

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation**

**Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
Annual Performance Report  
1 July 1998 - 30 June 1999**

# **Fire and Forest Management Planning for Wildlife Habitat Enhancement**

**Mary U. Hicks, Editor**



**ADF&G**

**Grant W-27-2  
Study 20.0  
December 1999**

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**Tony Knowles, Governor**

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**Frank Rue, Commissioner**

**DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Wayne L. Regelin, Director**

Persons intending to cite this material should receive permission from the author(s) and/or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Because most reports deal with preliminary results of continuing studies, conclusions are tentative and should be identified as such. Please give authors credit.

Free copies of this report and other Division of Wildlife Conservation publications are available to the public. Please direct requests to our publications specialist:

**Mary Hicks**  
**Publications Specialist**  
**ADF&G, Wildlife Conservation**  
**P.O. Box 25526**  
**Juneau, AK 99802**  
**(907) 465-4190**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities free from discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire further information please write to ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfield Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 or O.E.O., U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats for this and other department publications, please contact the department ADA Coordinator at (voice) 907-465-4120, (TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-2440.

## **PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT:** W-27-2

**STUDY:** 20.0

**PROJECT TITLE:** Fire and Forest Management Planning for Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

**AUTHOR:** Dale Haggstrom

**PERIOD:** 1 July 1998–30 June 1999

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Statewide and Region III: Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26 B & C

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

- 1 Work with state, federal, and private entities at the statewide level to plan and coordinate wildland and prescribed fire management efforts to maintain or improve habitat for wildlife.
- 2 Work with state, federal, and private entities within Region III to plan and coordinate fire and forest management efforts to maintain or improve habitat for wildlife.

### **ACTIVITIES PLANNED:**

- 1 Represent the Commissioner on the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) and related committees and work groups (Objective 1).
- 2 Encourage wildland fire planning and suppression decisions that permit fire to resume its natural role of perpetuating diverse, productive ecosystems (Objectives 1 & 2).
- 3 Encourage prescribed burning and other appropriate forestry practices in developed areas where wildland fires must be suppressed to protect people or valued resources (Objectives 1 & 2).

### **ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED:**

- 1 I participated in AWFCG quarterly meetings in Fairbanks on 23 October 1998 and in Anchorage on 26 January 1999 and 5 April 1999. The August 1998 quarterly meeting was not held. I served as AWFCG Chair until 26 January 1999. I also participated in the regularly scheduled monthly AWFCG teleconferences (Objective 1).
- 2 I worked with other AWFCG representatives to consolidate and clarify common elements from the 13 area-specific fire management plans that were originally approved in the 1980s. The amended Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AWFCG 1998) was distributed in February 1999 (Objective 1).
- 3 I worked with other AWFCG representatives in late June–early July 1998 and 1999 to evaluate burn conditions and convert Modified Management Option lands to Limited

Management Option for the remainder of the respective fire seasons.

- 4 I attended the 23 November 1998 meeting of the AWFCG Fire Research and Application Committee in Anchorage and participated in the Fire Effects Monitoring Workshop at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - Alaska Fire Service at Ft. Wainwright on 1-3 June 1999 (Objective 1).
- 5 I participated in meetings of the AWFCG Fire Prevention, Education and Awareness Committee in Anchorage on 9 November 1998, 27 January 1999, and 31 March 1999. The major focus of this committee was to develop a FIREWISE Community Action Program. Homeowner Guides and Educators' Packets were printed and distributed in several communities on the Kenai Peninsula at the start of the 1999 fire season (Objective 1).
- 6 I met with other state agency representatives and private individuals in Fairbanks on 15 April 1999 to explore options for funding a fuel hazard reduction program that would help protect communities from wildland fires and provide habitat alterations necessary to maintain productive and diverse wildlife populations (Objectives 2).
- 7 I worked with staff from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) - Division of Forestry (DOF), ADNR - Division of Land (DOL), and ADNR - Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to review wildland fire protection levels in the Chena and Chatanika River drainages. As a result, protection priority was more narrowly focused on developed areas, creating opportunities for burning in important wildlife habitats near Fairbanks (Objective 2).
- 8 I worked with staff from the ADNR - DOF, ADNR - DOL, and BLM to review wildland fire protection levels in the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River. All seemed to substantially agree that most of this area could be changed from Modified and Full Management to Limited Management. However, public contacts were not completed in time to implement the desired changes before the 1999 fire season (Objective 2).

#### LITERATURE CITED

ALASKA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP. 1998. Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan - Amended October 1998. Unpublished document. Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group: Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Alaska Department of Fish and Game; Bureau of Indian Affairs; Bureau of Land Management; Fish and US Fish and Wildlife Service; US Forest Service; National Park Service, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.; and Chugachmiut, Inc. 61 pp.

#### SEGMENT PERIOD PROJECT COSTS

	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Total</u>
Planned	29.8	2.0	31.8
Actual	24.5	1.9	26.4
Difference	5.3	0.1	5.4

*Explanation:* Actual personnel costs were less than planned because I had to spend more time than planned on another project due to a position vacancy. Actual operating costs were less than planned because some of the meetings were held in Fairbanks where I am stationed and other job responsibilities temporarily precluded further participation in AWFCG committees and work groups.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Dale A. Haggstrom  
Wildlife Biologist III

Roy A. Nowlin  
Regional Mgmt Assistant

David D. James  
Management Coordinator

A detailed map of Alaska, divided into numerous numbered regions (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 7, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 9E, 10, 11, 12, 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D, 13E, 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D, 15A, 15B, 15C, 16A, 16B, 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D, 18, 19A, 19B, 19C, 19D, 19E, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20D, 20E, 20F, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21D, 21E, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 23, 24, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, 26A, 26B, 26C, 28A, 28B, 28C). Major cities and locations are labeled, including Barrow, Kaktovik, Bettles, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Cordova, Yakutat, Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Kodiak, King Salmon, Dillingham, Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue, Galena, Tok, Valdez, and Cold Bay. The map also shows Bristol Bay, the Gulf of Alaska, and the Aleutian Islands. An inset map shows the location of Alaska within the United States.



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sales of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program allots funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and number of paid hunting license holders. Alaska receives a maximum 5% of revenues collected each year. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game uses federal aid funds to help restore, conserve, and manage wild birds and mammals to benefit the public. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes for responsible hunting. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this report are from Federal Aid.



ADF&G