

FEDERAL AID INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Restoration Grant

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-20 Wildlife Restoration Grant FY2017

PROJECT TITLE: Public and Hunter Services and Information

PROJECT DURATION: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

REPORT DUE DATE: September 28, 2017

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Todd A. Rinaldi

COOPERATORS: Joel Holyoak

WORK LOCATION: Region IV (Dillingham, Glennallen, King Salmon and Palmer)

Briefly describe how Federal Aid funds were spent on each active job, listing the results achieved during this segment period. If a job was not accomplished as planned, explain briefly why.

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

OBJECTIVE 1: The Wildlife Education & Outreach Program Staff provide critical communication, education and outreach about Alaska's wildlife resources to the general public.

OBJECTIVE 2: Frontline Staff – Frontline staff serve as an initial contact point and provide a broad array of wildlife-related information and services to diverse members of the public who visit or contact the regional information centers in Douglas, Anchorage, Palmer, and Fairbanks.

OBJECTIVE 3: Information Officers

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

Objective I: Wildlife Education & Outreach Staff

Job/Activity 1a: Connect people to wildlife to:

-Generate and strengthen people's connection with the natural environment and promote responsible hunting, trapping, viewing, and appreciation for wildlife.

- Promote awareness of the different ways people value and use wildlife and encourage tolerance towards different wildlife values and uses.
- Teach people how to stay safe and act responsibly to minimize problems with wildlife.

Accomplishments

- Regional (RI, RIII, RV) specialists assisted HIT staff with the basic hunter certification, primarily with instruction of the wildlife management and identification sections.
- Region I specialist and statewide coordinator organized Southeast Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) weekend workshop - 80 adult participants and 35 volunteer instructors, 26 different classes- hunting, fishing and outdoor skills.
- Region III specialist and seasonal staff instructed classes at BOW workshops in Fairbanks, serving more than 100 adult participants.
- Region I and statewide coordinator organized 5 Beyond BOW classes in Juneau and Ketchikan.
- RI, RIII, RIV and statewide coordinator organized Alaskans Afield- Outdoor Skills for Friends and Families- hunting, fishing and outdoor skills. Staff and volunteers serve as instructors. 15 classes offered reaching approx. 200 individuals.
- All regional and statewide education/outreach staff instructed wildlife and conservation related activities at multi-day youth camps including- Anchorage- ADF&G Outdoor Youth Days, Outdoor Week, Water Discovery Days; Juneau- ADF&G/4-H AK Experience Camp and Boy Scout Camp; Fairbanks- Twin Bears Camp, Camp Habitat; Kotzebue -Onion Portage Caribou Collaring; Palmer/Wasilla- Girl Scout Encampment, Knik Culture Camp; Nome- Reindeer Youth Days and Cultural Heritage Camp.
- RII and RIV specialists coordinated speakers and promote *Wildlife Wednesday Winter Lecture Series* focused on wildlife research/management in AK, attended by approx. 200 in Anchorage and 50-75 people in Wasilla at each lecture.
- Region I, II and IV specialists worked with seasonal staff and community volunteers to provide wildlife safety presentations to elementary and middle school students in Anchorage, Palmer/Wasilla and Juneau; approx. 120 presentations reaching 7,500 students.
- Regional II and IV specialists gave wildlife safety presentations at community events/venues including: Anchorage- Alaska Zoo, Sportsman's Show, Regional Hospital, Campbell Creek Science Center, Eagle Valley Nature Center, Fairview Recreation Center, King Career Center, Cook Inlet Housing, BP, BIA, REI and AK Mill & Feed; Palmer/Wasilla- Mat-Su College, Boy Scouts, Alaska Bible College.
- Regional II & III specialists provided bear and moose safety information via television and radio interviews.
- RI and RII produced bear safety/awareness messages for radio broadcasts in southeast and southcentral Alaska.
- Regional specialists and Project WILD coordinator maintained & distributed wildlife kits (skulls, furs, tracks, trail cameras) to schools and education centers.

