

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**BROWN BEAR
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-33-1

PROJECT NR.: 4.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PERIOD: 1 July 2002–30 June 2003

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Regions 1, 2, 3, and 5

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

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This statewide performance report includes the four regions involved in brown bear survey and inventory activities. Regional activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Brown Bear
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I**

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write a survey and inventory annual performance report.

This draft satisfies the activity described.

Activity 2: Finalize a brown bear management report.

The 2-year brown bear management report was completed in spring 2003 and submitted to headquarters.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on brown bear management.

During the report period, staff testified before the Board of Game regarding 3 regulatory proposals specific to Region I brown bear.

Activity 4: Collect hunter and harvest information from all bears harvested and presented for sealing.

Brown bear skulls were measured and the sex determined as bears were sealed, and except in cases where the hunter damaged the skull or external sex identifiers were removed, this data was collected on nearly every bear presented for sealing. All hunters region-wide were required to register for brown bear hunting and submit reports by the end of the season detailing their hunting efforts. Preliminary figures indicate that about 190 bears were killed during the report period.

Activity 5: Collect data on bears killed in defense of life or property.

Area biologists worked with FWP troopers, municipal police officers, and private citizens to collect information on DLP kills. In Unit 4, 9 bears were killed DLP, 0 were found dead, and 3 were killed illegally. In Unit 1D, 5 bears were killed as DLP, one of which was not reported in a timely manner.

Activity 6: Monitor the harvest, seal harvested bears and analyze data.

ADF&G Wildlife Conservation staff as well as FWP Troopers and designated sealing agents sealed brown bears harvested in the region.

Activity 7: Coordinate with community decision makers on local bear issues.

Area biologists worked with a community committee in Sitka to address the garbage issue. At the end of the regulatory year, the committee has compiled bear incident and DLP records to identify target areas within the community that require action and move toward recommendations to the borough assembly. Area biologists also worked with the community of Hyder, Alaska and the Bear Safe group in Stewart, BC to address the garbage issue.

Activity 8: Coordinate with land managers and guides regarding guided hunter effort.

Coordination with land managers and guides was accomplished through mailing and personal contacts, including harvest registration during hunting seasons.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1

Activity 1: Implement results of Chilkoot River planning efforts.

Work continued with the Chilkoot River Corridor group in Haines to reduce bear-human conflicts. Area staff hired and supervised a “river monitor” to inform the public about changes in guidelines for human use and to collect information about area use.

Unit 4

Activity 1: Radio tag and aeriially track a subpopulation of bears.

Area biologists and researchers continued work on northeast Chichagof Island bears during the report period. A total of 19 bears were marked as part of the ongoing work.

Activity 2: Monitor public use of Pack Creek viewing area at Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary.

This activity was successfully carried out July–September 2002 and has begun for the 2003 field season in June.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands) = \$42.6

Submitted by: Dale Rabe, Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Brown Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Prepare a brown bear management report.

Draft brown bear management reports were prepared during spring 2003

Activity 2: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

Preliminary harvest information was available from sealing reports.

Activity 3: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine the sex, and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Activity 4: Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Teeth are sent in on a biannual basis for sectioning and aging. Spring 2003 results will not be available until fall 2003.

Activity 5: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 6: Continue development of line-transect/double count census technique.

Line-transect/double count censuses were conducted in portions of Units 13 and 16 during the spring of 2003. Data is currently being analyzed.

Activities by Unit

Unit 6

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, registration permit reports from Montague Island, and interviews with hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Males 23 Females 21 Total 44

Activity 2: Monitor the brown bear population on Montague Island.

A survey during April 2003 resulted in 135 observations of bear tracks and dens.

Units 7 and 15

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002-03 mortality was:

Males 5	Females 7	Total 12
---------	-----------	----------

Unit 8

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

We issued hunting permits to 566 people, 239 fall permits and 327 spring permits. During the fall season, 161 hunters went afield and killed 49 bears. In the spring season 287 hunters went afield and killed 93 bears. The annual sport harvest was 142 bears, 103 males (73%) and 39 females (27%). Three bears (2 male and 1 female) were killed in the federal brown bear subsistence hunt. An additional 8 non-sport mortalities were documented as follows: defense of life or property (DLP) - 3 (2 males, and 1 female); natural/unknown - 2 (2 unknown sex); illegal - 3 (1 male and 2 females). There were also 3 bears harvested in the Federal subsistence hunt (2 males and 1 female).

