

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

**Grant Number:** W-33

**Segment Number:** 12

**Project Number:** 1.72

**Project Title:** Identification of factors affecting calf production, calf survival, and survival of female adult moose in Game Management Unit 15C

**Project Duration:** July 1, 2011 – June 30 2013

**Reporting Period:** July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

**Report Due Date:** Sept. 1 2014

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Thomas McDonough, ADF&G

**WORK LOCATION:** Lower Kenai Peninsula, GMU 15C

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**I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Quantify pregnancy rates, parturition rates, and parturition dates of adult cow moose.

Job/activity 1a: We captured 33 adult female moose and 5 calves in November 2013 and 28 adult cows and 6 calves in March of 2014. Pregnancy rates were 80% as determined through blood testing. Parturition rates were 71% based on aerially monitoring cows daily during calving. Parturition dates were from 14May through 1June with a median parturition date of 22May. Parturition dates were determined through daily aerially monitoring using vaginal implant transmitters. Similar data will be collected again in 2015.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Determine twinning rates of adult cow moose.

Job/activity 2a: We conducted aerial surveys of radio collared cows during calving to determine a twinning rate of 40%. Similar data will be collected again in 2015.

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Determine cow and calf mortality rates.

Job/activity 3a: Radio collared cows were aerially monitored daily during calving. Since getting a visual confirmation on calves after green-up is difficult, calf survival will be fully assessed in the fall when visual confirmations can be done.

**OBJECTIVE 4:** Determine seasonal movements of radio collared cows.

Job/activity 4a: Periodic aerial telemetry flights of collared cows have occurred since initial collaring. Movement data has not yet been analyzed.

**OBJECTIVE 5:** Assess nutritional condition of cow moose at the yearly peak and nadir.

Job/activity 5a: Mean rump fat indices, which index body condition, assessed during Nov. 2013 and March 2014 were 3.9 and 1.3, respectively. Body condition will be assessed in the fall of 2014 and again in the spring of 2015.

## **V. PUBLICATIONS**

None

## **VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT**

We recommend continuing this project at least through FY2016 or for the life of intensive management activities.

### **Prepared by:**

Thomas McDonough

### **Date:**

15 Sept., 2014