

**FEDERAL AID  
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM GRANT  
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** R-1-8

**PROJECT NR.:** 1.0

**WORK LOCATION:** Statewide

**PROJECT DURATION:** 1 July 2002 – 30 June 2007

**PROJECT REPORTING PERIOD:** 1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007

**PROJECT TITLE:** New initiatives in wildlife viewing and education

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**Project Objectives**

1. Develop and implement new watchable wildlife programs.
2. Continue and expand existing regional state-funded watchable wildlife projects and programs in Alaska.
3. Development of new and continuation of existing youth-based education programs including Project Wild and the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum.
4. Develop community-based education programs.

**Summary of Project Accomplishments for entire project**

**Objective 1 & 2:** Develop and implement new watchable wildlife programs. Continue and expand existing regional state-funded watchable wildlife projects and programs in Alaska.

(Although new watchable wildlife projects and programs were implemented in Alaska (Objective 1), funding to expand regional projects and programs was not sustained. Many of the projects described below leveraged core support from the Wildlife Conservation And Restoration Program grant with additional project funding from other grant sources and partners. We provided minor technical and media outreach support for these programs; however, resources have not allowed significant effort.)

**Outreach**

- Initiated *Wildlife Wednesdays*, an Anchorage wildlife lecture series at the public library. After two seasons with ADF&G leadership, the lecture series transferred with a former staffer to The Nature Conservancy, and continues.
- Held six wildlife viewing clinics in Juneau, and two in Homer. ADF&G partnered with the Forest Service on a Juneau lecture series that reached approximately 1,500 participants, and with the Geophysical Institute on a Juneau, Fairbanks, Anchorage lecture series that reached about 3,200 participants.

- Conducted wildlife viewing workshops (tracking and general wildlife viewing skills) in Juneau, Anchorage, Homer, Wrangell. Approximately 20 workshops over five years, reaching approximately 200 people.
- Distributed three television public service announcements on wildlife viewing for broadcast in FY 2004 and FY 2005.
- Three articles in a weekly column featuring Anchorage-area wildlife viewing opportunities in partnership with the Anchorage Daily News.
- The *Watch Our Wildlife* 13-minute introductory viewing video (including ethics and conservation information) was distributed and aired in a number of in-state venues and reproduced (at no cost to government) on a Holland America promotional DVD that was distributed to U.S. travel agents and consumers (approximately 50,000 copies each year, in 2005 and 2006). The video was added to the Alaska Airlines digEplayer core content menu starting in fall 2006.
- Assisted with media inquiries on where to film, viewing story hooks and suggestions.
- Provided information for media and travel guide updates relating to wildlife viewing on request and through releases of guide information. Participated in Alaska Travel Industry Association media road-show to showcase wildlife viewing information to travel media (using partner grant funds).
- Provided exhibits, materials, and information promoting wildlife viewing and proper wildlife viewing ethics to general public, youth groups, visitors, and tourism industry professionals.
- Ongoing contacts were made with the cruise industry in attempts to increase the quantity and quality of wildlife information available to cruise passengers.
- Participated in federal partner agency staff training for *Watchable Wildlife* outreach in Juneau and Anchorage and presented on partnerships at the Alaska meeting of Pacific Coast Joint Venture, at the national Watchable Wildlife Conference in 2006, and participated in the first national Bird Educators Conference in McAllen, Texas in 2007 (privately funded). We co-developed and host the national Watchable Wildlife professionals list-serve.
- *Eyes on Wildlife* checklist/brochure program was developed with partners and is widely distributed (Over 100,000 copies were printed with a USDA Forest Service grant) and inventory is stockpiled for the next few years. The brochure incorporates viewing ethics and broad habitat information. Certificates for the lowest level were printed for school and youth group use, other certificates are available online. See <http://wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=eyes.main>.
- Published two community viewing booklets - *Anchorage Wildlife Viewing Hot Spots* (52 pages) and *The Fairbanks Area Wildlife Viewing Guide* (32 pages). Distribution is ongoing. A Seward Peninsula wildlife guide is underway, all photos have been procured, and draft text is 85% complete.
- Acquired and cataloged photos for use in viewing and educational programs.

## **Birding**

- At the request of the region, an initiative to develop birding tourism on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta was begun in 2005 in partnership with Alaska Office of Tourism (and with their funding assistance). Fifteen volunteer birders visited four villages in June 2006. Additional funding (through an Economic Development Administration Grant) has been secured to continue this work through May 2008 and a team of national birders visited two villages in June 2007.
- *Wings Over Alaska Birding Checklist Program* was developed and approximately 19,000 birding checklists (printed with private partner funds) have been distributed to date. About 300 Wings certificates have been issued by ADF&G (some in public presentations, including at the Governor's office) Operators and teachers award additional certificates directly. Wings Over Alaska program information and URL continue to be mentioned in print across the country and the number of web links to [www.birding.alaska.gov](http://www.birding.alaska.gov) increases.
- Developed *Birding for Absolute Beginners* workshop that have been presented by staff to over 200 people and by volunteers to an additional 100 plus. The workshop overview was highlighted at the National Bird Education Conference in 2006 and "how to" information shared with bird educators nationally.

