

Wildlife Restoration
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: AK-W-L-2-2018

PROJECT TITLE: Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Expansion

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: May 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020

REPORT DUE DATE: April 30, 2021

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Marla Carter, Habitat Biologist IV
Access Defense Program
Division of Wildlife Conservation

COOPERATORS:

John Wros, The Conservation Fund

This is the final report for a multi-year project. This template is applicable to both:

- the final closeout report of a multi-year grant; or
- the final closeout report of a multi-year *project* within the annual operating grant, summarizing all accomplishments for all objectives.

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301
50 CFR 80.90

I. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT

Objective 1: Secure a purchase and sale agreement with the University of Alaska.

Accomplishments: Purchase and sale agreement for the 480 acres of University of Alaska Land and the 50-acre donation parcel was finalized on August 24, 2020. Due to unforeseen challenges associated with the Fairbanks North Star Borough Code and platting requirements, The Conservation Fund purchased the lands from the University of Alaska as two separate parcels and packaged all three parcels into one agreement to the State. The project statement included this strategy in the approach to ensure that all objectives of the grant could be met within the established and amended timelines.

Objective 2: Purchase 480 acres adjacent to the CFMWR per the goals of the Refuge's Interim Management Plan. All title and acquisition requirements are expected to be completed by the end of 2019 (amended 6/24/2020 to be the end of 2020).

Accomplishments: The deeds for the 480-aces from The Conservation Fund to the State of Alaska were signed on September 29, 2020. The State received this land as two separate parcels because of the delayed actions and discussions with the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The language within the deeds will allow ADF&G to manage the parcels consistent with the goals of the Refuge which are to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, wildlife viewing and education opportunities, and other compatible public uses, such as the exiting trail system.

Objective 3: Once acquired and under State of Alaska title, manage the lands for wildlife values consistent with the adjoining Refuge, with the objective of inclusion in CFMWR (subject to approval from the Alaska State Legislature).

Accomplishments: On October 29, 2020, the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land, and Water issued ADF&G a Management Right Assignment (ADL 233711) to manage the 530 acres as part of the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge consistent with the statutes, regulations, and policies of the Interim CFMWR Plan until such time that the Alaska State Legislature approves inclusion.

II. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

Over the entire performance period for the grant, there were two amendments and one significant development report.

Amendments:

- 1) Issued 12/11/2019 - Requested no-cost extension of the grant performance period to June 30, 2020 to accommodate unanticipated discussions with the Fairbanks North Star Borough platting board resulting in delay of the acquisition of the 480-acre parcel from the University.
- 2) Issued 06/24/2020 – Requested a no-cost extension of the grant performance period to 12/31/2020 to allow additional time to meet the grant objective of acquiring the 480-acre parcel and to account for delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes to the parcel used as our match funding due to the passing of our land donor and delays with his estate. As part of the amendment, we updated the project statement to clarify the location, acreage, and value of the donated match parcel; we made changes to the match budget table; and we clarified in the Approach section that The Conservation Fund will acquire the parcels from the University and then the State will reimburse TCF for the 480 acres and accept the 50-acre donation parcel.

SDR:

- 1) Approved 09/18/2020 – This was a no-cost request to change the amount of land value used as match from \$36,000 to \$37,050. After the passing of our first match land donor, ADF&G and TCF were able to secure another parcel adjacent to the refuge and with similar habitat values to be used at match. This parcel was slightly larger and was appraised at \$115,000. Of that value only \$37,050 was

needed to meet the 25% match requirement for the grant. The total budget for the project remained the same and no additional federal funds were requested.

III. PUBLICATIONS

N/A

IV. REVIEW OF PRIOR RESEARCH AND STUDIES IN PROGRESS ON THE PROBLEM OR NEED

Overall, this project has successfully protected 530 acres of valuable wetland habitat adjacent to the CFMWR from the potential of urban development. Acquisition of this land also ensures continuity of an existing trail system through the refuge that benefits many of the local users. These lands will help meet objectives and management goals outlined in the Interim CFMWR plan.

Prepared by: Marla Carter

Date: April 26, 2021