

**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-C-2-2019

**PROJECT NUMBER :** 21.0

**PROJECT TITLE:** Public and Hunter Services and Information

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

**REPORT DUE DATE:** Sept. 24, 2019

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Darren Bruning, Kristen Romanoff, Riley Woodford

---

**1. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERIOD of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

Many activities were completed in FY19 to meet the project's objectives. The activities listed below addressed at least one of the three objectives and many covered multiple objectives.

**Objective 1: Connect people to wildlife to:**

- a. Generate and strengthen people's connection with the natural environment and promote responsible hunting, trapping, viewing, and appreciation for wildlife.
- b. Promote awareness of the different ways people value and use wildlife and encourage tolerance towards different wildlife values and uses.
- c. Teach people how to stay safe and act responsibly to minimize conflicts with wildlife

**Objective 2: Build support for wildlife conservation, management, and research.**

- a. Improve public understanding of the interrelatedness of ecosystems, habitat and sustainable populations of wildlife.
- b. Improve public understanding of wildlife management principles and promote public support for the Division of Wildlife Conservation's (DWC) wildlife management and research efforts.

**Objective 3: Promote awareness of Alaska wildlife law to:**

- a. Empower people to engage and participate in the decision-making processes regarding wildlife and issues that affect the welfare of wildlife populations.
  - b. Improve public understanding of and compliance with wildlife laws and hunting and trapping regulations.

The following activities were completed to address the project objectives:

- Hunter Information Services (Frontline) Staff consisting of Fish and Wildlife Technicians, Office Assistants, Program Technicians, Wildlife Biologists, and College Interns served as an initial interface between multiple and diverse publics and the DWC.
- The Frontline staff provided a broad array of wildlife-related information and services to the DWC's multiple and diverse publics, including:
  - disseminating information on hunting and trapping regulations
  - disseminating information about refuge and/or special area use
  - issuance of permits, harvest tickets
  - selling licenses and big game harvest tags
  - receiving harvest reports and information
  - sealing of harvested bears, furbearers, and Dall's sheep
  - disseminating biological, ecological, and conservation and management information
- The Frontline staff accomplished providing the above information and services through:
  - face-to-face interaction with the public at the department headquarters, 5 Regional offices, and 17 Area offices. These offices are open from roughly 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, excluding holidays
  - Telephone conversations
  - Electronic and paper mail, and social media
- All regional specialists gave public presentations about wildlife management and research topics for multiple species (e.g., muskox, caribou (Western Arctic, Nelchina, Forty-mile herds), brown and black bears, moose, and small game).
- RII and RIV specialists coordinated speakers and promote *Wildlife Wednesday Winter Lecture Series* held monthly (Oct-April) focused on wildlife research/management in Alaska, attended by approx. 200 at each lecture in Anchorage and 50 in Wasilla.
- All regional and statewide education/outreach staff instructed wildlife and conservation-related activities at youth camps including: Anchorage- Outdoor Youth Days, Outdoor Week, Water Discovery Days; Juneau- ADF&G/4-H AK Experience Camp and Winter Camp; Fairbanks- Camp Habitat and Kotzebue-Onion Portage Caribou Collaring, and Palmer- IDEA Camp.
- RI, II and IV specialists gave wildlife safety presentations at community venues reaching approximately 4,500.
- Region I, II and IV specialists worked with seasonal staff and volunteers to provide wildlife safety presentations to elementary and middle school students in Anchorage, Palmer/Wasilla and Juneau; reaching approximately 10,000 students.
- Region I and III specialist provided wildlife safety training to department staff, ten half-day sessions.
- RI and RII specialists produced annual bear awareness PSAs for radio broadcasts in southeast and southcentral Alaska.
- RII and RIII specialists produced a training video about *M. ovi* surveillance and collection/handling of hunter harvest samples.

- RII and RIV specialists developed a *Moose Vehicle Collision* outreach campaign and disseminated information to the public via DMV, public events and social media.
- Regional specialists and Project WILD coordinator developed two new “science night kits (Horns/Antlers & Wildlife Signs) and continue to maintain/distribute wildlife kits (skulls, furs, birds, tracks, trail cameras) to schools and education centers reaching approximately 2,000 students.
- All regional specialists and Project WILD Coordinator attend community events & distributed wildlife related information and provide activities for the general public. Events include: Anchorage- Great Alaska Sportsman Show, Autumn Wings Festival, Water Discovery Days, Potter Marsh Discovery Day, Christmas Bird Count, National Public Lands Day, Health Fair and World Migratory Bird Day; Fairbanks- Tanana Valley Crane Festival; Palmer/Wasilla-, AK Ag. Day, Mat-Su Outdoor Show, Transportation Day, and Fun on the Flats.
- Region I, II and III specialists and public information officers serve on the department’s Facebook committee. 135 Facebook posts in a one-year period highlighted hunting, fishing and outdoor opportunities, and wildlife safety and seasonally appropriate objectives. Posts reach about 30,000/week, and 29,000 people follow ADF&G on Facebook. FB posts are picked up by local newspapers to run articles in the Anchorage Daily News, Juneau Empire and Fairbanks News Miner.
- RI and RV specialists manage and create content for Region I and Region V Facebook pages to highlight wildlife management and research topics.
- Project WILD Coordinator and regional specialists facilitated Project WILD and Alaska Wildlife Curriculum workshops including: traditional Growing Up WILD, Project WILD/AWC and thematic workshops (e.g., Population Dynamics, Conserving Habitats, Alaska’s Animals, Furs of Alaska Mammals, and Wood Bison Reintroduction); 19 workshops in 14 communities reaching approx. 450 teachers.
- RI, II, RIII, and Project WILD Coordinator presented at conferences providing DWC resources and the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum at: the Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (Anchorage and Juneau), APHEA in Anchorage and University of Alaska MAT Programs in Anchorage and Fairbanks.
- All regional specialists and statewide coordinator produced printed products for regional and/or statewide distribution including: **Regional-***Marten Aging Guide* update; *Game Management Unit 14 Small Game Hunting Guide*, *Game Management Regulations in Units 22, 23, 26A* posters, *Bison Hunter Orientation Packet & ID Guide*, *Nuqsut caribou hunter*, *Central Arctic Caribou Herd Hunter*, *Moose Survey and Harvest Reporting* postcards, *Habitat Enhancement* interpretive panel, *Caribou Trails* newsletter, **Statewide-** *Meat Salvage and Wolf Safety* rack cards, *Bear Aware* brochure, *M. ovi Surveillance- Hunter Harvest Samples* flyer/postcard and FAQs, *Alaska Board of Game & Wildlife Management* Infographic, *Alaska’s Wild Wonders* kid’s magazine.
- All regional specialists and public information officers distribute the inventory of publications, posters, and brochures to area offices and assist information center

