

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Restoration Grant**

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-27

PROJECT NUMBER: 1.0

PROJECT TITLE: Statewide Hunter Access Project Identification and Coordination

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: September 1, 2017 – December 31, 2022

PERFORMANCE YEAR: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021; year 4 of a 5 year grant

REPORT DUE DATE: December 27, 2021

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Marla Carter, Access Defense Program Manager

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301
50 CFR 80.90

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify and prioritize potential hunter access projects across the State to provide for improved and enhanced hunting access opportunities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Since September 2020, Jared Keeling a long-term non-permanent Habitat Biologist I has been performing many of the duties of this position. Jared coordinates with local governments, trail groups, ADF&G staff, and other state and/or federal agencies to identify potential projects that will qualify for our public PR grant funding opportunity. Due to COVID travel limitations, site visits were limited mainly to the road system where safe lodging could be secured. Jared worked with the BLM staff out of Fairbanks and the Glennallen offices to identify 17(b) easement trails and sites that needed kiosks, signs, or trail markers. Jared went out with the BLM to install information at 5 locations and stopped to look at several others which will allow hunters and other recreational users to minimize trespass on adjacent private lands and access public lands for hunting, trapping, and other wildlife uses. Jared also assisted the permanent Habitat Biologist III with document preparation for existing grant-funded projects and in revision to our informational materials for the Hunter Access webpage.

OBJECTIVE 2: Promote public participation and encourage discussion and review of potential projects with staff and the public in determining appropriate actions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: During this period of performance, the Hunter Access group was not given legislative authority to spend additional P-R grant funds to solicit the public for new project ideas. However, Jared did use the information we collected from a public survey on the Hunter Access website to determine which Game Management Units within the state the public would like to see more access and they ranked the types of improvements they would like to see more of. This information will be used to prioritize projects in our current call for proposals. Jared spoke to the Alaska Trails group and Board of Game members to inform them of our past and current projects and provide information on our 2021 Call for Proposals. The Hunter Access group just opened a new survey to gather updated information that will complement the old data and provide additional information on public interests for the program. Jared responds to inquires and comments made by the public from our website and from the survey.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

We are in year 4 of 5 for this grant project. Three ADF&G staff members have filled this position since 2017. Since that time, this position has assisted with the completion of 13 hunter access projects and with the start of 10 more in various stages of design and development. This position has also been integral in assisting the Hunter Access Program Manger with development of the website, proposal application materials, development of cooperative agreements for and interim performance reports, project site visits, educational information for the public, and our online surveys. Over ten 17(b) easement trails or sites have been signed and identified and plans are being made for future site identification. Because of vacancies and hiring this position at varies

II. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

N/A

IV. PUBLICATIONS

N/A

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

Recommend continuation of this position until the funding is used up. Jared's last day within this position will be February 11, 2022 as most of the remaining funds will be done. No additional funds will be added to this project, and we can begin close out at that time.

Prepared by: Marla Carter

Date: December 22, 2021