

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**DEER
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-33-1

PROJECT NR.: 2.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT LOCATIONS: Game Management Regions 1 and 2

PERIOD: 1 July 2002–30 June 2003

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Deer and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This statewide performance report includes the two regions involved in deer survey and inventory activities. Statewide and regional activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Deer
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I**

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Determine harvest and population trends using a mail survey of deer hunters.

This was done via a region-wide survey.

Activity 2: Conduct pellet-group surveys at selected locations throughout the region.

This activity was done in April and May 2003. Field crews were able to complete 21 transects during this period.

Activity 3: Conduct mortality transects in key areas as needed and budgets allow.

Mortality transects were only done in Unit 1A during spring 2003. Winter weather was generally mild compared to the averages and deer did not concentrate beaches and low elevations as much a normal years.

Activity 4:

Finalize a deer management report.

The 2-year deer management report was completed in spring 2003 and submitted to headquarters.

Activity 5: Provide information to the Board of Game regarding deer management.

During the report period, staff testified before the Board of Game regarding 9 regulatory proposals specific to Region I deer.

Activity 6: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

This document satisfies the activity described.

Activities by Unit

Units 1A & 2

Activity 1: Conduct spotlight surveys in key areas as needed and budgets allow.

Due to weather and staffing constraints we did not conduct spotlight surveys during 2003.

Activity 2: Operate hunter check station on Prince of Wales Island.

Due to changes with the Federal Subsistence season in Unit 2 we did not operate a check station for the 2003 season.

Units 1B & 3

Activity 2: Conduct spotlight surveys.

No spotlight surveys were conducted in Units 1B and 3 during the report period.

Unit 4

Activity 1: Conduct deer mortality transects in key areas as needed.

This activity was not carried out in spring 2003 due to weather and a vacancy in staffing.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$32.8

Submitted by: Dale Rabe, Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Deer and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Draft a deer management report.

Draft deer management reports were prepared for Region 2 deer populations in 2003.

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game on deer management.

The Board of Game addressed proposals regarding deer in Region 2 during its spring 2003 meeting.

Activity 3: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 4: Monitor the deer harvest through field observations and contacts with hunters.

See Activity 5.

Activity 5: Conduct a deer hunter mail questionnaire survey.

Region 2 completed its annual mail deer questionnaire.

Activities by Unit

Unit 6

Activity 1: Conduct aerial survey of Prince William Sound shoreline in spring to assess deer over-winter survival.

The absence of deer on beaches and no snow throughout most of the low-elevation range indicated good over-winter survival.

Activity 2: Conduct annual pellet group surveys.

We conducted deer pellet surveys at 8 locations during 8 May–11 June.

Preliminary results (pending repeated measures analysis) indicated that density was similar to last year at 0.9 pellet groups per plot.

Activity 3: Conduct a deer hunter mail questionnaire survey.

Harvest: 1902 including 1205 males (63%), and 697 females.

Hunter effort: 1651 active hunters, 1.2 deer per hunter.

Unit 8

Activity 1: Assess winter mortality in standardized mortality count areas.

Results: The deer population continued to recover from the devastating winter mortality that occurred the 1998–99 winter. As a result of a mild fall and unusually warm winter in 2002–03, over winter mortality was extremely low.

Activity 2: Conduct a deer hunter mail questionnaire survey.

Results: We monitored hunting activities and harvest by a mail questionnaire. Preliminary extrapolated results indicated the 2002–03 harvest was 3,142 deer, including 94% males. Twenty-five percent of the harvest was from Afognak, Raspberry, and Shuyak islands; 75% of the harvest was from Kodiak and small adjacent islands. Hunter residency was: Kodiak Island residents (45%), non-local Alaska residents (45%) and, non-residents (9%).

Activity 3: Evaluate improved procedures for assessing population status.

The department has teamed with staff from Kodiak NWR to sponsor a unitwide vegetative analysis. This project commenced in 2001 and will be completed in fall 2003.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

None.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$38.6

Submitted by: Michael G McDonald, Region II Assistant Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$17.85 Federal Share = \$53.55 Total Costs = \$71.4