

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

Performance Report

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-C-2-2019

PROJECT NUMBER: 23.R Regional Coordination

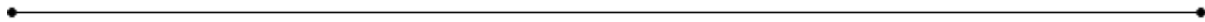
PROJECT TITLE: DWC Region 4 Coordination

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

REPORT DUE DATE: Sept. 28 2019

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Gino Del Frate.

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 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 Management Coordinator, Research Coordinator, and the Project Coordinators ensure the staff mentioned above accomplish their duties. In addition, the coordinators review and disseminate biological information to many of the entities described above.

The Regional Supervisor ensures the staff accomplish their duties. In addition the Regional Supervisor coordinates activities with other regions and with other programs across the state.

- Participated in and coordinated regional comments on large development projects that impact wildlife (Pebble mine proposal and draft Environmental Impact Statement, Donlin Mine permitting, etc.).

- Coordinated reviews of various small development project permit requests-These involve coordinating mostly with Access Defense folks.
- Coordinated with and received the final report for the Wildlife Values Survey – This involved coordinating with the Western Association of Wildlife Agencies, mostly working through Colorado State University.
- Represented the Wildlife Highways Working Group at meetings and teleconferences – Worked with Department of transportation and Public Facilities
- Met with Matanuska Susitna Borough to discuss roads and bridges on Matanuska Valley Moose Range.
- Provide technical guidance, review, and editing of research-related products for several undergraduate and graduate students and other professionals within and outside Alaska.
- Attended an Interagency Caribou meeting with Tetlin, Wrangell-St Elias, Ahtna Regional Corporation and members of Unit 13. Also provided staff for coordinated management work.
- Met with Federal agencies (Tetlin NWR and Wrangell St Elias NP) to discuss moose and caribou management strategies. Also provided staff for coordinated management work.
- 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 sheep diseases 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 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 IV.
- Attended Region IV meetings and teleconferences. Coordinated outside discussions when necessary.
- Advised Region IV leadership staff on various supervisory issues

- Reviewed reports and provided support to a graduate research project on moose vehicle collisions – Utah State University
- Reviewed and revised position descriptions for the Special Projects Coordinator and new WBIII position.
- Research coordinator led 2 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.
- Facilitate coordination between research staff, their collaborators, Federal Aid staff, and others within ADFG.
- When necessary supervisory staff traveled to remote offices to coordinate activities and meet with staff.
- All management and research worked to submit federal aid project statements and performance reports in a timely manner.
- Planned and coordinated 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.

- Attended Region IV meetings and teleconferences
- Participated in the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Planning meeting to discuss wildlife and public recreation.
- Participated in or helped coordinate various outreach efforts including Outdoor Youth Days, Alaskans Afield Firearms training, MatSu Outdoorsman Show, and moose vehicle collision mitigation efforts.
- Assisting with coordination of research proposals with external partners, including NPS, USFWS, USGS, and AWT.
- Assisted with development of education and outreach materials on moose-vehicle collisions.
- Review and edit technical and non-technical products from Region IV.
- 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 IV.
- 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.

- Provide biological expertise and represented the department on a large mine draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- Worked with education staff on a moose vehicle awareness program.
- Reviewed all 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 IV meetings and teleconferences
- Participated in the Wildlife Highways working group to coordinate statewide efforts to improve Department of Transportation highway designs to minimize wildlife vehicle accidents.
- Discussing ongoing and future grizzly bear research in GMU 13 with Ahtna Corp
- Coordinating ongoing and proposed research on moose-vehicle collisions with partners at Utah State University
- Served on multiple hiring panels for ADFG research and management positions.
- Monitor and coordinate training and professional development for research staff.
- Participated in the northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council meeting to discuss sheep and mountain goat management in North America. Management coordinator was elected to the board of the council.
- Attended an Interagency Caribou meeting with Tetlin, Wrangell-St Elias, Ahtna regional corporation and members of Unit 13. Also provided staff for coordinated management work.
- Met with Federal agencies (Tetlin NWR and Wrangell St Elias NP) to discuss moose and caribou management strategies. Also provided staff for coordinated management work.
- Represented the Wildlife Highways Working Group at meetings and teleconferences – Worked with DOT&PF
- Met with Matanuska Susitna Borough to discuss roads and bridges on Matanuska Valley Moose Range.

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.

One significant development report was prepared, submitted and approved. This report recommended support for the department to host a training program involving wildlife human attacks. See AKW-C-2-2019.

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: Gino Del Frate

Date: October 4, 2019