

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-7

WORK LOCATION: Region III

PROJECT NO. 25.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

PROJECT TITLE: Alaska Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Project Activities and Accomplishments

ACTIVITY 1: Initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to prepare for prescribe burning of approximately 100 acres of black spruce and mixed black spruce-birch-aspen forest at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project.

Accomplishments: Burned approximately one-half of the 240 acre Unit A at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project on June 17, 2009, to evaluate experimental fuel treatments in black spruce dominated forest; did not burn Unit B because the required conditions did not materialize.

ACTIVITY 2: Assist the McGrath Area Biologist and Assistant Area Biologist initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to accomplish a prescribe burn in the Farewell area and oversee the burn operation.

Accomplishments: No prescribed burning planning done due to other priorities.

ACTIVITY 3: Participate in meetings, workshop or seminars related to study objectives or training opportunities related to prescribed burning, fire effects monitoring, or other silvicultural practices that affect wildlife habitat.

Accomplishments: Discussed fire effects research and needs at the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group sponsored Fire Effects Task Group meetings and Interagency Fall Fire Review.

ACTIVITY 4: Coordinate a broadcast burn of logging slash on one or more harvest units in Tok River timber sale NC-837 to improve wildlife habitat.

Accomplishments: Began timber harvesting in Block B, the area containing the wildlife research units, in late winter 2009; deleted prescribed burning from the list of treatments for this activity.

ACTIVITY 5: Initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to prescribe burn Unit #4 of the Western Tanana Flats Prescribed Burn Plan and oversee the burn operation.

Accomplishments: Renewed the ADEC Open Burn Approval and coordinated weekly with DOF to identify an opportunity to ignite the burn unit on the western Tanana Flats;

burning precluded by unusually high demand for fire resources for wildland fires and severe smoke incursions into populated areas.

ACTIVITY 6: Initiate or coordinate contracting, other administrative tasks and fieldwork necessary to mechanically treat aspen, willow and birch on approximately 500 acres in the 1987 Granite Creek burn near Delta Junction.

Accomplishments: Completed during the previous reporting period.

ACTIVITY 7: Periodically visit the areas in the 1987 Granite Creek burn near Delta Junction that were mechanically treated during March 2008 to evaluate the effectiveness of the dozer work and document vegetative growth.

Accomplishments: Did not visit the treated areas in 2009 but received favorable reports from the DWC Delta Area Office and the Delta Junction office of the National Resources Conservation Service.

ACTIVITY 8: Produce data files and media products from a geographic information system (GIS) for internal use, sharing with cooperators, and public information.

Accomplishments: Prepared maps for the Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burn Plan in GMU 20B, the Subalpine Research Prescribed Burn Plan in GMU 20A, and wildland fires.

ACTIVITY 9: Plan one or more landscape-scale prescribed fires in GMU 20A.

Accomplishments: Helped prepare the Subalpine Research Prescribed Burn Plan for three prescribed burns in the foothills of the Alaska Range.

ACTIVITY 10: Initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to prescribe burn mature standing aspen on one or more 20-25 acre units at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project.

Accomplishments: Undertook no aspen burns during this reporting period due to commitment of fire resources to three other prescribed burns in the Fairbanks Area.

ACTIVITY 11: Re-sample permanent vegetation plots in postlogging treatments, prescribed burns or mechanically treated areas.

Accomplishments: Vegetation plots were not revisited during the reporting period due to other commitments.

ACTIVITY 12: Prepare videos of management activities.

Accomplishments: Took digital video from the fire line during ignition of Unit A of the Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burn on June 17, 2009, and during inspection of the treatment plots on June 18, 2009.

ACTIVITY 13: Gather digital imaging or geographical positioning data to document and analyze project accomplishments and enhance public information capabilities.

Accomplishments: Collected GPS data were during the June 17, 2009, Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burn to geo-reference digital images taken of the prescribed burn operation.

ACTIVITY 14: Plan stand-scale prescribed fires to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, forest health and diversity in managed forests.

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Accomplishments: Helped prepare the Subalpine Research Prescribed Burn Plan for three prescribed burns in the foothills of the Alaska Range; helped update and finalize the Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burn Plan; and updated and submitted applications for ADEC Open Burn Approvals for the Subalpine Research Prescribed Burn Plan, Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burn Plan, and the Western Tanana Flats Prescribed Burn Plan.

ACTIVITY 15: Provide technical review of timber harvest plans and other planning documents affecting wildlife values.

Accomplishments: Provided comments to the Habitat Division on the 2009 Forest Land Use Plans; reviewed the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Mentasta; and reviewed several FWS Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans and provided comments to the Statewide CSU Coordinator.

ACTIVITY 16: 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.

ACTIVITY 17: 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: Helped prepare news releases for the Subalpine Research Prescribed Burn and the Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burns, and discussed the projects with local media; also prepared a FY08 Performance Report, a FY10 Work Plan and a FY10 budget request.

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