

2021 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2021 1st

2021 2nd

2021 3rd

2021 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: **GSA 00067 RCN Pollinator, Albany Pine Bush**

Organization: Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission

Project Leader: Neil Gifford

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.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes, objectives to complete post-mowing bee, vegetation, and Karner blue sampling were fully achieved

2nd Quarter 2021 Progress Achieved:

Prescribed Fire of all three RCN treatment sites (match expense):

- 5/17/2021 'Alleycat' (27 acres)
- 5/18/2021 'Bivy' (33 acres)
- 6/25/2021 Diversity" (14 acres) *Unit is adjacent to the NYS Thruway (I-90) and logistics mandated burning only half of this unit, but the burn included ~1/2 the vegetation plots and the entire bee bowl transect.*

Pollinator sampling

- Karner blue & frosted elfin butterfly surveys: Bivy, Alleycat (treatment sites) and Draperies (control site)
- May and June bee sampling: Bivy, Alleycat, Diversity (Treatment sites)
Draperies, Green Taxis (Control sites)

1st Quarter 2021 Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

- Continue identification of bee specimens

4th Quarter 2020 Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

- Continued, preparing, pinning and labeling bee specimens
- Continue identification of bee specimens
- Completed data entry of vegetation data
- Completed data entry for Karner data and analysis

3rd Quarter 2020 Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

- Continue identification of bee specimens
- Continued bee bowl and sweep net sampling at all sites
- Conducted Karner blue butterfly surveys at three (Alleycat, Bivy, Draperies) of the five sites per agreement.
- Completed post-treatment (mow) 2020 vegetation sampling using modified RCN vegetation protocols at all sites

2nd Quarter 2020 Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

- Continue identification of bee specimens

- Completed bee bowl and sweep net sampling at all sites on May 22 and June 16.
- Conducted Karner blue butterfly surveys at three (Alleycat, Bivy, Draperies) of the five sites per agreement.

1st Quarter 2020 Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

- Continue identification of bee specimens

4th Quarter 2019 Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

- Finish pinning and labeling bee specimens
- Continue identification of bee specimens
- Complete 2019 data entry of vegetation data
- Mowed treatment sites - Began October 15 and be finished December 20, 2019

3rd Quarter 2019 Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

- Completed vegetation sampling at all five sites
- Completed 5 bee sampling events at all five sites, final survey on 9/18/19
- Completed second brood Karner blue butterfly surveys at three sites (Alleycat, Bivy, Draperies)
- Secure contractor for mowing treatment sites (*see map below - sites 1, 3 & 4 are RCN project sites*)
 - Request for proposals released June, 27, 2019 on the NYS Contract Reporter
 - RFP closed July 26, 2019; 6 bids received and reviewed
 - Bid awarded July 30, 2019 to The Tree Doctor, Inc.

2nd Quarter 2019 Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

- Finalized vegetation protocol for 5 APB sites (>100 acres), including 3 treatment sites and 2 controls.
- Completed bee sampling at all sites, using colored bee bowls.
- Completed Karner blue butterfly surveys at three (Antelope, Bivy, Draperies) of the five sites per agreement.

Difficulties Encountered:

Could not burn all 30-acres of the Diversity Unit. It is adjacent to the NYS Thruway and logistics mandated burning only half of this unit, but the burn included ~1/2 the vegetation plots and the entire bee bowl transect. The site remains a treatment site.

NYSDEC Covid-19 restrictions eliminated our ability to apply Rx fire to the three treatment sites (Bivy, Alleycat, Diversity) as planned for 2020. Sites will receive Rx fire in May 2021 if these restrictions are removed. Covid-19 restrictions also eliminated our ability to hire seasonal science technicians for field work; permanent staff modified our activities to complete the 2020 bee, butterfly and vegetation sampling.

Expected End Date: February 2022

Costs: Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$37,500 Direct dollars, \$45,637.04 Match dollars.

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$40,000 direct.

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:



Date: 20, July 2021