

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEED GRANT QUARTERLY REPORT

Grant Number: 2007-03

Grant Title: Identifying relationships between invasive species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Northeast region.

Grant Receipt:

Grant Contact Name: Glen N. Stevens

Report#- 4

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes, with an exception regarding completion of report for Objective 2, "A report listing the invasive species common to each state." This report was anticipated to be deliverable within the quarter, but this report has been delayed.

Regional Conservation Need Addressed: 2007 Priority RCN Topic 2, "Identify Invasive Species that Impact Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Northeast."

Progress Achieved:

We have developed state-level and regional lists of both invasive species and GCN species, and re-formatted those lists in a fashion that is importable into a database format. We are currently in the process of assigning broad habitat classifications for the different taxonomic groups and species. This has been identified as a key strategy given the 455 individually identified current invasive species and 1634 individual GCN species (and thus the 743,470 potential pairwise comparisons) in the region.

At the same time we are assigning habitat classifications, we have begun assigning importance values to some individual pairwise comparisons in a way that will reflect objective #5, and be used to develop reports in objectives 1, 3, and 4.

We currently have information on hand that is sufficient to meet Objective 2, "A report listing the invasive species common to each state." At present, this list contains only three species, *Rosa multiflora*, *Lythrum salicaria*, and *Polygonum cuspidatum*, or multiflora rose, purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed, respectively.

Difficulties Encountered:

CMI recently concluded a search for a new Executive Director that completed with the hiring of Scott Klopfer. He has begun to work on various tasks associated with the project (including website creation, database format, and distribution of invasive lists to key parties in the Northeast region). The activities of the Executive Director represent the source of match for this project.

Initial project timelines reflected an anticipated delay during this quarter, as a result of the teaching responsibilities of the PI, Glen Stevens. As the academic year wraps up in the coming weeks, PI Stevens will be able to focus fully on the project, speeding project completion.

We are awaiting confirmation of invasive lists from relevant sources in the states before we submit this list, as there are species such as Eurasian watermilfoil that appear in all but one of the states, and *Phragmites australis*, water chestnut, Japanese barberry and autumn olive that are listed in all but two. We will use the reports we get from these states to verify the completeness and accuracy of the Invasive species listings list before we post this report on a project website.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

1. We will finalize the lists of GCN species and invasives, reflecting feedback from appropriate personnel in individual states within the region. This will allow us to finalize the report for Objective 2, and allow us to post these reports to a website developed for this project.
2. We will continue pairwise comparisons of individual GCN species and invasive species, as detailed in the proposal. This will populate the database (objective 5), that will be used to develop individual comparison reports that are the deliverables for this project (Objectives 1, 3 and 4).

Costs:

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes

Are you within approved budget categories? Yes, expenses and matching funds have been used to support labor for the project.

Signature

Date April 6, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. J. Green", written over the date line.