## **Wildlife Viewing Trails (thematic itineraries)**

- The Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail (from Ketchikan to Dutch Harbor/Unalaska) is being developed through a series of projects, as funding is secured.
- Nine Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail Inside Passage community brochures and a web site were completed by an Americorps VISTA volunteer with assistance from other ADF&G staff and partners. Funding for printing came from partnerships.
- The *Alaska's Inside Passage Wildlife Viewing Guide* (82 pages) was developed in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and 20,000 copies printed with a Forest Service grant. Distribution is ongoing, with an emphasis on ferries, local residents, and tourism industry guides.
- An additional grant for the Prince William Sound and Southwest Alaska segments of the trail was secured in 2006 and work is underway on that guide and outreach for the entire trail.
- A National Scenic Byways grant for wildlife viewing enhancements on the Alaska Marine Highway ferries will be completed by May 2008 with the installation of "tabletop field guides" in cafeterias 8 of the state ferries and wall panels on the two fast ferries. Two hours of wildlife video content was repackaged for airing on the ferries, and an audio guide is being developed. Match for this project came from private and public partners.
- The Kenai Peninsula Wildlife Viewing Trail (a driving itinerary) is being developed in partnership with many public and private organizations with core grant funding from the Alaska Trails Initiative.
- Sixty five sites were selected through a public nomination and review process. The *Kenai Peninsula Wildlife Viewing Guide* (120 pages) was released in summer 2007. 15,500 copies

were printed. The guide is also published online at [www.kenaipeninsula.org/kenai\\_guide](http://www.kenaipeninsula.org/kenai_guide) by a partner.

- Funds were secured in summer 2007 for gateway kiosks and one new interpretive platform along the trail, as well as loaner binoculars.

**Objective 3: Develop and continue existing youth-based education programs, including Project Wild and the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum.**

- Trained new facilitators in Project WILD/Alaska Wildlife Curriculum in addition to developing a new facilitator program to accompany the early childhood Project WILD component. Three of the newly trained facilitators then taught 63 educators.
- Represented Project WILD and ADF&G on the Project Learning Tree (PLT) steering committee, the Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association annual meeting, and the Oil Spill Recovery Institute's Educators meeting. Displayed ADF&G education resources at three regional ANROE meetings across the state.
- Represented Project WILD and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at four conferences and promoted use of ADFG wildlife conservation education materials through displays at statewide educational conferences, partnering opportunities with other resource education programs, public contacts (phone, e-mail/mail/face-to-face), and web page development and maintenance.
- Launched the Alaska Project WILD Early Childhood Curriculum to early childhood educators. Outreach, bulk mailing to all licensed childcare providers in Alaska with a high response rate.
- Partnering with PLT to create combined PLT/Project WILD statewide advisory committee.
- Worked with contractor to complete the revision of the 'Wetlands and Wildlife', a volume of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum.
- Developed youth-based curricula and programs on moose, deer and caribou. Ecosystem Education materials on rain forest ecology are completed, additional materials for teacher on Tundra are under development. Implemented a fire ecology curriculum on boreal forests.
- Offered 87 Project WILD/Alaska Wildlife Curriculum/Fire in Alaska workshops, training 1,011 educators. 37 workshops were offered for credit. 12 workshops were offered using distance learning techniques.
- Developed and held first intensive week-long, field based facilitator training for the Project WILD/PLT/Alaska Wildlife Programs. Trained 15 new facilitators from across the state.
- Planned, promoted and facilitated 12 graduate courses through UAA, including course oversight and grading per year.
- Wildlife conservation education materials were disseminated through displays at 12 conferences, professional training venues and teacher in-services. New publications were promoted through statewide brochures and newly identified venues in addition to web site promotion.

