

# Poster Abstracts

## (22) SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION, HABITAT USE, AND MIGRATION PATTERNS OF TULE WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

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We deployed 22 implantable satellite transmitters in Tule White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons elgasi*) captured on the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Transmitters remained active up to 1,176 days, thus some geese were tracked for 3 roundtrips between AK and CA. Ten geese died before completing 2 roundtrip migrations. Spring migration routes from the Central Valley of California (CVC) to AK followed the coast. Geese were also detected inland, or up to 1,000 km offshore. Staging areas included Lower Klamath NWR, CA, Summer Lake Wildlife Area, OR, and Chewaucan Marsh, OR. Geese arrived in the Upper Cook Inlet Basin (UCIB), AK, beginning late April and remained through nesting. Unsuccessful breeders departed UCIB to molt elsewhere. Geese did not exhibit fidelity to molting areas. Geese returned to the UCIB after the molt and remained until early September. Most marked geese returned to the CVC by late September. The core wintering area was localized and included managed habitats within the Sacramento NWR Complex. Staging, nesting and wintering habitats are limited to specific locations that are small in area (km<sup>2</sup>). Managers need to protect these habitats to maintain current population levels.

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