

**State of Alaska
FY2007 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Conservation
Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

Wildlife Conservation Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Division of Wildlife Conservation is to conserve and enhance Alaska's wildlife and habitats and provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits.

Core Services

The Division of Wildlife Conservation is responsible for the management of Alaska's wildlife resources. The primary goals of the division are to: (1) protect, maintain, and enhance the wildlife resources of Alaska; and (2) provide for their greatest use by the people, consistent with the sustained yield principle, for the well being of the people and the economy of the state.

- **Wildlife Management and Research:** Wildlife management involves a wide variety of biological and administrative activities. Management biologists, primarily working out of area offices, collect information on wildlife population sizes, trends, productivity, and levels of mortality from hunting and natural causes. The division's research program focuses on collecting data on primary species with direct management application.

- **Species Survey and Inventory:** Field work within the 26 Game Management Units (GMU) to assess species populations, administer hunts, monitor harvest levels, and prepare study data for the regulatory process. Management biologists concentrate efforts toward big game and furbearer species. Biological staff also specialize on migratory bird and waterfowl issues in cooperation with federal agencies. Specific species are noted below:

• Big Game	moose	caribou	black bear	brown bear
	deer	sheep	mt goat	elk
	bison	musk ox		
• Furbearers:	wolf	wolverine	fox	lynx
	marten	beaver		
• Waterfowl	ducks	geese	cranes	
• Small Game	ptarmigan	grouse	hares	

- **Research:** Multi-year field studies including data collection and analysis related to game, marine mammals, and waterfowl species. Studies underway during FY06 and 07 include the following study titles:
 - ⌚ Population dynamics of moose in Alaska: effects of nutrition, predation, and harvest
 - ⌚ Analysis of the nitrogen budget of moose in Unit 13A, Nelchina Basin, and Unit 15, Kenai Peninsula
 - ⌚ Nutrition influences on moose reproduction
 - ⌚ Evaluation of moose-habitat relationships in Southeast Alaska
 - ⌚ Response of moose and their predators to wolf reduction and short-term bear removal in a portion of Unit 19D
 - ⌚ Evaluation and testing of techniques for ungulate management and Moose Research Center operations
 - ⌚ Identification of factors affecting calf production, calf, survival, and survival of female adult moose in Unit 13
 - ⌚ Habitat use and survivorship of Sitka black-tailed deer in Southeast Alaska: a regional meta-analysis and synthesis
 - ⌚ Assessing wild land fire impacts on the nutritional performance and distribution of caribou within Alaska's boreal forest ecosystems
 - ⌚ Population dynamics of Interior and Southwest Alaska caribou herds
 - ⌚ Effect of oil field development on calf production and survival in the Central Arctic Caribou Herd
 - ⌚ Habitat use, foraging behavior, and nutritional ecology of Nelchina caribou
 - ⌚ Monitoring of 40-Mile ungulates and wolves following wolf sterilization and translocation

- ⌚ Brown bear data analysis and manuscript preparation
 - ⌚ Abundance, spatial relationships, and trans-boundary movements of brown bears on the mainland coast of Southeast Alaska
 - ⌚ Identifying and evaluating techniques for wildlife management in interior Alaska
 - ⌚ Effects of snowshoe hare population cycles on demography of Dall sheep and their predators
 - ⌚ Coarse-scale surveys of wolverine distribution and habitat in Interior Alaska
 - ⌚ Habitat assessment of potential wood bison relocation sites in Alaska
 - ⌚ Preparation of a manuscript on estimating predation rates by wolves during winter with periodic sampling
 - ⌚ Population ecology and special dynamics of wolves related to prey availability and human activity in the Nelchina Basin
 - ⌚ Development and testing of breakaway snares
 - ⌚ Wildlife health and disease surveillance in Alaska
 - ⌚ Development of GIS techniques for the collection, modeling, and analysis of wildlife movement data and spatial dynamics in Unit 13
 - ⌚ Stellar Sea Lion Recovery studies
 - ⌚ Investigations into Harbor Seals in Alaska
 - ⌚ Ice Seal Bio-Monitoring in the Bering & Chukchi Region
 - ⌚ Western Beaufort Sea: Satellite Tracking of Bowhead Whales
- **Public and Hunter Information Services:** Management biologists serve as a point of contact with the public on wildlife management issues, assess public interests and needs, sell hunting and trapping licenses, issue harvest tags and permits, make public presentations, deal with nuisance and injured wildlife. Division personnel are located in the following Alaskan communities, depicted in this table through the regional management structure used by the Division:

