

# **Wildlife Restoration MULTI-YEAR GRANT INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 115526  
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## **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME WILDLIFE RESTORATION GRANT**

**GRANT NUMBER:** F20AF00014

**PROJECT NUMBER:** AKW-R-14-2020

**PROJECT TITLE:** R4 Nelchina Caribou Herd Iridium Collar Deployment

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** October 1, 2019 – June 30, 2023

**PERFORMANCE YEAR:** October 1, 2019 – Sept. 30, 2020; year 1 of a 4-year grant

**REPORT DUE DATE:** Submit to Coordinator December 24, 2020; due to FAC Dec. 29, 2020

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Heidi Hatcher

**COOPERATORS:**

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Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328  
2 CFR 200.301  
50 CFR 80.90

### **I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Procure 32 Iridium caribou collars by August 2020 and 32 additional Iridium collars by August 2021.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** 32 Iridium caribou collars were procured and were received in Glennallen prior to August 2020.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Deploy 42 Iridium Satellite collars on Nelchina cows and 22 Iridium satellite collars on Nelchina bulls by November 2021.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Deployments were scheduled for October 2020, so no collars were deployed during this reporting period.

**OBJECTIVE 3:** Remove accessible inactive/mort collars from the field as they accumulate between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2023.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Retrievals were not scheduled for this project during this reporting period but did and will take place during the next reporting period.

OBJECTIVE 4: Maintain data fees for satellite collars through June 30, 2023.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: During this reporting period data fees were pre-paid through July 2021 for the 32 collars that were procured.

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

In October 2020 (Year 2 of 4), 21 collars were deployed on cow caribou. Also, during October 2020, 18 more radiocollars were retrieved from the field in order to make available additional frequencies for the next Iridium collar order. The Iridium collars that were deployed in October are functioning well and providing invaluable information on the movements and distribution of the herd, some of which have traveled to the Canada border while other animals remain in Unit 13.

## **III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.**

None to report.

## **IV. PUBLICATIONS**

Work from this project and a resulting map to demonstrate the GPS collar data were highlighted in this online science lecture given as an outreach effort for Nelchina Caribou Management on 12/18/2020:

<https://wrangellinstituteforscienceandenvironmentwise.my.webex.com/wrangellinstituteforscienceandenvironmentwise.my/jdr.php?RCID=8be9314a906644e4aea1a7a31ec0d584>

password Nelchina20.

## **V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT** Project will continue as scheduled.

**Prepared by:** Heidi Hatcher

**Date:** 12/21/2020