

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 #- 4 (April 16, 2009)

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:* 3 Additional Virtual Meetings, all of which continued Workgroup member presentations on existing connectivity assessment approaches that are likely to be relevant to our project. The first of these calls (our third call since the project started) also allowed further clarification of desired project products. The second and third calls also began the process of determining the metrics and ranking criteria we will use for our regional assessment products.
- *Completed as Planned:* Developed a compilation of metrics and ranking approaches to aquatic connectivity restoration assessment being used by Workgroup participants in their local areas (as well as relevant approaches outside the region). We reviewed ten different approaches to connectivity assessment at the landscape scale. For this, we developed a spreadsheet of potential ranking metrics in eight categories: connectivity status, connectivity improvement, diadromous fish presence/benefits, rare species presence/benefits, resident fish integrity/assemblage, watershed condition/water quality, freshwater system size/type, and conservation status.
- *In Addition:* 1) Continued to gather relevant resources on connectivity modeling from around the country; 2) Participated in directly related small group conference calls on approaches for developing spatial data analysis tools for computing connectivity metrics; 3) Began gathering barrier data from states as well as a list of state contacts for this information.
- *Past Presentations & Documentation at:* <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/neconnectivity>

Difficulties Encountered: None

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- 3 Virtual Meetings, the first of which will continue our discussion of metric selection focused on connectivity status and connectivity improvement. We also plan to continue our practice of having featured presentations from practitioners on some of these calls.
- Initial Connectivity Screening Metric Recommendations, will be defined based using Workgroup input

during virtual meetings and intervening work by the TNC core team. Initial recommendations will be based on selection criteria applied to the project spreadsheet of metrics and ranking approaches and Workgroup discussions. We expect to be able to update the spreadsheet and have initial recommendations for at least two groups of metrics by the next progress report.

- Barrier Database 1st Draft Compilation, which will include attributed spatial information on stream barriers from 13 states. We will compile these databases and create, to the best of our ability, a seamless database for the NEAFWA region over the course 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 Hesse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail.

Date: April 16, 2009