

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEED GRANT QUARTERLY REPORT

Grant Number: Northeast Regional Conservation Needs Grant 2007-02

Grant Title: Northeast Regional Connectivity Assessment Project

Grant Receipt: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Contact Name: Colin Apse, Deputy Director, Eastern U.S. Freshwater Program, capse@tnc.org

Report #- 5 (Quarter ending June 30, 2009)

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

Regional Conservation Need Addressed: Development of Habitat Conservation Initiatives at a Landscape Scale.

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

- *Completed as Planned:* 3 Virtual Meetings, including discussion of metrics of 1) Connectivity Status, 2) Connectivity Improvement, and 3) Integrated Metrics. These virtual meetings featured a number of excellent presentations that improved Workgroup members understanding of connectivity assessment. Notable among these was a presentation on recently published work, called the Dendritic Connectivity Index, from Parks Canada scientists. This DCI may be very useful for implementation of our project.
- *Completed as Planned:* Initial Connectivity Screening Metric recommendations were defined by the workgroup for 3 groups of metrics: 1) Connectivity Status, 2) Connectivity Improvement, and 3) Integrated Metrics. These selections are documented in the project spreadsheet of metrics and ranking approaches. We also explored the potential for integrated metrics like DCI.
- *Almost Completed:* Barrier Database 1st Draft Compilation, which is moving towards including attributed spatial information on stream barriers from 13 states. Right now we have data from 11 states collected, and are continuing to work with New Jersey and Pennsylvania to get their data.
- *In Addition:* Colin Apse attended the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Fish Passage Workgroup and presented on this project. The presentation was very well received and the Workgroup made the decision to review our results and potentially adopt the results as a prioritization tool for ASMFC members after expansion to the Southeastern states.
- *Past Presentations & Documentation at:* <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/neconnectivity>

Difficulties Encountered: Continuing efforts to get dam database information from New Jersey and Pennsylvania have been unsuccessful due to homeland security concerns.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- 3 Virtual Meetings, the first of which will continue our discussion of metric selection focused on diadromous fish restoration. We also plan to continue our practice of having featured presentations from practitioners on some of these calls.
- Initial Connectivity Screening Metric recommendations will be defined using Workgroup input during

virtual meetings and intervening work by the TNC core team. We expect to be able to update the spreadsheet and have initial recommendations for at least two groups of metrics (diadromous fish and watershed condition) by the next progress report.

- Barrier Database 1st Draft Compilation, which will include attributed spatial information on stream barriers from all 13 states. This will require cooperation from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We will use this compilation to create, to the best of our ability, a seamless database for the NEAFWA region over the course of the project.
- Testing of Dendritic Connectivity Index, will be done by examining whether GIS methods used for the project in Canada are applicable to the database structure this project will use.

Costs:

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes

Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Nyse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

Date: July 31, 2009