

**FEDERAL AID  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**BISON  
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NO.** W-33-6

**PROJECT NO.** 12.0

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

**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.

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

**Regionwide Activities:**

Activity 1: Prepare biennial bison management report.

*Unit 11 & 13:* Biennial reports to be completed in 2008.

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

	Permittees	Hunters	males	Total harvest
Unit 11 Chitina River	2	2	2 (100%)	2 bison
Unit 11 and 13D Copper River	24	18	6 (55%)	11bison

**Unit 11 Chitina River and Copper River Herds:**

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

*Chitina River Herd:* Two permittees hunted and harvested two bison harvested both males.

*Copper River Herd:* 18 hunters (24 permittees) harvested 6 male and 5 females for a total of 11 bison.

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

*Chitina River Herd - June/July 2008:* 39 total bison, 32 adults and 7 calves (18%)

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*Copper River Herd* - June/July 2008: 135 total bison, 103 adults and 32 calves (24%)

**Submitted by:** Bruce Bartley

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

### **Regionwide Activities**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare bison management reports.

Prepared bison management reports for the Farewell and Delta Herds.

ACTIVITY 2: Provide bison management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.

Provided information to McGrath and Delta Fish and Game advisory committees and the Alaska Board of Game.

ACTIVITY 3: 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 4: Monitor harvest from permit hunts and analyze harvest data.

Monitored and analyzed preliminary harvest of 99 bison from the Delta herd and 7 from the Farwell herd.

ACTIVITY 5: Maintain a sample of radiocollared bison to monitor the herd distribution and movements.

Radiocollared 20 bison from the Farwell Herd to monitor herd distribution and movements, with no mortalities. Radiocollared no bison in the Delta Herd.

### **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 a minimum population estimation survey in conjunction with the radiocollar deployment survey in early April 2008 and confirmed the presence of 187 independent adults. Conducted minimum population and composition survey in June 2008 and found 175 bison including 31 calves (22%)

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

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor timing of bison movements from the summer range to the Delta Junction Bison Range (DJBR) and the Delta Agricultural Project.

Monitored timing of Delta bison migration using radio collars and visual observations.

ACTIVITY 2: Plant and fertilize preferred bison.

Planted 400 acres of oats, fertilized 750 acres of perennial grass for bison forage, and controlled invasive plant species by mowing 600 acres.

ACTIVITY 3: Provide trace mineral and water supplements within the DJBR.

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Provided trace element mineral blocks on the DJBR as needed and provided 8,300 gallons of water in stock tanks.

**ACTIVITY 4: Monitor forage quality within the DJBR**

Collected bison forage samples for analysis of Relative Feed Value on four different dates.

**ACTIVITY 5: Collect blood serum from hunter-killed bison to test for livestock diseases.**

Collected blood from hunter killed bison for future analysis for livestock diseases.

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