

2019 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2019 1st

2019 2nd

2019 3rd

2019 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: GSA 00074 - Conservation Plan for the Blanding's Turtle and associated Species of Conservation Need in the Northeastern United States

Organization: Oriante Society

Project Leader: Kiley Briggs

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 purpose of this project is to select approximately ten Focal Core Areas in which states will allocate the majority of their Blanding's Turtle conservation efforts such that populations are stabilized in the places absolutely most critical to the species. So far, we have begun review of existing management plans and data for the 36 Blanding's Turtle Focal Core Areas in the northeast, beginning with those located in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, scheduled subsequent meetings with biologists from other states, and participated in one conference call with the entire Eastern Blanding's Turtle Working Group. We will continue reviewing materials and meeting with state biologists through the summer and anticipate making final site selections by the fall. Most deliverables for this project will be achieved by Dec. 2020, with continued efforts to conserve habitat taking place through 2021 until submitting a final report by March 2022.

Work began on July 1, after the end of the second quarter, so we are not submitting an invoice and expense report at this time.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

The project is proceeding on schedule, however work did not begin until one day after the end of the last quarter.

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

- Reviewed management plans for 4 Blanding's Turtle sites in NH and 2 in MA
- Participated in first monthly conference call
- Met with biologists from New Hampshire and visited two Blanding's Turtle sites
- Scheduled meetings in Maine and New York

Difficulties Encountered:

None so far.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Continue reviewing site management plans
- Meet with biologists from MA, NY, ME, and PA
- Attend NEPARC conference
- Begin reviewing/refining Blanding's Turtle BMP list
- Begin populating geospatial database (if database is ready)

Expected End Date:

March 2022.

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): NA. Billable work began July 1

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: NA

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? YES

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date: July 13, 2019