

NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2013 1st

2013 2nd

2013 3rd

2013 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: Grant 2012-04 “WHITE MOUNTAINS TO MOOSEHEAD LAKE INITIATIVE—PARCEL LEVEL PLANNING, PROGRESS TRACKING AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TO ADVANCE RESILIENT LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Organization: The Trust for Public Land

Project Leader:

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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.

Objectives:

The project’s overarching objective is to create a science-based (GIS) framework for future conservation in the White Mountains to Moosehead Lake study area. This includes developing a parcel level analysis to prioritize tracts for conservation and other activities (e.g., development of ecological reserves on existing conservation land) based on their significance for climate resilience (among other key values). Our method for achieving the project objective is to:

- (1) Identify the appropriate GIS data sets.
- (2) Incorporate expert local knowledge and stakeholder input.
- (3) Analyze priorities for resilience at the parcel level.
- (4) Create an online portal (DataBasin) and tracking tool (Measures of Progress Site). This includes coordinating with LCC staff to assure that all relevant NALCC science products are utilized and integrated appropriately.
- (5) Hold meetings for stakeholders, private landowners, and others who can play a role in utilizing this information (from Step #4) for the development of projects, forest plans, and other relevant activities.
- (6) Present about this project at conferences and workshops.

Accomplishments to date:

At the time of the last report, we had already completed steps #1 - #4 and made significant progress on steps #5 and #6. During this quarter we made additional progress with steps #5 and #6. Details are as follows:

- We have modified the way we do conservation work to focus on climate change priority landscapes and build in measures to help with climate change adaptation, based on information gained from our science-based framework. For example, we recently added restrictive language into an easement to help accommodate climate adaptation for sensitive species. The easement will assure that forested

buffers are preserved along a portion of the Oberton Stream. The forested buffers should help maintain low stream temperature, in turn maintaining good habitat for Atlantic salmon and native wild brook trout. Both are likely to be impacted by future climate change. The easement has been approved by the landowner, the state, and federal funding partners, and the project is likely to close in early 2014. The parties have agreed to add more protection than the standard easement language. We also engaged a wildlife expert to evaluate a candidate project with resiliency specifically in mind and expect to incorporate some of his recommendations into the easement negotiation with the landowner. This project potential is important for climate resiliency conservation work based on the GIS analysis.

- During the last quarter we negotiated MOUs to procure assistance from 4 local groups in getting the word out about these tools, and included small re-grants to cover costs for some of that work (Note: re-grants from a matching funding source, not from NALCC funds). A few of the groups made good progress during this quarter. For example, the High Peaks Alliance has been creating and sharing maps as well as promoting the concept of a two country hiking trail and a climate protection corridor. The Mahoosucs Land Trust is planning some public meetings as well as presentation to board members and land trust members in their area.
- This quarter we have continued briefing regional and federal partners on this tool and its capabilities. Re: federal partners, we had meetings with the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture staff on the forest economy components. We have also briefed staff from the Department of Defense REPI program on opportunities to plan for base buffering utilizing the portal for planning. Our approach has been to start with the Washington DC staff and procure support and interest; then to solicit their help in sharing the tool and encourage its use at the regional and field level. At the regional level, we have met with Northern Forest Center and are working now on a proposal to partner with Appalachian Mountain Club (via a re-grant from a matching funding source) to try and be sure that we are working in alignment. We also made a presentation to two key local stakeholders—the staff of the White Mountains Community College GIS Department and the board of the Betterment Foundation. Our hope is that students of the college will take on projects to fill data gaps. The board of the Betterment Fund has indicated interest in aligning its grant-making with the strategic priorities demonstrated through the portal.
- We are in the midst of planning an internal retreat for late October to discuss how best to sustain the regional coalition that has formed for the White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative (Note: it has met 4 times so far). We've hired a former employee from the Nature Conservancy (TNC) who will share his experiences with TNC's international standard for collaboration and coalition-building. Once staff is versed in this protocol for coalition management, we will discuss how to utilize it (in whole or part) or other models to best advance the White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative. An outcome of the retreat will be a workplan for deepening and sustaining the coalition.

Future Plans:

During the next quarter we will continue working with the four MOU organizations to provide education and encourage use of the tools developed for this project. We will also work on disseminating information about this project through the Forest Service and Department of the Interior, as described above. The Trust for Public Land would still like to present its results to the NALCC Steering Committee in late 2013, and we will be in touch to see whether that is feasible. The project is anticipated to be completed by December 2013.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Yes, the project is substantially complete, as described in the section above.

