

Territory of Alaska
Project W-4-D-9
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Completion Report Development
as required by
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act


1. Title: Stocking, Restocking and Introduction of Game Birds and Mammals in Alaska
2. Personnel: Assigned from Federal Aid Project 3-R
3. Report of Progress:

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Chichagof Island, page 1

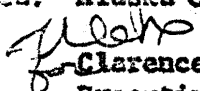
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Submitted:


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June 30, 1959

Work Plan No. 1. Stocking Goat, Chichagof Island

A total of 22 goat of even sex ratio, not including known losses, have been released on Chichagof Island under previous segments of this plan. During the period of this report no more goat were available for stocking.

Local pilots flying over the Island have been asked to watch for goat but only one report has been received. Chief Pilot Ray Renshaw of Alaska Coastal Airlines reported that in late August 1958, Alaska Coastal pilot Bill Milnes reported seeing two adult goat on the second ridge north of Sitkoh Bay. A second report of goat seen in Tenakee pass was not confirmed.

Work Plan No. 2. Stocking Moose, Berner's Bay - S.E. Alaska

This segment of the project completed work started in the previous segment.

During the period May 22-27 a total of 22 moose calves were captured in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys by the aid of helicopters furnished by the U. S. Air Force. Three of the calves died while being held in Anchorage and two were used for Zoological Gardens. On May 28, 17 calves were flown to Juneau by the Air National Guard.

The calves were cared for at the Minfield Childrens' Home under the direction of Superintendent Pete Nichol and technical assistance of U. S. Game Management Agent Fred Robards. Territorial veterinarian Fred Honsinger donated free services for treatment of sick calves. One calf died shortly after arrival in Juneau and the remaining 16 were held until August 15 when they were taken on an LST operated by Ray Lilly to Berner's Bay and released on the beach.

During the landing the rough and shallow water forced the vessel to remain about 300 yards from shore. The moose were forced into the water but floundered, swam, and walked aimlessly in the shallow water. One of the calves swam to deeper water and before being rescued became exhausted. The calf was carried to the beach but died during the night. Howard Erickson was employed to "camp" with moose at Berner's Bay until September 12 while the calves became oriented to the new environment.

Tag No.	Sex	<u>Weight in Pounds</u>		
		Arrived in Juneau May 22, 1958	Release at Berner's Bay Aug. 15, 1958	Gain in Weight
C-558	M	24	36	12
C-559	F	34	41	7
C-560	F	36	58	22
C-561	F	36	55	19
C-562	F	39	57	18
C-563	M	37	64	27
C-565	F	37	60	23
C-566	F	37	58	21
C-582	F	35	59	24
C-583	M	37	53	16
C-584	M	35	57	22
C-586	M	28	51	23
C-587	F	36	53	17
C-588	F	52	71	19
C-589	F	37	52	15
C-590	F	40	52	12

Summary: 5 males, 11 females

Costs. This project was a cooperative one with the Territorial Sportsmen of Juneau, a private sportsmen's group, and the Territorial Department of Fish and Game.

Direct costs of the stocking, assignable and known, are as follows:

Federal Aid:

Wages caretakers at Anchorage	\$ 326.95
" " " Berner's Bay	821.75
Feed - milk & dry feed	768.51
Drugs, syringes	91.11
Hardware - wire, pails	71.40
Boat charter, LST	<u>180.00</u>
Federal Aid Total	\$2,259.72

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, feed, misc.	500.00
Territorial Sportsman, care & feed	<u>1,082.14</u>
	\$3,841.86

The project is indebted for the cooperation and assistance of the U. S. Air Force for their helicopter use in capturing the calves and the Air National Guard for transport of calves from Anchorage to Juneau. Federal Aid Biologist Robert Rausch and Agent Fred Roberts were largely responsible for the success of the project.

Work Plan No. 3. Stocking Caribou, Adak Island, Aleutian Islands
National Wildlife Refuge

This project was a cooperative one with the Refuge Branch of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the U. S. Navy and Air Force. The purpose was to start a nucleus herd of caribou for eventual recreational hunting for Navy and Military personnel assigned to the remote stations on the Island.

At the courtesy of the Air Force, helicopters were used to capture 31 caribou calves from the Melchina caribou herd northeast of Anchorage, Alaska. Federal Aid Biologists Skoog and Rausch assisted in the capture and handling of the calves which were transported and held in Anchorage. The calves were 1-5 days old and almost immediately after capture began to show stress, became weak and wobbly, and within a week 15 had died. Plans for immediate shipment were delayed. Four more died during the following week. Ten of the healthy survivors were shipped via military air transport to Adak on June 23, 1958. Personnel of the Marine Corps, assisted by Refuge Manager Jones, cared for the calves until July 31 when they were taken to Unalga Bight in the Bay of Islands on Adak Island. The animals were completely liberated on August 4 but continued to take supplemental feed until August 8.

During the winter one of the calves disappeared and the remaining herd consisted of 7 females and 2 males.

During the summer of 1959 an additional stocking was undertaken by the Refuge Branch of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife cooperating with the Navy. On May 26, 1959, 45 caribou calves were caught by Air Force helicopter from the Melchina herd. Five calves died before arriving at Adak on May 27. Mortality continued in the same pattern as in 1958, i.e., 33% survival. Ultimately 14 calves survived, 5 males and 9 females.

Complete reports on the Adak portion of this stocking project can be found in Refuge Manager Robert D. Jones Refuge Narrative Reports for the years 1958 and 1959.

Total costs for the project are not available. The biggest cost, helicopter, aircraft and personnel was furnished by the Air Force and Navy and are not determined. Direct assignment costs are as follows:

1958

Calf food, fencing	\$391.49	Pd. by Special Services Adak Naval Station
Care, feeding - Anchorage	<u>326.95</u>	Pd. by Federal Aid Project
	\$718.44	

1959

Caribou calf food	\$470.15	Pd. by Special Services Adak Naval Station
Excelsior, fuel, hardware	<u>349.90</u>	Branch of Refuges - BSWF
	\$820.05	