

**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-R3-2020

PROJECT NUMBER: P23.30

PROJECT TITLE: Region III Coordination

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

PERFORMANCE YEAR: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021; year 2 of a 2-year grant

REPORT DUE DATE:

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Darren Bruning, Fish and Game Coordinator, ADF&G

COOPERATORS: N/A

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR

Region 3 Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide quality assurance and support for wildlife conservation and research, restoration, management, harvest monitoring, information dissemination, education, access, habitat, GIS, biometric, and associated programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: See also “accomplishments” under objectives 2, 3, and 10.
Additional highlights include:

- Coordinated management and research operations with external partners, including the National Park Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and North Slope Borough Wildlife Department.
- Assisted with development of education and outreach materials for wildlife health topics.
- Reviewed and edited technical and non-technical products from Region III and the Division of Wildlife Conservation.
- Assisted in the development and reviewed Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee protocols for Region III operations and projects.
- Visited remote offices to facilitate communication and to ensure progress on projects.

- Reviewed all press releases, documents, manuscripts and educational materials for publication and dissemination to the public.

OBJECTIVE 2: Establish and maintain necessary practices to meet requirements for participation in and administration of the Wildlife Restoration (WR) program. Supervise DWC operations in Region III area offices and facilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: See “accomplishments” under objectives 3, 6, 7, and 8.

OBJECTIVE 3: Plan, administer, coordinate, and provide regional oversight for the State of Alaska Pittman–Robertson projects to ensure eligibility in the WR program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Administration and coordination of the regional programs is the responsibility of the regional coordinators. Coordinators review draft proposals from staff, coordinate workflow, review and edit federal aid-related popular and technical reports and federal aid documents prior to publication. Coordinators participate in routine periodic meetings, video conferences and teleconferences to accomplish this objective. One or more coordinators accomplished the following during this reporting period.

- Coordinators attended Research Coordination Team, Management Coordination Team and/or Division Management Team meetings. Specific activities included discussing wildlife management issues, fiscal analyses and management, assisting with development of guidelines for selecting graduate students at the Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; prioritization guidelines for ADFG staff to attend professional conferences and workshops; and providing updates on ongoing and proposed management operations and research in Region III. The number of in-person meetings was reduced during this reporting period due to COVID-19 considerations.
- Attended Region III staff meetings and teleconferences.
- Advised Regional Supervisor on various supervisory issues
- The Regional Supervisor led 2 meetings with regional research staff.
- Management coordinator led multiple (10+) meetings with management staff.
- Management coordinator maintained regional calendar of events to keep track of staff progress on projects.
- Coordinators traveled to remote offices to coordinate management activities, facilitate communication with staff, and to ensure progress on projects.

OBJECTIVE 4: Participate in local, regional, state, and national meetings as a representative of the DWC to address issues related to WR-administered grants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Attended DWC and Region III meetings (in-person and teleconference)
- Attended Fish and Game Advisory Committee meetings
- Represented the DWC and Region at the Interior and Eastern Arctic Board of Game meeting (teleconference format for this reporting period due to COVID-19 considerations).

- Attended (via teleconference and videoconference) Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wild Sheep Working Group meetings as the representative for ADF&G

OBJECTIVE 5: Develop new research project proposals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: No new research project proposals were developed during the reporting period.

OBJECTIVE 6: Supervise the management and research sections, and all support programs in Region III such that budgeting, planning, implementation, and reporting is achieved.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The Regional Supervisor provided oversight, supervision, guidance, and overall coordination for all aspects of the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region (III) including of the management and research sections, regional administration, analytics, planning, and harvest statistics.

More details about accomplishments that overlap with this objective are including under Objectives 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11.

OBJECTIVE 7: Oversee the development of operational plans and reports and project statements for research.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Regional Management Coordinator provided oversight for the completion of 2 species management reports and operational plans and work progression on 18 others.
- The Regional Management Coordinator oversaw the development of 10 federal aid project statements for management operations.
- The Regional Supervisor provided oversight for the development of 8 research federal aid project statements.

OBJECTIVE 8: Prepare and coordinate with the Federal Aid Coordinator all research grant submissions, amendments, and performance report submissions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The Regional Supervisor and Regional Management Coordinator provided oversight for development, preparation, and delivery of all Region III DWC federal aid requirements including project statements, amendments, significant development reports, and performance reports. This work was accomplished through regular and frequent contact and coordination with the DWC Federal Aid Coordinator. Region III DWC has 10 management and 8 research federal aid projects.

OBJECTIVE 9: Oversee review and finalization of regional research technical reports and publications

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: There were no research technical reports or publications finalized this reporting period. .

