

2022 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) **2022 1st** 2022 2nd 2022 3rd 2022 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN, GSA 00047; Eastern Box Turtle Status Assessment, Conservation Plan, and Best Management Practices.

Organization: H. Patrick Roberts (Independent Contractor)

Project Leader: H. Patrick Roberts

Abstract: Please provide a short (1-2 paragraphs) abstract that addresses EACH of the following: the objectives of your project, accomplishments to date, future plans and timelines with an estimate for when the project will be completed.

The objective of this project is to develop a status assessment and conservation plan for the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) in the northeastern United States. This contract with the Wildlife Management Institute was executed at the very end of the first quarter of 2019. As a result of this delayed start, the timeline for the initial objectives of this project was shifted forward accordingly.

During the first quarter of 2022, Lori Erb (of MACHAC) and I held monthly Steering Committee calls in January, February, and March to discuss progress toward the overarching goals and objectives of the project as well as other relevant topics. I shared preliminary Conservation Area Network (CAN) sites with state agency biologists and solicited feedback. With this feedback, I updated the site mapping protocol and remapped sites throughout the region, then began the process of attributing sites with information outlined in the expert opinion poll that was taken last fall. After site attribution I calculated weights for each site attributed and developed a draft version of the Conservation Value Ranking Metric that will serve as a fundamental component of the CAN. I continued to look for literature related to prescribed fire and wildlife/box turtles. Last, I assisted in developing the scope of work for surveyor positions that will be posted using unspent RCN funds from other projects.

Next steps will be to (1) continue to develop and refine the CAN, (2) share the preliminary version of the CAN (if complete) with state biologists, (3) continue to support the development of BMP materials and literature review, and (5) continue to hold monthly conference calls. We expect to complete this project by February 2023.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes.

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

Planned and accomplished:

- Held monthly conference calls
- Refined mapping protocol
- Attributed sites with information used for ranking metric

Difficulties Encountered: None.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Continue to hold monthly conference calls
- Continue to support development of BMP materials
- Continue to develop CAN
- If complete, share draft of CAN with steering committee

Expected End Date: February 28, 2023.

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$55,652.66 (without match)

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$68,500

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes.

Signature: 

Date: 04/07/22