The 2002–03 sport harvest of 142 bears was lower than the annual harvest objective of 150 bears. Males composed 73% of the harvest, well above the minimum objective of 60% males. Intensive aerial survey data suggest that the unitwide bear population continues to be stable to slightly increasing.

Activity 2: In cooperation with Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, annually survey a portion of the island to establish baseline bear density estimates and to detect changes in the population.

We successfully completed an intensive aerial survey of the brown bear population in the Karluk Lake drainage from 21–26 May 2003. Survey data indicate that the bear density of that area has increased since the last survey, which was conducted in 1994 (401 independent bears/1000 km² in 1994 versus 496 independent bears/1000 km² in 2003). Preliminary analysis suggests that this increase is statistically significant ($p = 0.0525$).

Activity 3: Develop a draft Unit 8 brown bear management plan.

We completed a comprehensive bear conservation and management plan for the Kodiak archipelago in February 2002. Implementation of plan recommendations commenced in 2002 with initiation of the Kodiak Unified Bear Subcommittee. Representatives from the subcommittee visited bear viewing areas in the region, participated in development of an interagency protocol for “Best Practices for Viewing Bears on the West Side of Cook Inlet and the Katmai Coast”, and they started working on criteria for bear viewing guide

certification procedures. The Department also began production of public information kiosks for the Kodiak airport and the state ferry Tustumena.

Units 9 and 10

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Unit 9	Males 8	Females 4	Total	12
Unit 10	Males 4	Females 3	Total	7

Activity 2: Encourage unit residents to reduce attractive nuisances that lead to DLP kills.

Brown bears and humans continue to come into conflict in virtually every village in Unit 9. The availability of a new bear safety video may improve educational efforts with local residents and recreational visitors. There was increased use of electrified fencing in a few locations.

Activity 3: Conduct population trend counts adjacent to heavily used salmon streams.

Four repetitive surveys were completed near Black Lake in Unit 9E during 5–6 August 2002. A total of 1101 bears were classified.

Units 11 and 13

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Unit 13	Males 88 (66%)	Females 46 (34%)	Total	134
Unit 11	Males 7 (58%)	Females 5 (42%)	Total	12

Unit 14

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Unit 14A	Males 4	Females 3	Unknown 0	Total	7
Unit 14B	Males 4	Females 6	Unknown 1	Total	11
Unit 14C	Males 2	Females 0	Unknown 0	Total	2

Unit14 Total Males 10 Females 9 Unknown 1 Total 20

Unit 16

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest was:

Unit 16A Males 4 Females 1 Unknown 0 Total 5

Unit 16B Males 40 Females 19 Unknown 0 Total 59

Unit 16Total Males 44 Females 20 Unknown 0 Total 64

Unit 17

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, and interviews with successful hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 reported harvest was:

Males 56 Females 38 Unknown 1 Total 95

Activity 2: Work with local home and recreational cabin owners to try and reduce defense of life and property kills.

Installed electric fences at fish drying racks, animal pens, and food storage areas to deter damage by bears.

Reported DLP kill in GMU 17 was 6 brown bears.

Known illegal kill in GMU 17 was 1 brown bear.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

None.

Submitted by Michael McDonald, Assistant Management Coordinator

Segment Period Project Costs: \$139.8

The Status of Alaska Brown Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Prepare a draft brown bear management report.

Wrote a draft or final brown bear management report for all units.

Activity 2: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Wrote an annual survey and inventory report for all units.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game and advisory committees.

Made presentations to the Board of Game and advisory committees as needed.

Activity 4: Obtain estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Obtained ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Activities by Unit

Units 12

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored the harvest through field observations, 12 sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Activity 2: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Sealed 12 brown bears (42% male), analyzed harvest information, extracted tooth for aging.

Activity 3: Monitor blueberry abundance on permanent study plots to evaluate relationships between berry abundance and brown bear harvest.

Monitored blueberry abundance within Tanana River valley using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter² plots/transect). Data will be used to determine relationship between berry abundance and black bear harvest and DLP kills.

