

**Wildlife Restoration OPERATING GRANT  
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Wildlife Restoration Grant**

**GRANT NUMBER:** AKW-23

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 14.31

**PROJECT TITLE:** Seasonal predation patterns of wolves in single and multiple-ungulate systems

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

**REPORT DUE DATE:** Sept 1, 2018

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Gretchen Roffler

**COOPERATORS:** National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, Dr. Taal Levi (Oregon State University)

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Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328  
2 CFR 200.301  
50 CFR 80.90

**I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Live-capture, radio collar, and monitor wolves.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** During April and May 2018 we captured and instrumented 3 adult wolves (2 males, 1 female) with GPS collars. A male and a female (breeding pair) were captured in Berners Bay, and one male was captured on the Gustavus Forelands, and has since dispersed to the adjacent Chilkat Peninsula.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Investigate kill sites.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** No work was completed on this objective during the reporting period (see below).

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Determine predation patterns during late summer and late winter.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** No work was completed on this objective during the reporting period (see below).

OBJECTIVE 4: Determine minimum counts of wolves.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: We conducted 6 radiotelemetry flights to track the collared wolves between April and June 2018. We observed 2 adult wolves in the Berners Bay pack (the collared wolves). We observed the wolf captured in Gustavus with 2 other wolves before it dispersed to the Chilkat Peninsula, where it was observed alone.

OBJECTIVE 5: Assess spatial distribution and movement patterns of radiocollared wolves.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: We evaluated downloaded GPS locations of wolves and stored data in a data base. We evaluated wolf home range distribution and movement patterns.

OBJECTIVE 6: Data synthesis and preparation of publications.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: No work was completed on this objective during the reporting period.

## **II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.**

We were unable to initiate research activities until Spring 2018. Wolves were instrumented with GPS collars in April and May, after the late winter kill rate estimation period, thus we were unable to investigate kill sites or collect data for estimating predation patterns.

## **III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.**

Project funding was not announced or made available until February 2018. Due to the delayed notice of funding, research activities were greatly restricted in FY 2018. We made substantial efforts to initiate research activities this year but extending the project through 2023 to ensure a full 5 years would be beneficial.

## **IV. PUBLICATIONS**

NA

## **V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT**

Extending the project through 2023 to fully cover the proposed 5-year study period is recommended.

**Prepared by: Gretchen Roffler, Wildlife Biologist III**

**Submitted by: Susannah Woodruff, Research Coordinator**

**Date:** August 21, 2018