<u>Southeast:</u> <u>Region I</u>	<u>Southcentral:</u> <u>Region II</u>	<u>Interior:</u> <u>Region III</u>	<u>Western:</u> <u>Region V</u>
Douglas	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Nome
Petersburg	Palmer	Delta Junction	Barrow
Sitka	Glennallen	Tok	Kotzebue
Ketchikan	Soldotna	McGrath	Bethel
	Homer	Galena	
	Cordova	Ft. Yukon	
	Dillingham		
	Kodiak		
	King Salmon		

- **Hunter Education:** Provide education and information to hunters to increase hunter safety and knowledge, and decrease the wounding loss of game. A formal system of hunter education classes qualifies successful students to hunt in areas where hunter education certification is required. Specialized hunter education courses and clinics are arranged for archery and muzzle-loading firearms. Participants in these courses become eligible to participate in hunts restricted to these types of equipment. The program constantly recruits volunteers who serve as instructors in many parts of the state.
- **Regulatory Process:** The division's role is to provide the Board of Game with biological information, offer suggested regulatory changes based on available information, and provide testimony, analysis and recommendations on proposed changes offered by individuals and organizations. The division obtains its biological information through its annual survey and inventory efforts on game species by GMU. The division functions independently of the board and does not oversee nor control the regulatory process. The board is responsible for establishing hunting and trapping seasons, setting harvest limits, and allocating wildlife harvests among users.
- **Information Management:** The division manages a central repository for big game and furbearer harvest information. This service administers and conducts the lottery for all Drawing Permit hunts and administers the Tier II Subsistence Permit hunt scoring and allocation system. Data processing support for division services also includes GIS-based data analysis and digital mapping within a Game Management Unit.

- **State Wildlife Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries:** The division provides on the ground management in 32 state wildlife refuges, critical habitat areas, and wildlife sanctuaries for the protection of fish and wildlife, their habitats, and public use. The notable special areas overseen by the division include:
 - McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Refuge
 - Anchorage Coastal State Wildlife Refuge
 - Creamer’s Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
 - Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary (Pack Creek)
 - Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary
 - Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge
 - Palmer Hay Flats
 - Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area (Wolverine Creek)

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>A: Maintain healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska for public use and benefit.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Achieve population targets for at least 75% of big game populations for which the Board of Game (BOG) has set targets (i.e., objectives).</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of BOG population targets attained.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Develop and implement recovery strategies for 75% of those "species of concern" under primary division management.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of species for which recovery strategies are being implemented.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> 0% change in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage change in the number of new threatened or endangered species designations.</p>	<p>A1: Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage change in the numbers of studies initiated, underway, and completed.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of planned surveys completed.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Maintain the number of active research projects at 95 to 100% or more of the previous year's totals.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Number of research projects compared to those of the previous year.</p> <p>A2: Provide biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state advisory committees as well as to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal regional councils.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Actively participate in 100% of Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of regional council meetings that affect state management.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of meetings at which staff present information and offer recommendations.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Achieve a 75% adoption rate for regulatory proposals submitted to the Board of Game by the division.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of recommendations adopted.</p> <p>A3: Maintain wildlife habitat capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of wildlife.</p>

	<p><u>Target #1:</u> Participate actively in the management of at least 50% of state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries. <u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of areas in which staff play a significant management role.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Review and evaluate at least 90% of major proposed land use projects to assess impacts on wildlife and make recommendations to minimize those impacts. <u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of projects evaluated.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Enhance productivity of key habitats by conducting 80% of planned and feasible habitat improvement or restoration projects. <u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage of projects conducted.</p> <p>A4: Increase low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase ungulate populations by an average of 2% annually in areas where intensive management programs are being implemented. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in ungulate survival.</p>
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>B: Maintain a wealth and diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment of Alaska's wildlife and optimize associated social and economic benefits.</p>	<p>B1: Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife, as well as associated business enterprises such as guiding, taxidermy and nature tourism.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3 -year average. <u>Measure #1:</u> Number of licenses sold compared with the 3-year running average.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Increase by 1% the 2001 level of adult participation in wildlife viewing. <u>Measure #2:</u> % increase in the number of adult viewers identified in the 5-year U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase by 5% the information available on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities. <u>Measure #3:</u> Quantity of information posted on the web and printed for public distribution.</p>
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>C: Inform and educate the Alaskan public about wildlife management issues.</p>	<p>C1: Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase by 5% opportunities for Alaskans to</p>