OBJECTIVE 10: Supervise the wildlife planning, harvest monitoring, GIS, and biometric support programs in Region III such that budgeting, planning implementation is completed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Wildlife Planning staff:

- The Wildlife Planner (PCN 11-2287) position remains unfilled and the Department of Administrative Services took action to change the PCN to a biologist instead of a planner. The department and the division continue to work with State of Alaska Department of Administrative Services to have the planner position reinstated.
 - No major planning activities were initiated or accomplished this reporting period.

Harvest Monitoring staff:

- Maintained hunt and harvest data quality for the region within the department's databases.
- Provided accurate hunt and harvest data to regional, divisional and department leadership, Region III biologists, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and the public.
- Served on the divisional Regulations-Information-Permitting-and Harvest Implementation Team to review departmental forms, hunt-harvest report templates, regulations booklet, and hunt information supplements for efficiency, consistency, and accuracy.
- Progressed on moving huntfile information from existing database to the new Hunt Definition System.
- Served as a reviewer and tester for the new Hunt Definition System, including providing feedback to Information Services for use in fine-tuning and developing the system.

GIS staff:

- Synthesized spatial data sets used for validation of statewide browse data.
- Synthesized spatial data sets to understand relationships between intensive management practices and wildlife populations dynamics and hunting practices.
- Synthesized spatial datasets to improve methods used to estimate moose population size.
- Created home range polygons for multiple projects and species.
- Summarized and statistically analyzed telemetry data for multiple projects and species.
- Facilitated data sharing between the department and external collaborators.
- Developed web-based mapping applications to view GPS collar locations for multiple projects.
- Maintained telemetry databases for multiple projects and species.

- Collaborated with divisional staff (outside of Region III) to develop and maintain division-wide telemetry database.

Programming and Biometric staff:

- Designed and analyzed moose surveys for GMU's 19D and 20E.
- Analyzed Fortymile caribou herd demographics and constructed population models to estimate herd status and abundance.
- Analyzed 20E moose survival and twinning rates data.
- Consulted with Region III Research Biologist Brad Wendling regarding study design for the upcoming Brooks Range Ram Ecology Dall's sheep research project.
- Conducted statistical analyses and summaries of data in relation to intensive management evaluation.
- Continued the analyses of marten harvest and blastocyst data in consultation with Region III Research Biologist Kerry Nicholson.
- Progressed on development of Close Kin Mark Recapture techniques to estimate moose abundance and vital rates.
- Reviewed 2 Region III species management reports and plans, and 14 survey memos.

OBJECTIVE 11: Provide administrative support to Region III wildlife management and research sections, programs, and projects.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Regional Supervisor and the Regional Management Coordinator developed budgets for 82 regional projects.
- The Regional Supervisor directly and indirectly supervised the 4 personnel who comprise the Regional Administrative Staff (direct – Regional Administrative Officer; indirect – Accounting Technician I, Administrative Assistant II, and Office Assistant II).
- The Regional Supervisor directly supervised 15 regional personnel and completed 3 performance evaluations.
- The Regional Management Coordinator supervised (directly and indirectly) 22 regional personnel and completed 3 performance evaluations.
- The Regional Supervisor analyzed and rendered decisions on numerous administrative topics and issues throughout the reporting period including:
 - Identifying necessary facility and infrastructure maintenance and repairs
 - Monitoring and assessing staff needs for training and professional development
 - Selection of personnel for training and workshop/conference attendance
 - Development of a Regional travel plan
 - Development of COVID-19 operational work and travel guidelines
 - Development of telework agreements for regional staff assigned to working from home due to COVID-19
 - Hiring of short term-nonpermanent staff
 - Extension of work periods for nonpermanent staff

- Assigning workspace within office buildings
- Assessing equipment and gear storage
- Assessing staffing needs and making staffing assignments for public interface and services
- Extensive budget reviews and analyses to ensure successful budget management and to achieve budget reductions as directed by the division and department

II. Summary of Work Completed on PROJECT TO DATE.

The coordination project is not a product-oriented project. Rather the project is a description of the process staff utilize to see that other management, research, and education projects are fulfilled. Staff assigned to this project ensures that all projects are completed in an efficient and effective manner and that procurement, budgeting and reporting rules are followed.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

None

Other significant developments:

- The Regional Supervisor continues to assume most duties of the vacant Research Coordinator position with assistance from a Wildlife Biologist IV from the Research Section. The Region III GIS Analyst continues to assume some of the duties of the vacant Analyst-Programmer V position.
- Travel and in-person meeting attendance was greatly restricted due to Covid-19 related circumstances.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

Publications under this project are not usually produced. Rather staff ensures that other project reports are completed in a timely fashion and according to Federal Aid guidelines.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

This project is ongoing. Staff may change and objectives added, deleted, or edited.

Prepared by:

Date: October 2021