

FEDERAL AID ANNUAL RESEARCH 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: W-33 **Segment Number:** 10
Project Number: 19.10
Project Title: Region I research planning, design, and support
Project Duration: July 1, 2003–June 30, 2013
Reporting Period: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
Report Due Date: September 1, 2012
Principal Investigators: Rod Flynn, Research Coordinator
Work Location: Southeast Alaska

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1: Conduct strategic evaluations of research needs based on current management needs and objectives.

Design and support are an important part of maintaining a high quality research program. Planning is needed at many levels from strategic planning to planning experimental protocols of individual projects. A research plan is necessary to develop and maintain program direction, structure, and function that complement the Division of Wildlife Conservation's strategic plans. Short and longer-term research priorities were established through discussions and meetings with regional and headquarters staffs. Additional discussions were held with others outside of the regional staff, including other regions, federal management agencies, and universities. Research questions were designed to answer management questions. Regional priorities were reevaluated related to this new information and in conjunction with potential funding.

Objective 2: Develop research design alternatives based on identified priorities.

In the evaluation of regional research priorities, alternative studies were considered for all projects. Final decisions on topic selection, research design, and field techniques were based on an analysis of the likelihood of accomplishing the research objectives, logistical considerations, and available staffing and expertise to work on the study.

Objective 3: Compare alternative research designs using specific evaluation criteria.

Research designs were reevaluated and modified as necessary with the input of our statistical staff, based on information learned in previous years.

Objective 4: Conduct routine and sophisticated statistical and population estimation analyses.

We coordinated with our staff biometrician in the review of projects. In addition, our staff biometrician conducted various analyses of research data for final reports and publications. Dave Gregovich was hired as a research analyst II to improvement our research support. We analyzed

and reported the results from studies associated with the Juneau Access Improvement Projects involving brown bears, moose, mountain goats, and wolverines.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS IDENTIFIED IN ANNUAL PLAN THIS PERIOD

JOB/ACTIVITY 1: Establish research program priorities

Short and longer-term research priorities were evaluated through discussions and meetings with regional staff, other regions, federal management agencies, and universities. Regional priorities were reevaluated related to this new information and in conjunction with potential funding. Because of partnering opportunities and targeted funding for specific groups of wildlife, regional staff identified additional priorities in the areas of mountain goat population assessment, wolf population assessment, and black bear habitat selection. These projects were in addition to ongoing research priorities for brown bears, moose, mountain goats, and Sitka black-tailed deer.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2: Develop research design alternatives

Alternative studies were considered for several of the projects, especially for the wolf population assessment. Final decisions on topic selection, research design, and field techniques were based on an analysis of the likelihood of accomplishing the research objectives, logistical considerations, and available staff to work on the study.

JOB/ACTIVITY 3: Evaluate research designs

Research designs were reevaluated and modified as necessary with the input of our statistical staff, based on information learned in previous years.

JOB/ACTIVITY 4: Statistical and population estimation/biometric services

We coordinated with our staff biometrician in the review of projects. In addition, our staff biometrician conducted various analyses of research data for final reports and publications. These analyses included a number of species, included population estimation and habitat selection. Dave Gregovich was hired as a Research Analyst II to improve our research support. We finished final reports on mountain goats and moose that were funded by DOT&PF (Juneau Access Improvement Projects). We completed draft final reports on brown bear and wolverines, also for the planned Juneau Access Improvement Project.

III. PUBLICATIONS

None.

IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR THIS PROJECT

Extend the project for another year.

Prepared by: Rod Flynn

Date: 9/01/2012