	<p>learn about wildlife and wildlife management.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage change in the number of forums and lectures offered. Percentage change in the number of brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications produced.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Increase by 5% the number of workshops offered to teachers in wildlife curricula.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage change in the numbers of workshops offered to teachers on use of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase by 5% the number of outdoor skill development clinics offered.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage change in the number of outdoor skill development clinics offered.</p>
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Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct population and trend count surveys on wildlife populations. • Conduct Game Management Unit area and/or species-specific research. • Conduct harvest surveys on wildlife populations. • Review proposals from the public pertaining to wildlife in regards to the regulatory process. • Collect, analyze, and provide information regarding wildlife to regulatory bodies. • Develop and present recommendations to the Board of Game. • Participate in regulatory sessions with the Board of Game. • Devise management strategies and plans regarding wildlife habitat. • Conduct field assessments regarding wildlife habitat. • Assign staff to heavily used areas to protect resources and/or public safety. • Participate in interdisciplinary permit review teams regarding wildlife habitat. • Offer biological expertise regarding wildlife habitat. • Conduct prescribed burns to enhance wildlife habitat. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out habitat scarification/crushing. • Build and install nesting structures. • Conduct recruitment and survival surveys on ungulate populations. • Work with the Administration and Legislature to adopt an improved compensation package for biologists comparable to that for federal biologists. • Develop and enhance marketing strategies for the sale of hunting licenses. • Conduct hunter / trapper / viewer clinics for the general public. • Enhance web-based information systems and other publications regarding wildlife resources and opportunities. • Use the media to promote opportunities for wildlife related activities. • Sponsor lecture series and other educational forums for the public. • Development of brochures, news articles and other publications. • Conduct teacher trainings on the use of outdoor and wildlife curricula. • Sponsor outdoor skill clinics. |
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FY2007 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

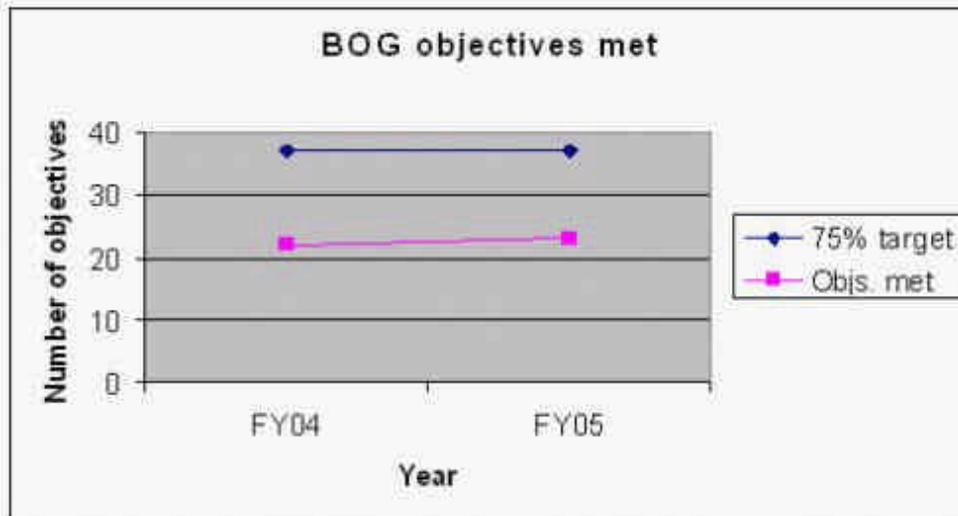
<p>FY2007 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$35,178,600</p>	<p>Personnel:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Full time</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">181</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Part time</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">46</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px;">227</td> </tr> </table>	Full time	181	Part time	46	Total	227
Full time	181						
Part time	46						
Total	227						

Performance Measure Detail

A: Result - Maintain healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska for public use and benefit.

Target #1: Achieve population targets for at least 75% of big game populations for which the Board of Game (BOG) has set targets (i.e., objectives).

Measure #1: Percentage of BOG population targets attained.



Analysis of results and challenges: This target has not yet been achieved. For 2004/05, the division has met 23 BOG population objectives out of a total of 47 objectives set for deer, caribou and moose. Additional analysis is needed to determine if objectives have been met for 2 other populations.

Target #2: Develop and implement recovery strategies for 75% of those "species of concern" under primary division management.

Measure #2: Percentage of species for which recovery strategies are being implemented.

Analysis of results and challenges: The target was met. There are 10 wildlife species of special concern under primary or shared division management. Conservation action plans were recently developed for 8 of these species, including blackpoll warbler, Townsend's warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, Steller's eider, spectacled eider, northern goshawk, Arctic peregrine falcon, and American peregrine falcon. In addition, a separate Kenai brown bear management plan was created in 2000. The one species for which a plan has not been prepared is the Aleutian Canada goose. This population is no longer listed on the federal endangered species list and will be removed when the "species of special concern" list is next updated.

