

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: New York Natural Heritage Program and The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Project Leader: Erin White

TNC Oversight: Troy Weldy

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 were 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 and vulnerability. We have drafted a conservation assessment for all Odonata in the Northeast (responsibility and vulnerability) with the compiled data and reviewed this in a workshop at the Northeastern Dragonfly Society of the Americas (DSA) meeting with 21 collaborators on June 22 and 23, 2013 in Griswold, CT. We will revise the conservation assessment based on feedback and finalize a prioritization matrix and report that includes our methodology by June of 2014. Following revisions, report finalization, and further review by collaborators in the fall/winter of 2013 and spring of 2014, our expected project completion is June of 2014.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes, planned activities were achieved last quarter. The Steering Committee met on July 8 as a follow-up to our June workshop to discuss feedback we received at the meeting. Over the summer, we compiled notes from collaborators on odonate habitat associations and species vulnerability that we received at the meeting and in follow-up communications with our collaborators. The Steering Committee met again on September 30 to discuss next steps and the structure of our final report. We discussed options for the publication of our findings following project completion. We intend to submit our

project analyses to a special series of Freshwater Science called "Freshwater Applied Ecology and Conservation" for consideration. Also on the call, we outlined the next steps needed to revise our analyses in the fall quarter (see below under "activities anticipated next quarter").

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

As progress on all three objectives, we have compiled all expected county level Odonata data from the northeastern states as of December 2012. We have completed draft vulnerability and responsibility assessments for 233 (all) odonate species known from the Northeast region based on this data. We worked with NatureServe to create the distributional maps for our responsibility piece. The Steering Committee based the vulnerability assessment of northeastern Odonata on NatureServe's ranking calculator, combining rarity, threat, and trend factors into a regional vulnerability rank. We combined this rank for each species with a percentage of our region's responsibility of conserving it (based on the proportion of its entire range that occurs in our region) into a prioritization matrix. The vulnerability assessment and threat factor (habitat specificity) as well as the overall prioritization matrix was reviewed by 21 odonate experts at the 2013 NE DSA meeting in June. We will take feedback from the review and refine our assessments and matrix and finalize our products in the coming quarters.

Difficulties Encountered: None

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Incorporate final suggested changes of state odonate experts into the habitat specificity analysis and make final changes to the regional odonate database (remove all species determined to be vagrants in the region, fixes errors, etc.)
- Send data to NatureServe in Oct. for re-running responsibility maps from revised dataset
- Revise vulnerability assessments based on revised dataset, habitat specificity, and maps
- Construct outline for project final report and begin writing methods

Expected End Date: June 1, 2014

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$45,239.75 (\$23,509.98 grant reimbursable / \$21,729.77 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: October 31, 2013