

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2021_1st 2021__2nd 2021__3rd 2021_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 species in the greatest need of collaborative conservation in the region. TCI technical support this quarter included:

1. Finalize/ search/data entry //QA/QC/coding of limiting factors to update the 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, state staff directory, and taxa team representatives.
2. Research and analyses in support of state diversity programs, taxa teams
3. Coding and crosswalking limiting factors to CMP 2.0 threats and actions from the taxa teams and NE SWAP Database. Documentation and consistent coding with the lexicon of taxonomic team reports including threats and conservation actions. These were compiled, coded and condensed down to the top threats for each RSGCN. Develop and send survey to taxa teams to confirm threat and actions due back to TCI for coding June 18th.
4. Providing updates, presentations, and reports to the NEFWDTC for the Directors, Wildlife Administrators, Fisheries Administrators, and Technical Committees of on the status of RSGCN (including 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.

Progress Achieved: completed all tasks focused on threats and actions, and produced final spring reports for NEFWDTC, directors mtgs

Objective 1: identify, review and update RSGCN information. This year's focus- Threats and actions.

This qtr, TCI:

1- Developed a survey to confirm Top 3 regional threats and actions for each vertebrate and selected invertebrate RSGCN. Sent to taxa teams April 1 and due back to TCI June 30 for compilation in Qtr 3.

A survey was developed and prepopulated with the top 3 threats and actions from the NE SWAP database and results from the taxa team limiting factor data for most RSGCN (crosswalked results from items 2 and 3 below). The survey included threats levels/characteristics and action

prioritization questions. It was sent to taxa teams April 1 and were due back to TCI June 30th.

TCI will compile these results in Qtr 3.

Completed and QA/QC for crosswalked limiting factor data to CMP 2.0 threat and actions (consistent with the lexicon and synthesis) from taxa teams and NE SWAP database. Updated and finalized database RSGCN module with completed data entry: The Northeast State Wildlife Action Plan Database (Database) was updated to capture priority (most frequently cited) threat and actions that address the limiting factors identified by the taxa teams (including aspects of food, reproduction, mortality, and habitat). Assessment and monitoring needs and data gaps were also captured, to inform NEFDWTC and RCN priorities and projects. Data from expert taxa teams were entered, crosswalked and compared to the NE SWAP database QA/QCd.

Prepopulated tables were developed and coded, with instructions in order to send to taxa teams for their confirmation. This included developing:

- Updated taxa team expertise files
- Report tables for Taxa Team review of predicted Regional Threats and Regional Conservation Actions for each RSGCN or small groups of RSGCN
- Draft Survey Monkey template for Taxa Team review of draft Threats and Conservation Actions
- Draft Taxa Team review instructions

2- Literature search and research for threat characteristics and levels was conducted. This allowed for consistent coding and data entry to prepare for an efficient Taxa team review: TCI continued to QA/QC literature and database to code limiting factors to CMP threat categories (including CMP, IUCN, SWAP database, State and Federal Listing documents, taxonomic literature, etc.). TCI documented all coding references used to prepopulate all RSGCN vertebrate species worksheets. We coded 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. These data were prepared for taxa team experts to confirm. Their contacts and lists were updated with new agency staff from 13 states and DC.

3-: NEFDWTC Technical Services Coordination and outreach: This quarter we coordinated with NEFDWTC and SWAP coordinators on their April, May, and June webinars/conference calls to provide project updates and solicit final comments and edits. We also provided updates and reports on NEFDWTC monthly coordination meetings and followed up with other presenters to provide information in meeting notes requested of the NEFDWTC.

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 NEFDWTC and SWAP RCN, C SWG, and other work. For example we just sent the update national AT risk list, the AFWA request for Best Practices input, current issues including bird mortality and CC issues for their prioritization work.

We coordinated with the NEAFWA Habitat Committee and NECASC monthly to include them on several NEFDWTC and SWAP webinars to get updates on their programs that provided new

information and issues regarding invasive species, energy development, habitat and forestry management issues. We arranged for their participation in the NEFWDTC monthly calls and relevant topics.

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

This quarter, we finalized and populated the new RSGCN module in the updated NE SWAP database version on the NEAFWA website. Data entry and coding of all the limiting factors required significant time but was completed and QA/QC to complete the module and begin linking it to threats and actions. Presentations and technical services on this new module continued to key 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, although a subcontractor (E Crisfield) informed us that she would no longer be working as part of the TCI team on May 6th. Other team members filled that gap immediately and there has been no impact on task completion.

Expected End Date: February 29, 2023

Costs: federal expense to date: \$0 FY-20-21- year 4: 17,610 + 17,587.5= \$35,197.50

Total 2021 YEAR to date expenses (include this quarter): yr 4 qtr 1+ 2 = \$ 28,837.05 + 28,252.50=57,089.55

Total Approved Budgeted Funds yr 4: \$80,000

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes, we will likely use 2022-23/yr 5 funding since we are combining tasks and taxa to complete them simultaneously.

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: 7-26-21