

FEDERAL AID FINAL 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 Wildlife Restoration Grant

Grant Number: AKW-7 Intensive Management FY2018 **Segment Number:** 1

Project Number: 1.0 Caribou

Project Title: Statewide Intensive Management for Caribou Populations Identified as Important for Providing High Levels of Harvest for Human Consumptive Use and Predators Influencing Caribou Population Status.

Project Duration: April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2020

Report Period: July 1, 2017 – December 1, 2017

Report Due Date: December 8, 2017

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS: Torsten Bentzen (RIII), Nick Demma (RIV), Lincoln Parrett (RV)

WORK LOCATION: Region III (Fortymile Caribou Herd), Region IV (Units 9, 17, 19), and Region V (Western Arctic Caribou Herd)

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

Objective 1: Conduct more frequent and more robust summer surveys to estimate the population size and fall composition (bulls, cows and calves) of caribou to evaluate if IM treatments are successful.

Activities conducted under AKW-23 were sufficient to estimate population size and composition. No additional work was required under AKW-7 to improve the estimates.

Objective 2: Estimate calf production, survival and causes of mortality using radio-collars and or camera-collars to determine if a) calf mortality can be reduced to meet IM population and/or harvest objectives or b) to evaluate the effects of the IM treatment.

Activities conducted under AKW-23 were sufficient to estimate calf production and survival. No additional work was required under AKW-7 in FY2018 to improve the estimates.

Objective 3: Estimate adult caribou survival rates using radio-collars to evaluate the effects of the IM treatment.

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Activities conducted under AKW-23 were sufficient to estimate adult female survival. No additional work was required under AKW-7 in FY2018 to improve the estimates.

Objective 4: Monitor moose nutritional status to evaluate the influence of nutrition on Caribou population status and evaluate IM population objectives.

No work was conducted under this objective because IM objectives did not need to be evaluated for caribou.

Objective 5: Monitor forage abundance and utilization to evaluate browse abundance and quality and determine habitat capability to develop reasonable IM population objectives.

No work was conducted under this objective because IM objectives did not need to be developed for caribou.

Objective 6: Investigate and monitor wolf, black bear and brown bear abundance relative to defined IM objectives.

No work was conducted under this objective because IM objectives did not need to be defined for predators.

Objective 7: Report findings in appropriate scientific and popular publications.

No publications completed for the reporting period.

II. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS AND/OR ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD

This performance report serves as the final performance report for AKW-7 Caribou 1.0. After extensive investigation by DWC and USFWS staff into performance reporting and financial accounting of the 5-year AKW-7 Intensive Management award for Caribou 1.0, it was determined to cease work on the caribou project and submit the final report for FY18, and subsequently terminate the entire AKW-7 award on June 30, 2018.

Activities reported in previous years for this grant were not significantly different in nature from activities conducted to accomplish AKW-10 and -20 objectives. The activities and costs were reported in AKW-10 and-20 reports through an amendment to FY2018 AKW-23.

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In summary, no activities were conducted under AKW-7 for this reporting period and no funds were spent.

III. PUBLICATIONS

None

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

Project was terminated on December 1, 2017. No further activities will be conducted under this grant after that date.

Prepared by: Brenda Bowers

Date: December 4, 2017