

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**BISON
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-9

PROJECT NO. 9.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of 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.

Region III

Regionwide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Provide bison management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.
Provided information to McGrath and Delta Fish and Game advisory committees.

ACTIVITY 2: Assess range conditions and work with fire control agencies to improve habitat.
Assessed and improved range conditions by forage management activities for the Delta Bison Herd and by working with fire control agencies for the Farwell herd.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor harvest from permit hunts and analyze harvest data.
Monitored and analyzed preliminary harvest of 70 bison from the Delta herd and 8 from the Farwell herd.

ACTIVITY 4: Maintain a sample of radiocollared bison to monitor the herd distribution and movements.
Radiocollared 27 bison with 1 mortality, and monitored distribution of existing collars.

Activities by Herd:

Units 19C and 19D the Farewell Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct ground or aerial surveys to assess population distribution, size and sex and age composition.

Conducted aerial minimum population estimation surveys in April 2011 and found 177 adult bison; and in June 2011 and found 261 bison including 61 calves.

ACTIVITY 2: Cooperate with state and federal agencies to plan and conduct prescribed burns to improve bison habitat.

Met informally with fire control agency personnel to discuss habitat improvement.

Unit 20D the Delta Herd:

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct ground or aerial surveys to assess population distribution, size and sex and age composition.

Conducted aerial surveys to estimate the herd size of 405 bison and conducted no ground composition counts due to a time overlap of an early bison hunting season and the regular composition count time period.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor timing of bison movements from the summer range to the Delta Junction Bison Range (DJBR) and Delta agricultural lands.

Monitored herd movements, showing that the first bison arrived on the Delta Junction Bison Range (DJBR) on July 29 and the first bison moved to private agricultural land on August 15.

ACTIVITY 3: Plant and fertilize preferred bison forage species and control invasive, non-desirable species within the DJBR.

Planted oats on approximately 400 acres and turnips on 50 acres; fertilized 700 acres of perennial grasses; and mowed 350 acres of brush.

ACTIVITY 4: Provide trace mineral and water supplements within the DJBR.

Provided 20 trace element mineral blocks and kept stock tanks full of water (bison drank approximately 11,200 gallons of water).

ACTIVITY 5: Monitor forage quality within the DJBR

Collected and analyzed 7 forage samples for quality.

ACTIVITY 6: Collect blood serum from hunter-killed bison to test for livestock diseases.

Collected no blood from hunter-killed bison.

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Region III Management Coordinator

REGION IV

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Unit 11

Regionwide:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial bison management report.

The next biennial bison management report is due to DWC HQ on 1 June 2012.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the harvest of bison from the permit hunts and analyze harvest data.

2010-2011 Harvest	Permittees	Hunters	males	Total harvest
Unit 11 Chitina River	2	2	2 (100%)	2 bison
Unit 11 and 13D Copper River	24	18	8 (62%)	13 bison

Activities by Unit:

Unit 11 Chitina River and Copper River Herds

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the harvest of bison from the permit hunts and analyze harvest data.

Project No. 9.0 – Bison S&I
FY11 Annual Performance Report

See table above.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status trend productivity and mortality of bison.

Chitina River Herd - June 2011: 36 total bison, 32 adults and 4 calves (11%)

Copper River Herd - June 2011: the herd was flown multiple days, but a count was not be completed due to wide bison distribution

Submitted by: Lem Butler, Region IV Management Coordinator