- RII and RIV, RV attended community events & distributed/discussed wildlife related information and activities for the general public. Events attended include: Anchorage- Great Alaska Sportsman Show, Potter Marsh Discovery Day, Christmas Bird Count, National Public Lands Day, Health Fair; Palmer/Wasilla- AK Healthy Lifestyles Expo; Mat-Su Outdoor Show, Alaska Salmon Day, Transportation Day, Palmer Hay Flats Refuge Celebration; Barrow and Fairbanks- Migratory Bird Days.
- All regional specialists and Project WILD coordinator attended youth and school events to teach wildlife/research/management related topics including: Science Fairs- Palmer and Juneau; Science Nights in Palmer, Juneau, Anchorage, Nome; and classroom presentations in Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kotzebue, Nome, and Bering Straits villages.
- Region I & III specialists served on department Facebook committee and regularly post wildlife info, activities and events. ADF&G viewers and posts shared have expanded exponentially over the year reaching 10,000s.
- All regional specialists distributed publications, posters, and brochures to area offices and assisted information center staff respond to inquiries relating to the wildlife education program, wildlife sightings and identification.
- Statewide Project WILD Coordinator managed professional development program for educators using Growing Up WILD (early childhood), Project WILD and the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum (AWC- grades K-12). Coordinator trained volunteers/new staff to facilitate workshops, developed thematic-based workshops, managed graduate-level credits through University of Alaska, and provided registration/planning/promotion support to regional specialists who provided workshops and webinars including: traditional Growing Up WILD, Project WILD/AWC and thematic workshops (e.g., Wildlife for the Future, Predator/Prey Population Dynamics, Conserving Habitat, Engaging Students in the Outdoors, Alaska's Animals, Wood Bison). 17 workshops in nine communities reached approximately 350 teachers.
- RI, II, RIII, and Project WILD Coordinator presented at professional education conferences including: Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (Juneau) and the Get Outdoor Anchorage Academy (Anchorage), Alaska Afterschool Network Conference (Juneau & Anchorage), and University of Alaska MAT Program (Fairbanks).
- Wildlife Education Staff facilitated an Interagency Working Group composed of bear biologists and outreach staff from state and federal natural resource agencies (AK State Parks, ADF&G, BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS, US Army) to review and update a Framework for Bear Safety Messages in Alaska.

Job/Activity 1b- Build support for wildlife conservation, management, & research to:

- Improve public understanding of the interrelatedness of ecosystems, habitat and sustainable populations of wildlife.
- Improve public understanding of wildlife management principles, and promote public support for DWC wildlife management and research efforts.

Accomplishments

- All regional and statewide education/outreach staff instructed wildlife and conservation related activities at multi-day youth camps including: Anchorage- ADF&G Outdoor Youth Days, Outdoor Week, Water Discovery Days; Juneau- ADF&G/4-H AK Experience Camp and Boy Scout Camp; Fairbanks- Twin Bears Camp, Camp Habitat; Kotzebue -Onion Portage Caribou Collaring; Palmer/Wasilla- Girl Scout Encampment, Knik Culture Camp; Nome- Reindeer Youth Days and Cultural Heritage Camp.
- RII and RIV specialists coordinated speakers and promote *Wildlife Wednesday Lecture Series* focused on wildlife research/management in AK, attended by approx. 200 in Anchorage and 50-75 people in Wasilla at each lecture.
- All regional specialists and statewide coordinator produced publications for regional and/or statewide distribution including:, RIII- Caribou Bull/Cow ID Guide, Central Arctic Caribou News, The Comeback Trail- news of the Fortymile caribou herd, Delta Bison Range, Bison Hunter orientation packet, Dall's Sheep Horn poster, Grouse & ptarmigan wing collection program, RIV- Nelchina Caribou News, RV- *Game Management Regulations in Units 22, 23, 26A* posters, **Statewide**- *Alaska's Wild Wonders*- a magazine for kids, Wildlife Safety training manual and a variety of articles for department online magazine *Alaska Fish & Wildlife News*.
- All regional specialists and statewide coordinator completed content review of sections (living with wildlife, education, events) on department website and update/develop content. Statewide coordinator served as member of the Department Web Steering Committee.
- RV specialist is a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and served as the Chair of the Education/Outreach Committee. Coordinates a multi-tiered outreach plan, produces the annual *Caribou Trails* newsletter, and manages the working group's website.
- RI, RII, RIII, RIV specialists coordinated *Sharing the Trails* workshop- a partnership w/ the Alaska Trapper's Association to meet w/ pet-owners and demonstrate how to safely remove pets from traps and to learn about Alaska's trapping heritage.

