

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2022 1st

2022 2nd

2022 3rd

2022 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 (1) a presentation to the working group on ***General Approaches and Recommended Designs for Turtle Road Barriers***. (2) progress on drafting documents for final products (see *Progress Achieved*, below). (3) Continued progress on new methods for identifying critical road locations for uncommon turtle species.

Next quarter objectives include (1) Distribution of six documents for review (See comments under Progress Achieved). (2) Posting of our video recordings of presentations, available on youtube, on (a) pinpointing critical locations for mitigation, (b) general strategies for evaluating effectiveness of road mitigation for turtles, (c) methods to survey for turtle road encounters, and (d) introduction to mitigation options for turtles. (3) Substantial completion of ***Methodology for Conducting and Documenting Road Surveys for Turtles***. (4) Continued interviews and creation of a database of turtle mitigation projects in the northeastern US.

The project is funded through 2023.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

Progress Achieved:

- ***General Guidelines for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Road Mitigation Measures for Emydine Turtles*** is drafted, for distribution at the end of the 2nd quarter 2022.
- ***General Approaches and Recommended Designs for Turtle Road Crossing Structures Mitigation*** is drafted, for distribution at the end of the 2nd quarter 2022.
- ***General Approaches for Locating Road-kill Hotspots or Other Critical Road Locations for Emydine Turtles*** is drafted, for distribution at the end of the 2nd quarter 2022.
- ***General Approaches and Recommended Designs for Turtle Warning Signage*** is being written, ready for distribution and review at the end of the 2nd quarter 2022.
- ***General Approaches and Recommended Designs for Turtle Road Barriers*** is being written, ready for distribution and review at the end of the 2nd quarter 2022.
- ***General Approaches and Recommendations for Habitat Offsets*** is being written, ready for distribution and review at the end of the 2nd quarter 2022.
- ***Methodology for Conducting and Documenting Road Surveys for Turtles*** is being written, ready for distribution and review during 3rd quarter 2022.

Difficulties Encountered in Meeting Goals and Objectives:

None

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Distribution of six project product documents for review by the working group.
- Re-recording and posting of video recordings of presentations, available on youtube.
- Continued interviews and creation of a database of turtle mitigation projects in the northeastern US.
- Continued progress on new methods for identifying critical road locations for uncommon turtle species.
- Draft of *Methodology for Conducting and Documenting Road Surveys for Turtles*, including data collection templates.

Expected End Date: 31 December 2023

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$43,707.03

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$97,000.00

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: _____

Name: Tom Langen

Title: Professor, Dept. of Biology, Clarkson University

Date: 6 June 2022

