

2022 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2022 1st

2022 2nd

2022 3rd

2022 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: RCN; GSA 00070; Communication & Project Support for Xeric Habitats for Pollinators

Organization: Strategic Stewardship Initiative, 110 Chambers Alley, Boalsburg, PA, 16827

Project Leader: Elizabeth Crisfield

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 Xeric Habitats for Pollinators project aims to improve habitat management at sites where this unique habitat type can still be conserved in support of rare bees and lepidoptera that are closely associated with well-drained, fire adapted conditions.

This contract supports the project by ensuring that the monitoring and habitat management components of the project are coordinated so that the data available in July 2022 allows the data analysis team to answer the key research questions by the end of the project in December 2022. With the analysis in hand, we also need to provide products in several formats to ensure at site managers have access to the lessons learned from this project. Furthermore, data generated by this project should be available to researchers interested in understanding species' ranges and community diversity for bees and nocturnal moths.

To meet these goals, the outline below explains how SSI supports the project through coordination and communication, data and monitoring components, and best management practices and other products.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Yes. These are the goals set in my April 2022 report, with notes about completion:

- Write management narratives for each site to communicate management history to Helen and Drew and others involved in project analysis.
 - Yes, this is complete and has been sent to Helen and Drew.
- Review and revise the Introduction/Background/Context for the BMP and develop a carbon assessment of management practices
 - Yes, this is complete and was sent to John.
- Remind Pennsylvania and Rhode Island to monitor vegetation and return data in July.
 - Reminders sent. Data is in from Rhode Island and expected very soon from Pennsylvania (7/27)
- (with Helen and Drew) all data, 2018-present, has been submitted to Helen and Drew and any other data needs for project analysis have been met
 - Yes. We have struggled to get the vegetation data from Wells Barrens and Kennebunk, but we are still trying.
- (with Clare and Sydney) get 2018-2021 bee data, complete ID's, from the lab by June 30.
 - No. Clare has been very apologetic. Her identifications are done but she has been unable to get Sam Droege to confirm them. We have found a way to get her provisional ID's transferred to Helen and Drew which will give us decent data for 2021 (to add to previous data exports for 2018-2020) with the exception of *Lasioglossum dialictus* which only Sam Droege can identify. We expect this dataset from Clare around August 1.

- Host a call (or two) with moth contractors to discuss any changes between year 1 and year 2, and then stay in touch with contractors to make sure visits are happening and answer any questions.
 - Yes. Calls with the moth contractors were held on 4/29 and 6/16.

Please see the detailed time sheet for specific activities.

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

This outline matches the contract scope of work. Hours in blue parenthesis track the actual cumulative time used out of the estimated effort provided in the contract scope of work (updated to include Amendment 5). Narrative assessment of progress toward these project components is provided above.

- a. Coordination and Communication (119/239 hours)
 - i. Calls and correspondence with John Heilferty and the sites as needed
 - ii. Maintaining the website and project mapping
 - iii. Hosting calls in ~~February 2021, Fall 2021~~, Spring 2022, and at the end of the project
- b. Data and Monitoring Components (354/365 hours)
 - i. Calls and correspondence with bee, lepidoptera, and vegetation collaborators
 - ii. Maintaining documentation of research hypotheses and questions, and correlations being explored
 - iii. Tracking lepidoptera, bee data, and soil data and making sure it is all getting to Helen and Drew
 - iv. Any other Data and Monitoring challenges that emerge
- c. BMPs and other products (80/280 hours)
 - i. Translating data outcomes to BMPs
 - ii. Summary report of Xeric Sites in the Northeast
 - iii. Coordinating with the Sandplain Grassland Working Group to review BMP recommendations
 - iv. Oversee and guide summary reports of Bees, Leps, and Management Lessons
- d. Administration (10/16 hours)
 - i. Quarterly progress reports

Difficulties Encountered:

There are no new difficulties encountered this quarter.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Work with Helen and Drew to complete analysis of vegetation data responding to management activities, and bee and moth community analysis.
- Work with site managers (including Neil Gifford) and other RCN projects (including Lori Erb, rare turtles RCN) to make sure the Best Management Practices for this project are as user-friendly as possible and that the draft answers the key questions they have to the best of our ability.
- Begin to write the bee community paper (with Amanda Dillon)
- Begin to write the moth community paper (with Rick Van de Poll and Mark Mello)
- Update the website in preparation for final products
- Present project results to the NEFWDC at their September annual meeting.

In general, I worked on data quality and availability for analysis in the 1st and 2nd quarters of this year. I'm overseeing moth surveys through Fall 2022. The 3rd and 4th quarters of the year will focus on analysis and writing to complete reports by December 31st. I will assist John Heilferty with project report through the winter of 2023.

Expected End Date: March 31, 2023

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$71,362.28 (total project cost), \$46,466.48 (invoiced funds)

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$129,765 (total project cost), \$86,662.40 (invoiced funds)

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature: 

Date: July 28, 2022