

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)      2020\_1st      2020\_\_2<sup>nd</sup>      2020\_\_3<sup>rd</sup>      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 this qtr includes:

1. Data entry of limiting factors to update a new database table module for RSGCN. Maintenance of the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) database. Presentation, technical assistance and training of the database. Update of launch page and contacts.
2. Research and analyses in support of state diversity programs, taxa teams
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 expends year 3- FY 20-21 funds.

Progress Achieved: completed all tasks and produced final fall reports for NEFWDTC, directors mtgs

Objective 1: identify and review and update RSGCN information.

This qtr, TCI:

**1-Updated and finalized database RSGCN module with completed data entry:** 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 NEFWDTC 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, threat coding, and data entry:** TCI continued to QA/QC literature and database to code limiting factors to CMP threats categories (including CMP, IUCN, SWAP database, State and Federal Listing documents, taxonomic literature, etc.). TCI documented all coding references used to populate all RSGCN vertebrate species worksheets. We are coding all limiting factors to the CMP

threat classification system and then adding these threat codes 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-Preparing for Taxa team review:** These data are being prepared for taxa team experts to confirm. Their contacts and lists will be updated with new agency staff from 13 states and DC.

NEFWDC Technical Services Coordination and outreach: This quarter we coordinated with NEFWDC and SWAP coordinators on their October, November and December webinars/conference calls to provide project updates and solicit final comments and edits. Since the virtual NEFWDC meeting in September, we followed up with presenters to include their presentations to provide information in meeting notes requested of 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 and NECASC to include them on several NEFWDC and SWAP webinars that included new information and issues regarding invasive species, habitat and forestry management issues. We arranged for their participation in the NEFWDC monthly calls and relevant topics. We developed and sent a draft report for the Habitat committee's updating of their habitat guide consisting of a NE SWAP Database report of species and habitats, as well as instructions on how to produce those reports. We met with several partners including NRCS and USGS regional and national representatives to highlight the RCN 3 tools for their use and coordination.

Objective 2: provide on-going technical support, and evaluation of use of regional Wildlife Action Plan database;

This quarter, we finalized the new RSGCN module in the updated NE SWAP database version on the NEAFWA website. Data entry of all the limiting factors required significant time but was completed and QA/QC to complete the module. Presentations and technical services on this new module continued to key users. The updated version was sent out to more than 300 users.

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.

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 2020 YEAR to date expenses (include this quarter): yr 3= \$ 174,635.07 (includes match)

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

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes including addendum

**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: 1-5-21