

# 2021 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)      2021 1<sup>st</sup>      2021 2<sup>nd</sup>      2021 3<sup>rd</sup>      2021 4<sup>th</sup>

Grant Program, Number and Title: GSA 00046 / **Eastern Box Turtle Status Assessment, Conservation Plan, and BMPs.**

Organization: The Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation

Project Leader: Lori Erb and Brandon Ruhe

Abstract: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract that addresses EACH of the following: the objectives of your project, accomplishments to date, future plans and timelines with an estimate for when the project will be completed.

The objective of the Eastern Box Turtle (EBT) project is to develop a status assessment and conservation plan for the EBT to advance conservation efforts for this species. Accomplishments during this quarter includes the completion of three conference calls with the Eastern Box Turtle Steering Committee (EBT SC), corresponding with the grant Co-PI on grant tasks, corresponding with volunteer surveyors to request data, compiled photo data for a graduate project, entering the 2021 field season data collected by MACHAC, coordinating with the pollinator RCN group and the Northeast Habitat Technical Committee, and administrative actions (e.g., backing up files, timesheets, drafting reports).

During the next quarter, we plan to hold monthly calls, assist surveyors with questions related to conducting surveys, collaborate with the grant Co-PI, and continue to compile and summarize historical data and literature on prescribed fires and its potential effects on box turtles and their habitat.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

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

- Lead three project steering committee meetings
- Drafted meeting notes from our monthly steering committee meetings
- Conducted several meetings with the project co-PI, Patrick
- Conducted a couple meetings with Brian Zarate
- Planned and prepared for numerous meetings
- Compiled photo data for Richard Novak
- Provided support and guidance to volunteer surveyors
- Coordinated with the pollinator RCN group
- Coordinated with the Northeast Habitat Technical Committee
- Coordinated with several members of the steering committee on potential use of additional funding, recommended it be for surveys
- Compiled monitoring data collected in 2021 from all states
- Continued a literature review of information for xeric habitat BMPs
- Drafted an interim report

Difficulties Encountered: None.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Hold monthly conference calls with the EBT SC
- Provide assistance to surveyors and researchers as needed while preparing for the 2022 survey season
- Perform quality control on the 2021 field season data collected by MACHAC
- Continue to review and summarize information and literature on prescribed fire and eastern box turtles
- Continue to coordinate with my Co-PI on the development of a SDM, site mapping guidelines, CANs, and development of BMPs.
- Continue to coordinate with the pollinator group and habitat technical committee
- Organize and back up files
- Complete a quarterly report

Expected End Date: The end date of the next quarter is March 31, 2022

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$50,765.96

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$68,499.72

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: *Brandon M. Rule*

Date: 2/27/2022