

**ELK
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-33-10

PROJECT NR.: 13.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012

PROJECT LOCATION: RI and RII

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Elk and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes Region 2 elk survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

Region I Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial management report.
Management report is nearing completion.

ACTIVITY 2: Collect biological data on harvested elk including incisors for aging and photos of antlers.
The Petersburg Area Biologist collected 8 incisors and 7 antler photographs from 9 elk harvested in Unit 3 during the report period.

Activities by Unit

Units 1A, 1B, 2, and 3

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor for presence of elk in southern southeast Alaska through contact with deer, elk, moose and bear hunters.

Petersburg and Ketchikan area staff spoke with pilots, commercial fisherman, and deer, moose and black bear hunters opportunistically to gain an understanding of elk sightings and gather information on elk dispersal in southern Southeast Alaska.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the general elk hunt in Units 1, 2, and “the remainder of Unit 3.”

Staff received one report of an elk harvested under the “general hunt”, outside of the Etolin-Zarembo permit hunt area.

Unit 3

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the Unit 3 Etolin and Zarembo Islands elk hunt and analyze the permit report data.

The Petersburg Area Biologist and other staff members spoke with hunters before, during and/or after their hunts. Hunt-based parameters were evaluated by use of mandatory drawing and registration permit hunt reports, incisors, and photos of antlers submitted by hunters.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct spring elk fecal pellet surveys on Etolin, Zarembo and Onslow Islands in conjunction with spring deer pellet-group surveys.

Elk and deer fecal pellet surveys were not completed on Etolin and Onslow Islands.

Submitted by: Neil L. Barten, Region I Management Coordinator

Region II Activities

Activity: Prepare a biennial regional elk management report. Report was drafted and submitted for publishing.

Activities by Unit and herd

Unit 8

Activity 1: Conduct aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trends, productivity, and mortality of elk.

We completed 8 aerial composition surveys for a portion of the population. Survey results suggested a stable trend in most of the herds observed. The unitwide population of elk was estimated at 700 animals.

Activity 2: Monitor elk seasonal distribution through relocation of radio-collared elk.

In June 2011 we deployed 14 VHF transmitters on elk residing on Afognak and Raspberry Islands. All of the 14 collars were relocated throughout this reporting period, 2 of which died during the winter of 2011-12.

Activity 3: Monitor the elk harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports, and contact with hunters.

Harvest reports returned by hunters provided data on hunting effort and harvest. We issued 432 drawing permits and registration permits. Hunters reported harvesting 42 elk (19 males, 23 females). The harvest by permit hunt was as follows: Raspberry Island drawing hunt – 3 elk (2 males, 1 female); southwest Afognak drawing hunt – 9 elk (4 males, 5 females); eastern Afognak drawing hunt – 5 elk (4 males, 1 female); remainder of Unit 8 drawing hunt – 13 elk (9 males, 4 females); registration hunt – 12 elk (12 females). The reported 2011-12 harvest of 42 elk was about 6% of the estimated population, a slight decrease over the estimated 2010-11 harvest of 7%.

We issued an Emergency Order to close portions of registration hunt RE755 south and west of a line from the head of Back Bay to the head of Malina Bay on Oct. 23, 2011. The Order also restricted the bag limit in the remaining open areas to antlerless elk only.

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate

Date: September 1, 2012