

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. During the 4th Quarter of 2020 we completed fall bee surveys at both the Furnace and Foster Tracts; semi-permanently marked the start and end points of all nine vegetation transects at both tracts with painted rebar (previously they had only been marked with flags); and reviewed/coordinated moth survey protocols/plans for both tracts. DNR Forest Service management activities were and continue to be severely restricted due to COVID-19 teleworking requirements, and only timber operations are currently permitted.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we had limited our planned activities for the 4th quarter to bee surveys, which were completed. All proposed burns were postponed to a later date TBD.

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments) We completed fall bee surveys at both the Furnace and Foster Tracts; semi-permanently marked the start and end points of all nine vegetation transects at both tracts with painted rebar; reviewed/coordinated moth survey plans for both tracts (which should begin in 2021); completed quarterly reports.

Difficulties Encountered: Management activities continue to be precluded due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: We will re-evaluate management options if current restrictions are lifted, but currently there are no specific activities planned for the 1st Quarter of 2021 due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

Expected End Date: 28 February 2021

Costs: \$2028.12

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$13,472.53

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$29,690.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: *Jennifer Seefried*

Date: 4 February 2021