

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

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

Grant Number: T-21 **Segment Number: 1**
Project Number: 21.0
Project Title: Short-eared Owl Migration and Conservation
Project Duration: 16 April 2011 – 30 June, 2014
Report Period: 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013
Report Due Date: 28 September 2013
Principle Investigator: Travis Booms, ADF&G
Project Location:

I. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS FOR LAST SEGMENT PERIOD ONLY

Objective 1: Identify wintering areas and migration routes of Alaska's Short-eared Owls

Job/Activity 1a: Harness approximately 20 Short-eared Owls with satellite transmitters on in 2012.

Job/Activity 1b: Monitor movements of 2012 and earlier cohorts by downloading and processing data every 10 days.

Job/Activity 1c: Partner with local contacts where owls are wintering to re-sight birds or recover down transmitters.

Accomplishments:

Accomplished during previous reporting periods.

Objective 2: Compare owl migrations and wintering locations of owls from western, northern, and interior Alaska.

Job/Activity 2a: Analyze data and use movement data from 2009 (Western) and 2010 (Interior) to compare to that from the 2012 cohort (North Slope) using standard geo-spatial analyses.

Accomplishments:

We processed location data from all 26-transmitted owls and began spatial analysis of data in the winter 2013. Analysis is ongoing.

Objective 3: Determine sex of individual owls and assess genetic diversity.

Job/Activity 3a: Provide genetic samples collected from each captured bird to the USGS Alaska Science Center Molecular Ecology Lab for genetic analysis via contract.

Accomplishments:

The sex of all 26 transmittered owls was determined by genetic analyses completed in the winter 2013. Analysis of genetic diversity is pending.

Objective 4: Share results with scientific and public audiences.

Job/Activity 4a: Maintain current movement maps on a publicly available website in real-time.

Job/Activity 4b: Write and publish papers summarizing results in scientific (journals) and general public (newspapers) outlets.

Job/Activity 4c: Present results at scientific conferences.

Accomplishments:

Activities 4a and 4c accomplished previously. I wrote an 11-author commentary summarizing the status of Short-eared Owls in North America and submitted for publication during the reporting period. Analysis of movement data occurred during the winter 2013 and is ongoing. Federal Aid Funds were spent to support my salary and logistical support.

Objective 5: Heighten awareness and address the conservation status of Short-eared Owls across the continent.

Job/Activity 5a: Work cooperatively as a member of the Raptor Research Foundation Conservation Committee to address conservation issues on a continent-wide scale by participating in committee meetings, teleconferencing, and interacting with others on the Conservation Committee and those working on the species across Canada, the U.S.A., and Mexico.

Accomplishments:

I have had extensive discussions with members of the Raptor Research Foundation Conservation Committee on this topic. With the assistance of 11 co-authors, I wrote a white paper summarizing the status of the owl in North America and submitted it for publication during the reporting period. I also continued to discuss initiating additional work on this species with colleagues in Canada, Montana, and Idaho. Federal Aid Funds were spent to support my salary and travel.

II. PUBLICATIONS

None yet.

**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

Prepared by: Travis Booms, ADF&G

Date: 8/29/2013