

**BISON
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR: W-33-4

PROJECT NR: 9.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2005–30 June 2006

PROJECT LOCATION: Regions 2 and 3

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

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes Region 2 and 3 bison survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

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

Regionwide Activities

Activity: Prepare biennial bison management report.

Biennial bison management reports were prepared in units in which bison occur.

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

Harvest monitored from permits hunts and data analyzed. Data gathered includes the following information:

Unit 11

Copper River herd harvest 2005–06:

4 bison

2 males (50%)

Hunter Effort:

24 permits issued

18 permittees hunted

6.7 days per hunter

No hunt occurred on the Chitina herd in 2005–06.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$2.5

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate, Regional Management Coordinator

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

Regionwide Activities

Activity: Prepare a biennial bison management report.

Prepared biennial bison management reports for Farewell and Delta bison herds.

Activity: Provide bison management information to state regulatory processes.

Provided information to McGrath and Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committees and to the Alaska Board of Game.

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 25 bison from the Delta herd and 28 from the Farewell herd.

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

Conducted fall 2005 bison composition counts in the Delta Herd that resulted in estimates of 71 bulls:100 cows and 47 calves:100 cows based on a sample size of 321 bison; conducted 2 radiotelemetry surveys of the Farewell Herd, resulting in minimum counts of 163 in August 2005 and 94 in April 2006.

Activities by herd

Unit 20D, the Delta Herd

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 21 July, and the first bison began moving to private agricultural land on 18 August.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$53.5

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator