

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, several meetings with wood turtle experts in NJ and PA to identify site specific conservation needs and fill out the CAN Site Tracking spreadsheet, coordinating potential surveyors for the 2021 field season to expand the current population monitoring effort in PA, conducting fall surveys in MD to better understand the species distribution in the state, participating in the Collaborative to Combat the Illegal Trade in Turtle (CCITT) and PARC Turtle Networking Team activities, and downloading and organizing field season data collected by MACHAC (i.e., photos and GIS data).

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, continue participation in the CCITT and the PARC Turtle Task Team meetings, continue to enter, organize and perform quality control on the 2020 field season data collected by MACHAC, 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 Turtle RNC Wood Turtle subproject leads and drafted meeting notes.
- Participated in a conservation planning meetings with NJ and PA Wood Turtle experts.
- Coordinated with surveyors in PA to establish additional population monitoring sites.
- Conducted surveys at four locations to better understand the distribution of wood turtles in MD. Nine Wood turtles were captured at two of these sites. Additional wood turtles were observations at both sites but were not captured.
- Drafted a distribution plan for existing Wood Turtle best management Practices.
- 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.

- Participated in one AZA conservation genetics meeting.
- Started entering and organizing the MD 2020 field season data.
- Continued to coordinate with the state leads to populate the CAN site action tracking worksheet.
- Downloaded and organized 2020 field season data (i.e., photos and GIS data)
- 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.
- Continue to participate in the PARC Turtle Task Team.
- Continue to enter, organize and perform quality control on the 2020 field season data collected by MACHAC.
- 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 March 31, 2020

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$21,246.37

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$50,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: 

Date: 2/08/2021