

# FEDERAL AID COORDINATION & SUPPORT 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-10 Wildlife Restoration FY2016

**Project Number:** 21.0

**Project Title:** Public and Hunter Services and Information

**Project Duration:** July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

**Report Due Date:** September 28, 2016

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Kristen Romanoff, Riley Woodford, Management Coordinators

**WORK LOCATION:** Statewide

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

**OBJECTIVE 1: Wildlife Education & Outreach** - 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** – Information Officers provide public and media an essential point of contact at Fish and Game and are equipped to address a wide range of public needs for information. Information officers also empower ADF&G staff to better serve the public.

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

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

**Job 1:** Connect People to wildlife

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

**Accomplishments**

- Regional (RI & RIII) specialists and statewide coordinator assist HIT staff with the basic hunter certification, primarily with instruction of the wildlife management and identification sections.
- Region I specialist and statewide coordinator organize 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 & IV specialists instruct classes at BOW workshops in Fairbanks and Mat-Su, serving more than 100 adult participants at each event.
- Region I and statewide coordinator organize 6 Beyond BOW classes in Juneau and Ketchikan in hunting, shooting, & fishing.
- RI, RIII, RIV and statewide coordinator organize Alaskans Afield- Outdoor Skills for Friends and Families. Staff and volunteers serve as instructors. 14 classes offered (e.g. Intro. to Black Bear Hunting & Field Dressing, Small Game Hunting & Field Dressing, Deer Hunting, Step into Shotgun, Principles of Riflery, Wild Edibles, Backcountry Horse Packing, Basic Survival). Reached 200+ individuals and families.
- All regional and statewide education/outreach staff instruct at multi-day youth camps including- Anchorage-ADF&G Outdoor Youth Days and Outdoor Week, Camp Si'lameo Wildlife; Juneau-ADF&G/4-H AK Experience Camp and Boy Scout Camp ; Kotzebue -Onion Portage Caribou Collaring; Palmer/Wasilla- Rising Star, Knik Culture Camp and 4-H Camp; Nome- Science Camp; Eagle River-Trailside Camp; Fairbanks- Camp Habitat.
- RII and RIV specialists coordinate speakers and promote Wildlife Wednesday Winter Lecture Series focused on wildlife research/management in AK, attended by 250-300 in Anchorage and 50-150 people in Wasilla at each lecture.
- RIV specialist prepared Wildlife Wednesday lectures for radio broadcast.
- Regional specialists and Project WILD coordinator develop, maintain & distribute wildlife kits (skulls, furs, tracks, trail cameras) to schools and education centers.
- RI and RII produce bear safety/awareness messages for radio broadcasts in southeast and southcentral Alaska.
- RII and RIV attend community events & distribute/discuss wildlife related information and provide activities for the general public. Events attended include: Anchorage- Great Alaska Sportsman Show, Potter Marsh Discovery Day, Christmas Bird Count, Government Hill Outdoor Learning Day, Trapping

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Heritage, Get Outdoors Anchorage Resource Fair, Schools to Trails, Hope Community Fair; Palmer/Wasilla- AK Healthy Lifestyles Expo, Mat-Su Outdoor Show, Outdoor Activity Fair, Palmer Hay Flats Refuge Celebration and Refuge Family Day, Refuge Expansion Day.

- All regional specialists and Project WILD coordinator attend youth and school events to teach wildlife/research/management related topics including: Science Fair- Palmer and Juneau; Science Nights in the Schools- Palmer, Juneau, Anchorage, Nome; Envirothon- Mat-Su & Anchorage; Geofest- Palmer; Raising Academic Achievement- Nome, Golovin, and Elim; and classroom presentations by invitation in Anchorage, Palmer/Wasilla, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kotzebue and Nome.
- Region I & III specialists serve on department Facebook committee and post 2x a week wildlife info, activities and events. Posts are viewed by 4 to 5,000 people and some reach upwards of 20,000.
- Region I, II and IV specialists work with seasonal staff and community volunteers to provide wildlife safety presentations to elementary and middle school students in Anchorage, Palmer/Wasilla and Juneau. This program reached approximate 8,500 students.
- Region I, II, and IV specialists give wildlife safety presentations at community events including: Anchorage- Governor's Picnic; REI, Outdoor Week, Coffee with a Scientist, Campbell Creek Science Night, Ducks Unlimited, and International Bear Conference; Palmer/Wasilla- Mat-Su College, Boy Scouts, Alaska Bible College; Juneau- Neighborhood Bear Awareness & Great American Camp-out. Reach approx. 1,500 youth & adults.
- RIII, IV, V specialists and Project WILD and Statewide coordinators complete revision of the Alaska Wildlife for the Future- a volume of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum. Lessons are intended to build an understanding of habitats and sustainable wildlife populations, while introducing students to current wildlife research and management issues. Available online and in print formats.
- All regional specialists provide publications, posters, and brochures to area offices and assist information center staff respond to inquiries relating to the wildlife education program, wildlife sightings and identification.
- Statewide Project WILD Coordinator manages professional development program for educators using Growing Up WILD (Early Childhood), Project WILD and the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum (Grades K-12). Coordinator recruits/trains volunteers/staff to facilitate workshops, develops thematic-based workshops, manages graduate-level credits through University of Alaska, and provides registration/planning/promotion support to regional specialists who provide in-person workshops and webinars including: traditional Growing Up WILD, Project WILD/AWC and thematic workshops (e.g., Schoolyard Habitat, Critter Cameras, Wildlife Tracking, Wildlife in Winter, Salmon in the Trees, GIS Urban Bears, Alaska Animals, Wildlife for the Future, Field Science). Provided

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18 workshops in 9 communities and two statewide webinars reaching approximately 400 teachers at workshops/webinars.

- RI, II, RIII, and Project WILD Coordinator presented at professional education conferences including: Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (Juneau & Anchorage), Alaska Forum on the Environment and the Get Outdoor Anchorage Academy (Anchorage), Alaska Afterschool Network Conference (Juneau), Alaska Math & Science Conference (Sitka), and University of Alaska MAT Program (Fairbanks), Women of Science (Wasilla).

**Activity b:** Promote awareness of the different ways people value and use wildlife and encourage tolerance towards different wildlife values and uses.

**Accomplishments:**

- All regional and statewide education/outreach staff instruct at multi-day youth camps including- Anchorage-ADF&G Outdoor Youth Days, Outdoor Week and Camp Si'lameo; Juneau-ADF&G/4-H AK Experience Camp and Boy Scout Camp ; Kotzebue -Onion Portage Caribou Collaring; Palmer/Wasilla- Rising Star, Knik Culture Camp and 4-H Camp; Nome- Science Camp; Eagle River-Trailside Camp; Fairbanks- Camp Habitat.
- RII and RIV specialists coordinate speakers and promote Wildlife Wednesday Winter Lecture Series focused on wildlife research/management in AK, attended by 250-300 in Anchorage and 50-150 people in Wasilla at each lecture.
- RIV specialist prepared Wildlife Wednesday lectures for radio broadcast.
- RIII, IV, V specialists and Project WILD and Statewide coordinators complete revision of the Alaska Wildlife for the Future- a volume of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum. Lessons are intended to build an understanding of habitats and sustainable wildlife populations, while introducing students to current wildlife research and management issues. Available online and in print formats.
- All regional specialists and statewide coordinator produce publications for regional and/or statewide distribution including: RI- Wolf Trails- Management and research update for Prince of Wales Island, RIII- Wood Bison #9 newsletter, Bison Hunter Orientation, Wood Bison Safety poster, Peruke Antler poster, More Moose for Upper Koyokuk Hunters #3 newsletter, Delta Bison Hunter ID Guide, RV- Game Management Regulations in Units 22, 23, 26A posters, Muskox ID poster. Statewide- staff training manuals (Dall Sheep, Wildlife Safety, Bison Hazing), Grouse & Ptarmigan Aging/Sexing Guide, Moose Hunting in Antler Restricted Areas, Alaska's Wild Wonders- a magazine for kids, a variety of articles for department online magazine Alaska Fish & Wildlife News.
- All regional specialists and statewide coordinator complete content review of specific sections (Living with Wildlife, Education, Events) on department website and develop content (e.g., Wildlife at Work, Moose-Vehicle Collisions, Bear Safety, Wood Bison Reintroduction)

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- RIII specialist serves as chair of the Subject Matter Expert Committee for the education section of department's website. Statewide coordinator serves as member of the Department Web Steering Committee.
- RV specialist is a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and serves 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 coordinate 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.

