FEDERAL AID INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

STATE WILDLIFE GRANT (SWG)

STATE: Alaska Grant and Segment Nr.: T-1-8

PROJECT Nr.: 2.0

WORK LOCATION: Juneau – Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge

Gustavus – Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area

PROJECT DURATION: 1 July 2002 – 1 December 2004

PROJECT REPORTING PERIOD: 1 July 2002 – 30 June 2003

PROJECT TITLE: Southeast Refuges and Critical Habitats: Conservation Planning

Project Objectives:

1. Participate in and assist in public planning process initiated by ADF&G Division of Habitat and Restoration for Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area (DCCHA)

Job/Activity a: Compile existing data on wildlife, habitat, and public use, monitor activities on the area, and collect new data as needed for input into the planning processes

Job/Activity b: Assist in acquiring up-to-date aerial photographs of DCCHA and neighboring areas

Job/Activity c: Help identify stakeholder groups/individuals and develop contact information database

Job/Activity d: To assist the public in being active and informed participants in the planning process and conservation strategies, provide information (using print media, field trips, lectures or other means deemed appropriate and within means of available resources) on the value of the area to wildlife and the potential impacts of various types of human uses on wildlife and habitats.

2. Participate in public planning processes for projects with potential to affect Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge in order to mitigate impacts to refuge wildlife.

Job/Activity a: Attend public meetings in Juneau related to planning for development projects adjacent to refuge and participate as appropriate.

Job/Activity b: Conduct fine scale habitat typing on the entire refuge to identify high-value habitats and wetlands for conservation. This information will aid refuge managers in anticipating the effects of development on refuge lands, and allow informative decisions on directing development towards the least valuable areas to wildlife. This information will also allow refuge managers to focus mitigation measures towards habitat with similar values if possible.

Job/Activity c: To assist the public in being active and informed participants in the planning process and conservation strategies, provide information (using print media, field trips, lectures or other means deemed appropriate and within means of available resources) on the

value of these areas to wildlife and the potential impacts of various types of human uses on wildlife and habitats.

Summary of Project Accomplishments (numbers correspond to project objectives/activities):

- 1. a. During the reporting period we contracted with an environmental firm in Gustavus to conduct sandhill crane and other wildlife observations on the DCCHA. The data collection period started on September 1, 2003 and will be completed by October 1, 2003 with the analysis and write up being completed by December 30, 2003.
 - b-d. The dissolution of the Habitat and Restoration Division resulted in a setback in the planning process for a management plan for the DCCHA. Preliminary discussions towards this goal had begun, but further work could not be accomplished without the leadership and personnel of the Habitat and Restoration division. Therefore, Job/Activities b-d were not accomplished.
- 2. a. ADF&G staff prepared for and attended monthly meetings of the Mendenhall Wetlands Citizens Advisory Group. This group actively investigated issues and activities that had the potential to affect the Mendenhall Refuge. Because of the dissolution of the Habitat and Restoration division, our role in the planning efforts that include attending these monthly meetings has increased.
 - b. During this report period we discussed options for achieving fine scale habitat mapping of the MWSWR and met with potential contractors to determine their capability to do it.
 - c. ADF&G staff investigated options for signs aimed at educating refuge users about refuge issues.

Project Costs: Federal share \$15,725.25 + state share \$5,241.75 = total cost \$ 20,967

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Date: September 4, 2003