Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Restoration Grant

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-19

PROJECT NUMBER: 1.0

PROJECT TITLE: Hunter Information Digital Delivery

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2021

PERFORMANCE YEAR: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

REPORT DUE DATE: Submit to FAC August 28, 2020

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Caleb Wylie

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328 2 CFR 200.301 50 CFR 80.90

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR

OBJECTIVE 1: Improve ability to maintain hunting eligibility rules.

Job/Activity 1: Rebuild DWC's hunt eligibility database. The eligibility criteria for a hunt can be complex and based on variety of factors including residency, location, species and previous hunting activity.

Job/Activity 2: Build interface for the hunt eligibility database (aka "business rules engine") that allows DWC staff to add and edit hunt rules. Currently changes are made manually by IT staff.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Job/Activity 1: The hunt definition database has been redesigned and a new database and application have been developed. The new hunt definition system is available for staff to manage hunts. Due to the complex and interconnected nature of DWC's information systems, integration of the new Hunt Definition System is ongoing.

Job/Activity 2: A scope of work for an analysis and recommendation on how to manage DWCs large set of complex business rules was developed. Resource

Data, Inc. leaned on their expertise and familiarity with the Hunt Definition System to perform a thorough analysis. Recommendations and options were presented and DWC is reviewing this analysis to determine the best course of action.

OBJECTIVE 2: Build tools that track an individual hunter's history and eligibility.

Job/Activity 1: Build database tools to track the hunting history for individual hunters in Alaska.

Job/Activity 2: Create interfaces that allow hunters and ADF&G staff to view and edit hunting histories as appropriate.

Job/Activity 3: Integrate external databases that contribute to hunting and guiding eligibilities (for example, the Hunter compact database).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Job/Activity 1: Thorough analysis was performed by contractors and DWC technical staff to identify how hunters are identified and how they are "matched" to their appropriate hunting history. Based on this analysis, modifications have been made to DWC's Demographic Matching system to more reliably and accurately identify hunters and their hunting history. DWC staff and contractors continue work on integrating this Demographic Matching system with various DWC internal and public facing information systems and tools.

Job/Activity 2: DWC staff and contractors are working to integrate hunter history with internal staff tools and public facing tools for hunters. Efforts are underway to display history and eligibility information in a hunter's ADFG profile as well as improvements to existing reporting tools and creating new interfaces for hunters and staff.

Job/Activity 3 has not been started and evaluation is underway to determine scope.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

Work on Objective 1 continues. The hunt definition database has been redesigned, a new user interface has been developed, and system integration continues. The new hunt definition system

is available for staff to manage hunts. Analysis and recommendations for improvements to hunter eligibility rule management have been performed and DWC is evaluating how to proceed.

Work on Objective 2 continues. DWC's demographic matching system has been updated to better identify hunters and match them with their history. Integration of the new demographic matching system with DWC's information systems continues.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

The following Significant Developments occurred during this reporting period:

• The Division of Wildlife Conservation submitted the following amendment to this project on February 21, 2020. The application for amendment was granted on March 6, 2020.

The purpose of this amendment is to extend the timeline for this project to December 31, 2021 in order to complete the objectives. There is no request for an increase or decrease in project funding.

- The DWC Information Management section currently has a high vacancy rate due to a State hiring freeze as well as budget concerns associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in less personnel expenditures than anticipated.
- The global COVID-19 pandemic also resulted in travel associated with this project being curtailed. This resulted in less travel expenditures than anticipated.
- The drop in staffing also resulted in a slower than anticipated contractual burn rate. External contractors depend on internal DWC staff in order to effectively and efficiently perform work. Internal DWC staff had less availability manage contractual work and collaborate with contractors due to the factors listed above. This resulted in les contractual expenditures than anticipated in during the performance year.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

None.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

Continue the project with the same general approach.

Prepared by: Caleb Wylie

Date: 8/13/20