

# 2019 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)      2019 1<sup>st</sup>      2019 2<sup>nd</sup>      2019 3<sup>rd</sup>      2019 4<sup>th</sup>

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN; GSA 00060 Habitat for Pollinators: Improving Management of Regionally Significant Xeric Grasslands, Barrens and Woodlands in the Northeast

Organization: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Pocomoke State Forest (PSF)

Project Leader: Jen Selfridge/Mike Schofield

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 objectives of this project are to increase pollinator habitat at the Furnace and Foster Tracts of Pocomoke State Forest through increasing the acreage of early successional habitat, increasing the coverage of pollen and nectar plants, and removing less desirable species including planted loblolly pine, maple and sweet gum. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Intra-Department Agreements were finalized within Maryland DNR. Habitat management activities included herbicide treatments (hack and squirt) to control sweet gum and maple on the Foster Tract and to maintain early-successional habitat on the Furnace Tract. Plans for fall burns were finalized/mapped and will take place in October or November (weather-permitting). Bee and vegetation surveys were completed. We expect to complete this portion of the project by the end date of 28 February 2020.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments) Habitat management activities included herbicide treatments (hack and squirt) to control sweet gum and maple on the Foster Tract and to maintain early-successional habitat on the Furnace Tract. Plans for fall burns were finalized/mapped and will take place in October or November (weather-permitting). Remaining summer and fall bee surveys were completed and vegetation surveys were completed in 3 of the units (total of 7 transects; 5 on the Furnace Tract and 2 on the Foster Tract). All bees were processed and mailed to the USGS Native Bee Lab and all vegetation survey data was summarized in an Excel spreadsheet.

Difficulties Encountered: None.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: Mechanical thinning and cut stump treatments of trees on the Furnace Tract to clear a wet line on the dune for fall burn through the lupine/frosted elfin area; possibly a fall burn at the Furnace Tract (weather-permitting). Seed mix will be ordered with the intention of planting pollinator meadow plants on a portion of the Foster Tract but conditions will determine whether seeding takes place during the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter or in the spring of 2020.

Expected End Date: 28 February 2020

Costs: \$4594.37

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$4594.37

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$20,110.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: 

Date: 25 Oct 2019