Job/Activity 1c: Promote awareness of Alaska wildlife law to:

- Empower people to engage and participate in the decision-making processes regarding wildlife and issues that affect the welfare of wildlife populations.
- Improve public understanding of and compliance with wildlife laws, and hunting and trapping regulations.

Accomplishments:

- Region I, II and IV specialists worked with seasonal staff and community volunteers to provide wildlife safety presentations to elementary and middle

school students in Anchorage, Palmer/Wasilla and Juneau; approx. 120 presentations reaching 7,500 students.

- Regional II and IV specialists gave wildlife safety presentations at community events/venues including: Anchorage- Alaska Zoo, Sportsman's Show, Regional Hospital, Campbell Creek Science Center, Eagle Valley Nature Center, Fairview Recreation Center, King Career Center, Cook Inlet Housing, BP, BIA, REI and AK Mill & Feed; Palmer/Wasilla- Mat-Su College, Boy Scouts, Alaska Bible College.
- Regional II & III specialists provided bear and moose safety information via television and radio interviews.
- RI and RII produced bear safety/awareness messages for radio broadcasts in southeast and southcentral Alaska.
- RV specialist is a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and serves as the Chair of the Education/Outreach Committee. Coordinated a multi-tiered outreach plan, produced the annual *Caribou Trails* newsletter, and managed the working group's website. Outreach included background about harvest reporting, meat salvage, etc.
- RI, RII, RIII, RIV specialists coordinated *Sharing the Trails* workshop- a partnership w/ the Alaska Trapper's Association to meet w/ pet-owners and demonstrate how to safely remove pets from traps and to learn about Alaska's trapping heritage and regulations.
- RIII specialist made public presentations (e.g. judging legal moose antlers and Dall's sheep horns and related poster).
- RV specialist coordinated student participation in Onion Portage Caribou Collaring project. Participants involved directly in research project and also learn about herd management & importance of compliance w/ regulations.
- All specialists and Project WILD Coordinator disseminate Alaska Wildlife Curriculum at workshops and on the department's website. All 5 volumes address engagement in wildlife conservation & management. The 2017 revision of *Wildlife for the Future* has several activities related to public involvement in wildlife management decisions.
- Region I and IV specialists developed an online Moose Hunter Orientation. Required for hunters in GMU's on the Kenai Peninsula and recommended for all moose hunters.

Objective II- Frontlines Staff

Job/Activity 2-a: Maintain, staff, and operate division information centers in regional offices, in some area offices, and cooperatively in interagency information centers.

Accomplishments

During this reporting period Region IV maintained, staffed, and operated 4 area offices and 1 regional office.

Job/Activity 2-b: Provide information and services needed to facilitate hunting and trapping including; providing regulations, issuing permits and harvest tickets and recording harvest information, sealing bears, furbearers, and sheep, and assisting with license and big game harvest tag sales.

Accomplishments:

Region IV provided a significant amount of information and services to facilitate hunting and trapping during this reporting period. Staff issued licenses, permits and harvest tickets while conveying and clarifying regulations and the regulatory process. Staff collected harvest information through hunter reports and the sealing of bears, furbearers, goats, and sheep to inform management strategies. In addition, staff provided services through the Mat-Su Outdoorsman Show, Rotary Club, Alaska Frontier Trappers Association, Great Alaska Sportsman Show, Beaver Round-up, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW), trapper clinics, and various public presentations.

Job/Activity 2-c.: Answer and direct telephone, internet, and in-person inquiries on wildlife issues from the general public, media, educational institutions, civic and other organizations.

Accomplishments:

Region IV does not have a mechanism to develop accurate counts of public served region-wide, but we estimate that we respond to at least 50,000 individuals, institutions, organizations, and media inquiries on wildlife-related issues through email, phone calls, and in-person visits to Information Centers.

Job/Activity 3:

Job/Activity 3a: Proactive information - Know and anticipate the public's need for information from Alaska's wildlife managers, and provide it proactively.

