

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2020 1st 2020 2nd 2020 3rd 2020 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: GSA 00046/**Amendment #2 Wood Turtle**

Organization: The Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation

Project Leader: Lori Erb and Brandon Ruhe

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 Wood Turtle (WT) project is to advance conservation efforts for the Wood Turtle by identifying, prioritizing, and facilitating the implementation of high priority actions within Focal Core Areas in the Northeast, track the progress of these actions by all partners, revise and distribute Best Management Practices, conduct technical assistance trainings, seek additional funding, and perform surveys in data deficient geographic locations. Accomplishments during this quarter include 3 conference calls with the NE Wood Turtle RNC Steering Committee, review of an expert survey and final report related to the Spotted, Wood, and Blanding's Turtle Symposium, meeting with state leads to help them population the CAN Site Tracking spreadsheet to track site-level conservation needs, assisting with the development of a USFWS Competitive State Wildlife Grant (CSWG) application, participating in the Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtle (CCITT) activities, and preparing permit applications and conducting Wood Turtle surveys in MD.

During the next quarter, we plan to hold monthly conference calls with the Wood Turtle Steering Committee, assist with updating and expanding the CAN Site Action Tracking Database, assist with drafting a post-symposium manuscript and a white paper on the illegal trade in turtles, continue participation in the CCITT and the PARC Turtle Task Team meetings, conduct fall surveys in MD, and develop a distribution plan to distribute BMPs.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

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

- Organized and lead 3 monthly conference calls with the Turtle RNC Wood Turtle subproject leads and drafted meeting notes.
- Organized and lead a conservation planning meeting with PA experts.
- Organized and lead a population monitoring planning meeting with PA volunteer surveyors.
- Identified and reached out to potential population monitoring surveys in PA.
- Participated in Collaborative to Combat and the Illegal Trade in Turtles (CCITT) monthly call, drafting of meeting notes.
- Participated in several CCITT leadership meetings to coordinate a merger with PARC TNT.
- Collaborated with others to develop presentations about the illegal trade in turtles for AFWA and TSA meetings.
- Participated in AZA conservation genetics meeting.
- Reviewed AZA SAFE program draft documents that deals with housing of confiscated turtles in the

northeast and beyond.

- Planning for fall surveys in PA.
- Reviewed and provided suggested edits on a book chapter on Wood Turtle Ecology.
- Organized a meeting with NJ to discuss a virtual conservation planning meeting for the state.
- Developed a draft distribution plan for distributing habitat management guidelines previously developed by the NEWTWG.
- Continued to with the state leads to populate the CAN site action tracking worksheet.
- Organized and back up files.
- Drafted a quarterly report.

Difficulties Encountered: None.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Hold monthly conference calls with the Wood Turtle Steering Committee.
- Assist with drafting a post-symposium manuscript.
- Continue to assist states to populate the CAN Site Tracking spreadsheet.
- Continue to participate in CCITT monthly calls and drafting meeting notes.
- Assist with drafting a white paper or journal manuscript on the issues and needs to address the illegal trade in turtles.
- Continue to participate in the PARC Turtle Task Team.
- Conduct fall surveys at under surveyed sites in MD and/or PA.
- Finalize a plan to distribute existing BMPs to target audiences (e.g., sportsman, large landowners)
- Continue to organize and back up files.
- Draft a quarterly report.

Expected End Date: The end date of the next quarter is December 30, 2020

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$17,519.61

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$50,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:

Date: 11/18/2020