

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT

2012 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2012 1st 2012 2nd (2012 3rd) 2012 4th

Grant Number and Title: RCN 2011-06 Aquatic Habitat Map Guidance

Grant Receipt/Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Project Leader: Mark Anderson

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? This is the first quarter of funding

Regional Conservation Need Addressed:

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

Developed work plan, identified and contacted workgroup, created a draft format and begin compiling data

Summary of Progress: (Provide a paragraph describing progress, work to come, and timelines)

Convene workgroup: During the last quarter, we focused on developing a workgroup to support the project, help us simplify the classification system and review the report formats. We sent an invitation email to all members of our original Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification workgroup asking for their participation in this new grant. If these original workgroup members could not participate, we asked them to pass the email invitation along to the appropriate person in their state. We received 12 positive responses encompassing 9 states (ME, NH, VT, CT, MA, NY, PA, DE, VA). We are going to have our first workgroup call on November 14, 2012 1-3pm to introduce the project and initial ideas regarding simplifying the full NAHC classification.

Develop report format: This quarter, we also developed a simple report format page layout which would hold a short description of the habitat type, a picture, distribution map, links to species and state community types, and basic statistics on the abundance and condition of this habitat type. We expect this mock-up will help the team visualize what the final product of this grant will look like. We also began looking at data and simplification methods that would be appropriate to utilize during this project. We had an excellent conference call September 29, 2012 where 5 members of the NY Heritage Freshwater Blueprint team presented their methods for developing a simpler habitat type classification built off the full Northeast Aquatic Habitat Classification. We are going to have the NY Heritage team present their Freshwater Blueprint simplification method to the full workgroup on our first call, and we think the this model could be a great starting point for a full regional simplification.

Examine species relationships: We also began work this quarter to tag known rare aquatic species occurrences inventoried from state Heritage programs to the stream reaches, and we began exploring these patterns by stream size in preparation for linking species to the aquatic habitat types. We also began conversations with other partners holding occurrences data for more common aquatic species, such as the Rushing Rivers Institute, to explore the possibility of linking occurrences of more common aquatic species to the aquatic habitat types.

Difficulties Encountered: none

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Host calls with workgroup to simplify classification and approve format
- Apply the simplified classification to the GIS data and begin overlaying with other data
- Develop of mockup of a habitat guide page.
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Expected End Date: June 30 2012

Costs:

Funds Expended Previous to this Report: \$0

Amount of RCN Funds Requested within this Report: \$112.19

Total Approved Budgeted RCN Funds: \$18,168

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes

Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Anderson", is written over a thin horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Signature:

Date: October 31, 2012