

**FEDERAL AID
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR: W-33-5

WORK LOCATION: Region III

PROJECT NR: 25.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007

PROJECT TITLE: Alaska Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Project Activities and Accomplishments

Activities are divided between those that were conducted directly by project personnel and those that were coordinated by project personnel. Most of the operating costs for implementing the activities coordinated by project personnel were funded from other sources and are not documented in this project.

Project Personnel Conducted Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Plan one or more landscape-scale prescribed fires in GMU 20A.

Accomplishments: No new plans were developed because the project assistant was assigned to a different program midway through the reporting period.

ACTIVITY 2: Plan postlogging prescribed fires to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, forest health and diversity in managed forests.

Accomplishments: Worked with Alaska Department of Natural Resources–Division of Forestry (DOF) Fairbanks Area Fire Management Officer (FMO) and Bureau of Land Management FMO to complete the prescribed burn plan for the Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burn Project.

ACTIVITY 3: Provide technical review of timber harvest plans and other planning documents affecting wildlife values.

Accomplishments: No technical review was provided due to loss of the project assistant.

ACTIVITY 4: 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.

Accomplishments: Obtained and reviewed current literature on forestry practices and habitat management techniques, and maintained a ProCite® database of abstracts.

ACTIVITY 5: Participate in interagency or public meetings, workshops, and seminars related to study objectives.

Accomplishments:

- Attended the Hardwood Management Workshop sponsored by Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative in Wasilla, 11-12 October 2006; and gave two invited presentations: “Stand-Level Habitat Concepts in Forest Management” and “Northern deciduous forest as wildlife habitat.”
- Chaired a joint forestry-wildlife session at the American Fisheries Society meeting on marine-derived nutrients, 15 November 2006.

ACTIVITY 6: Produce data files and media products from a geographic information system (GIS) for internal use, sharing with cooperators, and public information.

Accomplishments: Served on the GIS panel “Spatial Information in Strategic Decisions” sponsored by UAF at the 41st Alaska Surveying & Mapping Conference, 20 March 2007.

ACTIVITY 7: Initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to support the study.

Accomplishments: Revised the Project Statement to cover planned activities during the next 5 years, beginning 1 July 2008.

ACTIVITY 8: Participate in workshop or seminar related to study objectives or training opportunities related to prescribed burning, fire effects monitoring, or other silvicultural practices that affect wildlife habitat.

Accomplishments:

- Gave a talk on habitat to 20 members of Osher Lifelong Learning program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), 15 September 2006.
- Gave PowerPoint presentations on the planned Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burn Project at the joint Fire Effects Task Group/Fuels and Prescribed Fire Committee meeting on 28 September 2006 and at the Interagency Fall Fire Review, 23-24 October 2006. These presentations were made to increase awareness of the project, encourage financial support and discuss the potential benefits to wildlife.
- Gave talk on intensive management of habitat to about 40 people in Arctic Audubon at the Noel Wein library, Fairbanks, on 13 November 2006.
- Gave talking points to Riley Woodford for article on moose habitat (Dec 2006 DWC Wildlife News).
- Presented another version of “Stand-Level Habitat Concepts in Forest Management” talk to about 30 DOF Resource Foresters at their statewide meeting in Anchorage, 15 February 2007.
- Talked about forest management for wildlife during a 1 June 2007 field trip for scientists attending a UAF hosted conference on "Climate Change Impacts on Boreal Forest Disturbance Regimes.”

ACTIVITY 9: 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.

Accomplishments:

- Wrote an article published in the Northern Journal of Applied Forestry entitled “Short-Term Responses of Aspen to Fire and Mechanical Treatments in Interior Alaska.”
- Summarized aspen sampling procedures and data (including spatial layers) for subsequent resampling efforts by the habitat management program and put all the information on a CD for ease of archive and sharing.
- Prepared an FY06 Performance Report, an FY08 Work Plan and an FY08 budget request.

Project Personnel Coordinated Activities

ACTIVITY 10: Implement Western Tanana Flats Prescribed Burn Plan, by coordinating a burn of Unit #4.

Accomplishments: Unable to implement the prescribed burn planned for the western Tanana Flats due to weather. Implementation will remain a priority for summer 2008.

ACTIVITY 11: Coordinate a broadcast burn of logging slash on one or more harvest units in Tok River timber sale NC-837 to improve wildlife habitat and provide site treatments for an ongoing research project under Study 5.0. No historic structures occur in the unit.

Accomplishments: Did not coordinate a broadcast burn because planned research cannot be completed until after DOF puts the sale units out for bid and the timber is harvested.

ACTIVITY 12: Coordinate a broadcast burn of logging slash on an approximately 50-acre site in the Standard Creek timber harvest area to improve wildlife habitat, and forest health and diversity in managed forests; and to gain proficiency in safely and cost-effectively conducting postlogging burns. No historic structures occur in the unit.

Accomplishments: Did not attempt the post-logging broadcast burn of logging slash in the Standard Creek Timber Harvest Area because a series of research prescribed burns in black spruce at Nenana Ridge were a higher priority.

ACTIVITY 13: Burn mature standing aspen on two 20-25 acre units on Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project to stimulate root suckering and subsequent establishment of young aspen stands within older aspen forest. The activity will benefit ruffed grouse, moose, and other wildlife species and help us evaluate the cost of different enhancement techniques. No historic structures occur in the units.

Accomplishments: Did not complete this burn of standing aspen because DOF did not have the resources to do the planned burn in early May 2007 when the area came into prescription and rain was received shortly thereafter and leaf out occurred before the fuels could dry out again.

Project No. 25.0 – Habitat Management
FY07 Final Performance Report

ACTIVITY 14: Burn an approximately 250 acre unit of black spruce and mixed black spruce-birch-aspen forest at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project to rejuvenate the aspen, birch, willow and alder components of the stand (Objectives 1–2, 7–9, and 11–14) and evaluate factors in site conversion of spruce dominated forest to early-successional forbs, shrubs, and hardwood saplings (Study 5.0, Jobs 1F and 1G). The activity will benefit ruffed grouse, moose, and other wildlife species that require early-seral forest. No historic structures occur in the unit.

Accomplishments: Unable to conduct the planned burns because conditions required by the prescription did not materialize. Prescribed burning will be attempted again during summer 2008.

ACTIVITY 15: 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.

Accomplishments: Did not coordinate staff involvement in interagency training opportunities because no training opportunities were available.

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Region III Management Coordinator