FEDERAL AID
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
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BISON
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY

STATE: Alaska   **GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** W-33-5

PROJECT NR.: 9.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

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

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes bison survey and inventory activities. Region-wide activities are listed before specific activities by herd.

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

Region-wide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial bison management report.

> Biennial report completed in 2006.

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

> *Chitina River Herd* - Preliminary 2006-07 harvest: two permits issued, two hunters took two bulls.

> *Copper River Herd* - Preliminary 2006-07 harvest: 24 permits were issued, 19 hunters killed 11 bison, eight of them males (73%).

Activities by Herd

Unit 11, Chitina River Bison Herd

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

> Preliminary harvest 2006-07: two permits issued, two hunters took two bulls.

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

> On, June-July 2007 survey, 36 bison classified as 32 adults and four as calves (11 percent).

Unit 11 and 13D, Copper River Bison Herd

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

> Preliminary harvest 2006-07: 24 permits were issued, 19 hunters killed 11 bison, eight of them males (73%).

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

> Aerial sex and age population composition surveys, Copper River Herd June/July 2007 classified 110 bison as 92 adults and 18 calves (16 percent).

Submitted by: Gino DelFrate, Region II Management Coordinator

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

Region-wide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Provide bison management information to State 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 and planning a prescribed burn 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 60 bison from the Delta herd and 12 from the Farwell herd.

ACTIVITY 4: Conduct ground and/or aerial surveys to assess population size and sex and age composition.

Delta Herd: Conducted aerial population surveys resulted in a population estimate of 430 bison, and conducted ground based composition surveys that resulted in estimates of 78 bulls:100 cows and 55 calves:100 cows.

Farewell Herd: Conducted a minimum population and composition survey in November 2006 and found a total of 69 bison including 63 adults and 6 calves (9.5 calves:100 adults). During this survey we located 6 of 7 radiocollars, including one on mortality mode. In April 2007, we conducted another minimum population and composition survey and found 79 bison including 11 calves, 4 yearlings, and 64 adults (6.3 yearlings:100 adults and 17.2 calves:100 adults).

Activities by Herd

Unit 20D the Delta Herd

ACTIVITY 1: 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 first began moving to the Delta Junction Bison Range on July 13, 2006. Bison were first observed moving in the Delta Agricultural Project on August 14, 2006.

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