

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
WILDLIFE RESTORATION GRANT**

Grant Number: AKW-4 Wildlife Restoration FY2015

Project Number: 20.0

Project Title: Alaska Wildlife Planning

Project Duration: 1 July 2014–30 June 2015

Report Due Date: 28 September 2015

Principal Investigator: Doreen Parker-McNeil

Work Location: Region III

Project Activities and Accomplishments

Region III

ACTIVITY 1: Identify, evaluate, and prioritize existing and emerging wildlife management issues throughout the region, and identify the planning and public involvement work needed to address the issues

Accomplishments:

- Completed planning efforts for the release of wood bison in the Innoko/Lower Yukon region. Those efforts involved
 - working closely with Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) to facilitate Dr. Bath's graduate students' work regarding attitudes about bison
 - working closely with AWCC to coordinate release efforts
 - helping the "bison team" create a realistic budget for the release
 - helping with multiple aspects of getting people together for the handling during the release efforts of the bison
 - issuing newsletters and other communication to inform the people in the Lower Innoko/Yukon River area regarding issues of bison behavior and to address safety concerns related to bison

ACTIVITY 2: Design and implement collaborative planning processes to address priority wildlife management issues and increase stakeholder involvement in wildlife policy decision-making.

Accomplishments:

- Completed a management plan for wood bison in the Lower Innoko/Yukon River area. Those efforts involved
 - Coordinating and conducting three meetings involving 29 entities to agree on provisions of a wood bison management plan
 - Working closely with Dr. Alistair Bath who facilitated the meetings.
 - Writing and distributing the final wood bison management plan

ACTIVITY 3: Coordinate collaborative planning efforts with advisory committees and federal and regional subsistence councils, and reports and presentations on planning projects will be made to the State Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board.

Accomplishments:

- Met regularly with many groups—advisory committees, advisory councils, federal and state agencies, and private groups— to exchange information and concerns

ACTIVITY 4: Implement and/or monitor implementation of plans that result from collaborative planning processes.

Accomplishments:

- Followed up with stakeholders regarding wood bison management plan
- Met with Doyon Ltd. to help move along the process for their endorsing the entire wood bison management plan
- Monitored implementation of Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) Harvest Management Plan

ACTIVITY 5: Produce Power Point presentations, newsletters and other informational materials to inform members of the public and other agencies of wildlife planning activities and provide opportunities for public comment.

Accomplishments:

- Gave presentations to the Western and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils on wood bison and Fortymile caribou
- Gave presentations to Fairbanks Advisory Committee on wood bison
- Gave presentations to the Alaska State Board of Game on the wood bison management plan
- Gave presentation to the Federal Subsistence Board on the wood bison management plan
- Gave presentation on wood bison to Rotary Club, a service organization

Objective 4: Complete the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan update.

Accomplishments:

- Coordinated one meeting of the Fortymile Coalition to update results of youth hunt, of regular drawing hunt, and dynamics of the herd in general

Submitted by: Doreen Parker McNeill, Region III Management Coordinator
