

**ELK
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO.: W-33-8

PROJECT NO.: 13.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: Elk S&I

The Status of Elk and Factors Influencing Their Populations

Region I:

Regionwide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial management report.

This was accomplished.

ACTIVITY 2: Collect biological data on harvested elk including incisors for aging and photos of antlers.

The Petersburg Area Biologist collected an incisor and antler photographs for the six elk harvested in Unit 3 during the report period.

Activities by Unit:

Units 1A, 1B, 2, and 3:

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor for presence of elk in southern southeast Alaska through contact with deer, elk, moose and bear hunters.

Petersburg and Ketchikan area staff spoke with pilots, commercial fisherman, and deer, moose and black bear hunters opportunistically to gain an understanding of elk sightings and gather information on elk dispersal in southern Southeast Alaska. Several track sightings were reported as was a dead elk found on the beach of the Cleveland Peninsula.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the general elk hunt in Units 1, 2, and “the remainder of Unit 3.”

Staff received no reports of elk harvested under the “general hunt”, outside of the Etolin-Zaremba permit hunt area.

Unit 3

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the Unit 3 Etolin and Zaremba Islands elk hunt and analyze the permit report data.

The Petersburg Area Biologist and other staff members spoke with hunters before, during and/or after their hunts. Hunt-based parameters were evaluated by use of mandatory drawing and registration permit hunt reports, incisors, and photos of antlers submitted by hunters.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct spring elk fecal pellet surveys on Etolin, Zaremba and Onslow Islands in conjunction with spring deer pellet-group surveys.

No transects were completed this year.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor six radio collared elk on Zaremba.

GPS collar download flights allowed staff to determine winter and summer ranges of collared elk.

Submitted by: Neil L. Barten, Region I Management Coordinator

Region II:

Regionwide Activities:

Activity: Prepare a biennial regional elk management report.

The management report was completed during this reporting period.

Activities by Unit and herd:

Unit 8:

Activity 1: Conduct aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trends, productivity, and mortality of elk.

Completed 5 aerial composition surveys for a portion of the population. Survey results suggested a decreasing trend in most of the herds observed. The unitwide population of elk was estimated at 600 animals.

Activity 2: Monitor elk seasonal distribution through relocation of radio-collared elk.

Continued monitoring elk that were captured and radiocollared in May 2008 during this reporting period. There were active VHF collars Raspberry (1), Malina (3), Marka (2),

Seal Bay (2) and Duck Mountain (3) herds, and a GPS transmitter in the Duck Mountain herd.

Activity 3: Monitor the elk harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports, and contact with hunters.

Harvest reports returned by hunters provided data on hunting effort and harvest. We issued 529 drawing permits and registration permits. Hunters reported harvesting 39 elk (17 males, 22 females). The harvest by permit hunt was as follows: Raspberry Island drawing hunt - 9 (6 males, 3 females); southwest Afognak drawing permit hunt – 7 (3 males, 4 females); eastern Afognak drawing permit hunt – 7 (2 males, 5 females); remainder of Unit 8 – 4 (1 male, 3 females); registration permit hunt – 12 (5 males, 7 females); federal subsistence hunt - 0. The reported 2009-10 harvest of 39 elk was about 6.5% of the estimated population, a slight increase over the estimated 2008-09 harvest of 10%.

Issued an Emergency Order to close the southwestern portion of registration hunt RE755. The closure occurred on Oct. 22, 2009, and include the area south of a line from the head of Danger Bay to the head of Izhut Bay.

Submitted by: Larry Van Daele & John Crye