

**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 : 20.0

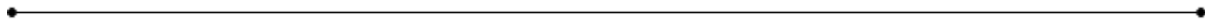
PROJECT TITLE: Interior Alaska Wildlife Planning

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

REPORT DUE DATE: 01 September 2018

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Darren L. Bruning, Fish and Game Coordinator

COOPERATORS: Not applicable.



I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify, evaluate, and prioritize existing and emerging wildlife management issues throughout the region, and identify the planning and public involvement work needed to address the issues

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Interior Region planning needs were identified and prioritized by ADF&G Regional staff. The following are the highest priorities identified:

1 – wood bison restoration

2 – Fortymile caribou herd harvest management

- Communicated with communities in the Lower Innoko/Yukon River area regarding the conservation of wood bison, including assessment of public attitude and sentiment toward the wood bison population.

OBJECTIVE 2: Design and implement collaborative planning processes to address priority wildlife management issues and increase stakeholder involvement in wildlife policy decision-making.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Planned, organized, and conducted two Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition meetings (October 2017 and January 2018).

OBJECTIVE 3: Coordinate collaborative planning efforts with advisory committees and federal and regional subsistence councils, and reports and presentations on planning projects will be made to the State Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Met regularly with many groups: advisory committees; advisory councils; federal and state agencies; and private groups to identify and discuss wildlife management issues and to identify collaborative measures to utilize in addressing the issues. A partial list of the groups, entities, organizations, and agencies who were engaged by ADF&G to identify potential planning efforts:
 - All Interior Alaska Fish and Game Advisory Committees
 - numerous and diverse local wildlife management issues
 - National Park Service - Regional Office, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
 - Fortymile caribou management
 - wildlife health surveillance
 - wildlife harvest regulations
 - Friends of Creamer's Field
 - public use of Creamer's Field State Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
 - United States Army-Fort Wainwright
 - impacts to public hunting opportunity/wildlife harvest due to military training
 - Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
 - reclamation of SWCD water erosion project on Delta Junction Bison Range

OBJECTIVE 4: Implement and/or monitor implementation of plans that result from collaborative planning processes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Monitored implementation of the final year of the of Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan, 2012-2018.

OBJECTIVE 5: Produce Power Point presentations, newsletters and other informational materials to inform members of the public and other agencies of wildlife planning activities and provide opportunities for public comment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Ongoing update of wood bison restoration, conservation, and management Power Point presentation.
- Deliver wood bison restoration, conservation, and management Power Point presentations at University of Alaska Fairbanks wildlife management classes, Oregon

State University Wildlife Capture and Handling course (twice), Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, National Park Service, Tanana Valley Sportmen's Association, and the American Bison Society.

- Collaborated and contributed to production of Dall's Sheep News, Winter 2017 and Wood Bison News Issue No. 10, Spring – 2018

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

Not applicable

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

Not applicable

IV. PUBLICATIONS

[HTTP://WWW.ADFG.ALASKA.GOV/STATIC/RESEARCH/WILDLIFE/SPECIES/WOODBISONRESTORATION/PDFS/WOODBISON_NEWS_10_SPRING_2018.PDF](http://WWW.ADFG.ALASKA.GOV/STATIC/RESEARCH/WILDLIFE/SPECIES/WOODBISONRESTORATION/PDFS/WOODBISON_NEWS_10_SPRING_2018.PDF)

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/hunting/dallsheephunting/pdfs/dalls_sheep_news_winter_2017.pdf

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

This project will be ongoing indefinitely.

Prepared by: Darren L. Bruning, Interior and Northeast Arctic Regional Supervisor-Fish and Game Coordinator

Date: 27 August 2018