

**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-33-3

**PROJECT NR:** 21.0

**WORK LOCATION:** Statewide

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2004–30 June 2005

**PROJECT TITLE:** Public and Hunter Services and information

---

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 provided information services to the public at 4 regional and 18 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 process, and nuisance problems.**

Statewide, we estimate receiving and responding to 600–1,400 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 120,000–150,000.

- 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 200 news releases, public service announcements, brochures, and flyers and gave approximately 125 media interviews 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 as “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 6,500 hunters and distributed specialized Game Management posters to over 7,200 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; formulate educational games for children.**

Region I staff participated in the annual SEAWEEK Program presentations at the Mendenhall Wetlands Refuge, and assisted with the annual "KidSafe Day," "Bear Safety" presentations in Juneau.

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 Coordinated "Kid's Fish & Game Fun Day" open house attended by approximately 2,500 people, produced associated displays and conducted activities/games for kids related to wildlife management and research; and 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 biology 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 contributed information and articles to the Nome Nugget newspaper and the Beringia Birders Web site on unique or unusual distribution of birds in the Seward Peninsula area.

- 5. Maintain and improve the division's Internet Web site 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.**

Expanded and improved Web site content to include more division reports, publications and descriptions of the nongame and marine mammals programs. Updated time-sensitive pages such as calendars of events, new planning documents, annual hunting information and emergency orders. Provided secure access for distribution of hunter education material for HE instructors. Continued maintenance and upgrading of content, Web server, and programming for WC Web site.

Produced 12 issues of the online magazine, *Alaska Wildlife News*. Produced 50 *Sounds Wild* audio episodes, distributed to 25 radio stations statewide with about a dozen extra copies distributed every two months to a variety of teachers and nature educators in Alaska and throughout the United States. Produced about 20 newspaper articles, which run biweekly in the Juneau Empire. Other papers, such

as the Anchorage Daily News, Peninsula Clarion and Ketchikan Daily News, pick up the stories to meet their needs. Alaska Magazine published one story and synopsis version of two stories. The Associated Press and a variety of publications throughout the country pick up these stories every month or so.

Produced and published 36-page guide to wildlife watching in Interior Alaska. Organized the distribution to outlets throughout Interior Alaska. Also wrote text (about 25,000 words) for a 70-page guide on wildlife watching along Alaska's Inside Passage and contributed several dozen photographs to the guide.

**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: *Skulls of Alaskan Mammals: A Teacher's Guide*; *Wood Bison News* newsletter; *Yupik Traditional Seal Hunting Student Guide and Workbook*; *Moose Biology and Management-a Unit for Rural High School Students* as part of a cow harvest conservation issue in several GMUs, *Grouse and Ptarmigan of Alaska*; the *Moose News* effort focused on protecting cow moose in areas of colonizing and expanding moose populations in Unit 18; seasonal waterfowl brochures for the Mendenhall Wetlands Refuge; and landscaping brochure designed to minimize moose conflicts.
- Maintained and distributed on loan educational and public information materials (such as skull and hide collections, posters, etc.) to businesses, schools, visitor centers, local trappers groups, and other public locations throughout the state.
- Gave presentations at schools, workshops, and for general public on such issues as: bear and moose biology, bear and moose safety, wildlife and forest ecology, bear and moose management in urban settings, natural history of Southeast Alaska, Arctic breeding bird biology, and caribou collaring (for schools participating in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd collaring program at Onion Portage on the Kobuk River in Unit 23).
- Contributed articles to the division's Web site and local newspapers
- Assisted in production of the Fairbanks area wildlife viewing guide, Nome area wildlife viewing guide for the Nome road system in Unit 22, and interpretive signs for the state Division of Parks.

**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/or participating as instructors for approximately 75 hunter education classes throughout the year.

Project 21.0 FY05 performance report

**Project Costs**

Federal share \$398,595 + State share 132,865 = Total cost \$531,460

**Stewardship Investment items purchased:** None.

**Prepared by:** Tom Paul, Program Coordinator