, monocarpic thistle species. As such, restoration efforts to maintain and re-establish populations may be essential to the survival of these native plants. This study compared the characteristics of *C. pitcheri* in a second-generation artificially-restored