

**BISON  
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY  
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR:** W-33-3

**WORK LOCATION:** Statewide

**PROJECT NR:** 9.0

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Game Management Regions 2 and 3

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

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2004–30 June 2005

**REPORT DESCRIPTION:** This statewide performance report includes the two regions involved in bison survey and inventory activities. Statewide and regional activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

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**The Status of Alaska Bison  
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II**

**Regionwide Activities**

No project activities were planned or conducted for bison in Region II this year.

**Stewardship Investment items purchased:** None

**Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands):** 0

**Submitted by:** Gino Del Frate, Management Coordinator

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

**Regionwide Activities**

Activity: Provide information to advisory committees on bison management.

Provided information to advisory McGrath and Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

Activity: 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 Farewell herd.

Activity: Monitor harvest from permit hunts and analyze harvest data.

Monitored and analyzed preliminary harvest of 44 bison from the Delta herd and 1 from the Farewell herd.

Activity: Conduct ground and/or aerial surveys to assess population size and sex and age composition.

Conducted aerial surveys of the Delta herd resulting in a population estimate of 421 bison. Conducted ground composition surveys resulting in count of 61 bulls:100 cows and 42 calves:100 cows; did not conduct surveys of the Farewell herd because of insufficient personnel time.

### **Activities by herd**

#### **Unit 20D the Delta Herd**

Activity: Replace 4–6 radio collars used to locate bison during aerial and ground surveys that are no longer functional or about to go dead to maintain a sufficient sample of radiocollared bison to monitor the herd.

Placed no radio collars on bison due to existing sufficient sample for herd monitoring.

Activity: Monitor timing of bison movements from the summer range to the Delta Junction Bison Range and the Delta Agricultural Project.

Monitored timing of Delta bison migration using radio collars and visual observations. (Bison moved from the Delta River to the Delta Junction Bison Range beginning on 18 July, and the first bison began moving to private agricultural land on 3 August.)

Activity: Continue investigation of methods and funding options to improve bison viewing opportunities.

Did not investigate bison viewing options because of insufficient personnel time.

Activity: Provide assistance to the public experiencing bison conflicts.

Provided ongoing assistance to the public experiencing bison conflicts.

**Stewardship Investment items purchased:** None

**Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands):** \$33.7

**Submitted by:** Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator

**Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):**

**State Share** = \$8.43

**Federal share** = \$25.28

**Total costs** = \$33.7