

# Wildlife Restoration OPERATING GRANT 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-B-R1-2021

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 23.10

**PROJECT TITLE:** DWC Region 1 Coordination

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Tom Schumacher

**COOPERATORS:** none

---

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328  
2 CFR 200.301  
50 CFR 80.90

### **I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Administer 14 projects under a grant that includes coordination and administration by 06-30-2021

Activity 1A: Provide quality assurance and support wildlife conservation and research, restoration, management, information dissemination, education, access, and associated recreational benefits.

Activity 1B: Establish and maintain necessary practices to meet requirements for participation in and administration of the Wildlife Restoration (WR) program. Supervise DWC operations in Region I area offices and facilities.

Activity 1C: Plan, administer, coordinate, and provide regional oversight for the State of Alaska Pittman-Robertson projects to successfully manage and conserve Alaska's wildlife and ensure eligibility in the WR program.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Activity 1A: In Region I all WR project proposals are subject to review by either the Research or Management coordinator and by the Regional Supervisor. The regional Administrative Officer reviews the budgets prior to project statements being submitted to the Statewide Federal Aid Coordinator in the Juneau Headquarters office. The region ensures these regional leadership positions and individual project leaders all have the

training necessary to understand and apply the intent and requirements of the WR program when developing and reviewing project objectives. The Regional Supervisor takes responsibility for ensuring established practices to ensure project objectives support wildlife conservation, restoration, management, education, access, and associated recreational benefits are followed and that those objectives meet the purpose of the WR program.

Activity 1B: Practices to ensure Region I meets the requirements to participate in the WR program were established prior to this reporting period. However, the need to ensure those practices continue and improve over time is ongoing. A new Management Coordinator was hired in March 2020 and serving in that role for the entire reporting period. The Research Coordinator resigned in September 2019 and the Regional Supervisor has fulfilled the duties of that position since then. A recruitment process for the Research Coordinator position was initiated but was soon placed on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic and uncertainty over state Fish and Game Fund revenue. Regional leadership work with project leaders to ensure ongoing projects continue to meet WR program requirements and new projects are substantial in character and designed to meet regional needs. Region I will seek to fill the vacant Research Coordinator position during FY22.

Staff training continued to be focused during this reporting period. Although the coronavirus pandemic hampered travel and in-person events, Region I staff attended trainings in wildlife capture, firearms and wildlife safety, and various technical skills related to research and data analysis techniques.

The Regional Supervisor and Management Coordinator ensured project leaders developed, conducted, and reported on WR projects that were consistent with DWC priorities, met WR program requirements, and guided wildlife management to ensure sustainable opportunity for users. Facilities and equipment were maintained or replaced as needed to ensure project goals could be met.

The Regional Supervisor and Management Coordinator regularly worked with regional and statewide administrative staff to monitor individual project budgets, ensure spending adhered to WR program rules, and that budget tracking remained clear and within spending limits.

Activity 1C: The regional Supervisor and Management Coordinator ensured all PR-funded projects remained eligible for the WR program. They accomplished this by closely supervising and coordinating with individual WR project leaders to ensure conduct of ongoing projects and development of new projects complied with PR program requirements. Through discussions with project leaders and review of project accomplishments regional leadership ensured work accomplished remained consistent with the approved project statement and that benchmarks for progress were met. Whenever there was a need to change a project statement, regional leadership worked with the project leader and administrative staff to ensure the changes including the rationale for change were well documented, reported, and continued to meet WR project requirements.

**OBJECTIVE 2: Engage 4 organizations by 06-30-2021.**

Activity 2A: Work and collaborate with partners and the public to improve the management, understanding, and conservation of wildlife in Alaska, including work with other state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and universities.

Activity 2B: Participate in local, regional, state, and national meetings as a representative of the DWC to address issues related to WR-administered grants.

Activity 2C: Prepare all research and management grant submissions, amendments, and performance report submissions and coordinate with the Federal Aid Coordinator.