- Developed and field tested moose management education, finalized and produced rain forest ecology PowerPoint presentation for teachers, and published the *Skulls of Alaska Mammals, Teacher Guide* to complement existing skull loan program statewide.
- Developed and distributed the initial portion of a caribou education packet for schools in the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
- Participated in planning and development of the first ever State of Alaska conservation camp with 30 youth participants.
- Worked with partners to develop “America’s Rain Forests”- a distance delivery program for middle school students. Through a live electronic field trip, students visited Southeast Alaska’s temperate rain forest and Puerto Rico’s tropical rain forest.
- Expanded volunteer education programs in Juneau and Sitka. Created partnership in Juneau to offer wildlife presentations in all 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in fall and spring. Developed new presentation for Sitka schools this year as follow-up to last year’s presentations. Reached over 500 students, including all 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in Sitka. This program is now called the ABC Program (Alaska Bears in Communities).
- Developed new presentations for schools: “Wildlife Related Careers” and “Understanding How Research and Management are Important to Conservation of Wildlife.”
- Developed orientation and follow-up teaching materials for schools participating in annual ADF&G caribou collaring project in northwest Alaska.
- Attend the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group Education subcommittee meetings.
- Participated in development and operation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alaska Conservation Camp, and the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Advanced Alaska Conservation Camp.
- Participated in the development and oversight of the Interagency “Camp Habitat” program.

**Objective 4: Develop community-based education programs.**

- Created a wildlife docent program. Trained volunteers to lead classroom presentations to 90 classes, 3,100 students.
- Co-sponsored with Watchable Wildlife Program and Fish and Game a lecture series in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau and several outlying communities (combined with reporting for objective 1, above)
- Education staff have participated in 30 new projects to address specific wildlife conservation management issues.
- Updated and revised educational kits and improved the delivery system to get kits to educators. Updated *Owlmanac*, an existing publication on owls. Updated *Upland Game Birds*.
- Designed and fabricated interpretive posters and signs: Kodiak Island and the Kenai Peninsula bears; cow moose; anti-waste message for Western Alaska; Fish are Bear Essentials, and Dogs and Wildlife.

- Maintained and expanded the “Volunteers in the Classroom” program to reach over 6,000 students, including Anchorage, Sitka and Juneau.
- Finalized and produced 600 copies of a moose safety, natural history, and ecology DVD for distribution to Alaska’s three largest school districts and 6 smaller communities.
- Provided 10 public lectures and supported ADFG biologists giving 6 lectures.
- Developed an outreach program to increase public participation in a moose hunting moratorium. During the reporting period, a newsletter was sent to over 6,000 homes and educational packets were distributed to all schools in the region impacted by the moratorium.
- Developed and distributed materials educating targeted sectors of the public about conservation and safety of Kenai brown bears (species of concern) and other bears across south-central and southeast Alaska.
- Completed update and distribution plan for Ptarmigan and Grouse of Alaska (formally Upland Game Birds of Alaska).
- Interacted with school districts and teachers throughout the state on a multitude of species and ecosystem centered programs.
- Collaborated with management and research biologists to distribute brochures and create displays
- Continued participation on the Kenai Brown Bear Committee, including outreach to homeowners and anglers sharing information on decreasing bear kills in defense of life and property by reducing bear attractants.
- Produced an 8-part radio series for KYUK public radio in English and Yupik as a culturally relevant outreach tool to encourage rural support for a moose hunting moratorium in Southwest Alaska over an 8-week period.
- Created displays, disseminated posters and brochures about forest fire, habitat, and wildlife in Alaska’s forests.
- Developed “The Wilds of Wetlands” lecture series about the Mendenhall Wetlands, addressing habitat, wildlife, fish and issues relating to declining wetlands.
- Developed and presented a PowerPoint presentation about Wildlife Management in Alaska.
- Created a Fortymile Caribou Herd conservation brochure.
- Distributed countless posters, brochures, booklets, and other media to the public about various natural history, biology, management, and wildlife related topics.
- Created and disseminated bird flu materials for residents throughout the state. Represented ADF&G in multiple bird flu presentations in public meetings, on regional radio talk shows, and on local and national television.
- Wrote, designed and distributed an 8-page newspaper as a culturally relevant outreach tool for moose conservation and management in the Norton Sound region of western Alaska.
- Led three *Birding for Absolute Beginners* workshops, with approximately 120 participants. Loaned workshop materials for additional volunteer-led workshops.

- Printed over 100,000 community wildlife viewing guides for nine coastal communities as part of the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail. These guides were developed with resources from outside of the USFWS. However, USFWS/WCRP recognition was provided on each, and all contain viewing ethics and information on non-game habitat connections.
- Published an interagency brochure - Alaska Fire Management; which has been distributed widely.
- Created the 3rd *Wood Bison News*, a 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.
- Completed the ‘Ice Seal Hunting’ student guide in conjunction with the state Marine Mammal Program.
- Wrote Management 101 documents – information sheets explaining the aspects of wildlife management to the public.
- Updated and revised “Fishing in Bear Country Rack Card.”
- Reviewed text and design for five new interpretative signs at Potter Marsh. Reviewed and participated in the creation of a new Master Interpretative Plan for Potter Marsh.
- Wrote text for two new interpretative signs at the Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage highlighting recreational opportunities within Southcentral and Southwestern Alaska.