Units 19, 21A and 21E

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, conducted interviews with successful hunters and analyze data. Preliminary reported harvest was 67 bears: 6 in 19A, 47 in 19B, 12 in 19C, 1 in 19D and 1 in 21E, none were reported from 21E.

Activity 2: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Sealed bear skins and skulls, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Obtained estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning. The mode age for bears harvested was 4 (range 1–24).

Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F and 25C

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored harvests through sealing of harvested bears (Preliminary RY02 harvest = 29 bears) and analyzed harvest data.

Activity 2: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Sealed bears (Preliminary harvest = 29 bears)

Tooth samples submitted to Matson Laboratory for aging.

Unit 20D

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Preliminary data indicates 13 bears harvested.

Activity 2: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Sealed 13 bears, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Obtained estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Unit 20E

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitor the harvest through field observations, 14 sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyzed harvest data.

Activity 2: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Sealed 14 brown bears (57% male), analyzed harvest information, extracted tooth for aging.

Activity 3: Monitor blueberry abundance on permanent study plots to evaluate relationships between berry abundance and brown bear harvest.

Monitored blueberry abundance along the southern 40 miles of the Taylor Highway using 4 permanent transects (5 1-meter² plots/transect). Data will be used to determine relationship between berry abundance and black bear harvest and DLP kills.

Units 21B, 21C, and 21D

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored harvest and analyzed harvest data (preliminary harvest=2 bears).

Activity 2: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Sealed 2 bears, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Obtained estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Unit 24

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored harvest and analyzed harvest data (preliminary harvest=7 bears).

Activity 2: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Sealed 7 bears, determined sex and extracted a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Obtained estimates of ages of harvested bears by tooth sectioning.

Units 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B and 26C

Activity 1: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyze data.

Monitored the brown bear harvest through field observations, brown bear sealing reports, interviews with successful hunters and analyzed of data

Activity 2: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing by hunters.

Sealed bear skins and skulls including: 21 in GMU 25A, 8 in Units 25B and D, 7 in Unit 26B and 8 in Unit 26C based on preliminary sealing reports

Tooth samples from sealed bears submitted for tooth sectioning.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

None.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands) = \$66.8

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Brown Bears and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region V

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Draft a brown bear management report.

Area biologists collected and analyzed data to be used in the final report to be submitted in headquarters in September 2003.

Activity 2: Write a survey and inventory annual performance report.

Performance report for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A were prepared August 2003 and submitted to HQ early September 2003

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on brown bear management.

Unit 18: Information regarding brown bears was presented to the Unit 18 Advisory Committees to assist in their deliberation of a Department proposal (which will be considered by the Board of Game in November 2003) to change the brown bear season in Unit 18, south of the south bank of the Yukon River.

Unit 22. A Board of Game meeting was not scheduled during the reporting period

Activity 4: Review and revise population objectives.

No work was completed toward this activity in this reporting period.

Activity 5: Monitor the brown bear harvest through field observations, analyses of brown bear sealing data, and interviews with hunters.

Unit 18: Eight hunters utilizing the general hunting regulations reported harvesting bears during 2001–2002. Harvest data for the 2002–2003 general hunting seasons are not finalized.

Unit 22. The reported harvest during the reporting period was 78 brown bears, including 4 DLPs. In Unit 22A 22 bears were harvested, 28 bears in Unit 22B, 8 bears in Unit 22C, 11 in Unit 22D and 9 were harvested in Unit 22E. Records indicate that 53 (68%) male, 24 (31%) females, and 1 (<1%) unknown bears were harvested. Since the proportion of male bears harvested in 2002 is similar to historical harvest records (65% since the mid 1980's), the decrease portion of in male bears harvested in 2001 (54%) appears to be a random event rather than a significant change in harvest or population structure of brown bears in Unit 22.

Unit 23: Twenty eight brown bears (12 males and 16 females) were reported taken in Unit 23 through the statewide brown bear sealing program. Harvest data from the Northwest Brown Bear Management Area subsistence registration permit hunt was not available. Brown bears were observed opportunistically while conducting surveys for other wildlife species.

