

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?

Not all the goals were met last quarter. I did track the bee and moth data, but that ended up taking more time than expected, and 2 of the 5 moth contractors have not provided final datasets. Rather than hosting a full project update call, John and I decided to host calls with individual sites. We had 3 out of 7 scheduled, but one canceled. We will finish those calls in January. Though I kept in touch with Helen and Drew through the fall, their academic demands kept them from submitting a scope and budget for a new contract. John and I have met with them already this January and I will hound them weekly until we get that scope of work. I have kept track of contracting needs for monitoring and have been working with John to balance data needs and budget constraints.

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 out of 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 (92/219 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 (218/305 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 (21/250 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 (6/16 hours)
 - i. Quarterly progress reports

Difficulties Encountered: No additional difficulties beyond previously reported.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- (with John) all sites are contacted to make sure data from bees, veg, and management activities is accurate.
- (with John) 2022 moth contracts are signed
- (with Helen and Drew) all data, 2018-present, has been submitted to Helen and Drew
- (with Clare and Sydney) bee data is updated in Discover Life with all coordinate corrections. All 2021 collected specimens are logged.
- (with Sven, Neil, Rick, Mark, and Paul) all moth data is in one database
- Introduction/Background/Context for BMP is written (i.e., what was known before we did this project.)

In general, I will be assuring data quality and availability for analysis in the 1st and 2nd quarters of this year. I'll be overseeing moth survey through fall 2022. The 3rd and 4th quarters of the year will focus on analysis and writing to complete reports by December 31st.

Expected End Date: December 31, 2022

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$40,990.00 (total project cost), \$26,635.10 (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