

2019 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2019 1st 2019 2nd 2019 3rd 2019 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. The 4th Quarter habitat management activities were limited to disking units 8B and 8C and mowing unit 8E. The management strategy for unit 8E was previously undecided but we have now slated it for annual mowing. Disking and mowing of unit 8A was postponed until Jan/Feb of 2020, and unit 8C was disked instead of unit 8D; 8D will be disked or mowed in Jan/Feb 2020. Prescribed burns planned for unit 8B and 9 were cancelled due to weather constraints.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes with the exception of prescribed fire, which was not possible; prescribed burns planned for units 8B and 9 were cancelled due to weather constraints. Unit 8B was disked instead, and unit 9 will be mechanically cut back in Jan/Feb 2020. We also made a few changes to the management rotation: disking and mowing of unit 8A was postponed until Jan/Feb of 2020, and unit 8C was disked instead of unit 8D; 8D will be disked or mowed in Jan/Feb 2020.

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments) Habitat management at Slider SWHA (Town Creek) included disking units 8B and 8C and mowing unit 8E.

Difficulties Encountered: Prescribed burns planned for unit 8B and 9 were cancelled due to weather constraints, but unit 8B was disked instead, and unit 9 will be mechanically cut back in Jan/Feb 2020.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: In Jan/Feb 2020, unit 8A will be disked and mowed once, if needed. Unit 8D will also be disked and/or mowed. Unit 9 will be targeted for mechanical clearing of autumn olive and bush honeysuckle in Jan/Feb to knock back vegetation since prescribed fire in the fall was not possible; we will follow this up with foliar treatments of the sprouts and foliage in the spring/summer of 2020. We will purchase the UTV in Jan/Feb for this purpose, and also use it to spot treat invasives in the other units as needed.

Expected End Date: 28 February 2020

Costs: \$

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$3068.99

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$31,780.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: 

Date: 28 January 2020