

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT 2012 ABSTRACT

Quarter: (circle one)

2012 1st

2012 2nd

2012 3rd

2012 4th

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

Grant Receipt/Organization: The New York Natural Heritage Program

Grant Project Leader: Erin White

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.

The project was kicked-off successfully, with a preliminary meeting with collaborators and several steering committee calls. The principal collaborators/steering committee agreed on a project schedule and timeline to complete our objectives by the deadline. The steering committee also discussed vulnerability ranks, data needs, and how to structure the call for data. There were 15 participants on the March 5 call with project collaborators. The meeting was successful and partners expressed enthusiasm for this project. We discussed project tasks and a timeline, their roles as collaborators, what data is available for use with this project and what scales and formats the data exist in. We also addressed the importance of recording time as a collaborator and how we would ask them to document this as the project match component. A preliminary meeting with a newly formed Advisory Committee, with representatives chosen by the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee, is set for August 29th. A call for data was sent out to representatives from each northeastern state in May with a deadline to receive data by the end of August. We have begun to receive data from some of the states. In addition, a habitat list for Odonata species has been compiled, which relates to the Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification.

This fall, we hope to receive data from all states by the end of August 31 and compile those data into a centralized database. The Steering committee will meet to discuss the risk and responsibility assessments and begin work on these tasks. We also will work with the DSA coordinator to begin planning a workshop for the 2013 Northeastern DSA meeting next summer, where we will obtain feedback from our partners and other experts on the conservation assessment. Our expected project completion is June of 2014 following revisions and report finalization.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEED GRANT QUARTERLY REPORT

Grant Number: 2011-03

Grant Title: Conservation Assessment of Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) in the Northeast Region

Grant Recipient: The New York Natural Heritage Program

Grant Contact Name: Erin White

Report #- April-June 2012

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Yes, a formal request for data was sent in May to all project collaborators/partners who are known to hold Odonata information in the Northeast. In addition, a habitat list for Northeastern Odonata was compiled. The first Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for August 2012.

Regional Conservation Need Addressed:

Identify High Priority NE Species of Greatest Conservation Need for Odonata

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

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.

Relating to objectives 1-3, the steering committee sent out the call for northeastern county level Odonata data in May with an August 31 deadline. Pamela Hunt compiled a habitat list for odonate species relating to the Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification as progress achieved toward objective 3.

Summary of Progress: (Provide a paragraph describing progress, work to come, and timelines)

The project steering committee met via conference call on April 19 and again on May 18. The first call included Bruce Young and Margaret Omes of NatureServe to discuss odonate distribution mapping for this project and a similar task outlined in their deCoizart grant. This was necessary to decide before structuring the RCN call for data to our partners. We discussed mapping on a watershed scale, but decided to map at the county level since there would be too much difficulty in assigning county level data to watershed, which is the level of detail available to us across all states. We also agreed to ask for species by county data from all years, and to try to depict pre-1970 data differently from more recent, post-1970 data on the maps.

On our May 18 call, the steering committee decided to use NatureServe's ranking calculator to objectively assess the vulnerability of northeastern odonates as a regional (R) rank. We plan to discuss any modifications to the calculator this fall once the data is compiled. The steering committee put together the call for data to partners following this discussion as well. This call for data was sent out to representatives from each northeastern state with a deadline to receive data by the end of August (attached). We have begun to receive data from some of the states. Erin followed up with Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee members, asking for a representative to serve on an Advisory Committee for this project. Following a doodle poll, a meeting was scheduled with the Advisory Committee for August 29th. NY Heritage staff met internally on June 27 to begin discussions with information management staff on how to assemble and manage the incoming data. In addition, Pam Hunt has compiled a habitat list for Odonata species which relates to the Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification.

Difficulties Encountered: None

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Receive data from all states by the end of August 31.
Compile data from the states into a centralized database.
Steering committee meets to discuss the risk and responsibility assessment and begins this work.
Planning for the 2013 DSA meeting begins.
Advisory Committee meets on August 29.

Expected End Date: June 1, 2014

Costs:

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes
Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

Signature:



New York Natural Heritage Program

By: Erin White Date: 7/31/2012
Title: Zoologist