

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: AKW-D-1-2019

PROJECT NUMBER: Project 1.0

PROJECT TITLE: Lake Louise Recreation Site Upgrades

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: July 1, 2018 through July 31, 2021

REPORT DUE DATE: October 28, 2021

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Cole Branham, Project Manager, Matanuska Susitna Borough,
Public Works Department, Project Management Division

COOPERATORS: Katie Sechrist, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301
50 CFR 80.90

I. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve MSB Lake Louise boat launch by expanding the concrete boat launch into deeper water.

The Matanuska Susitna Borough, Capital Projects, constructed a deeper boat launch to accommodate lower lake water levels as have been experienced in recent years. Due to these lower lake water levels, the underwater portion of the ramp was not long enough to reach water deep enough to launch boats safely and effectively. Users of the lake were required to off-load their boats further down the ramp causing trailer wheels to drop off the end of the ramp. Often times when this would happen the only way to pull the trailer back onto the ramp was by carefully winching the wheels up over the edge of the ramp creating a potential hazard to hunters because the trailer could get stuck or roll off the end of the ramp and tip over with the boat on it. Extending the end of the boat ramp and installing the ramp at the optimal grade has helped alleviate this hazard.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The work to extend the boat ramp was completed on August 8, 2019 at which time the ramp was reopened to public use.

OBJECTIVE 2: Level the surface and expand the existing parking area to accommodate additional parking space so that safety hazards are minimized.

The previous MSB Lake Louise parking area was inadequate for the volume of use received throughout the year. As referenced in the Louise Susitna Tyone Lakes Comprehensive Plan (LSTLCP),

“Parking throughout the area is limited. Each of the lodges offers storage and parking, but not enough to accommodate all the property owners, day visitors, or casual users. Consequently, large vehicles with boat trailers and/or campers require additional parking. There is limited parking near the Dinty Lake causeway, which often created parking overflow where the only option for people is to park on the road, making it difficult to maneuver and launch boats.”

Since the road was not designed for on-street parking, additional parking spaces were needed at the recreation site. Hunters offloading snow machines or launching boats used to compete for limited space in a small parking area. Congestion in the parking area was a safety concern because the limited space and visibility in conjunction with dispersed pedestrian traffic increased the likelihood of an accident involving vehicles and pedestrians. This project leveled the parking area for more hunters to enjoy and upgraded/expanded the parking area to alleviate congestion and safety concerns.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The expanded parking area was leveled and open for public use on a D-1 surface beginning August 9, 2020. The grant was extended until July 31, 2021 (Amendment #2) and the new parking area was paved and striped with paint in June of 2021. This provided the ground a year to settle/rectify any permafrost issues before paving.

OBJECTIVE 3: Complete the engineering design for development and expansion of the parking area.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The engineering design for the parking area expansion was completed spring 2020 and was used to complete construction of the parking lot embankment in summer 2020 and the paving of the parking lot in summer of 2021.

OBJECTIVE 4: Complete expansion and development of the parking area including added capacity, traffic flow, vaulted toilet, embankment near Dinty Lake, signage, and kiosk.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Construction of the parking area expansion and amenities (vaulted toilet, embankment, signage, and kiosk) was completed by August 15, 2020. The grant was extended until July 31, 2021 (Amendment #2) due to the slow rate of permafrost thaw in 1/3 of the expansion area. Paving and striping with paint of the parking area took place June 2021. Kiosk display panels were created and posted summer 2021.

II. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

The first grant amendment (Amendment #1) was requested and approved on July 15, 2019 extending the performance period of the grant to July 31, 2020. Lake Louise water levels were very high summer 2019 and delayed construction of the boat launch.

A grant amendment (Amendment #2) was requested and approved on June 24, 2020 extending the performance period of the grant to July 31, 2021. This grant extension was

needed to deal with the permafrost issues that were discovered during construction of the expanded parking area. As a result, paving of the parking expansion took place in June 2021 which allowed the permafrost to melt and settle for another year before hard surfacing the new parking area.

The original funding from the grant and match for the project was \$862,000. After making final payment to all consultants and contractors, the total remaining funding from grant and match is \$42,173.

III. PUBLICATIONS

Matanuska Susitna Borough promotional video of ribbon cutting event, August 2021. [Note video was not produced using grant funds.]

<https://www.facebook.com/MatSuBorough/videos/428241835187675>



Figure 1.–New accessible floating dock at Lake Louise Recreation site, 2021.

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Figure 2.—Freshly paved and striped parking area at Lake Louise Recreation site, 2021.



Figure 3.—Kiosk panel installed at Lake Louise Recreation site, 2021.

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Figure 4.—Expanded parking area at Lake Louise Recreation site, 2021.



Figure 5.—Rick Green, ADF&G, speaking at ribbon cutting event August 16, 2021 at new Lake Louise boat launch.



Figure 6.—Project partners participating at ribbon cutting event August 16, 2021.



Figure 7.—WSFR funding sign posted at Lake Louise Recreation site, 2021.

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

N/A.

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Date: October 20, 2021