

**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: October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019; year 2 of a 3-year grant

REPORT DUE DATE: December 29, 2019

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Marla Carter, Access Defense Program Manager (upon retirement of previous PI, Mark Fink)

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: The long-term non-permanent Habitat Biologist II position was re-filled in May 2019 by Lisa Delaney. Lisa regularly coordinates with local governments, trail groups, ADF&G staff, and other state and/or federal agencies to identify potential projects. She assisted in site visits, project meetings, and document preparation for existing grant-funded projects. Staff are currently working on three project statements, which have been approved by the Division of Wildlife Conservation leadership, for trail rehabilitation projects on Kodiak Island and Sitka, and a shooting range project within the Chena State Recreation Area near Fairbanks. Lisa will be the lead on the Kodiak Island project, if approved. Staff also worked with the Bureau of Land Management and Native Corporation staff to identify and prioritize 17(b) easement trails that were in need of trail markers and/or trailhead kiosks. This project is intended to continue each year as funding is available.

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Hunter Access staff created new web pages for our department website to provide program information to the public. The incumbent created a user survey for the public to identify types of hunter access projects and areas in which they would like the Hunter Access Program to focus efforts. Staff are currently working on application documents and resources for a public call for proposals which begins December 2019. Selected proposals will go through an agency and public review process to allow public input. The incumbent also participated in a land manager forum to discuss the program, the upcoming funding opportunity, and success from the 17(b) easement trail signage project.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

This position was vacant from November 2018 to May 2019. After an extended recruitment due to the obligation to meet State Foreign Education requirements, Lisa Delaney accepted the long-term non-permanent Habitat Biologist II position in Anchorage. After general review and in-house training on the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program, this position began assisting the permanent Hunter Access Program Manager in updating the previous project ranking criteria and flow chart for the program. Together they began creating a new Hunter Access Program web page to be included on the ADF&G website. The webpages include information on the Pittman-Robertson Act, the project identification process, funding restrictions, the public user survey, completed and in-progress project pages, and information on the upcoming grant application process. Lisa participated in site visits and document preparation and review for projects in various phases of development including the: Moon Lake State Recreation Site, MatSu Valley Forest Roads project, the Lake Louise Boat Launch, multiple Chena River State Recreation sites, the Penguin Creek bridge replacement, and the Rex Trail reroute project. Lisa is the lead Hunter Access staff working on the funded Curry Ridge to Kesugi Ridge Trail Connector project in Denali State Park, and the proposal for the Sallery Cove Trail project in Kodiak. She is responsible for coordinating with all cooperating parties, complying with all state and federal regulations, reviewing construction plans, managing project budgets and approving project expenditures.

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

This project will continue as planned.

Prepared by: Marla Carter

Date: December 19, 2019