Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Restoration Grant

GRANT NUMBER: F19AF00345

PROJECT NUMBER: AL 04-05-2019 AKW-D-4-2019

PROJECT TITLE: Improving Hunting and Wildlife Viewing Access in Game Management Subunit 13E: Curry Ridge to Kesugi Ridge Trail Connector Project,

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: March 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021

PERFORMANCE YEAR: March 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 Year 1

REPORT DUE DATE: June 29 2020

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Wes Hoskins, Katie Sechrist

COOPERATORS: Stuart Leidner

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328 2 CFR 200.301 50 CFR 80.90

I. **PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR** OBJECTIVE 1: Locate the trail route on sustainable tread and avoid wetlands where possible.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 1. Referring to Part 2, page 2 of the award letter. The objective agreed to during this performance period consists of route determination and route flagging. The trail contractor has spent about eight days in the field working on route determination. They have flagged about five miles of potential trail tread and determined about 15% of the route.
- 2. The agreement between the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation (MSTPF), Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation was not finalized until early December 2019. Therefore, field season was delayed until June 2020. We are delayed with regards to how the award letter is written, but still within the boundaries of what has been communicated with our project partners via physical meetings, phone, and email.

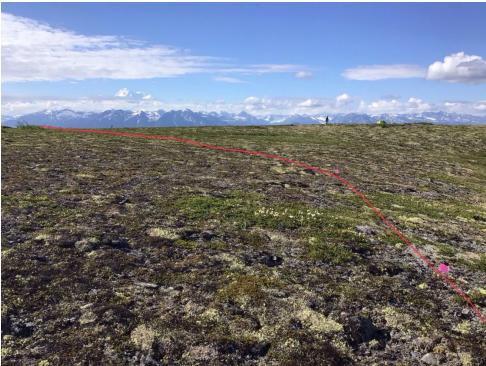
- 3. Not applicable at this time. The field work is just getting started.
- 4. No additional work to be reported.

OBJECTIVE 2: Route the trail with positive control points that highlight high-probability wildlife viewing opportunities, such as wetlands, ponds, obvious game trails, or the historic Curry overlook while avoiding known bear denning sites, sites requiring expensive bridge crossings, and fall-line sections >20 ft.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The contractor is adhering to this objective as they work on what was reported on in objective 1.









II. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

There was a significant delay between the date that the performance period started and when the agreement was completed. The 2019 field season was scrapped because of this. Consequently, we have had to wait until the next construction period which usually begins in June and goes through August. These delays are known to the project partners and MSTPF will plan on filing a project extension.

III. PUBLICATIONS

N/A.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

We recommend extending the project one more year to accommodate the 2022 construction season. So far, at this beginning stage, progress on the stated objectives is satisfactory; however, due to covid-19-reated delays, our timeline is anticipated to take longer than originally planned.

Prepared by: Wes Hoskins

Date: 7/7/2020