

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? Yes

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)

This quarter we made progress on activating the steering committee, preparing and circulating documents on methods and ecological system types, developing a classification team, establishing data contacts in each province and obtaining provincial data, assembling new datasets on climate, and preparing a methods document for review by the steering committee.

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

Goal 1. Complete and circulate the document describing the project methods. We met this goal completely, preparing and circulating a 79 page document describing the methods used in the US to create the terrestrial habitat map and using the text a discussion point in our steering committee cal.

Goal 2. Using the recently released Northeast Habitat Guides: a companion to the terrestrial and aquatic habitat maps, create a document describing the potential terrestrial habitats for Maritime Canada and send to steering committee. We met this goal by creating a document specifically for Atlantic Canada describing the ecological systems that we expect to occur in Canada, with information on their vegetation, ecological signature and US distribution. We send this out for the team to review. These documents will be the focus of the next four months as we pin down the classification targets and develop crosswalks to names used in the Canada literature and datasets.

Goal 3. Host a Web ex in November for steering committee members We hosted a call to discuss project timeline, mapping methods and the list of potential habitats, and had a great with over 30 participants from all provinces. There was support for the project, and after presenting the introduction materials we spend the discussion time refining the sub-teams and making sure we had the right people on the team. One result of the call was the recognition that we need to form a classification sub-committee of ecologists to work out the classification and get agreement on the ecological system types. We also compiled and studied documents related to vegetation and ecology of project area.

Goal 4 Continue to compile information on the study area and finalize the datasets compiled so far. We made excellent progress in establishing data contacts within all provinces and we obtained provincial datasets related to wetlands, forest inventory, surficial geology, soils, protected areas, and ecological land classification. We evaluated the utility of those datasets for the project. A big finding was the depth and detail of the

provincial forest inventory data, which is mapped using an aerial photos based on ongoing surveys that cover each province once or twice a decade. We have obtained this data for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and are about to have it for New Brunswick. We had a Web meeting with Pascal Herbet of NCC Quebec to view their equivalent data and decided it was worth purchasing both for its incredible detail and to ensure that we had equivalent data across the study area. Scot Williamson has just approved a budget change so that we can make this purchase.

We also made progress compiling international datasets including climate, topographic indices, insolation, landcover, rivers/waterbodies, roads/railroads, geographic names;

Difficulties Encountered:

None this quarter.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Goals for the upcoming Quarter include:

- Activate classification team, host web ex and have discussion on forest and wetland systems
- Host a Web ex for steering committee members to review and discuss the data compiled so far.
- Obtain the Quebec forest inventory data and get familiar with the shared or similar attributes in all provinces.
- Work out a crosswalk and a method for incorporating the forest inventory data into the mapping process.

Expected End Date:

January 2015. Please note that we have received a no-cost extension on the UMASS / USGS award to September 2014.

Costs: *Note almost all expenses for this work are currently being charged to the matching partner grant from the Northeast Climate Science Center.*

NALCC Funds Expended Previous to this Report: 659.78

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: January 30, 2014