

**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 : P23.R REGIONAL COORDINATION

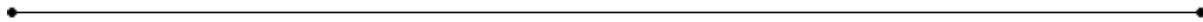
PROJECT TITLE: DWC Regional Coordination, Region I

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019.

REPORT DUE DATE: September 1, 2019

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Thomas V. Schumacher

COOPERATORS: None



I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

OBJECTIVE 1: Establish and maintain necessary practices to meet requirements for participation in and administration of the Wildlife Restoration (WR) program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 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. Although the Management Coordinator position was vacant for much of this reporting period, an acting Management Coordinator was designated and Region I continued to provide the leadership and guidance necessary to effectively implement the WR program. During this reporting period Region I hired two Area Management Biologists, one Assistant Area Management Biologist, and held several unsuccessful but ongoing recruitments for Management Coordinator. Regional leadership work with project leaders to ensure ongoing project continue to meet WR program requirements and new projects are substantial in character and designed to meet regional needs.

Following a number of retirements many staff are new to their positions. Consequently, training was a focus during this reporting period. Staff attended trainings in wildlife capture, firearms and wildlife safety, supervisory skills, and various technical skills related to research and data analysis techniques.

The Regional Supervisor and Coordinators 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 Coordinators 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.

OBJECTIVE 2: Administer, coordinate, and provide regional oversight for the State of Alaska Pittman-Robertson projects to ensure eligibility in the WR program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The regional Supervisor and Coordinators 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 3: Provide quality assurance with objectives that support wildlife conservation, restoration, management, education, access, and associated recreational benefits.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In Region I all WR project proposals are subject to review by either the Research or Management coordinator and by the Regional Supervisor prior to being submitted to the Statewide Federal Aid Coordinator in the Juneau Headquarters office. The Regional Administrative Officer also reviews proposed project budgets. 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.

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: In Region I the Regional Supervisor, Management Coordinator, Research Coordinator, and Administrative Officer interface with individual WR project leaders and are best positioned to identify issues related to participation and compliance with the WR program. When staff encounter challenges with addressing requirements of the WR program or have ideas for improvement they are actively encouraged to bring those issues to the Coordinators and Regional Supervisor. Regional leadership then coordinate with the DWC Federal Aid Coordinator to contact or attend meetings with

Federal Aid in WR program administrators to resolve challenges or suggest improvements.

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.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

None.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

None. Publications are listed under individual research or S&I project reports.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

I recommend this project be extended without change.

Prepared by: Thomas V. Schumacher, Regional Supervisor

Date: September 2019