

NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: 2013 1st

Grant Program, Number and Title: NALCC, 2012(2), Climate Adaptation in the Appalachian Forests

Organization: National Wildlife Federation

Project Leader: George Gay

Abstract:

The goal of the project is to help more efficiently achieve a resilient Appalachian forests landscape within the NALCC geography that includes/is built upon a broadly shared vision for a sustainable, connected mosaic of forest habitats and waters that are home to thriving intact ecosystems and human communities. Our objectives and the relative timing of each are as follows:

- *Short term:* A consensus determination amongst a broad array of conservation stakeholders of which landscape scale conservation efforts occurring in the Appalachian forests of the NALCC geography are “climate-smart” because they are located in areas that are resilient to the impacts of climate change in light of recent advances in climate adaptation science.
- *Mid-term:* A consensus determination amongst a broad array of conservation stakeholders of which biological values and social factors to use in prioritizing “climate-smart” landscape scale conservation efforts to help inform future allocation of limited conservation resources.
- *Long term:* A community of conservation stakeholders working together to prioritize and efficiently drive on-going “climate-smart” landscape scale conservation efforts in the NALCC geography. And, a consensus-based foundation upon which to build future landscape scale conservation in the NALCC geography.
- *Products:* A publication, Appalachian Forest Conservation ~ A Blueprint for a Legacy Landscape, and associated social media designed to drive priority landscape scale conservation in the upland forests of the NALCC geography.

The project will be completed in the first quarter of 2014.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Partially.

Progress Achieved: We developed a draft survey of conservation partners (governmental and non-governmental) to help determine/inventory on-going “climate-smart” landscape scale conservation projects. Further, we recruited three key conservation stakeholders to serve on a preliminary panel to help define which biological values and social factors we should use in prioritizing “climate-smart” landscape scale conservation efforts – Mark Anderson, TNC, Kevin McGarigal, UMass Amherst, and Chris Nadeau, Cornell University.

Difficulties Encountered: None

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Conduct a comprehensive survey of on-going landscape scale conservation projects in the Appalachian

Forests region of the NALCC geography extending from the Appalachian Mountains to the eastern Piedmont.

- Define which biological values and social factors we should use in prioritizing “climate-smart” landscape scale conservation efforts.
- Determine which projects are located in areas deemed important for regional biological connectivity and maximum resiliency in the face of climate change as defined by NALCC supported science.

Expected End Date: March 31, 2014

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$594.03

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$20,000.00

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:



George Gay
Senior Manager, Wildlife Conservation Programs
Northeast Regional Center
National Wildlife Federation

Date:

