

FEDERAL AID ANNUAL RESEARCH 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 State Wildlife Grant

Grant Number: W-33 **Segment Number:** 10
Project Number: 14.26
Project Title: Estimating wolf populations in Southeast Alaska using noninvasive DNA sampling
Project Duration: July 1, 2009–June 30, 2014
Reporting Period: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Report Due Date: September 1, 2012
Principal Investigators: Dr. David Person
Work Location: Prince of Wales Island and Ketchikan, Alaska

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

OBJECTIVE 1: To devise a protocol that enables us to estimate wolf numbers in GMU 2.
See Section II.

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

JOB/ACTIVITY 1: Collection of wolf scats

Due to difficulties collecting a sample size of wolf feces sufficient to estimate wolf abundance within our study area, we substantially modified this project. During autumn 2012 we will deploy several hundred hair traps (Ausband 2011) at scent post stations systematically located throughout our study area on Prince of Wales Island. Each scent post will be marked with an abundance of lure intended to induce wolves to roll on the hair traps and leave hair. Hair will be collected and used for DNA extraction and analyses. In addition, scats will be collected at scent post stations and preserved in ethanol for DNA extraction.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2: Extracting DNA from scats and genotyping wolves

We are contracting with the U. S. Forest Service Wildlife Genetics Laboratory at the University of Montana, Missoula, MT to do genetic analyses and genotyping of hair and scat samples.

JOB/ACTIVITY 3: Analysis and population estimation

No analysis was done this report period.

JOB/ACTIVITY 4: Publication and report writing

No publications were completed during this reporting period.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

This project was redesigned and is beginning of a new phase of sample collections and analyses. The work will occur in conjunction with a separate wolf radio-collaring effort that will compliment the DNA analyses with respect to providing an independent means of estimating wolf abundance for the study area.

Literature Cited

Ausband, D. E. 2011. Hair of the Dog: Obtaining Samples from coyotes and wolves noninvasively. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 35:105–111.

Prepared by: Dr. David Person

Date: 9/01/2012