**Activity c:** Teach people how to stay safe and act responsibly to minimize problems with wildlife.

**Accomplishments:**

- Region I, II, and IV specialists give wildlife safety presentations at community events including: Anchorage- Governor's Picnic; REI, Outdoor Week, Coffee with a Scientist, Campbell Creek Science Night, Ducks Unlimited, and International Bear Conference; Palmer/Wasilla- Mat-Su College, Boy Scouts, Alaska Bible College; Juneau- Neighborhood Bear Awareness & Great American Camp-out. Reach approx. 1,500 youth & adults.
- RIII, IV, V specialists and Project WILD and Statewide coordinators complete revision of the Alaska Wildlife for the Future- a volume of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum. Available online and in print formats.
- RV specialist is a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and serves 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 coordinate 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.

**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.

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

**Accomplishments:**

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Region I maintained, staffed, and operated division public service counters in the Douglas Regional office and at area offices in Sitka, Petersburg, Ketchikan, and Craig. Region I also partially funds offices and positions in Yakutat, Haines, and Wrangell.

During this reporting period Region II maintained, staffed, and operated 4 area offices and 1 regional office. The regional office in Anchorage is fully staffed Monday- Friday, 8am-5 pm, excluding state holidays. Other area offices are staffed 12 months of the year.

Region III maintained, staffed and operated an information center in the Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Tok ADF&G offices Monday-Friday (except State holidays) during 12 months. We provided occasional assistance to the public in McGrath. The Galena office was staffed Monday-Friday (except State holidays) during 4 months.

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

During this reporting period Region V staffed and operated area offices in Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, and Bethel. The Nome office is considered the Region V regional office. Region 5 offices are staffed Monday- Friday, 8am- 5pm, excluding state holidays.

**Job/Activity 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 I maintained, staffed, and operated division public service counters in seven communities. Those offices provided a diversity of services to the hunting and trapping public including: providing facilities for people to buy licenses, tags, and apply for drawing permits, issuing and accepting reports for registration and Tier II hunts, providing regulations booklets and explaining regulations, and sealing bears and furbearers.

Region II provided significant 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, moose, and sheep to be used in recommending management strategies. In addition, staff provided services through outreach and presentations at the Great Alaskan Sportsman Show, bear and wildlife safety classes, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) events, trapper clinics, and various public presentations.

Region III provided 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

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big game harvest tag sales. Staff and services were available in Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Tok ADF&G offices Monday–Friday (except State holidays) during 12 months. We provided occasional assistance to the public in McGrath. The Galena office was staffed Monday–Friday (except State holidays) during 4 months.

Region IV provided significant 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, and sheep to be used in recommending management strategies. In addition, staff provided services through the Mat-Su Sportsman Show, Beaver Round-up, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW), trapper clinics, and various public presentations.

Region V provided information and services needed to facilitate hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing activities, which included providing information about the Nome Road System, regulations, issuing permits and harvest tickets and recording harvest information, sealing bears, and furbearers, and assisting with license and big game harvest tag sales. Staff and services were available in Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, and Bethel ADF&G offices Monday–Friday (except State holidays) during 12 months. In addition, staff provided services through hunter education courses, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW), trapper clinics, and various public presentations.

**Job/Activity 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 I responded to walk-in, telephone, and e-mail/internet inquiries from the general public, media, educational institutions, civic and other organizations about such issues as wildlife biology, hunting and trapping regulations, regulatory process, and nuisance wildlife problems in one regional office and four area offices. Region I does not maintain counts of public served, but we believe the region-wide total exceeds 10,000 individuals per year.

Region II responds to more than 50,000 individuals, institutions, organizations, and media inquiries on wildlife-related issues through direct and indirect contact. The Anchorage wildlife office also responds to approximately 1300 emails each year received through the website related to hunting, trapping, and other wildlife issues. Additionally, statewide nuisance and orphan animal reports are processed by Region II staff.

Region III Answered and directed telephone, internet, and in-person inquiries regarding wildlife issues from the general public, media, educational institutions, civic and other organizations Monday–Friday (except State holidays) during 12 months in Fairbanks, Delta Junction, and Tok ADF&G offices. We provided occasional assistance to the public in McGrath. The Galena office was staffed Monday–Friday (except State holidays) during 4 months.

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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 45,000 individuals, institutions, organizations, and media inquiries on wildlife-related issues through direct and indirect contact.

Region V Answered and directed telephone, internet, and in-person inquiries regarding wildlife issues from the general public, media, educational institutions, civic and other organizations Monday–Friday (except State holidays) during 12 months in Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, and Bethel ADF&G offices.

