

**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: 23.2

PROJECT TITLE: DWC Region 2 Coordination

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, Tom Lohuis

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301
50 CFR 80.90

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide quality assurance and support wildlife conservation and research, restoration, management, information dissemination, education, access, and associated recreational benefits.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: S&I data was collected throughout the region and summarized by PI's for distribution to other staff for review. Data was analyzed and recorded following each activity and compared to previous years. Regional analysis included consideration of new projects based on changes in population trends or harvest data or exploring development of new protocols to address changing habitat conditions. 5-year management reports and plans were written for two species and submitted for publication. New project proposals were reviewed by the research/management coordinators and regional supervisors, with input during the development of proposals from subject matter experts. Project proposals were evaluated for technical content, substantiality in character and design, and suitability of objectives and procedures relative to the needs of the division.

OBJECTIVE 2: Establish and maintain necessary practices to meet requirements for participation in and administration of the Wildlife Restoration (WR) program. Supervise DWC operations in Region 2 area offices and facilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The regional leadership team worked directly with all involved staff members to establish regional priorities for development of new projects and continuation of standard survey and inventory activities in consideration of divisional priorities. Administrative staff met on a monthly basis to discuss W-R funded projects and to ensure proper protocols were being followed in the execution of each grant. W-R reports were generated and reviewed for accuracy and timely submission by employees listed in the project statement.

OBJECTIVE 3: Plan, administer, coordinate, and provide regional oversight for the State of Alaska Pittman-Robertson projects to ensure eligibility in the WR program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Regional leadership members visited offices in Kodiak, Soldotna, and the Kenai Moose Research Center for programmatic review of P-R projects. Meetings with PI's in the regional office (Anchorage), Homer and Cordova were held on a quarterly basis to discuss planned project execution, budgeting, and staff training on administrative protocols. Other projects received the same review telephonically. Updates and review of the Federal Aid process and recent changes was given directly to staff by their supervisors.

OBJECTIVE 4: Participate in local, regional, state, and national meetings as a representative of the DWC to address issues related to WR-administered grants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Staff associated with this project attended and participated in local state advisory committee meetings throughout southcentral Alaska (Region 2) and federal regional advisory committee meetings to discuss WR grant-funded projects. Presentations on ongoing research and S&I work in Region 2 were given at different venues to engage with other stakeholders during the reporting period to identify and address issues currently effecting wildlife management in Region 2.

OBJECTIVE 5: Develop new research project proposals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Regional leadership met to discuss new research proposals on lynx movement, and potential collaboration with local land managers. Additional proposals were reviewed to expand habitat work and moose movement on the Kenai Peninsula in the area of the 2019 Swan Lake Fire.

OBJECTIVE 6: Supervise the research program in Region 2 such that budgeting, planning, implementation, and reporting is achieved

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Research staff and supervisors review active budgets monthly with administrative staff, including base and CIP-funded activities. Changes or modifications are communicated to ADF&G headquarters to ensure budget planning for the current and future fiscal years can be accurately projected.

OBJECTIVE 7: Oversee the development of operational plans and project statements for research.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Research operational plans are developed by the PI's and reviewed by regional leadership for accuracy and feasibility. Administrative staff are consulted to ensure that all financial costs are documented within the planning documents for the development of the project statements. Project statements are reviewed by the regional research coordinator and administrative officer for completeness and accuracy prior to submission.

OBJECTIVE 8: Prepare and coordinate with the Federal Aid Coordinator all research grant submissions, amendments, and performance report submissions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: PI's and regional leadership consult with the Federal Aid Coordinator during the development of research grants on best practices and current templates, and also for advice on standard practices for ADF&G documents. When amendments are needed, they are submitted through the Federal Aid Coordinator for review and transmission to Federal Aid for review and acceptance. Performance reports are submitted annually or as scheduled to ensure compliance with federal aid rules.

OBJECTIVE 9: Oversee review and finalization of regional research technical reports and publications

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The research coordinator, management coordinator, regional biometrician, and regional supervisor review technical reports at various stages of development and prior to submission for publication. Regional coordinators ensure that other agencies and cooperators are properly acknowledged and that publications meet standards for scientific rigor. Technical reports and publications made be published by ADF&G or submitted to recognized professional journals for review, acceptance, and publication.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

Ongoing responsibilities of programmatic review, developing new project statements, budget development and management, and reporting on activities happen annually. Training of new PI's and discussions with existing PI's on W-R program compliance continues throughout the year, as it has previously. Commodity expenditures were significantly less than planned because of a projected budget shortfall in licensing revenues due to COVID-19. All commodity purchases that could be delayed for an additional year were postponed to save money in the FY20 budget (~\$11K).

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

None.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

None.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

This project should continue for the duration of the operating grant. The Regional Coordination project 23.2 directly relates to the headquarters Coordination Project 23.0 in the main operating grant of each state fiscal year. Regional objectives ensure the regions comply with the overall coordination necessary to achieve the coordination, management, and reporting requirements of the Division's Federal Aid WSFR-funded programs each state fiscal year, and as such will be ongoing in future years.

Prepared by: Cynthia Wardlow

Date: October 2020