

**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-23 FY2018

**PROJECT NUMBER:** P6.25 w/extension

**PROJECT TITLE:** Sheep Disease Working Group

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

**REPORT DUE DATE:** FAC Sept 1, 2018

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Tony Kavalok

**COOPERATORS:**

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Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328  
2 CFR 200.301  
50 CFR 80.90

This grant supported the facilitation and establishment of a process for user groups and others interested in mitigating the risk of disease pathogen exposure from domestic sheep and goats to Dall sheep, mountain goats, and muskox. This project was undertaken to provide a forum for interested parties to identify and suggestions and ideas to mitigate the risk of pathogen or disease transmission between domestic sheep or goats and Dall sheep, mountain goats, or muskox.

The intent of this project was to provide solutions for wild sheep disease mitigation management. This was to be accomplished through a facilitated work group that addressed a range of issues and concerns expressed by domestic sheep and goat producers in Alaska, the process was to include statewide coordination and discussion among the interested user groups, organizations, commercial interests, the department, and other agencies. This project was to include assistance from non-stakeholder (neutral) experts that can facilitate and guide the process forward.

The original proposed period of performance was not long enough to adequately cover the number of meetings needed. This proposed project period of performance dates were inadequate due to the challenges associated with bringing the user group participants together for all of the meetings given seasonal work schedules and the need to get adequate participation to discuss the issues and make decisions and recommendations.

**I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

OBJECTIVE 1: Contract facilitator to be selected and hired no later than 1 June 2018.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: After project extension, suitable contractor was selected and hired August 2018.

OBJECTIVE 2: Identify and convene a work group with a hired facilitator before 15 June 2018.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: First meeting with facilitator was convened and conducted 16 December.

OBJECTIVE 3: Conduct up to five meetings, with no less than three meetings.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Second meeting conducted 5-6 January. No other meetings convened thereafter based on the decision of the work group.

OBJECTIVE 4: Conduct at least one meeting of the work group to inform the process.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: This was accomplished 16 December.

OBJECTIVE 5: Summarize and records possible mitigation strategies with recommendations before 30 June 2018.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Accomplishments (limited) were summarized and provided to the Department February 2019. Contractor presented results and summary to Board of Game 15 March 2019.

OBJECTIVE 6: The project period of performance has been modified (and extended) to address the challenges associated with the availability of user group participants and the expansion of the time period to adequately address the issues and outcomes identified for the project.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Two facilitated work group meetings held in December 2018 and January 2019. Facilitator provided summary report to the Department February 2019 and presented results to the Board of Game March 2019.

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

No work was completed on this project as of 30 June 2018. After project extension, contractor was hired and facilitated two meetings of the work group. The resulting discussions of the work group concluded that there was no need to continue negotiation on the suggested mitigation alternatives because there was no agreement between the two major factions within the work group. The two factions which represented the livestock community and the wild sheep advocates were unable to reach agreement on a couple of key discussion points and proposed

mitigation strategies. Because of this, the group mutually agreed to discontinue negotiation and deliberation. The contractor prepared a summary report for the Department and gave an oral presentation to the Board of Game in March 2019.

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

The original proposed period of performance was not long enough to adequately cover the number of meetings needed. The proposed project was amended and submitted as a new grant request under the FY19 Base Operating Budget with a significantly larger proposed period of performance through June 2019. This expanded time frame allowed for the Department and the contractor to realistically identify and bring together the necessary group participants to address the challenges associated with the wild sheep disease issue in Alaska.

**IV. PUBLICATIONS** None

**V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT** Project was continued into FY2019 as a new project completed by 30 June 2019

**Prepared by:** Tony Kavalok

**Date:** 17 December 2019