



NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITY

EPA Wetland Program Development Grants

Policy and Implementation Committee

May 31, 2019

New Proposed Study



“Activity range, habitat use, denning, and nesting of the wetland-dependent eastern kingsnake”

Why eastern kingsnakes?

Species of special concern

(multiple threats, potentially declining, distribution and status unknown)

Pinelands geographic distribution

Wetland-dependent species

Interacts with state-endangered corn snakes

Project specifics

Partner with Robert Zappalorti and Howard Reinert

Use radio telemetry to study eastern kingsnakes in the New Jersey Pinelands to determine:

Activity range size

Wetland habitat types needed for hibernation

Upland habitat types needed for foraging, shedding, and nesting (potential)

Timing of shedding, denning, and nesting (potential)

Timeline and Cost

Three years of field work (2020 - 2022)

One year to analyze data and write report (2023)

Maximum total cost ~\$434,000

~\$325,000 from EPA (maximum provided)

~\$108,000 (25% Commission match)

PCF Fund - Science and Research

Applications

Evaluate adequacy of upland buffers to protect wetlands

Value upland and wetland habitats in NJDEP state-wide wildlife habitat map

Inform NJDEP Forest Service natural resource stewardship plans

Guide the timing of forestry activities, vegetation management along utility ROWs, and prescribed burning

Support

Letters of support from:

NJDEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

New Jersey Audubon

New Jersey Conservation Foundation

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