

# Wildlife Restoration MULTI-YEAR GRANT INTERIM 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-19  
**PROJECT NUMBER:** 7.0  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Refuge/Special Areas Access Improvements FY2017  
**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020 (Amended to December 31, 2020)  
**PERFORMANCE YEAR:** July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020  
**REPORT DUE DATE:** September 1, 2020  
**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Joe Meehan, Lands & Refuges Program Coordinator  
**COOPERATORS:** N/A

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Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328  
2 CFR 200.301  
50 CFR 80.90

### I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Improve and upgrade public access facilities while reducing impacts from existing modes of access.

**Job/Activity 1-a:** Upgrade the undeveloped boat launch site at Wasilla Creek-Rabbit Slough in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

**Accomplishments:** Working with Alaska State Parks (Office of Design and Construction), the environmental review and engineered design were finalized during this reporting period. Construction was initiated in spring 2020 and the facility was completed and opened to public use in May 2020.

**Job/Activity 1-b:** Implement trail repair, rerouting, and hardening techniques to repair damaged trail sections in the Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area and to encourage off-road vehicle users to avoid impacting sensitive sedge flat meadows. Similar trail improvement projects will be undertaken in other Special Areas as funds allow (e.g. Anchor River-Fritz Creek CHA, Goose Bay SGR, Susitna Flats SGR, Matanuska Valley Moose Range).

**Accomplishments:** Using a previous assessments of trail conditions and needs, repair work was performed on the Fox River Trail (Fox River Flats CHA) and Watermelon Trail (Anchor River-Fritz Creek CHA).

During this reporting period, we contracted with the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District who conducted the following work:

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Fox River Trail – 1) relocated two ATV bridges due to channel erosion; and 2) repaired approaches to seven ATV bridges.

Watermelon Trail – 1) installed approximately 160 linear feet of Geoblock trail hardening panels at three locations where erosion and/or wetlands were affecting access along the trail and impacting surrounding habitats; and 2) repaired and hardened the approaches to the Beaver Creek bridge.

**Job/Activity 1-c:** Contract professional trail consultant to provide an assessment of the Willow Mountain CHA off-road vehicle trail identifying areas in need of repair or rerouting; and to implement repair/rerouting of highest priority sections.

**Accomplishments:** An overall assessment of this trail was previously conducted. No trail repair/rerouting work was conducted during this period.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** Improve public access facilities to promote public use, awareness, and appreciation of these areas.

**Job/Activity 2-a:** Upgrade the roadside parking area for Reflections Lake in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge; construct an access stairway or other structure to facilitate access to Sunny Point in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge; upgrade or expand trails, boardwalks and/or interpretive panels at Creamer’s Field State Game Refuge; and improve or construct other access facilities in Special Areas as need and project funding dictates.

**Accomplishments:** no new work was conducted during this reporting period.

**II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS IDENTIFIED IN ANNUAL PLAN THIS PERIOD:** N/A

**III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS:** none.

**IV. PUBLICATIONS:** none.

**V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT:** additional work is necessary on the Watermelon, Fox River, and Willow Mountain trails and we will continue to work with community organizations to plan repairs and seek funding for these projects.

**Prepared by:**

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**Date:** August 28, 2020