Target #3: 0% change in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.

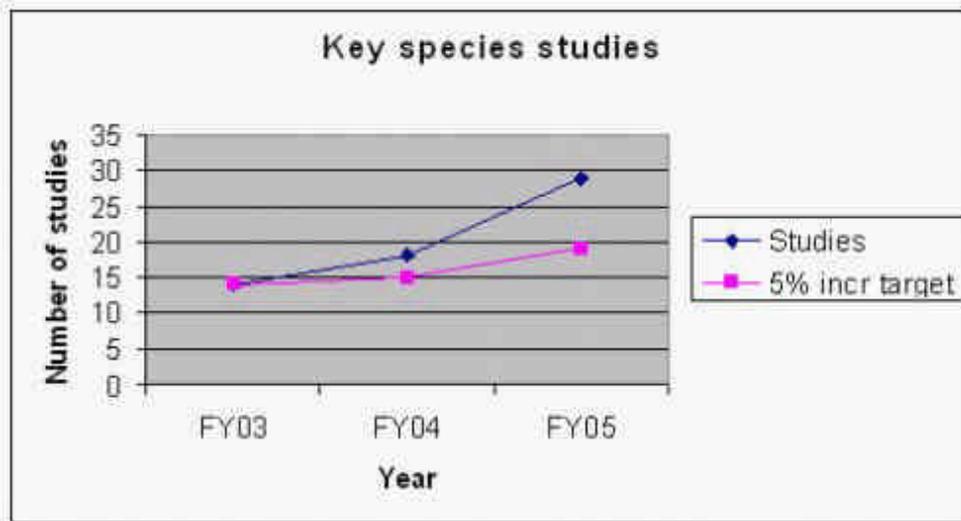
Measure #3: Percentage change in the number of new threatened or endangered species designations.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was met. The state endangered species list includes the Eskimo curlew, short-tailed albatross, humpback whale, right whale, and blue whale. There has been no change in the state endangered species list since 1993 and no new species were added to federal lists in 2004/05.

A1: Strategy - Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.

Target #1: Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists.

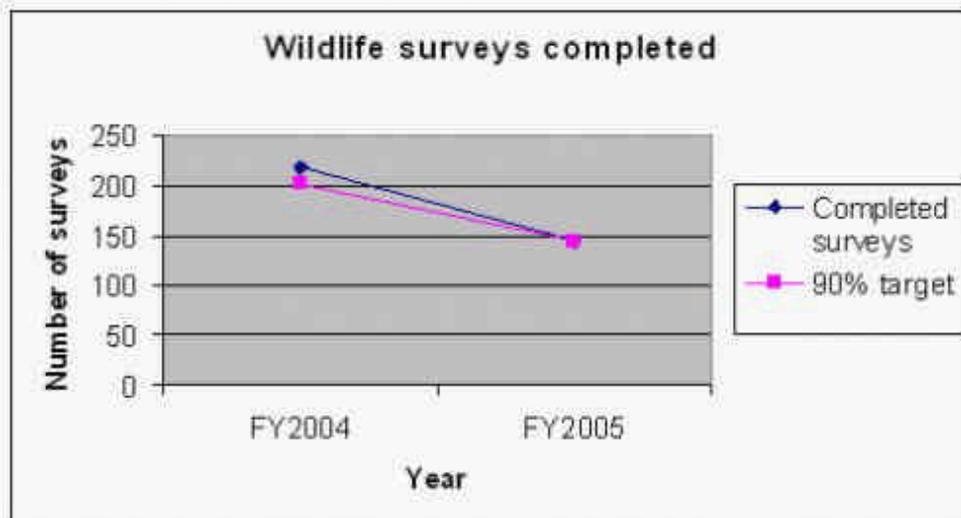
Measure #1: Percentage change in the numbers of studies initiated, underway, and completed.



Analysis of results and challenges: This target was met. In 2004/05, 16 key species projects were continued and 13 were initiated for a total of 29. This represents a 20% increase over 2003/04's 24 projects, largely due to the continued availability of new federal funds.

Target #2: Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).

