

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: NALCC 2012-06: F11AC00223 MOD #3 NALCC 1420
Spatially explicit models for aquatic habitats

Organization: Downstream Strategies, LLC

Project Leader: John “Fritz” Boettner

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.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter?

Most planned goals (review and identify gaps, assess needs, report on findings).and objectives were achieved last quarter. Due to the delay in the project award announcement and contractual negotiations, the project was delayed by two months, thus affecting 1st quarter performance. However, several goals and objectives were accomplished during the 1st quarter. Since this project is dependent on stakeholder involvement, the project manager (Fritz Boettner) participated in NALCC project principal’s meeting, held in Amherst Massachusetts. This meeting allowed key stakeholders to become familiar with the project and it functioned as a kick-off meeting for NALCC. The visit to Amherst allowed the project manager and the NALCC project director (Scott Schwenk) to discuss phase-one objectives and move forward with the project. The outcomes of phase-one include a plan to reach stakeholders, form technical and data advisory groups, produce background and information materials for stakeholders, and plan the first stakeholder meeting. Draft materials have been created and shared with the project director via “smartsheet;” a project management tool. Materials will be uploaded to the NALCC project website by the project director. In summary, most accomplishments in Q1 revolved around project set-up and planning.

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

- Phase-one goals:
 - Review and identify gaps
 - Planned: DS will work with the NALCC stakeholders to identify a list of the predictor and response variables useful for documenting current conditions and assessing threats to the aquatic habitats of interest.
 - Actual: Have begun the process and developed a plan for identifying data needs across the NALCC region. This process has begun by reaching out to stakeholders and experts in the field to determine data availability and procurement strategies.
 - Assess needs
 - Planned: DS will work with the NALCC to determine the best approach to address the

- gaps identified in prior goal.
- Actual: A plan was developed in coordination the NALCC project director, which outlines the step necessary to lead towards the first facilitated stakeholder meeting. These steps include a data needs assessment, formation of stakeholders and technical advisors, defining the preliminary modeling framework, defining draft biological priorities, developing and implement a survey, and setting the agenda and format for the stakeholder meeting
- Report on findings
 - Planned: Drafting of an assessment report and creating a PowerPoint presentation for key stakeholders and the NALCC.
 - Actual: Pieces of the report have been drafted and will be submitted for review in Q2.

Difficulties Encountered:

The delay in the project award and contract discussions caused setbacks in the proposed schedule.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

- Final needs assessment report
- Coordinate stakeholder and technical advisors
- Preliminary modeling endpoint priorities and framework
- Stakeholder meeting #1
- Finalize process and begin modeling

Expected End Date: January 31, 2015

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter): \$15,316.73

Total Approved Budgeted Funds: \$250,000

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jal Bell', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Signature:

Date: April 12, 2013