Accomplishments:

- Mange video and provide web content for ADF&G, edit and write for magazine: Hunters in some areas are required to watch specific educational videos before obtaining a permit. In other cases, hunters are strongly encouraged to be educated about issues like legal moose and sheep, and taking male (vs. female) animals in hunts for conservation purposes. Posted educational videos to Vimeo in several formats to insure they are accessible, and also provided DVD copies to area offices so hunters could check them out if needed. Managing the Vimeo account also enables the videos to be embedded on the ADF&G website.
- To comply with ADA and SOA requirements, worked with a service and close-captioned all videos, including all hunting-related videos that DWC provides via our website and Vimeo channel.
- Wrote and promoted articles in monthly magazine Alaska Fish and Wildlife News, addressing issues and problems related to hunting practices, for example, tick-borne

diseases, diseases transmitted by wildlife to people, habitat enhancement practices, game meat care - to help reduce problems and provide solutions. Also address non-hunting related issues including invasive species, releasing fish alive, and living in bear country. Alaska Fish and Wildlife News has 6,337 subscribers and receives about 50,000 unique page views each month.

- Provided bear safety information to hunters, and those recreating in bear country. Distributed information and delivered about 10 bear safety public presentations to community groups.
- Delivered about 10 bear safety presentations to third-grade classes in the Juneau School District.
- Provided “living in bear country” information to Alaskans to reduce human-bear conflicts.
- Produced “Sounds Wild” episodes educating the public on topics related to sustaining wildlife populations to ensure hunting opportunities, for example, why it’s important to not overharvest female bears, and how habitat enhancement provides more hunting opportunities. Produce and distribute 50 episodes each year to about 30 radio stations (counting repeaters) broadcasting statewide. (SW is broadcast in Nome, Dillingham, Fairbanks (three stations, with repeaters all over the interior), Kotzebue, Sand Point, Anchorage (two stations), Girdwood, Galena, Glennallen, Barrow, Homer, Talkeetna, McGrath, Bethel, Kodiak, Unalaska, Juneau, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Valdez, and Sitka.)
- Taught hunter education at the two Juneau middle schools in two, three-day sessions, reaching about 400 sixth graders. Taught five survival classes to hunters and others recreating outdoors.

Job/Activity 3b: Reactive information - Information officers respond to direct requests for information.

Accomplishments:

- AKW-10 21.0 Public and Hunter Services and Information FY2016 Annual Performance Report
- Helped staff prepare a presentation for the Juneau community to reduce conflicts between trappers and dog owners. Also helped distribute and promote a series of videos on how to remove dogs from various types of traps.
- Responded to numerous phone calls, letters and emails from hunters planning trips or requesting information about Alaska hunting and regulations.
- Helped public servants with state and federal agencies, and public school and university educators, find and access state images for educational purposes and curriculum.
- Distributed thousands of copies of outreach materials to visitor centers, information centers, bookstores and tourism agencies.
- Responded to media requests for appropriate contacts for sources for news articles/broadcasts. Respond to reprint/republication requests from media for AFWN articles.

Job/Activity 3c: Empower staff to better serve the public - Information officers directly serve ADF&G staff.

Accomplishments:

- Worked with educators and area biologists to prepare, distribute and promote materials (including video clips) educating hunters on important topics: harvesting legal (spike-fork-fifty) moose bulls (as required by regulation); harvesting male bears instead of female bears; harvesting male mountain goats instead of females, reporting wildlife diseases and diseased animals like bats, reporting wildlife encounters, and promoting safety around bears.
- Worked with a small team to manage and promote the AD&G Facebook page, highlighting hunting and fishing opportunities in Alaska. FB posts promoted hunting topic workshops and classes (such as judging legal sheep and moose), issues of concern (such as the risk of tularemia to hunters targeting hares), and changes in the price of hunting licenses and tags. Posts tend to reach around 4,000 people, some top 20,000 and may be shared several hundred times. As of August 2016, the page is followed by 19,000 people.
- Help staff establish two regionally focused Facebook pages.
- Help staff post and embed videos
- Help staff prepare outreach material like brochures, flyers and stickers. Served on the bear safety messaging interagency working group to help create consistent, accurate bear safety messages coming from state and federal agencies.
- Helped manage the ADF&G image library, which includes photographs donated by hunters. I added about 1,000 images to the library in past year, including about 100 donated by hunters, many featuring family hunting activities. These images are available to all ADF&G staff for use in brochures, hunting and fishing regulations, web pages, and other outreach needs. Helped staff find specific images as needed.
- Proofread and help staff draft and distribute new releases and outreach materials.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS AND/OR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD**IV. PUBLICATIONS** *(List project-related publications prepared or published during this reporting period.)***V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT** *(optional)*

Prepared by: Todd Rinaldi, Kristen Romanoff and Riley Woodford

Date: September 1, 2017