

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2022_1st 2022__2nd 2022__3rd 2022_4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN 2017-03 GSA 00029, Amendment #4- Synthesis

Contractor: Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Project Leader: Karen Terwilliger

Abstract: Summary

The proposed 2023 Conservation Synthesis updates the original TCI 2013 report that summarizes the innovative and strategic approaches to conservation developed collaboratively with NEAFWA's Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee (NEFWDC) and its key partners. This synthesis captures what the Northeast states have created together; a regional conservation planning framework enabling the systematic development of common terrestrial and aquatic habitat classifications, identification of Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN), an integrated monitoring framework for species and their habitats, and regional assessments of species and habitat condition. Key Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need conservation efforts (e.g., New England cottontail, Blanding's turtle, Xeric pollinators) document how the states apply this regional conservation planning framework across state lines to preempt federal listing by implementing on the ground conservation.

The report synthesizes almost 100 plans/projects, resource documents, and tools to provide guidance and information that states can incorporate into their Wildlife Action Plans and beyond. NEAFWA's Fish and Wildlife Diversity Committee has led the development of this diverse set of regional conservation tools through its Regional Conservation Needs (RCN) Grant Program that addresses key landscape-scale wildlife conservation needs of the Northeast, as prioritized by the states and their partners. The RCN Program continues to provide states with the tools they need to meet their wildlife and habitat conservation goals in the context of a regional planning framework. The conservation projects synthesized in this report provide a strategic foundation and should be used to inform further cooperative efforts to protect and conserve the Northeast's vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats.

This report follows the order of the eight required State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) elements. Chapter 1 presents the Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Chapter 2 presents information on the key regional habitats and work with partners and Job 3 PIs to include any available maps and habitat condition information. Chapter 3 synthesizes the key regional threats and Chapter 4 lists the conservation actions that address these threats. Chapter 5 describes the regional monitoring framework, available protocols, and specific examples. Chapter 6 highlights the regional coordination, review and partnerships that continue to enable exemplary collaboration across the Northeast states. Appendices provide summaries and information for each Regional Conservation Needs Grant Program project and selected species and habitats.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes.

Progress Achieved: scoping meetings began. Steering team meetings confirmed goals, objectives and a draft table of contents.

Project Scoping completed Fall- Winter 2021-2022

To complete the Scoping phase by 31 December 2021, we:

- Formed a project Work Group of representatives from the NEFWDTC and SWAP Coordinators Subcommittee;
- Coordinated monthly meetings throughout the project, or at an interval mutually agreed upon to meet project objectives;
- Provided a summary of the consensus reached by the Work Group on expectations for the 2023 Northeast Conservation Synthesis.

Project Design and Planning completed Winter-Spring 2022

- Coordinated with the Work Group/SWAP coordinators and provide progress updates as requested; we schedule 2 meeting with them and a third that coordinated all projects-lexicon, and the TNC habitat assessment.
- TCI designed and planned how the Synthesis will coordinate with other projects, including the Lexicon Update (Job 1), Conservation Status Update (Job 3), and Database projects;
- We met with our team and the other projects monthly to coordinate species, habitats, threats and are now working on actions.

Developed and submitted to the Work Group/SWAP Coordinators a detailed outline for the 2023 Northeast Conservation Synthesis

We provided a draft TOC for the synthesis and solicited input at our team meetings. we presented to the NE SWAP coordinators and NEFWDTC as progress reports and again solicited input at each of their monthly meetings.

This quarter, TCI initiated and/or completed these tasks:

- Collaborate with the RSGCN Update project to identify and compile data on RSGCN in the Northeast (Element 1)
- Review and revise proposed data fields in updated RSGCN Database for habitat modifiers, habitat features and formations, threats, actions, monitoring, management needs, and partners information to track changes over time and facilitate synthesis and analysis (Elements 2-7)
- Continue to compile list of data, projects and partners (Elements 1 - 8)
- Attend NEFWDTC, SWAP Coordinators, Lexicon and Condition Assessment Project Committee Meetings; provide update presentations as needed or requested

- Attend and give presentation on the Synthesis update at the NEFWDC Annual Meeting (Sept. 19-22); prepare and print associated handouts for Committee; take meeting notes
- Complete identification of habitat associations for RSGCN; conduct preliminary analyses on habitat association species assemblages (Elements 1 & 2)
- Provide updates to the project steering committee
- Collaborate with the Lexicon project on Elements 1 – 5; review and provide comments on draft Lexicon
- Review draft Forests chapter from TNC Condition Assessment project
- Collaborate bi-weekly with NE CASC Synthesis project on Elements 1-7 content, format and organization for climate change stressors and information

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives: none

Expected End Date: February 29, 2023

Costs: federal expense to date: \$29,179.38

Total 2022 YEAR to date expenses (include this quarter): = \$46,268.13

Total Approved Budgeted Funds yr 5: \$75,000

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: 10-7-22