

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Restoration Grant**

Grant Number: AKW-10 Wildlife Restoration FY2016

Project Number: 4.41

Project Title: Nelchina Brown Bear Demographics

Project Duration: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Report Due Date: September 1, 2016

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Chris Brockman, ADF&G, Interim Principal Investigator

WORK LOCATION: Western GMU 13A, Southcentral Alaska

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

OBJECTIVE 1: Capture additional animals to augment estimation of Nelchina brown bear productivity, cub survival, and annual rate of population change (λ).

All brown bears radiocollared for this purpose have had their radio collars removed and no further data has been collected.

OBJECTIVE 2: Identify degree of calf/adult moose killing by collared bears, both within and outside the study's moose calving area.

All brown bears radiocollared for this purpose have had their radio collars removed and no further data has been collected.

OBJECTIVE 3: Develop an outline for a brown bear management strategy in Unit 13. The outline will provide the basis for addressing future intensive management objectives for moose set by the Board of Game.

A management strategy for brown bears in Unit 13 will be drafted following data analyses.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS IDENTIFIED IN ANNUAL PLAN THIS PERIOD

JOB/ACTIVITY 1A: Bear captures and data collection for productivity and survival

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No bears were captured during this period for this purpose. The data collection for this job/activity is now complete.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1B: Bear monitoring and data analysis

Bear monitoring is complete. Data analysis is in progress. A report on the (λ) calculation is in progress.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2A: Monitor predation characteristics of study bears

All brown bears have had their radio collars removed and data has been collected. The data collection for this job/activity is now complete. Data analysis is complete. The reporting is nearly complete, a thesis (Brockman 2015) and a peer reviewed report (Brockman et al. 2016 submitted) are complete and a second peer reviewed reported is in draft form.

JOB/ACTIVITY 3A: Develop management strategy

No work was done on this job during this reporting period.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

Extend project through 30 June 2017 to allow time to summarize results, draft a management strategy, and report findings to appropriate venues.

Prepared by: Chris Brockman, ADF&G, Interim Principal Investigator

Date: 29 August 2016