

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: 4.0
PROJECT TITLE: Cottonwood Creek Wetlands Protection, Enhancement, and Hunter Access Assessment, Phase I FY2018
PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: September 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020
PERFORMANCE YEAR: September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019
REPORT DUE DATE: December 29, 2019
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Joe Meehan, Lands & Refuges Program Coordinator
COOPERATORS: N/A

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301
50 CFR 80.90

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR:

Objective 1: Produce a document assessing management options for wetland habitats in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge to maximize their value to water birds and to provide for public access.

Job/Activity 1a: Engage an engineering firm(s) with expertise in wetlands, soil stability, coastal and riverine erosion, and structural, civil and geotechnical engineering to produce an assessment of options (and costs) for slowing, stopping and/or reversing the loss of existing wetlands.

Job/Activity 1b: Engage an engineering firm(s) with expertise in wetlands, soil stability, coastal and riverine erosion, and structural, civil and geotechnical engineering to produce an assessment of options (and costs) for maintaining limited motorized vehicle access in the Cottonwood Creek wetlands.

Accomplishments Objective 1a and 1b: During this reporting period, bid documents were prepared and distributed to perspective engineering firms. Two firms submitted contract proposals and after evaluation, a final contract was issued to DOWL Engineering.

Several meetings and field site visits were made with contract project staff to review management goals and concerns; inspect the wetland area, ATV trail, and tide gut channels; and identify access and equipment needs to conduct engineering assessment. DOWL Engineering has engaged a project manager, coastal erosion engineer, civil engineer, wetlands assessment and restoration

specialist, geotechnical engineer, land surveyor, structural engineer, fish biologist, and other support staff. Field surveys, assessments, and data collection were initiated during this reporting period and will be completed in the following period, as will a draft assessment and options analysis.

Objective 2: Promote public participation in determining appropriate actions to manage wetland habitats in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

Job/Activity 2a: Engage all interested partners, stakeholders and general public in determining best course of action to protect wetland habitats and provide for public use in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

Accomplishments: Select stakeholder have been informed of progress with this work and some have participated in field visits. All stakeholders and the public will be engaged in this process after the engineering assessment is completed.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE:

Results are not yet available but a notable observation during field visits were extruded mud boils presumably created during the November 30, 2018 7.2 earthquake that hit this area.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS: N/A

IV. PUBLICATIONS: none

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT: none

Prepared by:

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