Unit 26A: We examined sealing data from the 2002-2003 regulatory year. Fourteen bears were sealed from Unit 26A, of which 10 were males and 4 were females. Six were harvested in August, and 5 in September, 1 in April and 2 in May. Twelve were harvested with the use of aircraft, and 2 were harvested with snow machines. Nonresidents harvested 7 bears, nonlocal state residents harvested 6 bears, and 1 local resident harvested a bear. eight hunters used a registered guide, 2 used commercial transportation, and 4 used no commercial services. Ten

bears were harvested in the eastern portion of Unit 26A and 4 were harvested in the western portion.

Activity 6: Analyze registration permit harvest data collected in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area and the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area.

WABBMA: Harvest information for the 2001–2002 subsistence hunting season was finalized and 3 of 69 hunters who obtained the WABBMA registration permit were successful. Harvest data for the 2002–2003 subsistence season are not finalized.

Activity 7: Use public education programs and/or increased communication with the public to improve understanding of the value of conserving brown bear populations, and to obtain better harvest data through increased harvest reporting.

Unit 18: Modest improvements have been made toward public use and understanding of the defense of life and property (DLP) regulations and their importance to conservation. We have heard by word of mouth that several bears have been taken but no records have been submitted.

Unit 22: Increased communication with the village public safety officers (VPSOs) and tribal councils seems to have resulted in better reporting of bears taken in DLP near villages. When requested, we supplied VPSOs with rubber bullets.

Unit 23: ADF&G provided individuals and local advisory committees with population and harvest information.

Unit 26A: We discussed bear regulations and the defense of life or property provision and their pertinence to conservation at public meetings and on radio programs, and ran articles in the newspaper.

Activity 8: Seal bear skins and skulls, determine sex and extract a tooth for aging from brown bears presented for sealing.

Unit 18: We sealed bear skins and skulls, determined the sex and extracted a tooth for aging brown bears presented for sealing. Most of the bears taken in Unit 18 were presented to the Anchorage office for sealing.

Unit 22: Brown bears were sealed at the Fish and Game office in Nome and by authorized sealing agents in White Mountain, Shishmaref, and Unalakleet.

Unit 23: Brown bear skulls and skins taken under the Unit 23 general hunt were sealed and premolars were collected to determine age. The sex of each bear was confirmed from the skin of external organs. No bears taken under RB700 were sealed because no hides were removed from the hunt area.

Unit 26A: All of the bears harvested in this unit were sealed outside of the unit.

Activity 9: Obtain estimates of ages of sealed bears by tooth sectioning.

Unit 18: Teeth were not sent in for age analysis since the small number of bears taken would not provide a meaningful data set.

Unit 22. Premolars were extracted from sealed bears and sent to Matson’s Lab for sectioning and aging. The results from the 2002–2003 harvest are not yet available. However, the results from the 2001–2002 regulatory year were returned and show no change in the age structure of the harvest. Since Unit 22 age records began in 1967, the age of harvested bears has averaged 6.5. years. During this reporting period harvested bears averaged 6.75 years. Age reports were sent to hunters who harvested bears during the 2001–2002 regulatory year.

Unit 23: Premolars extracted from bears taken in Unit 23 were sent to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Anchorage to be sectioned, stained and aged.

Unit 26A: Extracted teeth were sent to Matson’s Lab to be sectioned and aged. We have not received the ages for bears harvested in 2002-2003.

Activity 10: Communicate and coordinate with local residents to reduce bear/human problems, improve understanding of defense of life or property (DLP) situations, and reduce need for DLP kills.

Unit 18: We fielded questions from the public regarding DLP regulations and provided information on reducing bear human conflicts on an as needed basis.

Activities by Unit

Unit 22

Activity 1: Assess population trends through field observations and analyses of sealing data.

Observations by staff, reports from the public, and analysis of sealing data indicate the Unit 22 brown bear population has increased over the last decade and probably exceeds our management goal of maintaining the population at levels estimated during the bear census and research study conducted in the early 1990s.

There were 78 brown bears harvested during the reporting period, including 4 DLP. Thirty-six bears were harvested during the fall portion of the season, and 42 bears were harvested during the spring portion. Although the 2002 harvest is the lowest reported harvest in 4 years, it is close to the ten-year average annual harvest of 73 bears per year.

Activity 2: Analyze harvest data collected from selected communities in Unit 22. (Note: Data collected using Community-based Harvest Assessments in coordination with the ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Alaska Native organizations and other resource agencies. in villages is not funded by Federal Aid; Analysis of harvest data is funded by Federal Aid).

