

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)      2022\_1st      2022\_\_2<sup>nd</sup>      2022\_\_3<sup>rd</sup>      2022\_4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN 2017-03 GSA 00029, Amendment #2; **Amendment #5**

Contractor: Terwilliger Consulting, Inc.

Project Leader: Karen Terwilliger

Abstract: Summary

Terwilliger Consulting Incorporated (TCI) is contracted to provide technical support primarily for Technical Services that support the NEFWDTC and their conservation of fish and wildlife diversity. Much of the work focuses on researching, compiling, synthesizing, analyzing and reporting on NE Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN) as these species represent the priority species in the greatest need of collaborative conservation in the region. Significant coordination and data management is involved, including the NE SWAP Database.

TCI technical support this quarter required a shifting of priorities in order to conduct data gap analysis to identify and fill key data gaps the data base fields after taxa team final input. The data gaps were found in several invertebrate taxa and needed to be filled immediately in order to begin QA/QC of the database and analysis of the new RSGCN species and proposed RSGCN. We conducted research and reached out to additional experts and data sources to prepopulate these lepidopteran, bee, crayfish, firefly, EPT and marine invertebrate species in order to have enough data to capture habitat associations and threats and bring these taxa up to the same data level as other taxa. This was an urgent need in order to update and prepare the RSGCN Database post RSGCN taxa team list update and input.

Filling these key data gaps included research/crosswalk/QA/QC/coded habitats, limiting factors to CMP/IUCN Threats and IUCN actions to update the new database tables for the newly identified RSGCN and proposed RSGCN. This allows us to then conduct an efficient and thorough analysis of all RSGCN and begin to write the RSGCN report and finalize the database. We were able to make significant progress this quarter, but it will likely require the next qtr to complete this additional work to research and populate the data required for the new RSGCN species.

Data compilation, QA/QC, worksheet and document development, and analyses occupied the full TCI team to accomplish this large data set supplementation and outreach to experts and identify additional data sources for these species with a paucity of data available. This research and analyses support state diversity programs, taxa teams work to provide this additional key data for the new RSGCN list.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes, we made significant progress to capture this additional key data for the newly identified RSGCN species.

Progress Achieved:

Objective 1: identify, review and update RSGCN information. This year's focus- updating the RSGCN list and identifying and filling priority data gaps.

This quarter, TCI:

**1- RSGCN list update identified about 60 new species that lacked data on habitat, threat and limiting factor information.** We needed to review data from excel worksheets with 20 taxa team input and identify the most critical data field needs. We then needed to research and locate these data from experts or additional data sources and fill in the blank data fields for these newly identified RSGCN species.

**2-**

This quarter we were fully engaged with data research, data entry and compilation, analyses and QA/QC for these additional species to finalize the list and database with this supplemental priority data for these priority species. Data compiled from the 20+ taxa team webinars required and QA/QC with follow up correspondence with taxa experts was required.

**Tasks initiated and/or completed for the additional RSGCN and proposed and priority requested watchlist species for the new RSGCN list:**

- Additional outreach and research to compile taxa team data and follow up correspondence to solicit or confirm additional data needed on RSGCN and watchlist species.
- Manage, review and QA/QC RSGCN and Watchlist species data
- Correspondence with taxa team members to supplement data and following up on individual species' status to acquire missing data
- Research and enter new data and code habitat classification systems, cross-walk existing systems in use in the Northeast across various projects, and draft an updated system for RSGCN and the Regional Database
- Research and enter new data; code and identify the Conservation Measures Partnership classification systems for Threats and Conservation Actions, cross-walk them to existing RSGCN data fields
- Research and enter new Overriding Factors for RSGCN update and populated database for these additional new RSGCN species.
- Research and enter additional data to fill data gaps for RSGCN Marine species (fish, reptiles, mammals, invertebrates) for outliers, harvested species status, existence of fishery management plans, and seasonal regional responsibilities for migratory species

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives: none

Expected End Date: January 1, 2023

Costs: federal expense to date: \$23,347.50

Total 2022 YEAR to date expenses (include this quarter): = \$ 36,847.50

Total Approved Budgeted Funds yr 4: \$25,000

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: 7-18-22