

# FEDERAL AID INTERIM 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 Wildlife Restoration Grant

**Grant Number:** W-52-R **Segment Number:** 1

**Project Title:** Economic Importance of Wildlife to Alaska

**Project Duration:** July 15, 2011 to June 30, 2015

**Report Due Date:** December 29, 2013

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Maria Gladziszewski, DWC Assistant Director

**WORK LOCATION:** Statewide

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*Briefly describe how Federal Aid funds were spent on each active job, listing the results achieved during this segment period. If a job was not accomplished as planned, explain briefly why.*

## I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

### Objectives

1. At a minimum, the department will gather economic information on the following regions and activities:

#### Regions

- Southeast
- South central
- Southwest
- Interior/Northwest/Arctic (i.e., areas of the state north and west of the Alaska Range).

#### Activities

- Harvesting wildlife (sport and subsistence hunting and trapping)
- Wildlife viewing (including backyard feeding) and photography
- Other wildlife-related recreation

On 01/20/2012 ADF&G entered into a contract with ECONorthwest to develop and implement the hunting, trapping, and recreation survey.

During July 2012 ECONorthwest delivered/sent out/collected the survey.

During the summer 2013, ECONorthwest submitted to ADF&G drafts of a final report, technical appendices, and executive summary. These documents include data on or discussion of all the major factors listed below including levels of participation in wildlife-related activities; spending on wildlife-related activity by residents and nonresidents by geographic region; a discussion of how important wildlife is to attracting tourists to Alaska and to retaining existing residents.

### **Accomplishments:**

#### 2. Determine Levels of Participation in Wildlife-related Activities

a) Analyze primary data on resident and nonresident participation and expenditures in multiple categories to develop estimates about participation and spending on wildlife-related activities such as tourism, recreation, viewing, hunting/trapping, education, research and management, wildlife hazing/control, and other wildlife-related or wildlife-dependent activities.

On 12/04/2012 ECONorthwest delivered the results of their survey to ADF&G.

b) Identify the gross numbers and percentage of residents and nonresidents, statewide and by geographic region of the state as appropriate, that participate in specific individual wildlife-related activities and who participate in multiple wildlife-related activities (e.g., individuals who participate in both hunting and wildlife viewing).

### **Accomplishments:**

#### 3. Identify Direct Economic Impacts of Participation, by Sector and Residency

a) Identify the total direct economic contribution (impacts) associated with each activity in (a), by participant group (resident and nonresident) and compare their relative magnitudes in Alaska statewide, by sector of the Alaska economy, and within key geographic regions.

b) Identify the general magnitude of local, state and federal government spending on wildlife-related programs and activities versus the magnitude of such spending by, and as a result of such wildlife-related activities in, the private sector.

c) Identify the range and diversity of economic expenditures within each class of wildlife-related participation; also estimate the mean per-person and mean per-day expenditures of resident and non-resident participants in Alaska statewide and within

component geographic regions, for the purpose of setting a baseline and approximating changes in economic activity related to changes in participation over time.

**Accomplishments:**

4. Determine Indirect and Induced Economic Impacts of Participation, by Sector and Geographic Region

a) Estimate the indirect and induced economic effects of resident and nonresident participation and expenditures for wildlife-related activities in Objective (a) above, by sector of the Alaska economy and geographic region.

**Accomplishments:**

5. Provide Interpretation

a) Identify and discuss any potential implications of “unusual events” (e.g., a particularly bad-weather viewing or hunting season) on the study results, and clearly indicate any other “qualifications” on the data, e.g., data from persons who prepare for hunting/trapping, but who may not actually execute a hunt or engage in trapping within the targeted season or data collection period.

b) Identify potential conflicts in interpretation/use of project results (e.g., ways in which gathered data could be criticized or misconstrued) and describe how suggested sampling parameters could help increase interest in and productive discussion of this project and its data by decision-makers.

c) Abundant wildlife contributes to human quality of life in Alaska. Determine how important wildlife is to a) attracting tourists to Alaska; b) retaining existing residents, including retirees; c) employing Alaskans, including in the public sector, and d) attracting and retaining new industries/businesses and residents to Alaska. Develop core economic information related to the following more specific economic situations/scenarios: Kodiak Island brown bear hunting and viewing; bird or other wildlife viewing in the Pribilof Islands and other remote Alaska coastal locales.

