

**FEDERAL AID
INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
State Wildlife Grant**

GRANT NUMBER: T-3 **SEGMENT NUMBER:** 1
PROJECT NUMBER: 11.11
PROJECT TITLE: Population and habitat assessments for species of greatest conservation need in Southeast Alaska
PROJECT DURATION: January 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009
REPORT PERIOD: 1 January 2008 – 31 December 2008
REPORT DUE DATE: March 30, 2009
PARTNER: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Project Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify and evaluate various survey and monitoring strategies for selected species in Southeast Alaska and establish protocols.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1A: Review current scientific literature; consult with species experts, species working groups, and other partners; define specific survey and monitoring protocols.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1B: Design survey and monitoring techniques that provide both accuracy and precision for assessing population status and trends of various vertebrate species in Southeast Alaska.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1C: As needed, design and implement research to determine most accurate, defensible and cost-effective survey and monitoring techniques.

OBJECTIVE 2: Conduct survey and/or monitoring of selected species in Southeast Alaska to determine population status, abundance, and distribution of the species.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2A: Recruit, hire, and train a field crew as necessary to carry out fieldwork. Purchase equipment and arrange charters as necessary to support the fieldwork.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2B: Conduct surveys using identified techniques. Water-borne, aerial, and ground-based approaches may be employed, depending upon taxa studied. Amphibian work generally will follow USGS-ARMI (Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative) protocols when possible unless modified based on information from active Partner Project: T-1-6-18, Amphibian Monitoring in Southeast Alaska, Dr. Sanjay Pyare. Standard visual surveys, calling surveys, and pitfall trapping also may be utilized. Techniques for birds could include standard North American Breeding Bird Survey roadside counts, Alaska Landbird Monitoring System protocols, line transect surveys, point counts, calling surveys, and specialized techniques as needed to produce accurate and credible information on abundance and distribution. Mammal survey techniques

include a variety of visual, aural, and sign (track, scat, hair) surveys with more specialized techniques as needed.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2C: Conduct genetic analysis where deemed appropriate to determine genetic relatedness and distinctiveness of island endemic species.

OBJECTIVE 3: Identify habitat types and needs associated with the selected species and identify existing or potential problems, needs, or concerns regarding habitats.

JOB/ACTIVITY 3A: Based on results of surveys, identify habitats that are important for population maintenance, especially for those species with indicated declines either on a national level or within the state. Participate in on-going project to identify important nesting and foraging habitats of Kittlitz's murrelets in Icy Bay by capturing on the water and fixing radio transmitters to approximately 30 Kittlitz's murrelets in May and June.

JOB/ACTIVITY 3B: Where practical, provide land managers with recommendations on habitat maintenance, especially if those habitats are negatively impacted through anthropogenic causes.

OBJECTIVE 4: Examine population dynamics and identify factors limiting population growth or reproductive success, such as predators, habitat loss or degradation, and contaminants.

JOB/ACTIVITY 4A: Where possible, gather supplemental ecological data to accompany population parameters on Southeast Alaskan vertebrates. These data may include life history and other demographic information, predation risks and factors, and habitat preference or avoidance parameters.

OBJECTIVE 5: Analyze, disseminate and share information and data with partners, cooperators, the scientific community, and the general public.

JOB/ACTIVITY 5A: Analyze data, prepare reports, maps, and associated publications and presentations.

JOB/ACTIVITY 5B: Attend conferences and workshops and/or write articles to present findings.

OBJECTIVE 6: Develop and implement a regional CWCS step-down strategy.

JOB/ACTIVITY 6A: Identify implementation partners.

JOB/ACTIVITY 6B: Identify implementation projects and activities.

JOB/ACTIVITY 6C: Implement projects and activities as part of objectives 1 – 5, or under a separate implementation grant.

Summary of Accomplishments

OBJECTIVE 1:

JOB/ACTIVITY 1A: Review current scientific literature; consult with species experts, species working groups, and other partners; define specific survey and monitoring protocols.

No Progress

JOB/ACTIVITY 1B: Design survey and monitoring techniques that provide both accuracy and precision for assessing population status and trends of various vertebrate species in Southeast Alaska.

No Progress

JOB/ACTIVITY 1C: As needed, design and implement research to determine most accurate, defensible and cost-effective survey and monitoring techniques.

No Progress

OBJECTIVE 2:

JOB/ACTIVITY 2A: Recruit, hire, and train a field crew as necessary to carry out fieldwork. Purchase equipment and arrange charters as necessary to support the fieldwork.

No progress

JOB/ACTIVITY 2B: Conduct surveys using identified techniques. Water-borne, aerial, and ground-based approaches may be employed, depending upon taxa studied. Amphibian work generally will follow USGS-ARMI (Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative) protocols when possible unless modified based on information from active Partner Project: T-1-6-18, Amphibian Monitoring in Southeast Alaska, Dr. Sanjay Pyare. Standard visual surveys, calling surveys, and pitfall trapping also may be utilized. Techniques for birds could include standard North American Breeding Bird Survey roadside counts, Alaska Landbird Monitoring System protocols, line transect surveys, point counts, calling surveys, and specialized techniques as needed to produce accurate and credible information on abundance and distribution. Mammal survey techniques include a variety of visual, aural, and sign (track, scat, hair) surveys with more specialized techniques as needed.

No Progress

JOB/ACTIVITY 2C: Conduct genetic analysis where deemed appropriate to determine genetic relatedness and distinctiveness of island endemic species.

No Progress

OBJECTIVE 3:

JOB/ACTIVITY 3A: Based on results of surveys, identify habitats that are important for population maintenance, especially for those species with indicated declines either on a national level or within the state. Participate in on-going project to identify important nesting and foraging habitats of Kittlitz's murrelets in Icy Bay by capturing on the water and fixing radio transmitters to approximately 30 Kittlitz's murrelets in May and June.

During 5 – 24 May 2008, we captured 35 Kittlitz's murrelets and attached radio-transmitters to 27 of them in Icy Bay; additional captures took place after I left resulting in 40 birds captured with 32 radio-marked. Subsequent to our activity in the field on this project, radio-marked birds led to the discovery of 1 presumed-active nest, which could not be visited on the ground because of steep terrain. However, 1 nest was found while travelling to a 2007 nesting area and monitored with a video camera until the chick fledged.

JOB/ACTIVITY 3B: Where practical, provide land managers with recommendations on habitat maintenance, especially if those habitats are negatively impacted through anthropogenic causes.

No Progress

OBJECTIVE 4:

JOB/ACTIVITY 4A: Where possible, gather supplemental ecological data to accompany population parameters on Southeast Alaskan vertebrates. These data may include life history and other demographic information, predation risks and factors, and habitat preference or avoidance parameters.

No progress

OBJECTIVE 5:

JOB/ACTIVITY 5A: Analyze data, prepare reports, maps, and associated publications and presentations.

No Progress

JOB/ACTIVITY 5B: Attend conferences and workshops and/or write articles to present findings.

No Progress

OBJECTIVE 6:

JOB/ACTIVITY 6A: Identify implementation partners.

No progress

JOB/ACTIVITY 6B: Identify implementation projects and activities.

No progress

JOB/ACTIVITY 6C: Implement projects and activities as part of objectives 1 – 5, or under a separate implementation grant.

No Progress

Significant Deviations: none.

Additional Information: none.

Prepared By: Karen Blejwas, Nongame Biologist, Region 1