

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

Annual PROGRESS REPORT SHELL AND INSTRUCTIONS

The purpose of this report is to summarize significant findings and their management implications for the entire project. This template is based on Federal Aid reporting requirements as found in the Federal Aid Handbook, Chapter 11 <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/toolkitfiles/fah52211.pdf>

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
State Wildlife Grant**

Grant Number: T-21 **Segment Number: 1**
Project Number: 11.0
Project Title: Southeast Alaska Citizen Science Program
Project Duration: 16 April 2011 – 30 June 2014
Report Period: 16 April 2012 – 30 June 2013
Report Due Date: 28 September 2013
Principle Investigator: Karen Blejwas, ADF&G
Project Location: Southeast Alaska (GMUs 1 – 5)

I. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS FOR LAST SEGMENT PERIOD ONLY *Briefly describe how Federal Aid funds were spent on each active job, listing the results achieved during only this segment period (1 paragraph each). If a job was not accomplished as planned, very briefly tell why.*

Objective 1: Create a citizen science program in Southeast Alaska to collect and compile baseline information on species of greatest conservation need.

Job/Activity 1a: Identify species with information needs and create citizen-based programs aimed at filling those information gaps

Job/Activity 1b: Identify, promote, and integrate with existing citizen science programs (such as NatureMapping, USA National Phenology Network, Birds in Forested Landscapes) that will help address information gaps and conservation needs in Southeast Alaska.

Job/Activity 1c: Partner with other agencies, educational institutions and community groups to promote citizen science efforts in Southeast Alaska.

Job/Activity 1d: Partner with educational institutions and community groups to develop and distribute outreach and educational materials relating to specific projects.

Job/Activity 1e: Identify monitoring needs that can be met with citizen-based monitoring efforts and implement them. Identify community groups and partners to manage these efforts on a long-term basis.

Accomplishments: Due to a delay in the hiring of a Wildlife Biologist I to help meet these objectives, there was no progress during the report period.

Objective 2: Continue to support and expand the Southeast Alaska Bioblitz.

Job/Activity 2a: Work with partners to make the Southeast Alaska Bioblitz an annual event in Juneau. Recruit taxonomic experts to help create a comprehensive species list for the Juneau area.

Job/Activity 2b: Work with partners to expand the Southeast Alaska Bioblitz to other communities in the region in alternate years.

Accomplishments: We held a Bioblitz for Juneau area 4th graders on the grounds of Auke Bay Elementary School on May 5, 2012. Fourteen taxonomic experts and over 200 students broke into groups of 8-10 and surveyed for plants, freshwater and terrestrial insects, birds, mammals, and lichens. We counted 149 species. Examples of the different taxa were brought back to Bioblitz Central for all the students to view. We repeated the event on April 30, 2013, but this time we used standardized sampling protocols and collected information on both abundance and diversity of species. The intent is to develop a long-term data set that can be used by students to generate and test hypotheses. Twelve taxonomic experts and 6 organizers from 6 different agencies and nongovernmental organizations, as well as more than a dozen volunteers and 200 students participated in this event. A total of 167 species were counted.

Objective 3: Develop a Citizen Science bat monitoring program for Southeast Alaska.

Job/Activity 3a: Collect and compile reports of bat observations and roost locations from local residents across Southeast Alaska. Develop an online reporting system. Forward all data annually to Wildlife Diversity Program staff in Region 2 and the Alaska Natural Heritage Program.

Job/Activity 3b: Give at least one public presentation on bats in every community with a passive monitoring station. Distribute sighting forms and encourage local residents to watch for bats and report their sightings. Investigate reports of local bat roosts and survey local trails to identify potential monitoring routes.

Job/Activity 3c: Recruit citizen scientists to conduct emergence counts at local roosts following the standardized protocol developed by eastern bat biologists in response to White Nose Syndrome.

Job/Activity 3d: Recruit citizen scientists to conduct acoustic monitoring surveys on established transects in the Juneau area during April – September. Develop and implement a volunteer acoustic survey training program and provide training sessions as needed. Post survey results on the web. If the program is successful, partner with other agencies or NGOs to continue it in Juneau and expand it to other Southeast communities in future years.

Job/Activity 3e: Partner with the University of Alaska Museum to encourage members of the public to report and collect sick or dead bats. Coordinate with the ADF&G wildlife veterinarian to necropsy bats as needed prior to submission to the Museum.

Job/Activity 3f: Partner with local high schools and universities to establish long-term passive monitoring stations and develop hands-on research projects for students.

Accomplishments: We gave a presentation on bats in Gustavus on May 20, 2013. Local residents reported the locations of 2 maternity roosts in the area and we conducted roost emergence counts there that evening. Members of the public reported 16 sick, injured, or dead bats and 14 bat carcasses were collected, sent to the ADF&G veterinarian for disease testing, and deposited in the UA Museum. We continued to collect observations of bats from members of the public, however, due to a delay in the hiring of a Wildlife Biologist I to help develop a Citizen Science bat monitoring program for Southeast Alaska, there was no other progress on this objective during the report period.

II. PUBLICATIONS

None.

III. ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD

None.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

None.

Prepared by: Karen Blejwas, ADF&G

Date: September 27, 2013