

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT

2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2013 1st

2013 2nd

2013 3rd

2013 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: 2011-03, Conservation Assessment of Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) in the Northeast Region

Organization: The New York Natural Heritage Program

Project Leader: Erin White

Abstract: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract that addresses EACH of the following: the objectives of your project, accomplishments to date, future plans and timelines with an estimate for when the project will be completed.

Objective 1: Assess regional responsibility for all species of Odonata in the Northeast.

Objective 2: Assess regional vulnerability of each Odonata species occurring in the Northeast.

Objective 3: Combine responsibility and vulnerability into a single prioritization matrix and habitat crosswalk.

To date, we have had a preliminary meeting with our collaborators and several steering committee calls. The principal collaborators and steering committee agreed on a project schedule and timeline to complete our objectives by the deadline. The steering committee also issued a call for data in May of 2012 and incoming data has been compiled into a centralized database. A preliminary meeting with our Advisory Committee, with representatives from each of the Northeastern states, chosen by the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee, was held August 29, 2012. In addition, a habitat list for Odonata species has been compiled, which relates to the Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification, which is being incorporated into our conservation assessment. We received all expected Odonata data from the region by December and have incorporated it into a single database and we have performed quality control and database clean-up. NatureServe completed drafting regional Odonata maps in mid-March 2013 which will be used Apr-Jun in the responsibility assessment, and the Steering Committee has drafted a process for the vulnerability assessment. We have drafted regional vulnerability ranks for Northeastern Odonata species based on range extent, area of occupancy, trend information, and habitat specificity. We will continue to meet next quarter prior to the workshop in June to complete a draft conservation assessment (responsibility and vulnerability) with the compiled data and explore options for including habitat vulnerability in the assessment as well. We are working with organizers of the Northeastern Dragonfly Society of the Americas (DSA) meeting to plan a workshop at the event, which is scheduled for June 22 and 23 2013 in CT. We will obtain feedback on the draft conservation assessment from our partners and other experts at this workshop and revise the assessment accordingly. Our expected project completion is June of 2014 following revisions and report finalization.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes, the Steering Committee met once per month in Jan-Mar 2013 to discuss the vulnerability assessment process and draft results. We began exploring factors in NatureServe's ranking calculator and adapted a vulnerability analysis to include factors such as range extent, area of occupancy, trends, and habitat specificity to determine a regional vulnerability rank for all Odonata in the Northeast. We calculated all of these factors based on the data acquired from the states. In addition, hosts for the NE DSA meeting, Virginia Brown of RI and Michael Thomas of CT, began planning the event for June 20-23, 2013 and have incorporated time for an RCN workshop at the event for the purpose of reviewing our conservation assessment with collaborators, advisors, and meeting attendees. A save-the-date and

announcement of the workshop was sent in February to all collaborators and advisors on the project. NatureServe completed the distributional maps for all Northeastern Odonata that will be used in our responsibility assessment and these were submitted in the form of an ArcMap geodatabase.

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

As progress on all three objectives, we have now received all expected county level Odonata data from the northeastern states as of December. Our assessment depends on this data and we have now begun the analyses portion of the project. The project steering committee met via conference call in mid-October to discuss a plan for our vulnerability assessment and also talked with NatureServe to plan steps for the distributional maps they would be creating for our responsibility piece. A sample dataset was sent to NatureServe in November for them to begin work on automating the map-making process once the dataset was finalized. The finalized version of the dataset was sent to NatureServe in December and they completed draft distributional maps in March 2013. The Steering Committee began working with the finalized dataset to determine a process for assessing the vulnerability of northeastern Odonata, using NatureServe's ranking calculator as a basis for this work. Next quarter, the draft responsibility and vulnerability assessments will be incorporated as a prioritization matrix for review by regional collaborators and experts at the June DSA meeting.

Difficulties Encountered: None

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Complete a habitat vulnerability assessment and incorporate into findings. Complete calculations on range extent for range-wide Odonata distributions.
- Complete draft Odonata conservation assessment (vulnerability and responsibility).
- Organize, prepare, and hold workshop at the NE DSA meeting on June 22 and 23 in Griswold, CT.

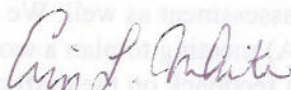
Expected End Date: June 1, 2014

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$32,354.87 (\$22,050.61 grant reimbursable/
\$10,304.26 match)

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$78,594.00 (\$38,604 grant reimbursable / \$39,990.00 match)

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: 

Date: May 15, 2013