

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2019 1st 2019 2nd 2019 3rd 2019 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: Strategic Implementation of Regional Conservation Priorities for Freshwater Turtles at Risk in the Northeast: RCN Opportunity, Initiative 3. Road Mortality Hotspot Identification, Targeted Road Mitigation Assessment, & Best Management Practices. RCN 17-01 GSA 00033

Contractor: Clarkson University

Project Leader: Tom Langen

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to reduce turtle road mortality through improved mortality “hotspot” identification and mitigation strategies, advancing the goals of the Regional Conservation Priorities for Freshwater Turtles at Risk in the Northeast (Initiative 3), which include: (a) Improving our overall approach to identifying turtle road mortality concentrations, (b) Designing effective mitigation strategies and (c) Assessing the mitigation. Progress in this quarter included continued work on the literature reviews, design of a survey, and discussion with working group on state activities and progress of this project. Next quarter objectives include completion of the survey, data analysis and conference presentation, and continued work on the reviews. The project is funded through 2022.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes and no.

Progress Achieved:

I am continuing to review, evaluate, and synthesize current hotspot identification methods for turtles, and current practices in monitoring turtle road encounters, and a draft written report has been started. I am also in the midst of reviewing, evaluating, and synthesizing current published practices for monitoring effectiveness of mitigation for turtles and other small vertebrates. I am also continuing to contact project managers and wildlife researchers who have experience with mitigation monitoring for small vertebrates. The written review of existing published studies has been initiated. I am now soliciting unpublished assessments of mitigation action effectiveness as a component of follow-up surveys of mitigation projects for Task B.

I drafted a survey on road mitigation methods for turtles, adapted from one administered for another study and used with permission. It has been formatted into survey monkey, and will be distributed in Q1 2020.

In December, I led a 2 hour phone meeting with the RCN Working Group. This was a venue for updating on progress, commentary and input from the RCN Working Group, and exchange of information. We decided to implement quarterly phone meetings.

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives: It is taking longer to complete the literature reviews than I had anticipated. Originally planned for distribution at the end of 2019, it appears it will be in Spring/Summer 2020. This is on account of new administrative duties I have acquired at my academic institution.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: Revise, administer, complete, and analyze a survey on road mitigation practices for turtles. Draft, administer, complete, and analyze a survey on habitat and road correlates of focal turtle species road encounters.

Continue to review, evaluate, and synthesize current hotspot identification methods for turtles, and current practices in monitoring turtle road encounters. Continue writing. The goal is to have a working draft product to send out for review and comment by sometime in Q2 2020.

Continue to review, evaluate, and synthesize current published practices for monitoring effectiveness of mitigation for turtles and other small vertebrates. Continue writing. The goal is to have a working draft product to send out for review and comment by sometime in Q2 2020. I will then create an instructional template for pre- and post-mitigation monitoring, with a goal for sending both (review and monitoring template) for send out for review and comment Q2 2020.

A RCN Working Group phone meeting will be scheduled for Q1 2020.

Expected End Date: 31 December 2022

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$14,548.42

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$137,500.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

The foregoing information is accurate as of the date set forth below.

CLARKSON UNIVERSITY

By: Tom Langen

Name: Tom Langen

Title: Professor, Dept. of Biology, Clarkson University

Date: 14 January 2020