

**WOOD BISON
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NUMBER: AKW-4 Wildlife Restoration FY2015

PROJECT NUMBER: 10.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Wood bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes wood bison survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Wood bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations in
Region III**

Region wide Activities: Unit 21E

1. Assisted in the husbandry of wood bison at AWCC. Handled over 140 bison and administered supplements, medications, and ear tag ID to appropriate individuals.
2. Used and removed the soft release pens along the Innoko River 3.5 miles North of Shageluk.
3. Reintroduced 130 Wood Bison to the wilds of Alaska in April, May, and June 2015
4. Provided wood bison reintroduction information to State and Federal regulatory processes: Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Board of Game, federal Regional Advisory Councils and federal Subsistence Board.
5. Conducted an official Wood Bison public planning process, and provided biological information and expertise to support the effort.
6. Deployed 120 radio collars on bison to monitor herd distribution and movements.

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7. Conducted 31 radio tracking surveys to assess population distribution, size and sex and age composition before June 30, 2015.
8. Collected tissue samples from 5 bison that died from unknown causes in an attempt to rule out infectious disease before June 30, 2015.

Submitted by: C. Tom Seaton, Wood Bison Project Biologist