

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

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

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN; GSA 00060 Habitat for Pollinators: Improving Management of Regionally Significant Xeric Grasslands, Barrens and Woodlands in the Northeast

Organization: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Pocomoke State Forest (PSF)

Project Leader: Jen Selfridge/Mike Schofield

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 this project are to increase pollinator habitat at the Furnace and Foster Tracts of Pocomoke State Forest through increasing the acreage of early successional habitat, increasing the coverage of pollen and nectar plants, and removing less desirable species including planted loblolly pine, maple and sweet gum. Many of the potential 2nd quarter activities for 2020 were never completed due to travel, spending and hiring restrictions associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic and a mandatory telework order applicable to most DNR personnel issued on 12 March. We were able to complete one spring bee survey (netting only) and were able to install an electric deer fence to protect the vegetation coming up in one of the March burn units from deer browse (two of our vegetation transects are in this burn unit).

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Due to the Coronavirus restrictions, the only activity we had planned for the 2nd quarter was a spring bee survey at both the Furnace and Foster Tracts. We were able to accomplish a partial spring bee survey where we netted bees at both sites but we did not put out any bowls.

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments) We completed a partial spring bee survey at both the Furnace and Foster Tracts (netting only). Costs billed to the project were associated with this spring bee survey, reporting, and installation/maintenance of the electric fence in the burned unit where two of our vegetation transects are.

Difficulties Encountered: Restrictions associated with the Coronavirus pandemic halted most field activities after March 12. These restrictions continued into the second quarter and prevented most survey and management activities.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: While we do not know how the Coronavirus restrictions will impact our actions during the 3rd quarter, at a minimum we plan to initiate summer bee surveys and vegetation surveys at both the Furnace and Foster Tracts. We may continue vegetation control (herbicides) for pine and sweet gum if conditions permit.

Expected End Date: 28 February 2021

Costs: \$908.76

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$9756.79

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$29,690.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: 

Date: 5 August 2020