

**WOOD BISON
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-12

PROJECT NO. 10.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Wood Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes bison survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

**The Status of Wood Bison
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III**

Statewide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Assist Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center (AWCC) with husbandry activities including care, feeding, culling, body condition scoring and propagation of wood bison for release at reintroduction sites.

Assisted in the husbandry of wood bison at AWCC. Handled over 100 bison and administered supplements, medications, and ear tag ID to appropriate individuals. Culled several older bulls and less fit animals to make more room for younger cohorts. Completed the 2014 breeding program.

ACTIVITY 2: Work with other agencies and organizations to identify and implement priority biological monitoring programs associated with the reintroduction of wood bison.

Worked with BLM on habitat studies about wood bison and their interaction with the landscape in the Innoko. Worked with DOT leasing about where and how to temporarily pen the bison for the soft release. Worked with USFWS Innoko refuge staff to coordinate logistical efforts toward the release, and monitoring after the release.

ACTIVITY 3 Provide biological information and expertise to support efforts to develop site-specific, collaborative wood bison management plans.

Provided biological information and expertise to all members of the public and agencies that desired it. The official planning process didn't start until September 30, 2014, which was after this reporting period. During the official planning process, I provided biological information and expertise to support the effort.

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ACTIVITY 4 Work with USFWS so they can complete their final decision on the proposed NEP status of wood bison.

Worked with USFWS intensively to complete the 10J, NEP rule. It was a significant effort on all sides, and was completed.

Submitted by: C. Tom Seaton, Wood Bison Project Biologist