staff respond to inquiries related to the wildlife management, hunting, wildlife sightings and wildlife biology. About 60 printed publications – books, booklets, brochures and guides – are provided to the public via a wide variety of outlets, including bookstores, visitor centers, and ADF&G offices.

- All regional specialists, public information officers and statewide coordinator completed content review of sections of the department’s website (living with wildlife, education, events and selected hunting and wildlife disease pages) and updated and/or developed content.
- RV specialist is a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and served as the chair of the education/outreach committee. Coordinated a multi-tiered outreach plan, produced the annual *Caribou Trails* newsletter, and managed the group’s website.
- RV specialist coordinated student participation in caribou collaring project.
- The 12 issues of Alaska Fish and Wildlife News published in FY 18-19 contained 43 articles, all of which address at least one objective. The magazine has 7,700 subscribers, and archived articles are accessed about 60,000 times each month by the public.
- ADF&G provides 268 videos to the public, collectively addressing all objectives. New videos are added throughout the year.
- “Sounds Wild” radio program is broadcast weekly and, in some cases daily on about 30 stations in Alaska, topics address all objectives. 60 programs are produced annually, hundreds are accessible via archives.
- Hundreds of news releases and advisory announcements were provided to statewide media, collectively meeting all objectives.

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

This project provides information to members of the general public, as well as the media, civic service, and youth groups about hunting and trapping regulations and opportunities, wildlife, biology, research and management programs. This project also includes preparation of news releases and publications, presentation of wildlife safety information, assistance to teachers and classroom presentations, coordination and promotion of division workshops, field days and other community events with a wildlife theme and production of displays at public locations. Hunter Information Services are ongoing statewide throughout the entire year.

The project underspent its budget by approximately 12% in FY19. This underspending of funds was largely a result of position vacancies and in some cases, recruitment and hiring these positions took longer than expected. The vacancies are largely responsible for the surplus in

FY19. The duties/responsibilities of vacant positions were temporarily assigned to other staff and did not result in substantial reductions in output of products and outreach.

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

There are no significant developments or amendments to report for this project.

### IV. PUBLICATIONS

Publication examples produced during this project period:

Curl, J. A., 2019. Living with wolves [brochure]. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Fairbanks.

Curl, J. A., editor. 2019. Alaska's wild wonders - fur, fluff and other stuff, Issue IX [booklet]. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Fairbanks.

Grover, E. E., editor. 2018. Meat salvage requirements [revised 2018]. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Anchorage.

Duty, B. 2019. The Alaska wildlife curriculum. Alaska Fish & Wildlife News, August 2019. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau.

[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue\\_id=197](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue_id=197)

Lowell, A. 2019. Gustavus wolves set sights on new quarry- sea otters prove to be a large portion of diet. Alaska Fish & Wildlife News, February 2019. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau. [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue\\_id=191](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue_id=191)

Lowell, A. 2019. Deciphering the 'kill site'- Investigating wolf kill sites in Southeast. Alaska Fish & Wildlife News, February 2019. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau.

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue\\_id=191](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue_id=191)

Merizon, R., S. Doherty, and E. Grover. 2014. Unit 14 Small Game Hunting [brochure]. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Anchorage.

[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/hunting/smallgamehunting/pdfs/unit\\_14\\_small\\_game\\_hunting\\_pamphlet.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/hunting/smallgamehunting/pdfs/unit_14_small_game_hunting_pamphlet.pdf)

Taras, M. 2018. American Marten (*Martes americana*): A field guide for age and sex determination. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau

[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/hunting/trapping/pdfs/american\\_marten\\_field\\_guide\\_age\\_sex\\_determination.pdf](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/hunting/trapping/pdfs/american_marten_field_guide_age_sex_determination.pdf)

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. 2019. Caribou trails [newsletter]. H. Jameson, editor. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Nome.

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/wildlife/caribou\\_trails/caribou\\_trails\\_2019.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/wildlife/caribou_trails/caribou_trails_2019.pdf)

Woodford, R. 2019. Meet the beetles: Getting the perfect skull. Alaska Fish & Wildlife News, August 2019. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau.

[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue\\_id=197](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue_id=197)

Woodford, R., and E. Grover. 2019. Wildlife safety. Alaska Fish & Wildlife News, May 2019. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau.

[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue\\_id=194](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue_id=194)

Woodford, R. 2018. Yearling black bears in Alaska transition to independence. Alaska Fish & Wildlife News, July 2018. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Juneau.

[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue\\_id=196](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifeneews.main&issue_id=196)

## **V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT**

This project will need to be continued annually, as these services are integral to the division's mission and are a critical part of its day-to-day operations.