

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT

2012 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2012 1st

2012 2nd

2012 3rd

2012 4th

Grant Number and Title: RCN 2011-06 Aquatic Habitat Map Guidance

Grant Receipt/Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Project Leader: Mark Anderson

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? This is the second quarter of funding

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

Developed work plan, identified and contacted workgroup, created a draft format and begin compiling data

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

Host calls with workgroup to simplify classification and approve format: We held our first workgroup call on November 14, 2012 1-3pm to introduce the project and initial ideas regarding simplifying the full NAHC classification. We circulated materials prior to the call and during it we reviewed the classification system and overviewed the simplifications scheme developed by the State of New York. Lastly, we demonstrated what the NY simplification would look like if applied to the whole region. In the discussion that followed there was strong support for the NY simplification scheme with a few important caveats: maintaining distinct coldwater and headwater classes, and investigating the low gradient rivers in the coastal plain before collapsing them. The team was very enthusiastic about adding a tidal rivers category. Additionally there was substantial discussion about adding a lake classification system to this existing stream classification system.

Apply the simplified classification to the GIS data and begin overlaying with other data: We took the recommendations of the team and applied them to the region. This involved creating a tidal river class (which we did in a relatively quick and simplistic way) and re-aggregating the existing types into the new groups. Because there was considerable discussion about headwater streams we developed two alternative proposal to show the steering committee on the next call. The results of this will be presented to the committee in January for finalization.

Lakes: We downloaded and examined the new EPR lakes data – that includes a modeled estimate of lake depth. In our previous discussion about lakes, “depth” was the missing element that the team thought was critical but for which very little region-wide information existed. This problem may now be solved.

Develop a mock-up of habitat guide page. We developed a simple mock-up showing the distribution map, photograph, description, species associates, and crosswalk to state names for one type (acidic, high gradient coldwater creeks). This will be presented to the steering committee in January.

Difficulties Encountered: none, but I am going to request an extension to September so that this product is in sync with the geospatial condition analysis and terrestrial habitat guide project.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Host second calls with steering committee to finalize the simplification system and approve format
- Apply the final simplified classification to the GIS data and begin overlaying with other data
- Develop two final examples of the habitat guide page for presentation at the April F&W conference.
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Expected End Date: June 30 2013

Costs:

Amount of RCN Funds Expended to date: \$1,562.30

Total Approved Budgeted RCN Funds: \$18,168

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes

Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Anderson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signature:

Date: Jan 28, 2013