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

Identify Appropriate GIS Data Sets

- Accomplished:
 - Conducted online research.
 - Consulted with local, state and NALCC experts.
 - Updated and refined data.
- Planned: None anticipated.

Incorporate Expert Local Knowledge and Stakeholder Input

- Accomplished:
 - Held four stakeholder meetings.
 - Convened “Technical Advisory Team.”
 - Consulted with local, state and NALCC experts.
 - We have coordinated with four Advisory Committee partner organizations to assist us in broader stakeholder engagement to maximize the potential for education and replication.
- Planned:
 - One more Advisory Committee meeting in 2013.
 - Continue coordinating with the Advisory Committee partner organizations.

Analyze Priorities for Resilience at Parcel Level & Create Online Portal and Tracking Tool

- Accomplished:
 - Incorporated GIS data, including NALCC data, into online portal and mapping analysis tool.
 - Provided training to local partners on performing custom parcel analysis based on individual needs.
 - Created progress tracking website (“Measures of Progress” site) to show the success of the initiative over time based on key metrics.
- Planned: None anticipated.

Hold meetings for stakeholders, private landowners, and others to utilize this information and these tools

- Accomplished:
 - Incorporated training into two Advisory Committee meetings.
 - Negotiated MOUs with 4 partner organizations to assist in disseminating information about this project with their networks.
 - Have begun working with landowners to incorporate protective measures into conservation easements that will assist with species’ climate adaptation.
 - Held briefings for staff from USDA, DOI, and DOD to demonstrate how the portal can be used to align federal activities and funding.
- Planned
 - Track progress of partner organizations.

Share information about this project at conferences, workshops, and other gatherings beyond the region

- Accomplished:
 - Presented this concept at the Regional Plan Association Large Landscapes conference in June of 2012.
 - Presented this concept at Society for Conservation Biology annual conference in July of 2012.
 - Presented this concept at ESRI Federal Users Conference in February of 2013.
 - Presented this concept at Northwoods Climate Summit in Bayfield, Wisconsin in June of 2013.
 - Presented this concept at National Land Trust Rally in September of 2013.
 - Presented on this project at an all-staff webinar for The Trust for Public Land employees

- o located around the country.
- o Introduced this project in a variety of small group settings with federal agency partners.
- Planned
 - o Present to NALCC steering committee.
 - o Look for other workshop and conference presentation opportunities.

Difficulties Encountered:

While we have good regional support for this initiative, we would like to build support with state agencies. This has proven challenging because of competing priorities within administration, but we are hopeful that our repeated outreach and education will lead us to a receptive audience.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

During the next quarter we will continue working with the four MOU organizations to provide education and encourage use of the tools developed for this project at the local level. We will also work on disseminating information about this project at the regional and federal level through the DOI, USDA, and DOD, as described above.

Expected End Date:

December 31, 2013.

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$181,631

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$20,000 from NALCC

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? yes

Signature: *Kelley J Hart*

Date: *9/16/13*

NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2013 1st

2013 2nd

2013 3rd

2013 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: Grant 2012-04 "WHITE MOUNTAINS TO MOOSEHEAD LAKE INITIATIVE—PARCEL LEVEL PLANNING, PROGRESS TRACKING AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TO ADVANCE RESILIENT LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION"

A. Current Quarter Grant Eligible Cost Summary:

	GRANT FUNDS	MATCH*	TOTAL
<u>Personnel Service Cost</u>			
Salaries and/or Wages	1,689	2,003	3,692
Fringe Benefits	811	961	1,772
Personnel Service Indirect Cost 30%		1,639	1,639
<u>Non-personnel Service Cost</u>			
Travel		73	73
Equipment			
Supplies & Materials			
Contractual Services		1,500	1,500
Other		8,008	8,008
Non-personal Indirect Cost 11%		1,094	1,094
TOTAL	2,500	15,278	17,778

*Match is a requirement of some grant programs; list matching funds if specified in contract.

B. Cumulative Total Grant Eligible Costs Claimed from Beginning of Agreement up-to-and Including Current Quarter:

Total Life-to-Date Expenses	\$181,632
Less Previous Payments Processed*	\$17,500
Total Amount Due Grantee Now:	\$2,500

*includes \$2,500 requested but not received