**Objective 3: Information Officers** - (IOs) provide public and media an essential point of contact at Fish and Game and are equipped to address a wide range of public needs for information. Information officers also empower ADF&G staff to better serve the public.

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

**Accomplishments:**

Hunters in some areas are required to watch specific educational videos before obtaining a permit. Posted these videos to Vimeo in several formats to insure they were accessible, and also provided DVD copies to area offices so hunters could check them out if needed.

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.

Provided bear safety information to hunters.

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 40 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.

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

**Accomplishments:**



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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.

Wrote and promoted articles in Alaska Fish and Wildlife News addressing issues and problems related to hunting practices, for example, carcass and viscera disposal, to help reduce problems and provide solutions. Alaska Fish and Wildlife News has 4,805 subscribers and receives about 50,000 unique page views each month.

Responded to numerous phone calls, letters and emails from hunters planning trips or requesting information about Alaska hunting and regulations.

**Job/Activity c:** 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 educating hunters on important topics: targeting full curl Dall sheep rams (as required by regulation); harvesting male bears instead of female bears; harvesting male mountain goats instead of females, and changes to caribou hunting regulations.

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 13,596 people.

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.

Proofread and help staff draft and distribute new releases

**III. PUBLICATIONS**

**Electric Fence Demonstration Videos-** Three videos, produced by Wayne Hall for ADF&G, demonstrate setting up an electric fence, including how they work and the components you will need for both backcountry and more permanent installations. The videos will be posted online within a week at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences>

**Alaska Wildlife Curriculum (AWC)- *Wildlife for the Future*.** This volume of the AWC is geared towards middle and high school students. The guide is broken into 4 sections: Exploring Habitats & Biodiversity, Population Dynamics, Sustaining Wildlife & Communities and Insights/Background. Additionally, DWC research projects are being written up as case studies and will be available online for use in the classroom. Many thanks to all of the DWC staff who contributed to this ever popular and well-used curriculum. Check it out at: <http://alaska.gov/go/4P5X>

**Alaska's Wild Wonders-** This issue of our annual kid's magazine focuses on animal adaptations. Teachers may subscribe online to receive classroom sets.  
[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/web/nocache/education/educators/pdfs/wild\\_wonders\\_issue6\\_amazing\\_adapters.pdf5E3AFC6F8C82C20EE7D91B33410A7F57/wild\\_wonders\\_issue6\\_amazing\\_adapters.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/web/nocache/education/educators/pdfs/wild_wonders_issue6_amazing_adapters.pdf5E3AFC6F8C82C20EE7D91B33410A7F57/wild_wonders_issue6_amazing_adapters.pdf)

### Regional Publications

**Black Bear Hunting in SE Alaska-** (RI) Education & Outreach Specialist, Abby Lowell has copies that can be shipped.

**The Comeback Trail-** (RIII) News of the Fortymile Herd,  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=caribou.resources>

**Wood Bison Safety Poster-** (RIII) Contact Education & Outreach Specialist, Mike Taras for copies.

**Nelchina Caribou Bulletin-** (RIV) Contact Education & Outreach Specialist, Sierra Doherty for copies.

**Caribou Trails-** (RV) Newsletter of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, Heading to the printers soon and will be posted online at:  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=caribou.resources>

### For Staff Use

**Dall Sheep: Guide to Judging Sheep Horns Under the Full-Curl Regulation** - The purpose of this training manual is to provide consistency in staff methods/knowledge of aging Dall sheep using horn annuli and/or determining curl legality during the sealing process. The methods within this manual for determining age and curl size of Dall sheep have been standardized and approved by the Department of Fish and Game. *Anyone who seals Dall sheep, regardless of their experience, should study this manual.*  
[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/hunting/dallsheephunting/pdfs/dall\\_sheep\\_guide\\_to\\_judging\\_sheep\\_horns\\_under\\_full\\_curl\\_regulation.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/hunting/dallsheephunting/pdfs/dall_sheep_guide_to_judging_sheep_horns_under_full_curl_regulation.pdf)

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**Bison Hazing Training Manual-** This manual is to be used by designated community bison guards in western Alaska who have been trained by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our goal is to provide techniques to help condition bison to stay away from areas where there is an increased risk for human conflict. Contact Mike Taras or Tom Seaton in RIII for copies.

**Prepared by:** Nathan Soboleff

**Date:** September 20, 2016