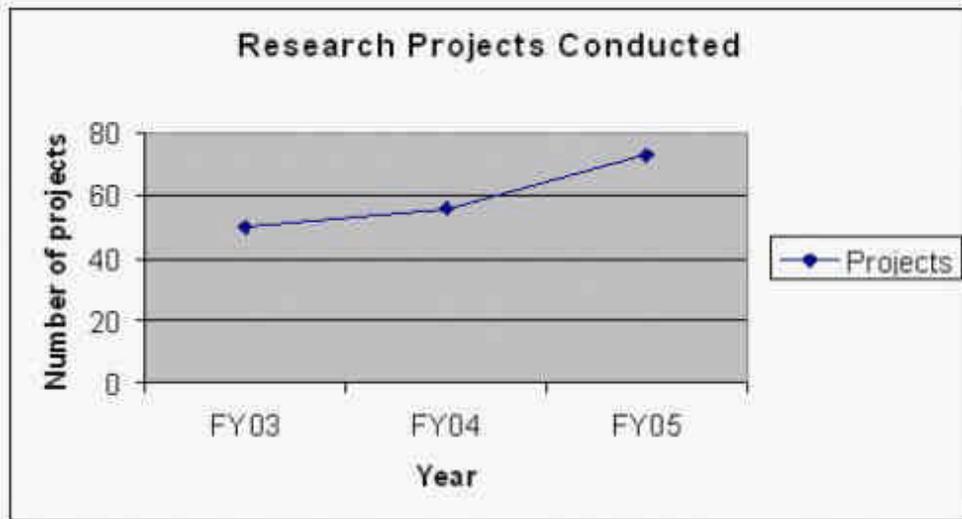
Measure #2: Percentage of planned surveys completed.



Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved. During 2004/05, the division completed 90% of planned wildlife surveys (145 of 161) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor. Of those not completed, 15 were due to budget or personnel constraints, 1 was due to equipment breakdown. Budget constraints also contributed to fewer surveys on lower priority species being planned for the year. Cost increases have exceeded increases in available funds both for personnel and for aviation fuel which has increased the costs of charter flights and operating department aircraft.

Target #3: Maintain the number of active research projects at 95 to 100% or more of the previous year's totals.

Measure #3: Number of research projects compared to those of the previous year.

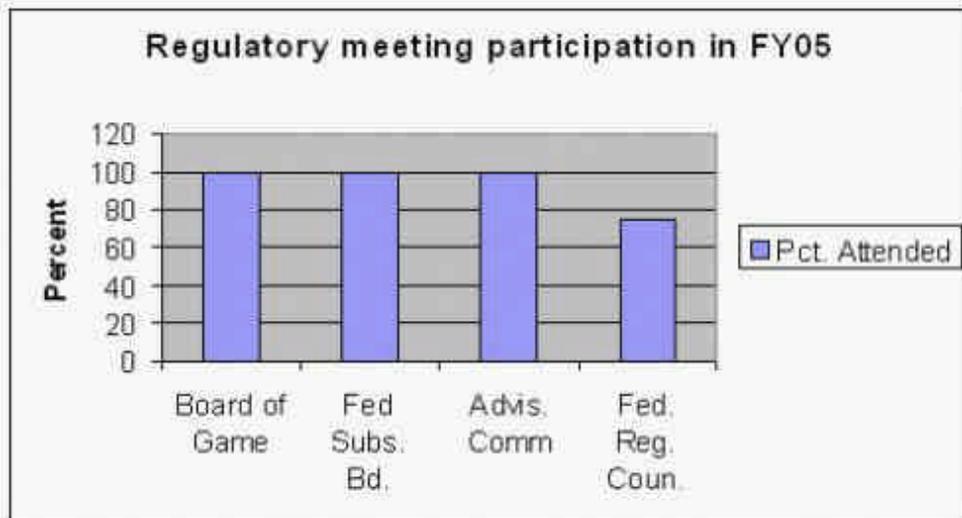


Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved. During 2004/05, 28 big game research projects, 20 marine mammal program research projects, 3 waterfowl/game bird, and 6 nongame research projects were conducted, for a total of 57 division research projects. (16 additional nongame research projects were conducted by partners using State Wildlife Grant funds from the division.) The previous year, 2003/04, 28 big game, 18 marine mammal, and 6 nongame research projects were conducted (4 additional nongame research projects were conducted by partners using State Wildlife Grant funds from the division.) for a total of 52 division research projects. The number of 2004/05 projects conducted by the division is 104% of those conducted the prior year.

A2: Strategy - Provide biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state advisory committees as well as to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal regional councils.

Target #1: Actively participate in 100% of Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of regional council meetings that affect state management.

Measure #1: Percentage of meetings at which staff present information and offer recommendations.

