

NORTH ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)

2013 1st

2013 2nd

2013 3rd

2013 4th

Grant Number and Title: **NALCC 2012-01 Extending Habitat Map into Canada**

Grant Receipt/Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Project Leader: Dr. Mark Anderson

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? This project began January 2013

NALCC Conservation Need Addressed: Supporting a Standardization of Terrestrial and Wetland Habitat Classification and Mapping that Includes Characterization of Climate Sensitive Systems.

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

We started this project in January 2013 and it is jointly funded by a grant from the NALCC and a grant from the Northeast Climate Science Center (NECSC) through UMASS. Most of the expenses for the first year, including the contractual expenses, are being charged to the NECSC/UMASS grant as it has a shorter (one-year) time frame. This quarter we have made good progress in obtaining data, getting the contracts in place, and beginning to develop a steering committee.

Summary of Progress: (Provide a paragraph describing progress, work to come, and timelines)

This quarter we finalized the contracts with the Atlantic Canada CDC and the Nature Conservancy Canada and hosted a WebEx for the contractors to review and discuss the project. We assembled the list of potential steering committee members. Lastly we reviewed the existing community classification, and began to assemble key datasets.

Goal 1) Administration: We finalized and signed the contracts that we set up last quarter with Atlantic Canada CSD, and Nature Conservancy of Canada NCC. We provided the NECSC with information on our database and metadata.

Goal 2) Introductory Web Seminar and Discussion: We prepared and hosted a web ex with the Atlantic CDC, NCC, and with the author of the Community Classification for Maritime Canada to discuss the project. We reviewed the project goals, steps and timeline with them including: revising and augmenting the classification, developing a steering committee, assembling the datasets, integrating the provincial forest data, integrating the rare species and community data, and reviewing the habitat maps. All parties are fully on board and we are now focused on creating the steering committee and hosting the first meeting to present the methods to the committee.

Goal 3) Begin to Compile Datasets.

This month we began reviewing and assembling datasets for this project. These included:

- Geology
- Landforms
- Land cover
- Wetlands

Difficulties Encountered:

Yes, as we reported last quarter, the principle investigator, Charles Ferree went on medical leave in January. He has successfully completed his treatments and returned to work part time in June. He is now (July) back to full time but it has been difficult to meet the pace we hoped for and I have requested an extension on the project.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Goals for the upcoming Quarter include:

- Invite and establish the steering committee steering of Canadian Scientists.
- Host web ex for steering committee members and finalize team members
- Create a 2-page information sheet on this project
- Continue to compile information on the study area (solar radiation, aspect) and finalize the datasets compiled so far particularly land cover and wetlands.

Expected End Date:

January 2015

Costs: *Note all expenses are currently being charged to the associated partner grant from the Northeast Climate Science Center. We have accrued no additional expenses on this center although we are working on the project.*

Funds Expended to Previous to this Report: 110.90

Amount of NALCC Funds Requested within this Report: \$0

Total Approved Budgeted NALCC Funds: \$95,238.00

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes

Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

Signature:



Mark Anderson
Director of Conservation Science
The Nature Conservancy, Eastern Division

Date: July 29, 2013