

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-14

PROJECT NUMBER: Project 3.0

PROJECT TITLE: Rex Trail (DNR Mining, Land, & Water Hunter Access Projects)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: December 1, 2015 – July 30, 2020

REPORT DUE DATE: March 1, 2020

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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

The original CIP funding of \$240,000 was used as match funds (25%) for this federally awarded Pitman-Robertson (PR) grant of \$720,000 (75%), for a total project budget of \$960,000.

The US Army Corps of Engineers wetland fill permit application was submitted August 8, 2017 and permit POA-2017-408 was received January 12, 2018 after being amended with additional

construction details from Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) project engineers. As part of the USACE process, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued a 404 Clean Water certification for the project on December 12, 2017.

A cultural resource survey of the project was conducted and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in compliance with the Federal Section 106 requirements. SHPO concurrence with Section 106 approval for the Seven Mile Lake reroute pilot project was received on January 5, 2018.

DOT designed the project and provided contract bid and on-site management for route construction under RSA #170007497. Total value of the amended RSA is \$900,000 with \$675,000 (75%) from PR funds and \$225,000 (25%) from Capital Improvement (CIP) funds as match.

Objective 1: Winter construction of the reroute.

Accomplishments: Route construction was scheduled for the winter of 2017/2018 but was delayed to the following winter. An extension to the PR funding was submitted and accepted, pushing the date of completion to November 2019.

Construction of the route began January 22, 2019 and was completed March 19, 2019. The contractor cleared trees using a hydro ax, leaving the vegetative mat in place. A minimum of two feet of gravel fill was placed on geotextile for a 15-foot-wide road with 2:1 slope over a total length of 1.5 miles. Culverts have been placed in low spots for water flow, and all material has been compacted, track-walked, and seeded. The contractor demobilized all equipment and was off-site by Tuesday, March 20, 2019.

Objective 2: Place signs directing traffic onto newly created trail, closing old alignment, and publishing the source of construction funds.

Accomplishments: Ten signs were produced on July 28, 2019 (including duplicates for future placement if shot or otherwise damaged) and installed on August 21, 2019.

Objective 3: Conduct Field Inspections of trail condition before and after hunting season to assess impact of hunting traffic and recruitment of grasses on trail slopes.

Accomplishments: Inspections were conducted on August 27, 2019 before hunting season, and again on October 2, 2019. Seeding was confirmed to be successful and hunters had used the new route traveling on public land, rather than the original trespass alignment. Some settling of the trail surface occurred, but there was very little evidence of vehicle impacts on construction. Inspections will continue for future hunting seasons.

II. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

Originally, construction of the Rex Trail reroute was expected to begin in February/March of 2018 with the project complete by November of 2018, but this date was determined to be infeasible with winter thaw rapidly approaching. A grant amendment to extend the project end date was submitted and approved. Construction took place during the winter season of 2018-2019 and was completed March 19, 2019 instead.

III. PUBLICATIONS



Figure 1. Completed reroute of Rex Trail off of private land and onto public land.

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

None.

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biologists

Date: March 1, 2020