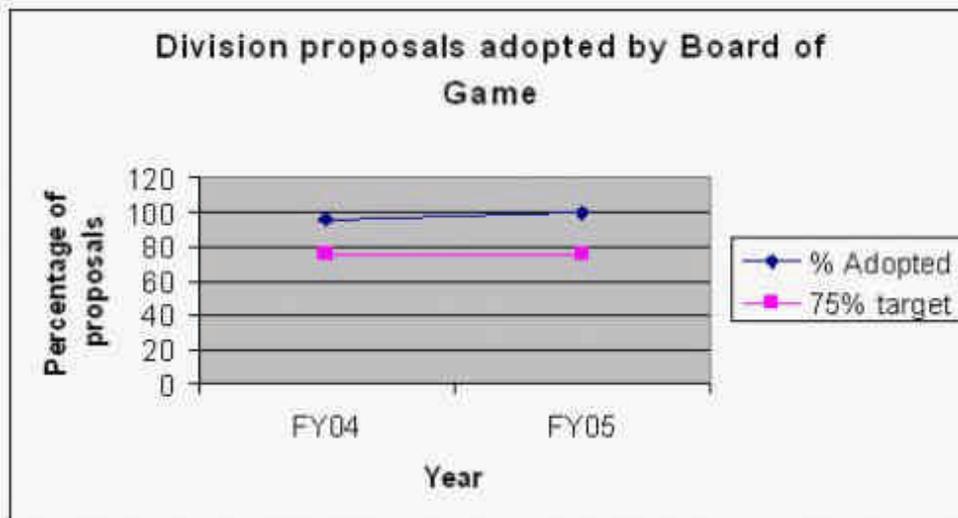


Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved. For 2004/05, DWC staff actively participated in all BOG meetings, all state advisory committee meetings addressing wildlife issues, all federal subsistence

board meetings that dealt with wildlife issues, and approximately 75% of federal regional council meetings.

Target #2: Achieve a 75% adoption rate for regulatory proposals submitted to the Board of Game by the division.

Measure #2: Percentage of recommendations adopted.



Analysis of results and challenges: During the fall 2004 and spring 2005 meetings, a combined total of 23 division proposals were submitted; all were adopted. Thus for fiscal year 2005, the target was achieved.

A3: Strategy - Maintain wildlife habitat capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of wildlife.

Target #1: Participate actively in the management of at least 50% of state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries.

Measure #1: Percentage of areas in which staff play a significant management role.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was met. Management plans have been completed for 15 of the 32 state critical habitat areas, game refuges and sanctuaries; management plans for the remaining 17 state special areas are in progress. During 2004/05 a management plan for Izembek State Game Refuge was drafted, and will be finalized shortly. For the remaining areas, management concerns were addressed by local area biologists and regional staff.

Target #2: Review and evaluate at least 90% of major proposed land use projects to assess impacts on wildlife and make recommendations to minimize those impacts.

Measure #2: Percentage of projects evaluated.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved for land use projects reviewed both in house by ADF&G and when requested by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Target #3: Enhance productivity of key habitats by conducting 80% of planned and feasible habitat improvement or restoration projects.

Measure #3: Percentage of projects conducted.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was not achieved. Only one of 6 prescribed burns was conducted because suitable conditions were not obtained or because the fire management resources needed to safely conduct the burns were not available because they were engaged fighting wildland fires. Budget constraints and lack of new areas prevented conducting mechanical scarification of logged timber sale units.

A4: Strategy - Increase low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.

Target #1: Increase ungulate populations by an average of 2% annually in areas where intensive management programs are being implemented.

Measure #1: % change in ungulate survival.