**Project Accomplishments during last segment period only (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007)**

**Objective 1 & 2: Develop and implement new watchable wildlife programs. Continue and expand existing regional state-funded watchable wildlife projects and programs in Alaska.**

- Presented three *Birding for Absolute Beginners* workshops (Wrangell and Homer) to 42 participants, a tracking workshop in Wrangell (5 participants), business of wildlife tourism workshop in Chevak and Wrangell (14 participants).
- Reprinted 10,000 and distributed approximately 7,000 *Wings Over Alaska* bird checklists (with ethics and eBird information – using private partner funds). Issued approximately 200 Wings certificates.
- Provided information for media and travel guide updates relating to wildlife viewing on request and through releases of guide information. Participated in Alaska Travel Industry Association media road-show to showcase wildlife viewing information to travel media (using partner grant funds).
- Organized and implemented another birding tourism development trip to the Yukon Delta NWR and villages with four national birding leaders (using partner grant funds and volunteers). Ongoing consultations and work on this project.
- Continued outreach and partnership building for the Kenai Peninsula Wildlife Viewing Trail project (using partner grant funds and volunteers) and completed the Kenai Peninsula

Wildlife Viewing Guide (120 pages). The guide is also published online at [www.kenaipeninsula.org/kenai\\_guide](http://www.kenaipeninsula.org/kenai_guide) by a partner.

- Worked on new enhancement projects funded through National Scenic Byways program (and public and private partners) for the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Viewing Trail, including table top field guides and wall panels, two hours of wildlife video content for the ferries, and an audio guide for the ferries.
- Participated in federal partner agency staff training for Watchable Wildlife outreach in Juneau and Anchorage and presented on partnerships at the Alaska meeting of Pacific Coast Joint Venture, at the national Watchable Wildlife Conference in 2006, and participated in the first national Bird Educators Conference in McAllen, Texas in 2007 (privately funded). Co-developed and host national Watchable Wildlife professionals list-serve.
- Held seven wildlife lectures in Anchorage and six wildlife viewing clinics in Juneau, and two in Homer. ADF&G partnered with the Forest Service on a Juneau lecture series that reached approximately 1,500 participants, and with the Geophysical Institute on a Juneau, Fairbanks, Anchorage lecture series that reached about 3,200 participants.

**Objective 3: Develop and continue existing youth-based education programs, including Project Wild and the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum.**

- Developed and held first intensive week-long, field based facilitator training for the Project WILD/PLT/Alaska Wildlife Programs. Trained 15 new facilitators from across the state.
- Offered 22 Project WILD/Alaska Wildlife Curriculum workshops training 200 educators. 15 workshops were offered for graduate credit.
- Four PW/AWC workshops were offered using distance learning techniques.
- Maintained the volunteers in the classroom programs in Juneau and Sitka. This program is now called the ABC Program (Alaska Bears in Communities) reaching over 500 students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Represented ADF&G and Project WILD on the Board of Directors for the Alaska Natural Resource and Outdoor Education Association. Displayed ADF&G education resources at three regional ANROE meetings across the state.
- Partnering with PLT to create combined PLT/Project WILD statewide advisory committee.
- Worked with contractor to complete the revision of the 'Wetlands and Wildlife', a volume of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum.
- Developed the 'Tracking Juneau Bears' project. Worked with 3 science classes from two Juneau middle schools to place GPS collars on 3 local black bears. Students participated in the entire process including collaring, downloading data in the field, and analyzing data using ArcGIS mapping software.
- 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.

- Participated in development and operation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alaska Conservation Camp, and the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Advanced Alaska Conservation Camp.
- Participated in the development and oversight of the Interagency “Camp Habitat” program.

**Objective 4:** Develop community-based education programs.

- 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 WC Web site.
- Coordinated with ADFG biologists to give 6 public lectures in Craig, Petersburg, Haines, Sitka and Cordova.
- Developed and presented program for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Deer Celebration on POW, relating to deer biology and management reaching 175 elementary-high school students.
- Developed and presented program for both school groups and general public concerning habitat changes of the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge.
- Produced articles and posters relating the deer/elk head collections for Chronic Wasting Disease testing conducted in SE.
- Published an interagency brochure Alaska Fire Management; which has been distributed widely.
- Created the 3rd *Wood Bison News*, a 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.
- Completed the “Ice Seal Hunting” student guide in conjunction with the state Marine Mammal Program.
- Wrote Management 101 documents – information sheets explaining the aspects of wildlife management to the public.
- Updated and revised “Fishing in Bear Country Rack Card.”
- Reviewed text and design for five new interpretative signs at Potter Marsh. Reviewed and participated in the creation of a new Master Interpretative Plan for Potter Marsh.
- Wrote text for two new interpretative signs at the Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage highlighting recreational opportunities within Southcentral and Southwestern Alaska.

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