

APPALACHIAN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2012 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one) 2013 1st 2013 2nd 2013 3rd 2013 4th

Grant Program, Number and Title: 2012-04, Support for Understanding Land Use and Climate Change in the Appalachian LCC

Organization: NatureServe

Project Leader: Mary-Beth Young

Abstract: An in-person meeting of the Expert Panel was held at NatureServe's headquarters in Arlington, VA. We were especially pleased that Jean Brennan was able to join us for the full meeting. Each of the Panel's three work groups (downscaled climate data [Patricia Butler and Healy Hamilton]; methods assessment [Kyle Barrett and John O'Leary]; and criteria for selection of species and habitats for vulnerability assessment [Kim Hall, Hector Galbraith, and Bob Cooper] presented and reviewed pertinent materials. Following the presentations, each group worked independently to write the draft text of the report on the guidance document. Drafts were then shared with the larger group. Following the meeting, we developed an ambitious timeline to complete the final report, a draft of which is now complete.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes, for the most part.

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

Our goals are to:

1. Provide recommendations to the Appalachian LCC regarding climate change vulnerability methods most appropriately used in the AppLCC region.
2. Apply the recommended methods to conduct climate change vulnerability assessments on selected species and habitats in the AppLCC

We will accomplish this through the following objectives:

A. Assemble Expert Panel

Planned: none

Actual: previously completed

B. Finalize Expert Panel

Planned: none

Actual: previously completed

C. Compile existing methods

Planned: methods workgroup to flesh out spreadsheet with criteria to assess components of vulnerability assessment methods, and begin assessment of methods

Actual: Methods workgroup continued to build on the spreadsheet of methods; additional sources were added prior to and during the January meeting of the Expert Panel at NatureServe headquarters.

D. Compile existing vulnerability assessments

E. **Planned:** Completion of compilation of known vulnerability assessments; reviewers requested additional details in this spreadsheet that included vulnerability score, methods used, etc. These data were not included in the scope of work for this quarter, but will be added prior to the selection of species and habitats process begins.

Actual: none yet – deferred until next quarter

F. Review existing methods and determine best approaches

Planned: First draft of report to be completed following extended discussion at in-person meeting. Final report to be completed March 31.

Actual: Very successful in-person meeting included the much appreciated presence of Jean Brennan! Much progress made from all the working groups, with drafts of text from each completed before the end of the meeting. First draft of the report completed, but will require additional input from the Panel and other reviewers prior to finalizing it. Expected completion May 15, 2013.

G. Select species and habitats to be assessed (Target completion date June 30, 2013)

Planned: none this quarter

Actual:

H. Conduct vulnerability assessments of species and habitats (Target completion date March 31, 2014)

Planned: none this quarter

Actual:

I. Deliver Draft and Final Report (Target completion date April 30, 2014)

Planned: none this quarter

Actual:

Difficulties Encountered: Completed a draft, rather than final, report from the Expert Panel.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: Complete report from Expert Panel, begin selection process of species and habitats to be assessed.

Expected End Date: 6/30/2014

Costs:

Total life to date expenses (include this quarter):

Total Approved Budgeted Funds:

Are you within the approved budget plan and categories? Yes

Signature:

Date: