

2019 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2019 1st 2019 2nd 2019 3rd 2019 4th

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), Green Ridge State Forest (PSF)

Project Leader: Jen Selfridge/Mark Beals

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 Slider Special Wildlife Habitat Area (Town Creek Site) in Green Ridge State Forest through reducing invasive species and cold season grasses and increasing the coverage of pollen and nectar plants. During the 3rd Quarter Intra-Department Agreements were finalized within Maryland DNR. Habitat management activities included additional monitoring and hand pulling/herbicide treatment of invasive thistles, herbicide treatment of Ailanthus, and mowing several of the units. Plans for potential fall burns were initiated and will take place in October or November (weather-permitting); we may also disc one of the sites this fall. Bee and vegetation surveys were completed.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes, although there was a delay in getting the Intra-Departmental agreements finalized (see details below under difficulties encountered).

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments) Habitat management at Slider SWHA (Town Creek) included mowing of units 8A, 8C and 8D, hand pulling of thistles, and herbicide treatments for thistles and Ailanthus in all the units where it occurred. Mowing was completed with a tractor and a brush hog. Bee surveys were conducted in July and September and vegetation surveys were completed in August (total of three vegetation transects).

Difficulties Encountered: There was a delay in getting the Intra-Departmental agreements finalized and this meant that some staff time (time used as match) was not documented in the official DNR payroll system. This is mostly an issue of extra paperwork; all hours were documented using the MD DNR Staff Time and Mileage Form approved by USFWS.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: Continued mowing of unit 8D (and possibly 8C); disking unit 8A; possibly a fall burn of unit 8B and also unit 9 in an effort to knock back autumn olive and bush honeysuckle. We will also evaluate our efforts so far and determine a plan for Unit E.

Expected End Date: 28 February 2020

Costs: \$2013.00

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$2013.00