

**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-27

PROJECT NUMBER: 1.0

PROJECT TITLE: Statewide Hunter Access Project Identification and Coordination

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: September 1, 2017 – December 31, 2020

PERFORMANCE YEAR: September 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018; year 1 of a 3-year grant

REPORT DUE DATE: Dec. 29, 2018

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Mark Fink, 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: A long-term non-permanent Habitat Biologist was hired in late May 2018. We developed draft project ranking criteria and a draft work flow chart for the program. We submitted three successful grant applications for a trail project and parking project in the southeast region of the State, and a boat launch improvement project in the southcentral region. We developed three additional hunter access project statements for consideration by leadership in the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

The position became vacant on November 19, and we are in the process of re-recruiting for the position.

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The incumbent had not yet developed a public review process prior to leaving the department. However, staff did participate in an annual meeting of one statewide user group and shared progress on project accomplishments and future proposals. In addition, the incumbent coordinated with staff on at least three proposed

projects and also briefed leadership at a division management team meeting for review and approval.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

This project was awarded in September 2017, and we initiated recruitment for the biologist position. After unforeseen delays in the recruiting process, we brought on the hunter access biologist in late May, 2018. The position was relocated to Fairbanks.

After some brief training on land status research and general Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program information, the incumbent began working with a non-profit trails advocacy group in southeast Alaska, with borough and state government agencies in developing the Treadwell Ditch Trail Renovation project (awarded in August 2018). We were also awarded grant funding for an Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) proposal for improvements to Chilkoot Lake access during this performance period (awarded in August 2018). We developed project statements for two land acquisitions, which provide access for hunting or wildlife recreation, in addition to conserving valuable wildlife habitat, responding to proposals from two different land trust organizations. In cooperation with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, we initiated development of a proposal to improve an existing dirt road to an unimproved boat launch site on the Chatanika River, accessing the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

In addition, the incumbent participated in final inspections for two projects with DPOR in the Fairbanks area (awarded in December 2015, with amendments).

Finally, we drafted a project scoring sheet for ranking project proposals and presented the draft to the DWC leadership. We also prepared a draft flow chart for future use with proposers and the public. After final revisions, this scoring method will be used to help prioritize potential access projects.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

No significant developments or amendments are on file or projected for this project.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

N/A

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

The project will continue as planned.

Prepared by: Mark Fink

Date: December 18, 2018