

# 2021 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2021 1<sup>st</sup>

2021 2<sup>nd</sup>

2021 3<sup>rd</sup>

2021 4<sup>th</sup>

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: The Orienne 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 objectives of this project are to advance conservation efforts for Blanding's Turtles in the northeast by selecting a subset of high priority sites in which to work with state biologists and other partners to address site specific conservation needs, develop and distribute a booklet and brochure highlighting best management practices, help refine a site action tracking database, and to develop or update site-specific conservation plans for selected sites. In the fourth quarter of 2021 we continued to work with the Northeast Blanding's Turtle Working group to finalize BMP documents, write two site conservation plans, and coordinate management priorities that may take place after end of this contract. In the first quarter of 2022 we will print and distribute BMP documents, finalize two site conservation plans, and provide feedback on the site action tracking database, and work with state partners to explore funding opportunities for future work (such as a CSWG application in 2023). We plan to submit a final report at the end of the first quarter in 2022.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Yes.

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

Goal: Continued partner outreach including meetings with town conservation commissions, land trusts, researchers, and state biologists.

Accomplishment: Worked with the state of Maine to plan a multi-partner planning session (date TBD) and followed up on meetings with town conservation commissions and other partners in MA to help plan management activities that may take place in 2022.

Goal: BMP booklet and brochure completion for printing in early 2022.

Accomplishment: Brochure finalized and ready to print. Booklet on track for printing in early March.

Goal: Plan for future conservation and monitoring projects to take place after this RCN grant closes

Accomplishment: Worked with state leads to build momentum for a multi-state CSWG application, likely for submission in Feb. 2023.

Continue drafting two conservation plans and updating others

Accomplishment: Two NY plans drafted, to be submitted for review shortly.

Difficulties Encountered:

The site action tracking database became ready for testing very late in our contract period and we still do not have login access to the portal, but we are testing the database structure to ensure it is capable of tracking all possible actions at Blanding's Turtle sites using the spreadsheets that the database was built around (it was created for Wood Turtles, and Blanding's Turtle sites may require different options for site actions). We expect to have database access shortly.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Print and distribute BMP documents  
Finalize two NY site plans  
Continue planning site management actions  
Submit final report

Expected End Date: March 31, 2022

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$43,364.13

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$50,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes.

Signature: 

Date: January 31, 2022