Northeast Regional Conservation Quarterly Report

Grant Number: 2007-07

Grant Title: Proposal to Establish a Regional Initiative for Biomass Energy Development for Early Successional SGCNs in the Northeast

Grant Receipt: 6/11/2008

Grant Contact Name: Scott Klopfer

Report #: 2009-01

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Progress was made on objectives 1, 2, and 3 but none is yet complete.

Regional Conservation Need Addressed: Regional Landscape-level habitat initiatives

Progress Achieved:

1. Build a coalition of organizations and individuals working in each state in the Northeast (at least one group per state)

We have been participating in meetings to introduce the initiative and to enlist state biologists and managers in assisting with the initiative. We provided a presentation to the NE Habitat Technical Committee (by invitation) meeting. We now have individuals contacted and interested in further participation from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Virginia.

We are presently identifying organizations and companies within each state that list biomass production interests as a primary objective of their mission. We are building a database of these companies and making initial contacts with them via phone or email.

2. Create Internet site to serve participant database, relevant materials, and communications

We have established a template website for the project and are continuing to populate it with information before it is announced. We are working on a library of reference projects for each state which will be used to complete other tasks for this project. We are also going to establish a password-protected collaboration website for project participants to share information and communications. This portion has been established via the Virigina Tech “Scholar” website tool but as yet is not linked to the public website.

3. Compile a list of ongoing/potential biomass energy development projects by state

We are conducting Internet searches of newspapers and other popular news outlets to identify specific projects ongoing in each of the Northeastern states. These articles are entered into a database (along with electronic copies of the information if necessary) and will be made available through the website.

4. Use list along with SGCNs and SWAPs to assess potential impact of biomass development on these species

We have lists of SGCNs for all the Northeastern states and will begin to determine potential impacts to them from ongoing biomass development in the next quarter.

5. Create database of SGCNs and biomass issues and post on website

Expected to be initiated next quarter.

6. Complete state-bundled information and supply to each state

Not yet initiated.

7. Convene a workshop outlining the results of this project, disseminating recommendations/opportunities identified, and allowing for wider engagement of the wildlife community in biomass related wildlife issues.

Initial plans were to convene this workshop at the 2009 NEAFWA meeting. This is unlikely given the need to submit symposia materials in the Fall of 2008. Therefore, we would like to modify this to a symposia during the 2010 NEAFWA meeting.

8. Complete a final report detailing all project activities, accomplishments, outcomes and recommendations for further action.

Not initiated.

Difficulties Encountered: We have had less success making contacts opportunistically at "other" meetings than we anticipated. This is likely due to reduced participation at these meetings from travel cutbacks and restrictions by state natural resource agencies. We will likely need to step up our efforts to visit many of these agencies directly in their agency headquarters to expedite the process. The additional travel costs for this endeavor will be supplied by CMI.

CMI experienced an unexpected change in our Executive Director. This impacted this project directly because the Executive Director will be providing support on this project along with salary as match. Our ability to move forward with further improvements was hampered by uncertainty as to how the new Executive Director would be able to work with this project and how much of their salary would be available as match.

Scott Klopfer is now in place as the Executive Director and is fully capable of completing those portions of the tasks originally assigned to the Executive Director.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

During the next quarter we anticipate:

1. public release of the website containing articles contact information and links to the collaborative site.
2. list of contacts made for each state including biologists and representatives from the biomass industry presently engaged in applications on the landscape (or in process)
3. Significant progress on the SGCN and biomass interaction database.

Costs:

We are within our budget plan on all line items. We do expect to increase the costs related to travel (supplied as matching funds by CMI) in the next quarter and throughout the project.

We are within the ranges of our approved budget categories (see spreadsheet attached)

Signature:

Date: