

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT

2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2013 1st

2013 2nd

2013 3rd

2013 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: In-stream Flow Recommendations for the Great Lakes Basin of New York and Pennsylvania; grant number 2010-02

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Project Leader: David Klein

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.

This project will employ the Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration (ELOHA) framework in the Great Lakes drainage of New York and Pennsylvania to develop an objective, spatially explicit process for evaluating the ecological impacts of new withdrawals of water from the tributaries of Lakes Erie, Ontario, and the Upper St. Lawrence River. The goal is to provide the scientific information necessary to support development and implementation of in-stream flow standards for managing the Great Lakes surface and ground-waters of New York and Pennsylvania under the terms of the Great Lakes Compact.

During the first quarter of 2013, we presented draft flow recommendations to the members of our Technical Advisory Team in a WebEx on February 21, 2013. We discussed these draft recommendations with key NYSDEC staff prior to the WebEx to refine recommendations for discussion. Since the WebEx, Dr. Jason Taylor of Cornell has been testing the application of the recommendations, using information on actual withdrawals in four gaged tributaries representing the four watershed size classes. Dr. Taylor has developed a set of graphics and tables that presents the results of this analysis for review by the DEC. We have completed a draft of the final report for this project, and will submit the final section with flow recommendations, and analysis of impact of the recommendations on actual withdrawals, to the DEC within the next two weeks. The final report will be submitted to RCN after review by the DEC and technical advisory team.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

The first quarter of 2013 has been the concluding phase of this project, with a complete draft of the final report including flow recommendations. We are making final preparations to present this report to the DEC for review.

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

Outcome 7: Prepare a draft summary report and draft ecosystem flow recommendations for streams of different types.

Summary tables of the flow recommendations developed by the advisory team were used during the final project WebEx on Feb. 21.

Outcome 8: Conduct flow recommendations workshop, and issue final report. A draft of the final report has been completed and is being edited in preparation for submission to the DEC.

Difficulties Encountered:

It has been challenging to assemble data on actual withdrawals from the DEC database and simulate the real-world impact of our flow recommendations.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Our final report will be reviewed by the DEC and the technical advisory team, and submitted to the RCN program.

Expected End Date: April 15, 2013

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$92,129.90

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$100,000

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Klein".

Date: May 15, 2013