

# 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 / **Eastern Box Turtle Status Assessment, Conservation Plan, and BMPs.**

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 objective of the Eastern Box Turtle (EBT) project is to develop a status assessment and conservation plan for the EBT to advance conservation efforts for this species. Accomplishments during this quarter includes the completion of three conference calls with the Eastern Box Turtle Steering Committee (EBT SC), corresponding with the grant Co-PI on grant tasks, corresponding with Tangled Bank Conservation to develop a SOW for the genetic subproject, corresponding with volunteer surveyors to answer questions, corresponding with the RCN pollinator group lead and NJ pineland experts to coordinate on development of best management practices for management of xeric habitats, assisting researchers with study design for independent research related to the EBT, continuing to QC the 2020 field season data, conducting surveys in MD and PA, and administrative actions (e.g., backing up files, drafting reports).

During the next quarter, we plan to hold monthly calls, assist surveyors with questions related to data entry, compile and organize the 2021 field season data, collaborate with the grant Co-PI on development of a SDM, and continue to compile and summarize historical data and literature on prescribed fires and its potential effects on box turtles and their habitat.

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 Eastern Box Turtle RCN Steering Committee and drafted meeting notes.
- Conducted several meetings with my Co-PI to coordinate projects and actions.
- Coordinated with Tangled Bank Conservation to develop a genetic sampling plan and SOW for a contact.
- Continued to compile, organize, and QC the 2020 field season data from all states.
- Conducted two volunteer surveyor meetings.
- Coordinated volunteer surveyors in MD and PA.
- Conducted 7 population assessment surveys at two sites in MD and 3 surveys at 1 site in PA.
- Collected and began to summarize recent literature related to fire and the EBT.
- Began to download and organize 2021 field season data.
- Organized and back up files.
- Drafted a quarterly report.

Difficulties Encountered: None.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Hold monthly conference calls with the EBT SC.
- Provide assistance to surveyors and researchers as needed while entering the 2021 survey data.
- Continue to enter, organize and perform quality control on the 2021 field season data collected by MACHAC.
- Compile and clean the 2021 field season survey data from all states.
- Continue to summarize information and literature on prescribed fire and EBT.
- Coordinate with my Co-PI on the development of a SDM.
- Organize and back up files.
- Complete 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): \$45,042.32

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$68,499.72

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:  Type text here

Date: 07/27/2021