

# 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](mailto:capse@tnc.org)

Report #- 3 (January 16, 2008)

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:* Creation of a Northeast Aquatic Connectivity Workgroup that includes state agency personnel from each relevant state, as well as federal agency staff (USFWS, USGS, USFS, NOAA), Canadian provincial agency staff, and select others. The Workgroup formation was assisted by an outreach letter to state fish and wildlife agency directors to engage their staff in a workgroup to assist in completion of the project which was sent out under the signature of Edward C. Parker, Chief, Bureau of Natural Resources, Connecticut DEP. Additional state and federal agency staff were added to the Workgroup based on recommendations from Workgroup members TNC field staff. The core Workgroup team stands at 40 people at this time.
- *Completed as Planned:* Held two Virtual Meetings (WebEx conference calls) of the Workgroup, on December 15<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Progress from the 1<sup>st</sup> call included:
    - Introduction of the Project to those attending the call
    - Soliciting of input on the project goals
    - Reporting on aquatic connectivity assessment and related activities that are taking place in each of the states and provinces as well as by federal agencies
    - Formal creation of the Workgroup and scheduling of monthly calls (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays)
  - Progress from the 2<sup>nd</sup> call included:
    - Presentations from 3 Workgroup members on model approaches to Aquatic Connectivity Assessment and Prioritization (Maryland, Massachusetts, lower Penobscot Basin)
    - Soliciting of input on lessons from these presentations
    - Discussion of desired products for the project, from the Workgroup's perspective
    - Workgroup orientation on sharing information and tracking match
- In Addition: 1) Gathered relevant resources from around the country; 2) Created a web workspace for the Workgroup at <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/neconnectivity>; 3) Developed a Scope of Work for the project for review and comment by the Workgroup. The Scope has continued to be revised based on Workgroup input.

Difficulties Encountered: None

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

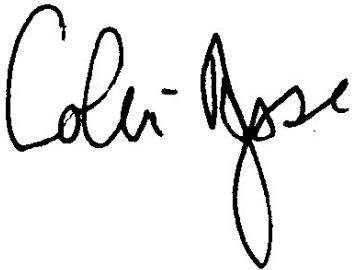
- 3 Virtual Meetings, the first of which will continue Workgroup member presentations on existing connectivity assessment approaches that are likely to be relevant to our project. The first call will also allow further clarification of desired project products. The second and third calls will begin the process of determining the metrics and ranking criteria we will use for our regional assessment products. This, in turn, will shape the data request we make of the states agencies involved.
- Development of a compilation of metrics and ranking approaches to aquatic connectivity restoration assessment being used by Workgroup participants in their local areas (as well as relevant approaches outside the region).

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 Rose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Date: January 16, 2009