

# APPALACHIAN LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE GRANT 2012 PROGRESS REPORT

Quarter: (circle one)      2012 1<sup>st</sup>      2012 2<sup>nd</sup>      2012 3<sup>rd</sup>      2012 4<sup>th</sup>

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

Organization: NatureServe

Project Leader: David Pasco

Abstract: We added a new member to our Expert Panel, Patricia Butler of the Climate Change Response Framework for the Appalachians, out of the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, Michigan Technological University School of Forest Resources. The Panel organized itself into 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). Each of the work groups assembled information in preparation for the in-person meeting scheduled for January 14-15, 2013 at the NatureServe Home Office in Arlington, VA. We received our report of completed assessments in the Appalachian LCC from the New York Natural Heritage Program, which included assessments of over 600 species in NY, WV, PA, and southern Appalachians. We also developed a draft of narrative descriptions of methods which will be expanded upon in the coming months. Numerous citations were assembled and pdf’s of the literature sources made available to the Expert Panel through Google docs.

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

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:** Finalize panel membership of LCC coordinator recommendation; plan for January meeting

**Actual:** Patricia Butler agreed to join our expert panel, and she was introduced to the panel on our October 16 conference call at which we formed three subgroups: downscaled climate data; comparison of methods; and criteria for selection of species and habitats for assessment. Two

subsequent calls were held: review of workgroup progress (November 29); workgroup reports; review of draft final report outline, and plans for January meeting to be held January 14-15 at NatureServe Office in Arlington, VA (December 20)

C. Compile existing methods

**Planned:** Methods workgroup to develop spreadsheet with criteria to assess components of vulnerability assessment methods, and begin assessment of methods

**Actual:** We developed a draft of narrative descriptions of methods which will be expanded upon in the coming months. Numerous citations were assembled and pdf's of the literature sources made available to the Expert Panel through Google docs.

D. Compile existing vulnerability assessments

E. **Planned:** Completion of compilation of known vulnerability assessments

**Actual:** Spreadsheet of 609 species assessed in portions of the LCC by natural heritage programs in IL, WV, PA, NY, and in southern Appalachians by Open Space Institute.

F. Review existing methods and determine best approaches

**Planned:** Establish work group in Expert Panel to begin assessment of methods; complete a draft report

**Actual:** Discussed in conference calls how to organize the various methods into categories. Developed an outline of the final report for discussion by the Panel. A draft of narrative description of methods was developed and will be expanded on in the coming months.

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: none

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter: Hold Expert Panel meeting in Arlington, VA at which panel members will discuss and document their findings on appropriate methods of vulnerability assessment in the Appalachian LCC.

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: