

2022 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2022 1st 2022 2nd 2022 3rd 2022 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title:

Amendment #3 GSA 00046 / Eastern Box Turtle Status Assessment, Conservation Plan, and BMPs.

Organization: The Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation and Tangled Bank Conservation (subcontractor)

Project Leader: Joseph Apodaca (Tangled Bank Conservation), Lori Erb, and Brandon Ruhe

Abstract: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract addressing 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 objective of the Eastern Box Turtle (EBT) genetic project is to *Identifying Conservation Units and Building A Northeast Specific Spatially Explicit Genetic Database for The Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina Carolina*. Accomplishments during this quarter includes attending two conference calls with the Eastern Box Turtle Steering Committee (EBT SC), development of a sampling protocol and sample intake forms, ordering and distributing supplies to various partners, coordinating with all project partners, obtaining and processing 125 genetic samples, performing three preliminary analyses and drafting an interim report.

During the next quarter, we plan to attend one or more monthly calls, collaborate with the grant partners, process samples collected during the 2022 field season, perform additional analyses, and complete another interim report.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

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

Tangled Bank Conservation Inc. (contractor services):

- Attended a couple project steering committee meetings.
- Developed a sampling protocol and sample intake tracking worksheets.
- Ordered and distributed sampling supplies.
- Organized samples and project files.
- Extracted and prepped 458 total box turtle samples
- Successfully sequenced 580 million reads from 122 Eastern Box Turtles from WV, VA, DE, NJ, NY, RI, CT and MA using a 3RAD approach
- Ran three preliminary analyses to quantify population structure (see attached report).
- Drafted an interim report.

Difficulties Encountered: None.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Attend conference calls with the EBT SC when appropriate.

- Continue to coordinate with project partners.
- Continue processing genetic samples collected during the 2022 field season.
- Perform data analysis that includes the 2022 samples.
- Complete a quarterly and final report.

Expected End Date: The end date of the next quarter is December 31, 2022

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$40,900.00

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$50,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: *Brandon M. Rule*

Date: 10/25/2022