

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2020 1st **2020 2nd** 2020 3rd 2020 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN, GSA 00047; Eastern Box Turtle Status Assessment, Conservation Plan, and Best Management Practices.

Organization: H. Patrick Roberts (Independent Contractor)

Project Leader: H. Patrick Roberts

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 this project is to develop a status assessment and conservation plan for the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) in the northeastern United States. This contract with the Wildlife Management Institute was executed at the very end of the first quarter of 2019. As a result of this delayed start, the timeline for the initial objectives of this project was shifted forward accordingly. During the first quarter of 2020, Lori Erb (of MACHAC) and I held monthly Steering Committee calls in April, May, and June to discuss progress toward the overarching goals and objectives of the project. We continued to make adjustments to the monitoring and management-related protocols, which are available to the public at northeastturtles.org. We corresponded with other box turtle projects throughout the region that are interested in utilizing the protocol and/or information generated from this regional project (e.g., Kiah Walker at Antioch University New England, Andy Royle at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, JJ Apodaca at Tangled Bank Conservation). Lastly, we have continued to communicate with lead state agency biologists about coordinating regional survey protocol training workshops for volunteers and agency biologists.

We continue to develop a species distribution model for the northeastern U.S. We are also continuing to search for high-quality regional data layers that will be used in future modeling exercises. Immediate next steps will be to (1) start to review existing status assessments, (2) collect and collate 2020 sampling data, (3) continue development of the regional species distribution model, and (5) continue to hold monthly conference calls. We expect to complete this project by February 2023.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes.

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

Planned and accomplished:

- Monthly conference calls
- Gathered regional data layers for use in future modeling for this project
- Conducted QA/QC for regional database
- Continued species distribution model development

Difficulties Encountered: N/A

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Continue to hold monthly conference calls
- Collect data from remaining sources
- Continue to gather regional data layers
- Continue development of species distribution model
- Continue to develop public communications materials
- Collect data from regional partners
- Begin to review existing status assessments for other species

Expected End Date: February 28, 2023.

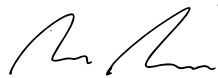
Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$39,516.84 (including match)

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$68,500

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes.

Signature:



Date: 07/31/2020