

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-5

WORK LOCATION: Region III

PROJECT NO. 25.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008

PROJECT TITLE: Alaska Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

ACTIVITY 1: Initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to prepare for prescribe burning of approximately 100 acres of black spruce and mixed black spruce-birch-aspen forest at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project.

Accomplishments: Worked with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to renew the Open Burn Approval and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Division of Forestry (DOF), to prepare news releases and coordinate public relations. Met weekly throughout the summer via teleconference with DOF and other cooperators to coordinate preparations for the burns. Ignition repeatedly delayed by local rain showers.

ACTIVITY 2: Gather digital imaging or geographical positioning data to document and analyze project accomplishments and enhance public information capabilities.

Accomplishments: Recorded, edited and distributed digital images and video of browse crushing on the Delta Junction Bison Range during March-April 2008 and prescribed burning of aspen at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project during May 2008. Gathered geographical positioning data for the same projects.

ACTIVITY 3: Participate in meetings, workshop or seminars related to study objectives or training opportunities related to prescribed burning, fire effects monitoring, or other silvicultural practices that affect wildlife habitat.

Accomplishments: Did not attend any workshops, seminars or training course during this reporting period because of workload.

ACTIVITY 4: Coordinate a broadcast burn of logging slash on one or more harvest units in Tok River timber sale NC-837 to improve wildlife habitat.

Accomplishments: Did not coordinate a broadcast burn because planned research cannot be completed until after DOF puts the sale units out for bid and the timber is harvested.

ACTIVITY 5: Initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to prescribe burn Unit #4 of the Western Tanana Flats Prescribed Burn Plan and oversee the burn operation.

Accomplishments: Worked with ADEC to renew the Open Burn Approval and coordinated weekly with DOF to identify an opportunity to ignite the burn unit on the

western Tanana Flats. Unable to implement the prescribed burn due to weather. Implementation will remain a priority for summer 2009.

ACTIVITY 6: Initiate or coordinate contracting, other administrative tasks and fieldwork necessary to mechanically treat aspen, willow and birch on approximately 500 acres in the 1987 Granite Creek burn near Delta Junction.

Accomplishments: Worked with the National Resources Conservation Service to obtain a federal cost-share grant to help fund mechanical treatment of browse on the Delta Junction Bison Range. Worked with DWC administrative staff to solicit bids and award a contract for the associated dozer work. Completed layout of treatment units and oversaw the dozer work. Accomplished crushing on 780 acres between 4 March and 11 April 2008.

ACTIVITY 7: Produce data files and media products from a geographic information system (GIS) for internal use, sharing with cooperators, and public information.

Accomplishments: Prepared maps from geographical positioning data gathered at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project and the Delta Junction Browse Crushing Project for field use, contracting, and sharing with cooperators and the public.

ACTIVITY 8: Plan one or more landscape-scale prescribed fires in GMU 20A.

Accomplishments: Made initial contacts and had discussions with potential participants. Planning to begin in autumn 2008 involving the Fairbanks Area Biologist and other DWC staff, ADNR and the Bureau of Land Management.

ACTIVITY 9: Initiate or coordinate contracting and other administrative tasks necessary to prescribe burn mature standing aspen on one or more 20-25 acre units at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project.

Accomplishments: Worked with DOF to layout potential burn units, update the burn plan, and complete prescribed burning on 35-acres on 14 May 2008.

ACTIVITY 10: Re-sample permanent vegetation plots in postlogging treatments, prescribed burns or mechanically treated areas.

Accomplishments: Vegetation plots were not revisited during the reporting period due to workload.

ACTIVITY 11: Prepare videos of management activities.

Accomplishments: Recorded, edited and distributed digital video of browse crushing on the Delta Junction Bison Range during March-April 2008 and prescribed burning of aspen at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project during May 2008. Edited and distributed archived digital video of aspen shearblading on the Delta Junction Bison Range during March 2002.

ACTIVITY 12: Plan stand-scale prescribed fires to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, forest health and diversity in managed forests.

Accomplishments: Flagged and GPS'd prescribed burn units at the Nenana Ridge Ruffed Grouse Project during autumn 2007.

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ACTIVITY 13: Provide technical review of timber harvest plans and other planning documents affecting wildlife values.

Accomplishments: Reviewed proposed changes to the Tanana Valley State Forest, reviewed Fairbanks 5-year Timber.

ACTIVITY 14: Conduct literature reviews in forestry and wildlife media to define methods of vegetation manipulation potentially suited for use in the boreal forest of interior Alaska.

Accomplishments: Obtained and reviewed current literature on forestry practices and habitat management techniques.

ACTIVITY 15: Write annual survey and inventory reports; use newspaper, television, radio, and internet media for information exchange and public notice; and provide public involvement as necessary.

Accomplishments: Prepared draft news releases for the Nenana Ridge Research Prescribed Burns and the Western Tanana Flats Prescribed Burn. Prepared a FY07 Performance Report, a FY09 Work Plan and a FY09 budget request.

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Region III Management Coordinator