

2019 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2019 1st

2019 2nd

2019 3rd

2019 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN, GSA 00043, Spotted Turtle Assessment in West Virginia

Organization: West Virginia University Research Corporation

Project Leader: Donald Brown

Abstract: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract that addresses EACH of the following: the objectives of your project, accomplishments to date, future plans and timelines with an estimate for when the project will be completed.

The objectives of the project include: 1) perform Trap-based Demographic Assessments (DA) at 2 wetlands in West Virginia with known Spotted Turtle populations, 2) perform Trap-based Rapid Assessments (TRA) at 2 wetlands in West Virginia with historical records of Spotted Turtle populations, and 3) assess the success of a Spotted Turtle translocation program in 1985 using intense trap-based population sampling. All unique individuals captured will be measured, marked using carapace notches and/or PIT tags, and a DNA sample will be collected. All sampling and capture data will be provided to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and DNA samples will be sent to Dr. Rodney Dyer, Virginia Commonwealth University.

The agreement was executed in December 2018 and the project was initiated in the 1st quarter of 2019. During this quarter we have determined the current status (presence/absence) and accessibility of wetlands with historical Spotted Turtle records in West Virginia, created a 2019 sampling schedule for the sites, and began securing landowner permission for private wetlands and WV DNR permission for public wetlands. We will begin performing DA and TRA sampling on April 4th, and anticipate continual spring season sampling through June 2019 (weather-dependent). We anticipate completion of this project in the 4th quarter of 2019.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

Planned and accomplished:

- Determined the current status (presence/absence) and accessibility of wetlands with historical Spotted Turtle records in West Virginia
- Created a 2019 sampling schedule for the sites
- Began securing landowner permission for private wetlands and WV DNR permission for public wetlands

Difficulties Encountered: N/A

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Perform DA and TRA sampling from April 4th – late June (weather-dependent).

Expected End Date: 12/31/2019

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$4,430.63

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$23,333

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: 

Date: 04/05/2019