

FEDERAL AID ANNUAL RESEARCH PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

PROJECT TITLE: Movement patterns, home range, and habitat use by Sitka black-tailed deer in Southeast Alaska

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: Karin McCoy, Phillip Mooney, David Person

FEDERAL AID GRANT PROGRAM: Wildlife Restoration

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-7

PROJECT NO. 2.15

WORK LOCATION: Southeast Alaska, primarily Chichagof Island,

STATE: Alaska

PERIOD: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES SINCE PROJECT INCEPTION

This year was the first year of the project, so no additional progress to report.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS IDENTIFIED IN ANNUAL PLAN THIS PERIOD

JOB/ACTIVITY 1a: Order collars, purchase animal capture equipment, program collars, review literature, develop a work plan, organize and mobilize personnel.

We purchased and programmed 30 GPS radiocollars. Because collar delivery was later than expected, capture activities were started later than expected and past the prime period for attracting deer with a call. Capture equipment was purchased. Planning for capture sessions was undertaken and a work plan was devised. Field crews were mobilized on the ground to conduct captures

JOB/ACTIVITY 1b: Conduct ground and aerial-based activities instrumental in the collaring of Sitka black-tailed deer and retrieve collars.

One aerial survey of the Chichagof alpine was completed during this time period (August 2009) to evaluate deer presence in the alpine and potential opportunities for helicopter net gunning.

We completed 3 capture sessions. During August 2008, we explored the study area to become more familiar with the road system and potential capture opportunities. One deer was captured and collared. This deer was later killed by a hunter and the collar recovered. We found deer numbers were relatively low, but somewhat responsive to a deer call. We ended the capture season at the beginning of the hunting season because of restrictions on the use of drugs on animals available for human consumption. Bear sign was abundant.

During October 2008, a second attempt to capture deer was attempted after the closure of the doe season. Deer were seen in low numbers and unresponsive to a deer call. We collared no deer. Bear presence was low.

We implemented a boat-based capture effort during April 2008, so we could evaluate shore-based capture opportunities during periods with snow. We captured and collared one deer, but the deer was in poor body condition. This deer died the following week, and the collar was recovered the following summer.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2a: Write annual reports detailing activities and accomplishments to date, including results of animal captures and collar status.

We prepared and submitted the annual performance report.

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

None.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

None.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECTNone.

VI. APPENDIX.

None.

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APPROVAL DATE: _____