

**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-33-7

**PROJECT NO.** 9.0

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

**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.

The next biennial bison management report is due to DWC HQ on 1 June 2010.

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

2008-2009 Harvest	Permittees	Hunters	males	Total harvest
Unit 11 Chitina River	2	2	2 (100%)	2 bison
Unit 11 and 13D Copper River	18	11	2 (50%)	4 bison

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

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

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 2009: 41 total bison, 36 adults and 5 calves (12%)

*Copper River Herd* - June 2009: 143 total bison, 118 adults and 25 calves (17%)

**Submitted by:** Gino DeFrate, Region II Management Coordinator

## **The Status of Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations in 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 and the Alaska Board of Game.

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 113 bison from the Delta herd and 7 from the Farwell herd.

ACTIVITY 4: Maintain a sample of radiocollared bison to monitor the herd distribution and movements.

Radiocollared no bison because a sufficient number of animals were already collared.

### **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 minimum population estimation survey in June 2008 and found 175 bison including 31 calves and another in August 2008 and found 217 bison including 31 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 numerous aerial surveys to determine herd size, resulting in a population estimate of 494 bison; and conducted ground based surveys to estimate sex and age composition of 54 calves:100 cows and 73 bulls:100 cows.

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 14 and the first bison moved to private agricultural land on July 31.

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

Planted oats on approximately 425 acres; and fertilized 700 acres of perennial grasses.

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

Provided trace element mineral blocks and stock tanks were kept full of water (bison drank approximately 8,837 gallons of water).

ACTIVITY 5: Monitor forage quality within the DJBR

Collected and analyzed 7 forage samples for quality.

ACTIVITY 6: Conduct prescribed burns to improve bison habitat within the DJBR.

Conducted no prescribed burns because funding was not available.

ACTIVITY 7: Collect blood serum from hunter-killed bison to test for livestock diseases.

Collected blood from hunter-killed bison but did not test for livestock diseases because funding was not available.

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