

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), Green Ridge State Forest (PSF)

Project Leader: Jen Selfridge/Mark Beals

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 Slider Special Wildlife Habitat Area (Town Creek Site) in Green Ridge State Forest through reducing invasive species and cold season grasses and increasing the coverage of pollen and nectar plants. After meeting with the Green Ridge Forest Manager earlier this summer, we have decided to significantly scale back his involvement in the management portion of the project. This is due to several issues including limitations imposed by COVID-19 (both personal and professional), problems with existing equipment, and issues that have prevented us from obtaining new equipment necessary to carry out the original management objectives. We will still be conducting bee and vegetation surveys and will continue managing the 2-acre pollinator meadow (8B). We will also manage the surrounding units if time and staff permit but will not likely follow the original timeline. During the 3rd quarter, we completed bee surveys, vegetation transect surveys, and mowed strips in Unit 8B to see if this would impact Virginia wild rye, which dominated the pollinator meadow this summer.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments) We completed late summer and fall bee surveys, vegetation transect surveys, and mowed strips in Unit 8B to see if this would limit Virginia wild rye, which dominated the pollinator meadow this summer.

Difficulties Encountered: COVID-19 made it difficult to enlist help from volunteers and students and limited management activities at the site. There were also internal issues that prevented the purchase of the UTV which was considered an essential piece of equipment for most of the Units. We have decided to significantly scale back the management portion of the project and focus primarily (or exclusively) on management of Unit 8B (the pollinator meadow).

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: 4th Quarter activities will be limited to planning moth survey trap locations. It is also possible that one or more of the Units will be mowed.


Expected End Date: 28 February 2021

Costs: \$2596.33

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$6423.33

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$43,560.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:  Jennifer Seifried

Date: 28 OCT 2020