

## **Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders Daniel M. DiGiacomo Grant**

July 2019 report

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We were able to participate in the Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP) and mentor an undergrad, Charlie Holguin, from Beloit College in Wisconsin for the summer. Through Charlie's hard work we have improved our long-term database by removing errors that were found by checking it against the original field notes, digitizing additional information from the original field notes that was not initially entered, and ensuring consistent data entry in the future by managing values that can be entered for each data column. Charlie, along with other undergraduate technicians, has conducted an additional field survey, which will allow us to broaden our temporal understanding of how salamanders respond to silviculture treatments by including estimates during a more stressful season (i.e., summer). He has also worked to improve our field sites by reestablishing flagging and reflective tape at transects, plot corners, and the trails leading to our plots, which will allow our technicians to more easily locate plots and transects during nocturnal sampling events. For the rest of the summer and Charlie's internship, we will continue to mentor Charlie and further develop his project, which seeks to understand the relationship between reproductive condition in red-backed salamanders, climate, and the silviculture treatments. Through the MAOP program, Charlie will carry out both a poster and oral presentation about his research and aim to publish his research in a scientific journal.