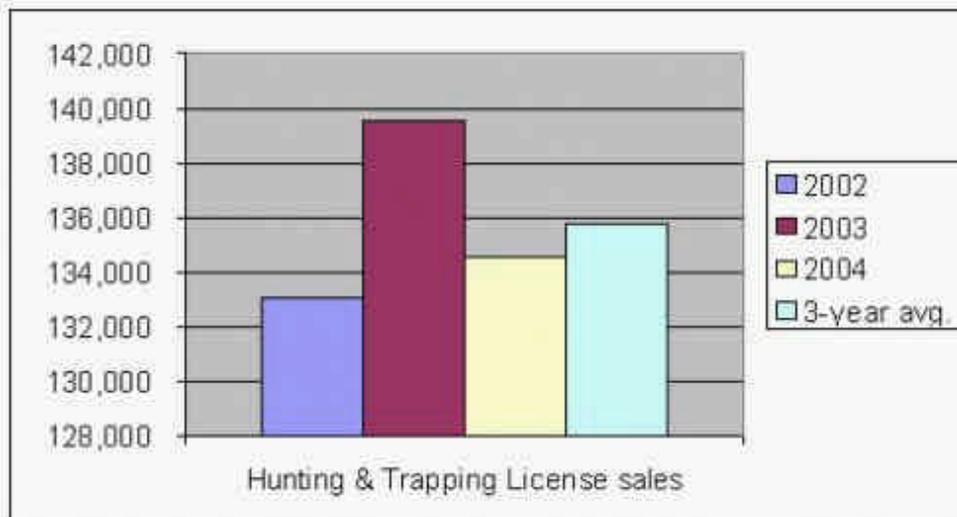
Analysis of results and challenges: Five Intensive Management Programs (IMPs) have now been implemented by DWC (2 more than the previous year) - in Game Management Units (GMU) 13, 16B, 19A, 19D, 20E/12. There was a greater than 2% increase in the GMU 13 moose population in 2004/05 over the prior year. Based upon survival among radiocollared animals and on population estimates in the Experimental Micro Management Area (EMMA) in Unit 19D east, the moose population in 2004/05 also likely increased by more than 2% over the previous year. In Units 16B, 19A, and 20E/12 there is insufficient information to know how the moose population changed in 2004/05.

B: Result - Maintain a wealth and diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment of Alaska's wildlife and optimize associated social and economic benefits.

B1: Strategy - Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife, as well as associated business enterprises such as guiding, taxidermy and nature tourism.

Target #1: Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3 -year average.

Measure #1: Number of licenses sold compared with the 3-year running average.



Analysis of results and challenges: This target was not achieved. Over the past three years the sale of hunting and trapping licenses has ranged from 133,052 in 2002 to 139,539 in 2003 to 134,562 in 2004 (most recent year available). These totals include resident, nonresident and military licenses. The three year running average for this period of time is 135,714. License sales in 2004 represent a 1% decrease over the three year running average.

Target #2: Increase by 1% the 2001 level of adult participation in wildlife viewing.

Measure #2: % increase in the number of adult viewers identified in the 5-year U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey.

Analysis of results and challenges: We are unable to evaluate this target at this time. The National Survey of

Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation is completed every five years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last completed this survey in 2001. The next opportunity for obtaining such wildlife viewing information will occur in 2006.

Target #3: Increase by 5% the information available on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Measure #3: Quantity of information posted on the web and printed for public distribution.

Analysis of results and challenges: Target achieved. The number of new pages added to the DWC web site in 2004/05 increased the total by approximately 10%.

C: Result - Inform and educate the Alaskan public about wildlife management issues.

C1: Strategy - Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife.

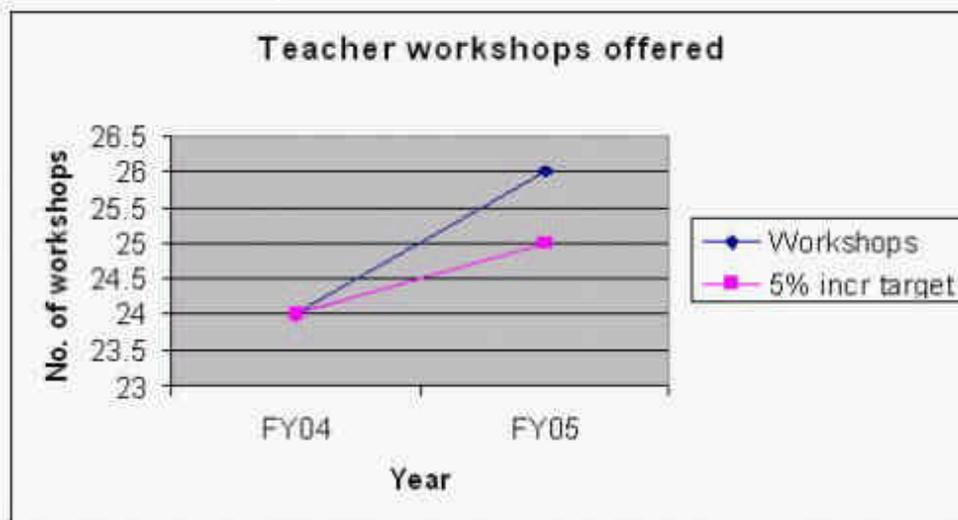
Target #1: Increase by 5% opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management.

Measure #1: Percentage change in the number of forums and lectures offered. Percentage change in the number of brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications produced.

