

2021 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2021 1st

2021 2nd

2021 3rd

2021 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN; GSA 00070; Communication & Project Support for Xeric Habitats for Pollinators

Organization: Strategic Stewardship Initiative, 110 Chambers Alley, Boalsburg, PA, 16827

Project Leader: Elizabeth Crisfield

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 Xeric Habitats for Pollinators project aims to improve habitat management at sites where this unique habitat type can still be conserved in support of rare bees and lepidoptera that are closely associated with well-drained, fire adapted conditions.

This contract supports the project by ensuring that the monitoring and habitat management components of the project are coordinated so that the data available in July 2022 allows the data analysis team to answer the key research questions by the end of the project in December 2023. With the analysis in hand, we also need to provide products in several formats to ensure at site managers have access to the lessons learned from this project. Furthermore, data generated by this project should be available to researchers interested in understanding species' ranges and community diversity for bees and nocturnal moths.

To meet these goals, the outline below explains how SSI supports the project through coordination and communication, data and monitoring components, and best management practices and other products.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Yes. As planned, this summer I communicated regularly with the lepidoptera team which has completed all site visits as planned. I updated the website with 2019 bee results from the bee team, identified other xeric sites in the northeast, and analyzed mapped habitat classifications in the northeast. I merged the lepidoptera data available as of early September, did a preliminary analysis on conservation status of collected species including accessing GBIF to estimate current observations and trends in observations, and presented these results to the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee at their September meeting. Likewise, I updated the summary of conservation status of bees from 2018 and 2019. (I have requested the final data for 2020 ASAP.) I also began working with Helen Poulos and Drew Barton to scope the final analysis contract.

Please see the detailed time sheet for specific activities.

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

This outline matches the contract scope of work. Hours in blue parenthesis track the actual cumulative vs. the estimated effort provided in the contract scope of work. Narrative assessment of progress toward these project components is provided above.

- a. Coordination and Communication (66/219 hours)
 - i. Calls and correspondence with John Heilferty and the sites as needed
 - ii. Maintaining the website and project mapping
 - iii. Hosting calls in February 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, and at the end of the project

- b. Data and Monitoring Components (177/305 hours)
 - i. Calls and correspondence with bee, lepidoptera, and vegetation collaborators
 - ii. Maintaining documentation of research hypotheses and questions, and correlations being explored
 - iii. Tracking lepidoptera, bee data, and soil data and making sure it is all getting to Helen and Drew
 - iv. Any other Data and Monitoring challenges that emerge
- c. BMPs and other products (19/250 hours)
 - i. Translating data outcomes to BMPs
 - ii. Summary report of Xeric Sites in the Northeast
 - iii. Coordinating with the Sandplain Grassland Working Group to review BMP recommendations
 - iv. Oversee and guide summary reports of Bees, Leps, and Management Lessons
- d. Administration (4/16 hours)
 - i. Quarterly progress reports

Difficulties Encountered: No additional difficulties beyond previously reported.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

This quarter I will continue to compile and summarize lep data as the final lists come in and I will finalize the soil data analysis. I will work with Helen and Drew to scope the data data analysis phase. John and I will host a call for site managers to update on the status of the project. I will support the budgeting and contracting aspect of the project by working with contractors and site managers to assess funding needs.

Expected End Date: December 31, 2022

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$32,822.50 (total project cost), \$21,326.23 (invoiced funds)

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$106,650 (total project cost), \$69,322.40 (invoiced funds)

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: 

Date: October 15, 2021