

# 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 on grant related tasks, coordinating volunteer surveyors in PA, conducting population assessment surveys in MD and inventory survey in NY to better understand the species distribution in that state, participating in the Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtle (CCITT) and PARC Turtle Networking Team activities, entering and organizing the 2020 field season data, hiring a project assistant, and ordering supplies for the field season.

During the next quarter, we plan to hold monthly conference calls with the Wood Turtle Steering Committee, assist project partners with various grant tasks including with updating and expanding the CAN Site Action Tracking Database, participate in the CCITT and the PARC Turtle Task Team meetings, enter, organize and perform quality control on the 2021 field season, coordinate with volunteer surveyors in PA, conduct fall surveys in MD and western NY and finalize a distribution plan for the BMPs and print copies.

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.
- Conducted several phone correspondences with project partners.
- 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.
- Applied for NY state permits.
- Conducted 8 surveys at 5 locations in NY to better understand the distribution of wood turtles in western NY. No Wood turtles were found.

- Conducted 7 survey at 2 locations in MD using the regional population assessment protocol.
- Finished entering and organizing the 2020 field season data for sites surveyed in MD.
- Hired a project assistant.
- Ordered supplies and materials for the field season.
- Obtained printing estimates for the outreach BMP documents.
- Coordinated on the printing of a book.
- 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.
- 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.
- Enter, organize and perform quality control on the 2021 spring field season data collected by MACHAC.
- Conduct fall survey in MD and NY.
- Finalize a plan to distribute existing BMPs to target audiences (e.g., sportsman, large landowners) and get copies printed.
- Continue to organize and back up files.
- Draft a quarterly report.

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

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$34,038.13

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$50,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: *Brandon M. Rube*

Date: 7/26/2021