

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**PUBLIC AND HUNTER SERVICES AND INFORMATION
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-33-2

PROJECT NR.: 21.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PERIOD: 1 July 2003 – 30 June 2004

PROJECT TITLE: Public and Hunter Services and Information

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Project Activities and Accomplishments

- 1. Maintain, staff, and operate division information centers in regional offices, in some area offices, and cooperatively in interagency information centers.**

Maintained staff to provide information services to the public at 4 regional offices and 17 area offices.

- 2. Respond to walk-in, telephone, and Internet inquiries from the general public, media, educational institutions, civic and other organizations about such issues as wildlife biology, hunting regulations, regulatory processes, and nuisance problems.**

Statewide, we estimate receiving and responding to 265–1400 public contacts on an average daily basis (telephone, email, letters, and walk-ins) from the general public, students, teachers, civic organizations and media about wildlife biology, hunting and trapping regulations, wildlife management programs, etc. Estimated total contacts are 150,000–200,000.

- 3. Research, draft, finalize, and disseminate news releases, wildlife safety information, and other general public information materials as needed to address immediate or ongoing public information needs.**

Statewide, we drafted and distributed approximately 150 news releases, public service announcements, brochures, and flyers with information about wildlife safety, hunting, trapping, management, and research to satisfy immediate and ongoing public information needs; and we updated other informational materials about hunting areas and wildlife viewing on an “as needed” basis, including hunt area maps and updates reflecting changes made by the Alaska Board of Game. We also provided packets containing hunting information to an estimated 1400 hunters and distributed 4 specialized Game Management posters to over 14,000 households.

- 4. Coordinate and produce division open houses, field days, and office, school, and other public displays that explain and engender interest in wildlife management and resources. For annual Kids’ Fun Day in Fairbanks, coordinate participation of**

community organizations that stage wildlife-related activities; build displays illustrating wildlife issues and work of the department; and formulate educational games for children.

Region I staff developed public displays on wildlife for exhibit in Juneau and on Prince of Wales Island. Staff also sponsored and taught two half-day bear-skinning workshops in Ketchikan and assisted with a furbearer necropsy workshop in Hoonah.

Region II staff planned, designed and developed wildlife and management exhibits and displays for the Great Alaska Sportsmen's Show, which attracts approximately 25,000 people annually in Anchorage.

Region III staff coordinated "Kid's Fish & Game Fun Day" open house in Fairbanks attended by 1500–1700 people, produced associated displays and conducted activities/games for kids related to wildlife management and research. Staff also coordinated DWC participation in Fairbanks Outdoors Show, including designing a display showcasing wildlife issues and activities.

Region V staff provided occasional "job shadow" opportunities for local high school programs to encourage interest in a wildlife biologist profession; contributed materials to public display of wildlife opportunities at the Nome Visitor Center to help educate the public about unique species of the area; prepared and distributed wildlife management materials to the general public attending meetings of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group; updated and maintained a departmental Web page about biology and identification of age classes of muskoxen; and participated in a youth-oriented Cultural Heritage Week in Unit 18 to promote understanding of wildlife management and wildlife conservation.

5. Maintain and improve the division's Internet Website and produce an electronic newsletter, as well as informational brochures, and/or written and audio/visual articles on wildlife and the division's research and management results for distribution to the media.

Maintained the division's Website, redesigning it to accord with new State of Alaska design. Expanded and improved content to include more division reports, publications and descriptions of the nongame and marine mammals programs, and updated time-sensitive pages such as calendars of events, new planning documents, and annual hunting information.

Produced 12 issues of the electronic newsletter, *Alaska Wildlife News*. Produced 52 *Sounds Wild* audio episodes distributed to 25 radio stations statewide with about a dozen extra copies distributed every 2 months to a variety of teachers and nature educators in Alaska and throughout the United States. Produced 26 newspaper articles, which run biweekly in the Juneau Empire. Other papers, such as the Anchorage Daily News, Peninsula Clarion and Ketchikan Daily News, pick the stories up to meet their needs. Alaska Magazine published synopsis version of 3 stories, and the Associated Press and a variety of publications throughout the country pick up these stories every month or so. Gave 2 public presentations on bats in Alaska.

6. In association and coordination with the division's wildlife educators, prepare and present educational materials to the public through venues such as public meetings, the media, classrooms, and community events.

- Contributed to and reviewed educational materials, PSA materials, and displays produced by wildlife educators. Among them: *Lower Kuskokwim Moose News*, *Wood Bison Recovery* brochure, *Calf Moose Hunts as Management* brochure, *Alaska Owlmanac*, *Living in Harmony with Moose*, *Living in Harmony with Bears*, Cow moose conservation posters, PowerPoint presentations on the *Alaska Rainforest*, *Natural History of Deer in Southeast Alaska*, a teachers' guide, and a tourist guide training packet.
- Distributed educational and public information materials to businesses and public locations within their areas.
- Consulted with educators on wildlife issues and problems needing more public information and education.
- Gave presentations at workshops and for general public on such issues as: bear safety, bear management in urban settings, fire education, natural history interpretation, and wildlife research career opportunities.
- Contributed articles to the division's Website and local newspapers
- Assisted in production of Seward Peninsula wildlife guide

7. Area biologists and other staff will assist HIT staff with organizing and teaching hunter education classes and programs as necessary.

Statewide, area biologists and other staff assisted the HIT program by maintaining interest lists for HIT courses, helping with class scheduling, scheduling students, collecting registration fees, distributing course materials, and participating as instructors for approximately 90 hunter education classes throughout the year.

8. Regional hunter education coordinator – Coordinate efforts of volunteer instructors; schedule, facilitate, and report on classes; provide class materials to instructors and students; teach classes as necessary, and implement the division's steel shot educational activities in Region III.

Coordinated efforts of 81 volunteer instructors, including scheduling, facilitating, and reporting on 48 classes, including Hunter Education (26 classes, 436 students), Bowhunter Education (19 classes, 122 students), Muzzleloader Education (1 class, 18 students) and Trapper Education (2 classes, 59 students); provided class materials to 81 instructors and 635 students; taught classes as necessary; and provided logistical support to statewide staff to implement the division's steel shot educational activities in Region III.

Project Costs

- Total costs: \$ 768,450
- Federal Share: \$ 576,337.50
- State Share: \$ 192,112.50

Prepared by: Tom Paul, Program Coordinator