

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT QUARTERLY REPORT

Grant Number: 2007-01

Grant Title: Creation of Regional Habitat Cover Maps: Application of the NE Terrestrial Habitat Classification System

Grant Receipt: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Contact Name: Mark Anderson

Report #- 10 (July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010)

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Goal 1: By end of September, have completed and distributed the finished map of ecological systems for the Northern Appalachian Ecoregion and be well into the North Atlantic Coast Ecoregion. This would be a full two months faster than any ecoregion to date, but we are hopeful that we can identify some time-saving steps in this narrow coastal ecoregion. Present it to partners for review.

Yes, we completed and distributed the Northern Appalachian Ecoregion map and presented it to partners. The North Atlantic Coast is in progress and is now combined with 2 below. .

Goal 2: By the end of the quarter, be actively engaged with the Chesapeake Bay Lowlands Ecoregion (CBY) and that part of the Piedmont and Mid-Atlantic Coast Ecoregions in Virginia and adjacent to CBY. Once again this quarter, we will try to get ahead of the tagging of "known occurrences" to habitat type, by feeding out this work to NatureServe contractors before we move into new ecoregions.

Yes. We have lumped the work for the North Atlantic Coast (NAC) and Chesapeake Bay Lowland Ecoregions together, in an effort to save time mapping these two coastal plain regions. We will adopt the SE GAP systems map for that part of the Piedmont and Mid-Atlantic Coast Ecoregions that are in Virginia (only the small northernmost parts of these 2 large ecoregions are in Virginia). We are well into the process of building grids for the system modeling work for NAC & CBY, and are developing ways to expedite the mapping of upland systems there by extending to the east previously mapped areas to the west of these ecoregions. NatureServe ecologists have been contracted to tag the known natural community occurrences to system type (and confirmation of previous tagging work), both here in the coastal plain and in the Central Appalachian chain to the west and south.

Goal 3: Maintain contacts with steering committee and interested partners. Again, encourage dissemination of information about our systems/habitats among Northeastern ecologists and land managers.

We have followed the completion of the habitat map for each ecoregion with a presentation to steering committee, and such was the case when we finished and posted the map for the Northern Appalachian/Boreal Forest and St. Lawrence/Champlain Valley Ecoregions this past quarter.

Goal 4: Support SE GAP as required in their effort to map ruderal and successional habitats in the Northeast.

Contact with SE GAP has been minimal this quarter. We hope to engage them soon about the mapping

of developed, ruderal, and successional habitats. .

Regional Conservation Need Addressed: Creation of Regional Habitat Cover Maps

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments))— See details above.

Difficulties Encountered: As described above, none unanticipated.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Goal 1: By end of December, have a finished map of ecological systems for the North Atlantic Coast & Chesapeake Bay Lowland Ecoregions. Present it to partners for review. This would complete the terrestrial habitat mapping work for the Northeastern LCC of such interest to NEAFWA.

Goal 2: By the end of the quarter, have all the tagging (and tagging review) of known occurrences of community types to ecological system done for the huge area that includes the Central Appalachian Forest Ecoregion, southwestern Virginia, all of West Virginia, and southwestern Pennsylvania. This area will be the focus in the final quarter of the project.

Goal 3: As before: Maintain contacts with steering committee and interested partners. Again, encourage dissemination of information about our systems/habitats among Northeastern ecologists and land managers.

Goal 4: Support SE GAP as required in their effort to map ruderal and successional habitats in the Northeast.

Costs:

Are you within the approved budget plan?

See last month's explanation: the NEAFWA money is now used up and we are finishing this project on a combination of TNC and F&W money that we have raised explicitly for this purpose. With respect to the new money we are within the revised plan.

Are you within approved budget categories? See above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Anderson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Signature: Mark Anderson, Director of Science

Date: October 15, 2010