

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2020_1st 2020__2nd 2020__3rd 2020__4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN 2017-03 GSA 00029, Amendment #2

Contractor: Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Project Leader: Karen Terwilliger

Abstract: Summary

Terwilliger Consulting Incorporated (TCI) is contracted to provide technical support primarily for the NE SWAP Database and Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN) as these species represent the priority imperiled species in the region. TCI technical support includes:

1. Maintenance of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) database, which allows states and their partners to quickly query species and identify habitats, threats, and actions in all 13 NE states and the District of Columbia.
2. Research in support of state diversity programs
3. Documentation and cataloguing of taxonomic team reports including emerging threats, on-going conservation activities, and new information about vulnerabilities of RSGCN
4. Providing a summary report to the Directors, Wildlife Administrators, Fisheries Administrators, and Technical Committees of significant changes in the conservation status of RSGCN (all 301 birds, mammals, herps, fish, and inverts) based on information from taxonomic experts, SWAP Coordinators, and other sources

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes. This qtr begins to expend year 3- FY 20-21 funds.

Progress Achieved: completed all tasks and produced a draft report for NEFWDTTC review

Objective 1: identify and review and update RSGCN information.

This qtr, TCI:

1-Completed the development of the process, data fields and database RSGCN module: The Northeast State Wildlife Action Plan Database (Database) was enhanced to capture priority aspects of food, reproduction, mortality, and habitat. Monitoring protocols and data gaps were also captured, to inform NEFWDTTC and RCN priorities and projects. Data from expert taxa teams were entered, QA/QCd. The new table was linked to the NE SWAP database and a new RSGCN tab was created to query the new data. The process was documented and final testing is now underway.

2- Literature search and data entry: TCI conducted a literature search of best available key scientific taxonomic references (including NatureServe, SWAPs, State and Federal Listing documents, taxonomic

literature, etc.). TCI documented all references used to repopulate all RSGCN vertebrate species worksheets. We sent these to taxa teams for their review, corrections and additions. TCI added these references to the Northeast State Wildlife Action Plan Database to make available scientific literature used to identify specific habitat features required by RSGCN; proximate population threats to RSGCN, and applied research and monitoring needs for RSGCN that will advance practical regional conservation for RSGCN.

3-Taxa team review: Taxa team expert contacts and lists continue to be updated with new agency staff from 13 states and DC. Teams were sent their final compiled notes and we contacted any members with remaining questions for each of these taxa in order to draft a final report:

- Mammals
- Birds
- Herpetofauna
- Freshwater and Anadromous fish
- Crayfish
- Freshwater Mussels

This quarter we coordinated with NEFWDC and SWAP coordinators on the April, May and June webinars/conference calls to provide project updates and solicit final comments and edits. June call fell on Juneteenth so was cancelled at the last minute when the holiday was declared. We are following up on the final feedback received from our June reminder request for edits from the NEFWDC.

We worked with state fish and wildlife biologists and SWAP coordinators to improve the classification and description of habitat requirements and threats for RSGCN. We continue to respond to inquiries and data requests from state members and their partners. We provided preliminary results and priorities from the RSGCN limiting factor work in 2020 to inform NEFWDC and SWAP RCN, C SWG, and other work.

We coordinated with the NEAFWA habitat Committee to include them on several NEFWDC and SWAP webinars that included new information and issues regarding invasive species, habitat and forestry management issues. We developed and sent a draft report for NEFWDC review for their June call, now rescheduled for July due to the holiday. Once reviewed and approved by the committee, it will be delivered next qtr.

Objective 2: provide on-going technical support, and evaluation of use of regional Wildlife Action Plan database: We continued to track users regarding the regional SWAP database in addressing other program priorities and actions. This quarter, additional USFWS users downloaded the database for use in the At-Risk species process. Other users indicate that they are using it for grant (CSWG, RCN, etc.) applications and proposals in order to include the SGSN, key threats and actions from the NE SWAPs. We briefed several new partners on the database and it was sent to additional state and federal partners. We continued to monitor the use of the database from the NEAFWA website.

Data queries and reports of information designating species as Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need have been updated and a new tab added. Species menus have been improved to

allow more flexibility in searching the database for particular species. The launch page of the database was updated to provide additional access to the database from the Northeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' website. States were asked to link it to their SWAP sites as well. Contact information and website links were also updated on the launch page. The database associate was engaged fully in the RSGCN update and created data forms and updates for us. A demo to NEFWDC on the June call was planned/cancelled/rescheduled for July due to the holiday. The database is being QA/Qcd and fully tested, and is due to be posted on the NEAFWA website August 1, 2020

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives: none

Expected End Date: February 29, 2023

Costs: federal expense to date: \$0 FY-20-21- year 3

Total life YEAR to date expenses (include this quarter): yr 3= \$42,120

Total Approved Budgeted Funds yr 3: \$80,000

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

The foregoing information is accurate as of the date set forth below.

TERWILLIGER CONSULTING, INC.

By: *Karen Terwilliger* Name: Karen Terwilliger

Title: President, Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Date: 7-7-20