

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**PLAINS BISON
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. AKW-4 Wildlife Restoration FY2015

PROJECT NO. 9.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Plains Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes plains bison survey and inventory activities. Region wide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

**The Status of Plains Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations in
Region III**

Region wide activities:

1. Prepared 2 biennial bison management reports.
2. Monitor harvest of 83 bison from permit hunts and analyzed harvest data.
3. Provide bison management information to State and Federal regulatory processes: 17 Fish and Game Advisory Committees, 1 Board of Game, 3 federal Regional Advisory Councils and 1 federal Subsistence Board.
4. Maintained a sample of 60 radio collared bison to monitor herd distribution and movements.
5. Conducted 5 surveys to assess population distribution, size and sex and age composition.
6. Collect biological samples from 30 hunter-killed bison to conduct genetics analysis and disease screening.
7. Assessed conditions of 2 bison ranges and worked with fire control agencies to improve habitat.
8. Conducted 1 Delta Junction Bison Range program that includes: monitoring movements to and from the range; planting and fertilizing preferred bison forage

species and controlling invasive, non-desirable species; providing trace mineral and water supplements; and monitoring forage quality.

Covers GMUs: 19C, 19D, and 20D

Prepared by: Doreen Parker McNeil, Region III Management Coordinator

The Status of Plains Bison and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region IV

PROJECT LOCATION: Game Management Unit 11

Region wide activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial bison management report.

The biennial bison management report was drafted and submitted to the region for review.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the harvest of bison from the permit hunts and analyze harvest data.

2014-2015 Harvest	Permittees	Hunters	Males	Total harvest
Unit 11 Chitina River	2	2	1	1 bison
Unit 11 and 13D Copper River	25	14	4 (50%)	8 bison

Activities by Unit:

Unit 11 Chitina River and Copper River Herds

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the harvest of bison from the permit hunts and analyze harvest data.

See table above.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status trend productivity and mortality of bison.

Chitina River Herd - June 2015: 57 total bison, 52 adults and 5 calves

Copper River Herd - June 2015: 181 total bison, 151 adults and 30 calves

Submitted by: Lem Butler, Region IV Regional Supervisor