

**FEDERAL AID  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**HABITAT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR:** W-33-3

**PROJECT NR:** 25.0

**WORK LOCATION:** Region III

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2004 – 30 June 2005

**PROJECT TITLE:** Alaska Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

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**Project Activities and Accomplishments**

**Project Personnel Conducted Activities and Accomplishments**

Activity: Plan landscape-scale prescribed fires.

Discontinued work on the Wolf Lake prescribed burn plan after a large wildland fire burned to the edge of the proposed project during summer 2004.

Activity: Plan postlogging prescribed fires to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, forest health, and diversity in managed forests.

Worked with Fairbanks Area Forestry fire personnel to update the prescribed burn plan for the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project Area (Nenana Ridge).

Activity: Provide technical review of timber harvest plans and other planning documents affecting wildlife values.

Reviewed Forest Land Use Plans for 2 timber sales in the Delta Junction area.

Activity: Conduct literature reviews in forestry and wildlife media to define methods of vegetation manipulation potentially suited for use in the boreal forest of Interior Alaska.

Obtained current literature on forestry practices and habitat management techniques by scanning abstracts for some citations with the help of administrative staff and putting them into a ProCite® database for future reference.

Activity: Participate in interagency or public meetings, workshops, and seminars related to study objectives.

Served as ADF&G representative on the Forest Stewardship Committee that meets semi-annually to advise the Division of Forestry (DOF) on awarding of U.S. Department of Agriculture funds for forest management on private lands. Chaired the program committee responsible for organizing a joint meeting of the Alaska chapters of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) for spring 2005 and gave 2 presentations at the meeting: "Pretreatment effect of logging site habitat on rodent density in the Tok River Valley" and "Maintaining boreal wildlife habitat while

mitigating fire risk in the wildland urban interface.” Also attended the annual Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) fundraising banquet and presented 2 posters (results of artificial nest predation study at Nenana Ridge and Interior game bird harvest trends).

Activity: Participate in interagency training opportunities related to prescribed burning and fire effects monitoring or other silvicultural practices that affect wildlife habitat.

Chaired a technical workshop, “Managing Small Trees in the Northern Forest,” offered as a Continuing Forestry Education Short Course by the Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative and Yukon River Chapter of SAF; and completed a class in “Landscape Ecology for Wildlife Habitat” at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF).

Activity: Produce data files and media products from a geographic information system (GIS) for internal use, sharing with cooperators, and public information.

Used ArcView to prepare maps for fieldwork, presentations, and reports.

Activity: Initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to support the study.

Submitted a land use permit application to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Division of Mining, Land and Water for the planned prescribed burn on the western Tanana Flats; and submitted an open burn application to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) - Division of Air Quality for the planned prescribed burn on the western Tanana Flats.

Activity: Write annual survey and inventory reports; use newspaper, television, radio, and Internet media for information exchange and public notice; and provide public involvement as necessary.

Prepared and distributed a news release prior to ignition of the prescribed burn at Nenana Ridge; interviewed with media about the aspen burn at Nenana Ridge, resulting in a feature article in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and announcements on local radio stations; produced and distributed a 37-minute video of the May 6 aspen burn at Nenana Ridge; sent letters to people owning land near the prescribed burn planned for the western Tanana Flats; prepared a summary of forest inventory and drumming data for Interior ruffed grouse as part of a continent-wide overview of habitat conservation facilitated by the RGS; provided comments to a Delta Junction farmer on enhancing sharptailed grouse habitat; gave a presentation entitled “Boreal forest management and science: meeting short-term and long-term societal needs” at the Institute of Arctic Biology, UAF; and submitted a FY04 performance report and FY06 work plan to federal aid.

### **Project Personnel Coordinated Activities and Accomplishments**

Activity: Implement landscape-scale prescribed fires.

Did not implement the prescribed burn planned for the western Tanana Flats due to weather, excessive smoke from wildland fires, and limited fire resources due to wildland fire activity.

Activity: Implement postlogging prescribed fires to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, forest health, and diversity in managed forests, and gain proficiency in safely, cost-effectively conducting postlogging burns.

Did not complete the postlogging broadcast burn of logging slash in the proposed timber sale NC-837 near Tok during summer 2005 because the timber on the site was not offered for sale by DOF; and did not attempt the postlogging broadcast burn of logging slash in the Standard Creek Timber Harvest Area because fire resources were needed for wildland fires.

Activity: Mechanically scarify logged timber sale units to enhance establishment of shrub and hardwood tree seedlings.

Did not treat new areas because of budget constraints, and because new areas were not identified.

Activity: Fell, shearblade, or burn mature standing aspen on 5–25-acre units to stimulate root suckering and subsequent establishment of young aspen stands within older aspen forest to benefit ruffed grouse, moose, and other wildlife species and evaluate the cost efficacies of the different techniques.

Ignited 1 of 3 parcels (approximately 27 acres) prepared for prescribed burning at the Nenana Ridge on May 6; and worked with DOF personnel to transfer the RGS contribution for 2004 to the Tok area to help fund fuel break construction through spruce stands containing aspen.

Activity: Mechanically treat or prescribed burn spruce-dominated stands on public lands adjacent to developed areas to increase opportunities for management of wildland fires and, locally, to stimulate development of deciduous shrubs and trees in place of the more fire prone spruce.

Worked with Fairbanks Area Forestry to let contracts for shearblading of black spruce at selected sites (approximately 100 acres) in the Little Chena River drainage.

Activity: Construct pioneer access roads to project sites to facilitate implementation of selected treatments and subsequent monitoring, and provide for public use of the treated areas.

Did not construct additional access roads because they were not needed for existing projects.

Activity: Install signs at project sites to inform the public about the habitat enhancement activities.

Did not install new signs because existing signs were sufficient.

Activity: Mechanically treat willow stands with a dozer or hydroax to stimulate crown sprouting for the benefit of moose and other wildlife species.

No additional willow stands were treated because of other higher priority tasks.

Activity: Provide prescribed fire opportunities for firefighting staff at DNR/DOF and BLM/AFS to develop expertise in planning and implementing prescribed burning, meeting specific management objectives, and reducing prescribed burning costs.

Provided prescribed burning experience for firefighters at the Nenana Ridge aspen burn during May.

Activity: Coordinate other ADF&G/DWC staff involvement in interagency training opportunities related to prescribed burning and fire effects monitoring or other silvicultural practices that affect wildlife habitat.

Chaired the program committee responsible for organizing a joint meeting of the Alaska chapters of the SAF and TWS for spring 2005.

**Stewardship Investment items purchased:** None.

**Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands):** \$67.6

**Submitted by:** Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator

**Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):**

**State Share =** \$16.9

**Federal share =** \$50.7

**Total costs =** \$67.6