

2019 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2019 1st 2019 2nd 2019 3rd **2019 4th**

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN, GSA 00045, Assessment of Spotted Turtles in New York

Organization: SUNY Potsdam Research Foundation

Project Leader: Glenn Johnson

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 overarching objective of this RCN project is to support the strategic implementation of regional conservation planning for at-risk turtles in the Northeastern States, addressing the most time-sensitive research and management needs for at least five priority species (Blanding's, Eastern Box, Wood, Spotted Turtles, and Northern Diamondback Terrapins) through four separate but complementary initiatives.

SUNY Potsdam has specific tasks to contribute toward this overarching objective for **Spotted Turtles**. These are:

1. Coordinate selection of study areas with the State, and permissions and permits that will be required. This component of the project has been completed for sites sampled in 2019. For sites proposed for the next round of sampling (2020 field season), this process has begun and at least 3 sites have been selected. This will continue into the next quarter and into next spring.
2. Conduct Trap Rapid Assessments (TRA), Demographic Assessments (DA) or Visual Rapid Assessments (VRA) surveys for spotted turtles at 10 – 15 sites. This task was for 2019 completed in the 2nd quarter.
3. Collect DNA samples of each individual spotted turtle encountered. This task for 2019 was completed in the 2nd quarter.

Future plans include conducting surveys at least six additional TRA sites and one additional DA site in the 2020 field season. All field work (trapping and blood sampling) is anticipated to be completed by August 2020 with a final report prepared by October 2020.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

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

1. Selection of study areas

Study area site selection for 2019 was completed in the 2nd quarter. I have identified 8 potential study sites for 2020 and have had discussions with Liz Willey about how best to approach the 2020 field season.

2. Conduct Trap Rapid Assessments (TRA), Demographic Assessments (DA)

This task for 2019 was completed in the 2nd Quarter and results were reported in that quarterly report.

Data entry, including a review for errors, was completed in the 3rd quarter and the information was submitted to Lori Erb. During this quarter, we completed QA/QC of the submitted data. A renewal application of my NYS License to Collect and Possess was submitted this quarter.

3. Collect DNA samples

This task for 2019 was completed in the 2nd quarter. Samples were not yet sent to the lab yet, but will be by the end of the first 2020 quarter.

Difficulties Encountered: None this quarter

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: Continue with site selection process. Submit genetic tissue samples.

Expected End Date:

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): 10,918.21 (no new expenses this quarter)

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$23,333.

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Date: 2 January 2020