

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEED GRANT QUARTERLY REPORT

Grant Number: Northeast Regional Conservation Needs Grant 2007-02

Grant Title: Northeast Regional Connectivity Assessment Project

Grant Receipt: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Contact Name: Colin Apse, Deputy Director, Eastern U.S. Freshwater Program, capse@tnc.org

Report #- 11 (Quarter ending December 31, 2010)

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

Regional Conservation Need Addressed: Development of Habitat Conservation Initiatives at a Landscape Scale.

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

- *Completed as Planned:* 2 Virtual Meetings to: 1) developed draft weighting and scoring approaches for the barrier assessment results on the regional level and 2) examined further results of the pilot analysis to inform the region-wide assessment
- *Completed as Planned:* Completion of the draft pilot analysis for the Connecticut Basin – including testing of all Workgroup recommended metrics. This pilot analysis will likely be refined and may be used to inform USFWS activities in the CT Basin in 2011.
- *Completed as Planned:* Completion of QA/QC of anadromous fish, dam, and waterfall data from all NEAFWA states. This is being used to create, to the best of our ability, a seamless database for the NEAFWA region for which our metrics will be run.

Difficulties Encountered:

The primary concern in this quarter is being able to share the data in a form that everyone can use. This concern derives from the fact that certain states (e.g., NJ) are not willing to share their dam databases with other states or the public. Without basic information about the dams, it will be more difficult for states to use the data across borders. To address this concern and potential unforeseen issues with data distribution we will work to develop data distribution agreements with all states in the NEAFWA region.

We also have realized that we will need a 3 to 6 month extension for the project to be completed to our satisfaction. This is the case given how long QA/QC of the data has taken, that additional cleanup of data is necessary, the fact that data distribution agreement must be put in place, and that we need to be able to reach consensus on weighting for both of our scenarios across the entire region.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Calculation of over 60 ecological metrics for each dam in the NEAFWA region using draft scoring and weighting procedures
- Creation and use of a refined decision support tool for displaying and examining barrier assessment rankings
- 2 Virtual Meetings to: 1) finalize weighting and scoring approaches for the barrier assessment results on

the regional level and 2) review ranking results based on region-wide metric calculation and make adjustments to the approach as necessary

- Coming to agreement with state dam safety or other relevant agency staff on the rules for state dam data distribution at the end of the project

Costs:

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes

Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Nyse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

Date: January 7, 2010