

# 2021 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)      2021 1<sup>st</sup>      2021 2<sup>nd</sup>      2021 3<sup>rd</sup>      2021 4<sup>th</sup>

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 RCN Steering Committee, several meetings with grant partners to progress grant tasks, organizing volunteer surveyors in PA, participating in the Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtle (CCITT) and PARC Turtle Networking Team activities, apply for state and park permits in MD and NY, planning for population assessment surveys in MD and inventory surveys in western NY to better understand the species distribution in that part of the state.

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, coordinate with grant partners on various grant related tasks, participate in the CCITT and the PARC Turtle Task Team meetings, enter, organize and perform quality control on the 2021 field season data collected by MACHAC, conduct fall surveys in MD and NY, and finalize 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 Northeast Wood Turtle Working Group (NEWTWG) and drafted meeting notes.
- Participated in a population assessment protocol meeting.
- Conducted several phone correspondences with project partners.
- Conducted several phone calls with landowners.
- Coordinated with surveyors in PA to collect population monitoring data.
- Participated in Collaborative to Combat and the Illegal Trade in Turtles (CCITT) monthly call and assisted with drafting meeting notes.
- Participated in several CCITT leadership meetings to coordinate a merger with PARC TNT.
- Drafted and applied for MD, PA and NY state permits and worked on site specific permits and permissions.

- Drafted a CSWG2 contract with MD.
- Planning for surveys in NY and MD surveys.
- Reviewed and distributed a PIT tag training video.
- Ordered supplies and materials for the field season.
- Participated in a data sensitivity discussion.
- Preparing for interviews for a seasonal assistant.
- Assisted with the coordination of a book printing order.
- Entered and organized data.
- Drafted a quarterly report.

Difficulties Encountered: None.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Hold monthly conference calls with the Wood Turtle Steering Committee.
- Continue to assist states to populate the CAN Site Tracking spreadsheet.
- Continue to participate in CCITT monthly calls and drafting meeting notes.
- Continue to participate in the PARC Turtle Task Team.
- Continue to coordinate with grant partners on the various grant tasks.
- Continue to coordinate with volunteer surveyors in PA.
- Conduct surveys in MD and NY.
- Work on a plan to distribute existing BMPs to target audiences (e.g., sportsman, large landowners) and place the printing order.
- Continue to organize and back up files.
- Draft a quarterly report.

Expected End Date: The end date of the next quarter is June 30, 2021

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$25,506.27

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$50,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: *Brandon M. Rule*

Date: 07/25/2021