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

PLAINS BISON ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT No. AKW-4 Wildlife Restoration FY2015

PROJECT No. 9.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Plains Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations

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

The Status of Plains Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III

Region wide activities:

- 1. Prepared 2 biennial bison management reports.
- 2. Monitor harvest of 83 bison from permit hunts and analyzed harvest data.
- 3. Provide bison management information to State and Federal regulatory processes: 17 Fish and Game Advisory Committees, 1 Board of Game, 3 federal Regional Advisory Councils and 1 federal Subsistence Board.
- 4. Maintained a sample of 60 radio collared bison to monitor herd distribution and movements.
- 5. Conducted 5 surveys to assess population distribution, size and sex and age composition.
- 6. Collect biological samples from 30 hunter-killed bison to conduct genetics analysis and disease screening.
- 7. Assessed conditions of 2 bison ranges and worked with fire control agencies to improve habitat.
- 8. Conducted 1 Delta Junction Bison Range program that includes: monitoring movements to and from the range; planting and fertilizing preferred bison forage

AKW-4 9.0 Plains Bison S&I Combined FY2015

Annual Performance Report

species and controlling invasive, non-desirable species; providing trace mineral and water supplements; and monitoring forage quality.

Covers GMUs: 19C, 19D, and 20D

Prepared by: Doreen Parker McNeil, Region III Management Coordinator

The Status of Plains Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region IV

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Unit 11

Region wide activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial bison management report.

The biennial bison management report was drafted and submitted to the region for review.

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

2014-2015 Harvest	Permittees	Hunters	Males	Total harvest
Unit 11 Chitina River	2	2	1	1 bison
Unit 11 and 13D Copper River	25	14	4 (50%)	8 bison

Activities by Unit:

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 2015: 57 total bison, 52 adults and 5 calves

Copper River Herd - June 2015: 181 total bison, 151 adults and 30 calves

Submitted by: Lem Butler, Region IV Regional Supervisor