

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Restoration Grant**

Performance Report

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-C-2-2019

PROJECT NUMBER: 23.R Regional Coordination

PROJECT TITLE: DWC Region 3 Coordination

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

REPORT DUE DATE: Sept. 28 2019

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Darren L. Bruning

COOPERATORS:



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: Area management staff from 6 Region III Areas (Tok, Delta, Fairbanks, McGrath, Galena, and Northeast), regional research staff, and public information staff routinely meet with other agencies, non-governmental organizations, native tribes and corporations, Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Regional Advisory Councils and members of the public to provide wildlife information necessary for the conservation of wildlife in their respective areas.

The Region III Supervisor, Management Coordinator, and Research Coordinator ensure the staff mentioned above accomplish their duties. In addition, the coordinators review and disseminate biological information to many of the entities described above. In addition, the Regional Supervisor coordinates activities with Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) leadership, the other 4 DWC regions, and with other DWC programs across the state.

Accomplishments under this objective include:

- Participated in and coordinated regional comments on large development projects that impact wildlife (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge draft Environmental Impact Statement).
- Coordinated reviews of various small development project permit requests-these reviews involve coordinating mostly with DWC Access Defense, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Division, and the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources.
- Represented DWC on the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wild Sheep Working Group.
- Represented DWC in wildlife capture and wildlife capture pharmaceutical use and handling in internal training workshops and professional and student instruction and training at Oregon State University.
- Provide technical guidance, review, and editing of research-related products for several undergraduate and graduate students and other professionals within and outside Alaska.
- Met with Federal agencies, including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and National Park Service (NPS) Wrangell St Elias National Park to discuss wood bison restoration.
- Participated in and facilitated meetings of the Fortymile Harvest Management Coalition. This coalition consists of members of the Anchorage, Central, Delta, Eagle, Fairbanks, Matanuska Valley, and Upper Tanana/Fortymile advisory committees, and the Eastern Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Council in cooperation with Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Yukon Department of Environment, Yukon First Nations, Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- Participated in the Federal Subsistence Board regulatory process by attending multiple meetings representing the state and providing biological information.
- Participated in the Board of Game regulatory process by attending multiple meetings and providing biological information.
- Participate in the division's Wildlife Disease Working Group to discuss recent lab findings related to respiratory pathogens in wildlife and to prepare a communication plan.
- Coordinated with other state agencies on wildlife attacks by providing biological expertise.
- Met with university staff to discuss collaborative management and research projects within the region.

OBJECTIVE 2: 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 fall primarily on the coordinators for this objective. Coordinators review draft proposals from staff, coordinate workflow, review and edit popular, technical and federal aid reports prior to publication. We participate in routine periodic meetings, video conferences and teleconferences to accomplish this objective. One or more staff accomplished the following during this reporting period.

- Attended one or more of the Research Coordination Team, Management Coordination Team or Division Management Team meetings. Specific activities included discussing wildlife management issues, 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 research in Region III.
- Attended Region III meetings and teleconferences.
- Advised Region III leadership staff on various supervisory issues
- Reviewed and revised position descriptions for the Wildlife Planner position.
- Research coordinator led 4 meetings with all regional research staff.
- Management coordinator led multiple meetings with management staff.
- Management coordinator maintains regional calendar of events to keep track of staff progress on projects.
- Coordinated the preparation and review of 5-year Species Reports and Management Plans.
- Supervisory staff traveled to remote offices to coordinate management activities and meet with staff.
- All management and research worked to submit federal aid project statements and performance reports in a timely manner.
- Participated in the planning of the Wildlife Human Attack Response Training program for approximately 30 department staff.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide quality assurance with objectives that support wildlife conservation, restoration, management, education, access, and associated recreational benefits.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: See accomplishments under objectives 1 and 2. Additional highlights include:

- Attended Region III meetings and teleconferences
- Participated in or helped coordinate various outreach efforts including Fairbanks Outdoor Show, Outdoor Youth Days, Denakkanaaga Conference, and Alaska Federation of Natives Conference.
- Coordinated management operations and research plans with external partners, including NPS and USFWS.
- Assisted with development of education and outreach materials for Arctic caribou management, marten trapping, prescribed fire for bison, moose, and grouse habitat enhancement, and wood bison restoration.
- Review and edit technical and non-technical products from Region III.
- Review and edit technical and non-technical products from various sources across the state.
- Served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Monographs.
- Coordinate development and renewal of IACUC protocols for Region III.
- Visited remote offices to facilitate communication, new employee orientation and ensure progress on projects.

- Coordinated, edited and submitted Federal aid project statements and performance reports.
- Reviewed all press releases, documents, manuscripts and educational materials for publication and dissemination to the public.

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: See accomplishments under objectives 1 and 2. Highlights include:

- Attended Region III meetings and teleconferences
- Participated in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Fish and Wildlife Health Forum.
- Served on multiple hiring panels for ADF&G management, research, analytical, and administrative positions.
- Monitor and coordinate training and professional development for research staff.
- Monitor and coordinate training and professional development for management staff.

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.

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. No recommended changes are proposed for the next fiscal year.

Prepared by: Darren L. Bruning

Date: 01 December 2019