

**FEDERAL AID
FINAL 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

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR: W-33-5

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT NR: 21.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007

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, in FY07 we estimate receiving and responding to 500 – 900 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 110,000 – 210,000.

- 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 190 news releases, public service announcements, brochures, and flyers and gave approximately 300 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 8,220 hunters.

- 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, assisted with the annual KidSafe Day in Juneau, the annual Deer Celebration Day in Craig, led workshops on Careers in Wildlife Management in Juneau and Wildlife Necropsy and Field Dressing in Craig and held numerous “bear safety” presentations in multiple locations in Southeast Alaska.

Region II staff planned, designed and developed wildlife and management exhibits and displays for the Great Alaska Sportsmen’s Show and other hunting and fishing “fairs”. Over 20,000 people attend the Great Alaska Sportsmen’s Show annually and over 5,000 people attend smaller venues.

In Region III “Kid’s Fish & Game Fun Day” was not held last fiscal year because fish were not available for the fishing pond, which is a major attraction. Region III coordinated the Division of Wildlife Conservation’s (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; presented reports for the Saturday Schoolyard and Evening Outreach Scientific talks given regularly by the Barrow Arctic Science Consortium; participated in the local Jobs Fair in Barrow and Nome; presented talks to the schools on wildlife population dynamics; prepared and distributed wildlife management materials at meetings involving general public (Western Arctic Herd Working Group, Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators); involved up to 20 high school students from two schools with caribou collaring activities; and contributed information on unique or unusual distribution of Seward Peninsula birds to the Nome Visitor and Convention Bureau and Beringia Birders website. We had a student intern that learned to conduct wildlife surveys and learned how to perform most other tasks involved in running an area office.

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 updated time-sensitive pages such as calendars of events, new planning documents, and annual hunting information. Continued maintenance and upgrading of content, Web server, and programming for DWC Web site.
- “Sounds Wild” provided the public with accessible information on wildlife species, Alaska ecosystems and conserving Alaska’s biodiversity on a regular, ongoing basis using a variety of media.
 - Recorded the majority of the field audio and engineered the studio recording sessions for 60 episodes of this 90-second radio program broadcast weekly (and in some cases daily) on 26 stations statewide, and episodes highlight current research, wildlife and natural history, included 19 episodes on furbearers, waterfowl, game species and the research on management of Alaska’s game species.

- Provided copies to several guides and naturalists working in Alaska, and to two tour operators who wanted to play the recordings on tour buses during their travels throughout the state.
 - *Alaska Fish and Wildlife News* is a monthly online publication that raises awareness about the status of wildlife species and their habitats in Alaska, and the activities of ADF&G biologists. This publication provides information to a broad section of Alaskans and to folks throughout the United States.
 - Wrote most of 26 articles on hunting, waterfowl, game species and the research on management of Alaska’s game species, took a number of pictures, and scheduled and edited the entire content for 12 issues.
 - “*Sustaining and Enhancing Alaska’s Game Populations*,” is a 25-page magazine-style publication, to inform legislators, area advisory council members, Board of Game members and the general public about the research and management of Alaska’s game species.
 - Edited and designed the publication, took photos and wrote three of the articles. 300 copies were distributed.
 - Wrote 12 articles on hunting, game species, waterfowl, furbearers and the research and management of these species for the *Juneau Empire*; and one article for *North American Bear* magazine.
 - Worked on team, assisting with the planning and design of a 24-page booklet for the public on Alaska’s Predator Control program that is to be published in fall 2007.
 - Began work, taking photos, interviewing hunters, and preparing an outline and overview for an Alaska waterfowl hunting guide. This will be a long-term project collaborating with Alaska waterfowl biologists.
- 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.**
- Revised and distributed brown bear ethical hunting brochure.
 - Developed program for the 4th Annual Deer Celebration on Prince of Wales Island, relating to deer biology and management with an audience of students from 5 communities.
 - Coordinated and trained volunteers for the ‘ABC Program- Alaska Bears in Communities’, a bear safety and education program for elementary schools in Sitka and Juneau.
 - Produced public service announcements, newspaper articles and posters relating the deer/elk head collections for Chronic Wasting Disease testing on Prince of Wales Island.
 - Assisted with the planning and instruction of Becoming an Outdoorswoman workshops.
 - Developed orientation and follow-up teaching materials for schools participating in annual ADF&G caribou collaring project in northwest Alaska.

- Published the widely distributed interagency brochure - Alaska Fire Management.
- Attend the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group Education subcommittee meetings.
- Trained and supported dozens of educators and various agency personnel in Region III regarding wildlife related information and issues and held several teacher workshops to train educators in the use of various wildlife curricula including facilitation of *Fire in Alaska!*, a graded credit class for educators, Project WILD, Project WILD Early Childhood Curriculum, Alaska Wildlife Curriculum, skulls and furs, bear safety, forest ecology, and more.
- Created the 3rd 'Wood Bison News', newsletter about the Alaska Wood Bison Recovery project.
- Participate in the Healy moose symposium- an all day workshop about moose- for the residents of Healy, AK.
- Completion of the 'Ice Seal Hunting' student guide in conjunction with the state Marine Mammal Program.
- Participate in development and operation of the 2nd annual Alaska Conservation Camp, and the 1st annual Advanced Alaska Conservation Camp.
- Wrote Management 101 documents – information sheets explaining the aspects of wildlife management to the public.
- Started planning and development of the new publication "Predator Control in Alaska"; worked with area biologists, wrote first draft, gathered images, created maps, reviewed, edited, etc.
- Produced and distributed 15,000 copies of a 16-page newspaper entitled Caribou Trails, which considers general concepts of 'cumulative impacts' of resource development on ecosystems, and the potential effects of global warming on various aspects of the Arctic ecosystem.
- Continued research and writing of a comprehensive guide to Seward Peninsula wildlife.

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, recruiting instructor candidates, distributing course materials, and/or participating as instructors for approximately 185 hunter education classes throughout the year.

Submitted by: Clayton Hawkes, Federal Assistance Coordinator