Activity 2D: Oversee review and finalization of regional research technical reports and Publications.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Activity 2A: In Region I both the research and management programs cooperate with a variety of partners including other state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, advisory committees/councils, and the public to improve management and understanding of wildlife conservation in Southeast Alaska. Although initial contacts regarding cooperation may be with management or research biologists, the Coordinators and Regional Supervisor review and approve agreements to cooperate. During this reporting period Region I actively participated in all existing cooperative agreements and maintained relationships with a variety of potential cooperators in anticipation of future collaborative opportunities.

Activity 2B: During this reporting period Region I biologists and leadership coordinated with DWC's Federal Aid Coordinator but did not represent DWC in meetings to address issues with WR-administered grants.

Activity 2C: Within the ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation new research and management project proposals are usually developed in response to information needs identified by management biologists. Project proposals are prioritized, funded, and assigned to biologists by the Regional Supervisor following discussions with the Management and Research Coordinators. Regional leaders regularly encourage management and research biologists to bring forth information needs and project ideas to address those needs. In general, new projects are initiated as priorities, funding, and staff availability allow. During this reporting period all staff were fully engaged, and we did not undertake any new projects.

Activity 2D: The Management and Research Coordinators are directly responsible for overseeing development of operational plans, project statements, technical reports and publications for management and research projects. For most management projects in Region I individual Species Management Reports and Plans serve as the operation plan for survey and inventory activities. Biologists and the Management Coordinator cooperate to develop annual project statements. Under supervision of the Research Coordinator, research biologists develop operational plans for their projects. Research biologists and the Research Coordinator cooperate to develop annual project statements, performance reports, technical reports and publications. During this reporting period

Region I prepared and submitted project statements and had operational plans in place for all research and management projects.

**OBJECTIVE 3: Develop/revise 1 plan by 06-30-2021.**

Activity 3A: Develop new research or management project proposals.

Activity 3B: Supervise the research and management programs in Region I such that budgeting, planning, implementation, and reporting are achieved.

Activity 3C: Oversee the development of operational plans and project statements for research and management.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Activity 3A: Within the ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation new research and management project proposals are usually developed in response to information needs identified by management biologists. Project proposals are prioritized, funded, and assigned to biologists by the Regional Supervisor following discussions with the Management and Research Coordinators. Regional leaders regularly encourage management and research biologists to bring forth information needs and project ideas to address those needs. In general, new projects are initiated as priorities, funding, and staff availability allow. During this reporting period all staff were fully engaged, and we did not undertake any new projects.

Activity 3B: Region I's management and research programs are immediately supervised by the Management and Research Coordinators with the Regional Supervisor overseeing both programs. The Management and Research Coordinators are directly responsible for ensuring project budgeting, planning, implementation, and reporting are achieved on schedule and consistent with program requirements. During this reporting period Region I successfully implemented and reported on all Pittman-Robertson funded management and research projects.

Activity 3C: The Management and Research Coordinators are directly responsible for overseeing development of operational plans and project statements for management and research projects. For most management projects in Region I individual Species Management Reports and Plans serve as the operation plan for survey and inventory activities. Biologists and the Management Coordinator cooperate to develop annual project statements. Under supervision of the Research Coordinator research biologists develop operational plans for their projects. Research biologists and the Research Coordinator cooperate to develop annual project statements. During this reporting period Region I prepared and submitted project statements and had operational plans in place for all research and management projects.

**II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.**

During this reporting period Region I leadership and staff funded under this regional coordination project successfully coordinated and executed all Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration-funded projects in the region. The primary work completed included ensuring staffing, facilities, and procedures were established and followed to ensure compliance with WR program requirements, coordinating and supervising staff working on WR program-funded projects to ensure work was completed, documented, and reported consistent with terms of the WR program, and that regional leadership coordinated with DWC's Federal Aid Coordinator and federal program staff to ensure an understanding of program goals and requirements and to identify challenges or areas for improvement.

**II. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.**

This project was underspent for several reasons. For most of this reporting period our research coordinator position, PCN 11-2186, was vacant. Our attempt to recruit a new coordinator was suspended due to COVID-19. Pandemic-related travel restrictions, cancellations of in-person meetings, conferences, and trainings, and a legislative mandated required budget cuts of \$375,400 to our region.

**IV. PUBLICATIONS**

None

**V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT**

I recommend this project be extended.

**Prepared by:** Thomas V. Schumacher

**Date:** August 2021