

**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-B-R2-2020

PROJECT NUMBER: 14.0

PROJECT TITLE: Region 2 Wolf S&I program: Wolf Populations and Factors Influencing Their Status

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

PERFORMANCE YEAR: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020; year 1 of a 2-year grant

REPORT DUE DATE: Submit to FAC August 28, 2020

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Cynthia Wardlow

COOPERATORS: Jeff Selinger, Dave Saalfeld

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301
50 CFR 80.90

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR

OBJECTIVE 1: Population Size, Status, and Trend. Assess the size and status of each wolf population to determine the 5-year trend.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The annual statewide trapper questionnaire was distributed to obtain harvest information. Weather conditions allowed for track surveys of wolf numbers in Region 2 to be completed on portions of the Kenai Peninsula. Further flights when snow conditions allow have been planned to improve estimates of wolf abundance and pack dynamics in Unit 15. Other ongoing research may inform future efforts to estimate abundance. Anecdotal reports and harvest information indicate that population numbers are likely stable. Harvest increased slightly during this reporting period.

OBJECTIVE 2: Mortality/Harvest Monitoring and Regulations. Assess the number of wolf harvested by hunters and other sources of mortality that might have an impact on each population.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The annual statewide trapper questionnaire was distributed to obtain harvest information. Thirty-one (31) wolves were harvested in Region II during the reporting period: 4 wolves from Unit 6, 1 wolf from Unit 7, and 26 wolves from Unit 15. No wolves were harvested in Unit 14C for the ninth year in a row. Three additional wolves were reported as harvested in Unit 8, but that was a data collection error.

All wolves taken in Region II were presented to staff for specimen collection (if necessary) and sealing. Wolves taken in other parts of the state were often sealed in Region II offices.

All wolf pelts presented to ADF&G and appointed sealers were examined for the presence of lice. Wolves infected with lice currently exist on the Kenai Peninsula within Region II. Pelt condition continues to improve, and no lice were reported on the pelts harvested during the 2019/20 season.

OBJECTIVE 3: Wolf Management with Public Participation and Outreach. Manage each wolf population with an emphasis on engaging the public in management goals and objectives through public meetings, working groups, educational materials, and incentive programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: ADF&G staff communicates with and attends meetings annually for 7 local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Alaska Board of Game, 2 Federal Regional Advisory Councils, the Federal Subsistence Board, Office of Subsistence Management, numerous local village councils and Native corporations about wolf management and to review and analyze regulation proposals for the Alaska Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. Most information is focused on the Kenai Peninsula. The 2019/2020 cycle did not include any wolf proposals for Region II and participation was minimal.

Information and data were compiled to prepare 3 five-year wolf Management Reports and Operational Plans for Units 6, 7 and 15, and 14C. These reports will include historical and current data, management directions, methods, Board of Game actions, harvests and natural mortality, habitat assessments, and local and statewide non-regulatory issues. They will be available at the following url:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=librarypublications.wildlifepublications&sort=all&species=Wolf&publicationtype=Species+Management+Report+%28and+Plan%29&submit=Search>

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

The position partially funded under this project (PCN 11-2014) was vacant during the reporting period. Funds allocated to staff time were used for contractual survey flights instead.

Project results are not yet available. Summaries of past data trends are published at the following url:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=librarypublications.wildlifepublications&sort=all&species=Wolf&publicationtype=Species+Management+Report+%28and+Plan%29&submit=Search>

Summary results for FY2020 will be published at this location when analyses are completed.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

None. Project number 14.0 was underspent in personnel services during the reporting period because staff members were working on projects paid by other funding sources. Sealing was conducted by staff in the course of other outreach duties not specific to this project number.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

All publications for FY2020 are not yet available. Project publications for previous years are available at the following url:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=librarypublications.wildlifepublications&sort=all&species=Wolf&publicationtype=Species+Management+Report+%28and+Plan%29&submit=Search>.

The following Wolf Management Reports and Plans were published in FY2018 at http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildliferesearch.smrwolf2010_2020

Westing, C. 2018. Wolf management report and plan, Game Management Unit 6: Report period 1 July 2010–30 June 2015, and plan period 1 July 2015–30 June 2020. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report and Plan ADF&G/DWC/SMR&P-2018-12, Juneau.

Herreman, J. 2018. Wolf management report and plan, Game Management Units 7 and 15: Report period 1 July 2010–30 June 2015, and plan period 1 July 2015–30 June 2020. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report and Plan ADF&G/DWC/SMR&P-2018-14, Juneau.

Battle, D., and C. Stantorf. 2018. Wolf management report and plan, Game Management Unit 14C: Report period 1 July 2010–30 June 2015, and plan period 1 July 2015–30 June 2020. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report and Plan ADF&G/DWC/SMR&P-2018-7, Juneau.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

We recommend continued funding for this project to effectively manage wolf populations in Southcentral Alaska.

Prepared by: Cynthia Wardlow

Date: September 2020