

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

Grant Number: W-33 **Segment Number:** 12
Project Number: 2.14
Project Title: Survivorship of Sitka black-tailed deer fawns in Southeast Alaska
Project Duration: 1 July 2008–30 June 2015
Report Period: 1 July 2013–30 June 2014
Report Due Date: 1 September 2014
Principal Investigator: Rodney Flynn and David Person
Cooperators: Sophie Gilbert and Kris Hundertmark (University of Alaska Fairbanks)
Work Location: Ketchikan, Alaska.

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

Objective 1: Evaluate fawn mortality as a result of malnutrition.

Graduate student, Sophie Gilbert, completed her Ph D dissertation proposal and passed her Ph D comprehensive examinations. We captured 21 preparturient adult and yearling female deer during April–May 2010, captured 22 preparturient adult and yearling female deer during April–May 2011, and another 21 preparturient adult and yearling female deer during April–May 2012. We radiotracked 45 fawns during May and June 2010, 54 neonate fawns during May–June 2011, and another 50 neonate fawns during May–June 2012. During 2013–2014, we spent time on data analysis.

Objective 2: Evaluate habitat selection

We recovered 12 GPS radiocollars during April–May 2011 that released from adult female deer captured during April–May 2010. We obtained >40,000 GPS locations for those deer. We captured 21 adult female deer and fitted with GPS collars in 2012. We collected all of the collars and began data analysis.

Objective 3: Evaluate black bear predation on fawns is positively related to levels of bear activity or is spatially correlated with habitat composition and distribution.

We measured habitat and landscape variables associated with birth sites of 21 fawns located using VITs were evaluated, and locations of death for 26 fawns killed by bears. We did transects using a trained dog to locate scats and tracks of wolves and bears at each site to determine relative predator activity. We collected all of the information and began data analysis.

Objective 4: Evaluate whether bear predation is partly compensatory and additive.

We began data analysis.

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

Job/activity 1a: Capturing and radiocollaring adult does and neonate fawns and training and purchasing equipment.

This project concluded field data collection in 2012-2013, and met or exceeded all data collection goals. We began data analysis.

Job/activity 2a: Monitor and tracking does and fawns.

All the data was collected. We began data analysis.

Job/activity 3a: Vegetation sampling and estimating deer and bear activity.

All the data was collected. We began data analysis.

Job/activity 4a: Data analyses.

The data analysis was mostly completed. We anticipate completing the final report during the next report year.

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

None.

V. PUBLICATIONS

None.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

The field portion of this study is completed. Project personnel will focus on data analyses, and final report and manuscript preparation.

Prepared by: Rodney Flynn and Sophie Gilbert

Date: 9/01/2014