

FEDERAL AID ANNUAL 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-7 Intensive Management FY2017 **Segment Number:** 1

Project Number: 1.0 Caribou

Project Title: Statewide Intensive Management for Caribou Populations Identified as Important for Providing High Levels of Harvest for Human Consumptive Use and Predators Influencing Caribou Population Status.

Project Duration: April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2020

Report Period: April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Report Due Date: June 28, 2017; resubmitted December 1, 2017

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: Torsten Bentzen (RIII), Nick Demma (RIV), Lincoln Parrett (RV)

WORK LOCATION: Region III (Fortymile Caribou Herd), Region IV (Units 9, 17, 19), and Region V (Western Arctic Caribou Herd)

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

Objective 1: Conduct more frequent and more robust summer surveys to estimate the population size and fall composition (bulls, cows and calves) of caribou to evaluate if IM treatments are successful.

Activities conducted under AKW-20 were sufficient to estimate population size and composition. No additional work was required under AKW-7 to improve the estimates.

Objective 2: Estimate calf production, survival and causes of mortality using radio-collars and or camera-collars to determine if a) calf mortality can be reduced to meet IM population and/or harvest objectives or b) to evaluate the effects of the IM treatment.

Activities conducted under AKW-20 were sufficient to estimate calf production and survival. No additional work was required under AKW-7 in FY2017 to improve the estimates.

Objective 3: Estimate adult caribou survival rates using radio-collars to evaluate the effects of the IM treatment.

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Activities conducted under AKW-20 were sufficient to estimate adult female survival. No additional work was required under AKW-7 in FY2017 to improve the estimates.

Objective 4: Monitor moose nutritional status to evaluate the influence of nutrition on Caribou population status and evaluate IM population objectives.

No work was conducted under this objective because IM objectives did not need to be evaluated for caribou.

Objective 5: Monitor forage abundance and utilization to evaluate browse abundance and quality and determine habitat capability to develop reasonable IM population objectives.

No work was conducted under this objective because IM objectives did not need to be developed for caribou.

Objective 6: Investigate and monitor wolf, black bear and brown bear abundance relative to defined IM objectives.

No work was conducted under this objective because IM objectives did not need to be defined for predators.

Objective 7: Report findings in appropriate scientific and popular publications.

Annual Report to the Alaska Board of Game on Intensive Management for Wolf Predation Control in the Upper Yukon-Tanana Predation Control Area of Game Management Units 12, 20B, 20D, 20E and 25C for the Fortymile Caribou Herd. February 2017.

II. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS AND/OR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD

Activities previously reported for this grant were unallowable because they were not significantly different in nature from activities conducted to accomplish AKW-20 objectives. These activities are reported in AKW-20 reports, and the costs are being corrected through an adjustment to FY2018 AKW-23. Even though progress was made on similar work conducted under AKW-20, no work was conducted on these AKW-7 enhanced objectives.

Unallowable charges were previously reported for AKW-7, Project 1.0, for this reporting period and were included in the financial reports. These charges include the following:

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1. Deploying VHF and GPS radio collars on adult and yearling caribou in the Forty-mile caribou herd.
2. Assessing caribou calf nutrition and survival in the Forty-mile caribou herd.
3. Deploying GPS radio collars on adult caribou in the Forty-mile caribou herd.
4. Assessing caribou calf nutrition and survival in the Central Arctic caribou herd.
5. Deploying radio collars on 4-month old caribou in the Western Arctic caribou herd at Onion Portage.

In addition, several activities that were charged appropriately to AKW-20 were inadvertently included in previous submissions of the FY2017 AKW-7 report and have been removed. No funds were spent on these activities from this grant.

As a result, \$0 will be debited to the grant and \$347,871 will be credited from AKW-20 (projects 3.0, 3.51, and 3.53) for unallowable expenses, resulting in an unmatched net change of \$347,871 for FY2017 AKW-7, project 1.0, will be applied to FY2018 AKW-23.

III. PUBLICATIONS

See publication report under objective 7.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

The department will request that this project is terminated on December 1, 2017. No further activities will be conducted under this grant after that date.

Prepared by: Nathan Soboleff

Date: June 28, 2017

Revised by: Brenda Bowers and Lem Butler

Date: December 1, 2017