Community-based harvest assessments were conducted in Unalakleet and Stebbins. Respondents in Unalakleet reported no bear harvest and Stebbins residents reported harvesting 2 bears. The 2 Stebbins bears had not been previously reported.

Activity 3: Educate the public about bear behavior and safety to minimize conflicts between bears and the public.

An electric fence bear is available for loan to the public. The fence has been set up seasonally at a fish camp on a river approximately 70 miles east of Nome, and has been a very effective bear deterrent. Public service announcements were aired on the radio and published in newspapers emphasizing awareness of bears in the area, the importance of clean camps and not leaving food, dog food, garbage or other attractants unattended or accessible to bears. Copies of the bear safety video, "Staying Safe in Bear Country," are available on loan from the Nome Fish and Game office to interested groups or individuals. The pamphlet "Bear Facts - The Essentials for Traveling in Bear Country" has been distributed throughout Unit 22, and is also available at the Nome Fish and Game office.

Units 18, 23 and 26A

Activity 1: Monitor population trends through field observations, censuses, registration permit hunt reports, and analysis of sealing data.

Unit 18. The department, FWS, and BLM concluded the cooperative brown bear radiocollaring project with the removal of the remaining 20 collars and retrieval of 3 collars on mortality mode. Animals had been radiotracked since 1993 to determine seasonal movements and estimate productivity. We estimated the following parameters:

age of first reproduction	7.2 years
age of first successful reproduction	9.0 years
Mean litter size for cubs of the year (COY)	1.98
Mean litter size at weaning	1.62
Mean age at weaning	3.00 years
reproductive interval	4.6 years
Mean annual sow productivity	0.35 cubs weaned per year
survival rate of cubs from birth to weaning from 1993 to 2000	32.4% (34 weaned of 105 cubs produced)
mean annual survival rate for adult females from 1993 to 2000	95.0%

Unit 23. Brown bear abundance was monitored through opportunistic observations while surveying and radio tracking other wildlife species. Brown bear abundance was also discussed with advisory committee members, many local residents and some long-term guides and transporters. Brown bears currently appear to be abundant throughout Unit 23.

Unit 26A. From sightings of bears during surveys for other species, and reports from hunters and pilots, it appears that brown bears are relatively plentiful in Unit 26A. We also participated in a line transect census technique used to count bears in southeastern Unit 26A and southwestern Unit 26B in April. Data from this census are being analyzed.

Activity 2: Remove radiocollars at the end of their useful battery life from bears in Unit 18.

The department, FWS, and BLM concluded the cooperative brown bear radiocollaring project with the removal of the remaining 20 collars and retrieval of 3 collars on mortality mode.

Activity 3: Analyze harvest data collected from selected communities in Unit 23. (Note: Data collection using Community-based Harvest Assessments is a cooperative effort with the ADF&G Division of Subsistence, Alaska Native organizations and other resource agencies and is not funded by Federal Aid. Analysis of harvest data is funded by Federal Aid).

Unit 23. Community-based harvest assessments were conducted in Shungnak and Noorvik during this reporting period. Analysis of this data is not complete.

Activity 4. Analyze harvest data collected from selected communities in Unit 26A. (Note: Data collection is a cooperative effort with ADF&G Subsistence Division and the North Slope Borough and is not funded by Federal Aid. Analysis of harvest data is funded by Federal Aid).

Unit 26A. The department received information from the North Slope Borough Harvest Documentation Project and the Subsistence Division on the harvest of bears in some North Slope villages.

Activity 5: Improve communication with the public regarding the take of radiocollared bears so that ADF&G can conduct a population census in Unit 18.

Unit 18. We met with representatives of the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), FWS, Subsistence Division, local Advisory Committees, RAC and local IRA councils. We discussed the WABBMA subsistence brown bear registration permit system, improving our harvest information, liberalization of seasons and bag limits, and the conclusion of the cooperative brown bear research project. We will no longer pursue a population estimate of the bear population in Unit 18.

Activity 4: Develop updated population objectives in cooperation with the public and the USFWS in Unit 18.

No work was completed toward this objective.

Other activities funded by federal aid on this project: None.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands) = \$41.1

Submitted by: Peter Bente, Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$72.58 Federal Share = \$217.73 Total Costs = \$290.3