**Accomplishments:**

6. Recommend Future Data Collection Approaches

a) Recommend an ongoing data collection and analysis process to update data and analysis measures developed in the core elements of this project.

b) Based on in-depth analysis of the data being collected through this study, identify/recommend indicator variables and recommend proxy survey approaches and/or scalable re-survey techniques that could be used to track trends in wildlife economic data and wildlife use over time, for the core elements of this project.

- c) Establish and clearly delineate a consistent and repeatable methodology for collecting and reporting estimates of economic contribution of hunting and trapping in Alaska on a periodic basis (3-5 years), at the statewide and component regional level, for the purposes of tracking and comparing such estimates over time, as well as making reasonably current economic estimates available to planning and regulatory decision-makers.

Draft recommendations regarding future attempts at collecting this information were received from ECONorthwest, November 2013.

**Accomplishments:**

7. Communicate Results to the Public

- a) Provide recommendations and products to help implement an effective communication strategy, informing the Legislature and general public about this project during and after the project is completed.

Final results will be presented to the Board of Game in March 2014.

**Accomplishments:**

8. Determine and Describe Nonmarket Values

- a) Identify the non-market values associated with wildlife in Alaska, by activity as appropriate, and by participant group (resident vs. nonresident), and compare their relative magnitudes in Alaska statewide, by sector of the Alaska economy, and within key geographic regions.

**Accomplishments:**

9. Assess Potential Wildlife Economics Input to Future Policy Decisions

- a) Based on analyses of the Required Elements above, identify trends of and opportunities for economic development, collaboration, and diversification of wildlife-related activities, statewide and by region in Alaska (i.e. more highway parking pull-outs available for hunters, viewers, and other back-country recreationists to use, and focusing attention on Alaska as a destination laboratory for wildlife- and wildlife-habitat related research).
- b) Identify how economic information might be beneficial in managing public lands; as an example, describe how data could be used to the advantage of Alaska and Alaskans, e.g., helping to bolster Alaska's image as a tourist destination, or increase wildlife-activity expenditures in nearby and more distant hub communities.
- c) Identify how economic information might be useful in addressing other public policy issues that come before decision-making bodies such as the Alaska Board of Game, the Alaska Guide Services Board, local parks and recreation advisory committees, the Legislature, or reviews relating to the Statewide Transportation Improvement

Program.

- d) Identify how economic information, and the models for future iterative sampling, might help government agencies in making wildlife-related budget and personnel decisions. For example, wildlife economics information might be used to direct wildlife research towards species and activities with high economic return to a region or to the state as a whole – or to species having low current but large future potential returns. Species that have been little studied may turn out to be generators of significant income to the state, and warrant a clearer understanding of their biology, and risks to their habitat.
- e) What general types, how much, how current, and how sophisticated of biological research data is needed to minimally inform economically based allocation or conservation decisions? How do other states make decisions to allocate research dollars and research personnel among species for which citizens are currently spending or willing to spend large amounts versus species that may be less in demand for harvest or viewing but which make large ecological contributions?

10. Identify Future Trends and Their Implications

- a) Identify how economic information, and the models for future iterative sampling, can help identify future trends – in participation in wildlife-related activities and possibly also in the public’s passions about wildlife management. How has participation changed over time (if we can already tell), and/or how is it likely to? What are these projections based on? What does information about nonmarket values suggest about how framing and conducting future debates about protection and management of Alaska’s wildlife resources?

**Accomplishments:**

Data Collection and Analysis

The goal is to obtain expenditure, wage, employment, and government revenue data at the statewide and regional level, from representative diverse audiences. Surveys will inform basic measures of participation in wildlife-related or wildlife-dependent activities, e.g., days spent on an activity, areas/regions where the activity occurred, person-days by activity, guided vs. unguided activity, destination location(s) as being on public and/or private lands, key preferences related to the activity (key factors in activity/location selection), level of trip satisfaction, and demographics.

11. Develop a survey and interview method that can be used in the future, in a three- to five-year cycle, to periodically gather comparison data for an understanding of economic trends over time.

**Draft recommendations received from ECONorthwest, November 2013.**

**Accomplishments:**

12. Develop telephone, mail, and/or internet-based surveys and selected direct interviews, use of existing data that identify and analyze expenditures by individuals, businesses, and agencies.

**II. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS AND/OR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD**

**III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT (optional)**

**Prepared by:**

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**Date:** 12/31/2013