Analysis of results and challenges: The target was achieved. Wildlife-related lectures and workshops went from 18 in 2003/04 to 22 in 2004/05. In 2004/05 there were 30 separate media presentations and articles completed by Wildlife Education. Over this same time period, the number of electronic and broadcast media opportunities dealing with wildlife and wildlife management, including weekly radio spots (50), monthly newspaper articles (32), guest presentations on radio shows (3), and miscellaneous news articles (5) declined slightly, but distribution to additional media increased. ADF&G web page content increased substantially as new management and research reports, and harvest information were posted for public access.

Target #2: Increase by 5% the number of workshops offered to teachers in wildlife curricula.

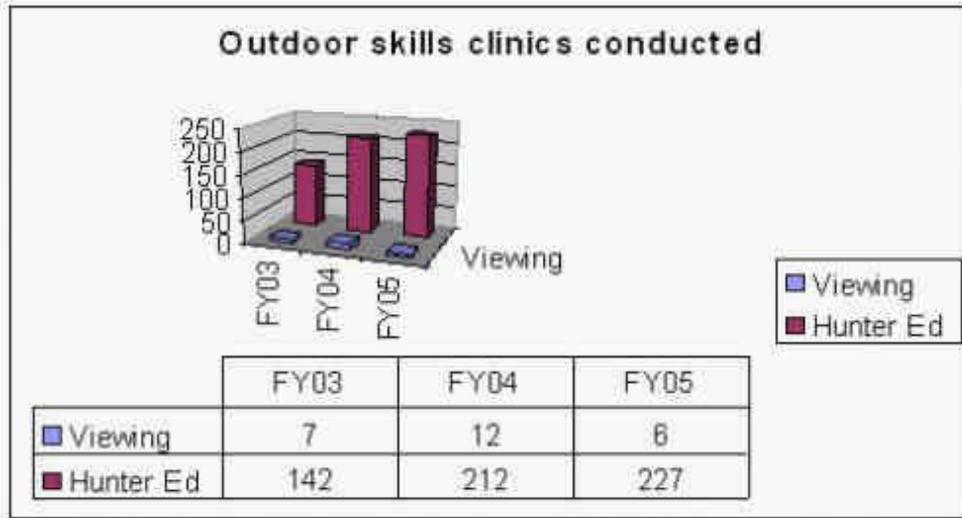
Measure #2: Percentage change in the numbers of workshops offered to teachers on use of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild.



Analysis of results and challenges: The target was achieved. In 2003/04, 24 such workshops were presented to 595 teachers. In 2004/05 we offered 26 workshops to 642 teachers. This represents an 8% increase in number of teachers reached, and 8% more workshops offered in 2004/05 than in the prior year.

Target #3: Increase by 5% the number of outdoor skill development clinics offered.

Measure #3: Percentage change in the number of outdoor skill development clinics offered.



Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved in hunter education courses. In 2004/05 there were 227 classes offered in our three disciplines; 79 archery, 133 basic hunter education and 15 muzzleloader. There were 3,545 students enrolled in these classes with 3,037 being certified. HIT courses continue to expand to rural Alaska and through school programs. This is a 7% increase from the 212 classes offered in 2003/04, and 2,877 students enrolled.

The target was not achieved in viewer education courses. In 2004/05 there were 6 viewer education classes with 175 students, a decrease from the 12 viewer education classes and 285 students in 2003/04. This reflects reduced staffing and no budget for instructor travel.

Key RDU Challenges

Major policy issues face the Division of Wildlife Conservation for FY07. These include: (1) meeting an increased demand for hunting opportunities from the public; (2) maintaining sound scientific standards to wildlife management; (3) managing for the statutory state subsistence preference and all other uses while addressing Alaskan concerns about federal intervention into management of resident wildlife for subsistence on federal lands; (4) protecting the State's interests in the designation of species as Threatened or Endangered; and (5) meeting demands of the public for a strong conservation education program, more wildlife viewing opportunities, and management of non-hunted species.

Financial issues include a continued declining trend in revenue and fees into the Fish & Game Fund.

The three public shooting facilities managed by the division are described in a separate RDU for FY07: Hunter Education Public Shooting Facilities. Previous to FY06, they were included with the Wildlife Conservation RDU.

Game Management and Hunting Opportunities

Predation by wolves and bears has a major impact on many wildlife populations in Alaska. The division will continue to work with the Board of Game to develop biologically sound and cost effective programs to regulate predator populations where necessary to improve the status of important ungulate herds.

Under A.S. 16.05.255, the Board of Game is charged with carrying out intensive management programs for identified big game populations failing to meet regulatory management objectives. In five areas, predator management is being used as a tool to boost the harvestable surpluses of moose and caribou populations and provide increased hunting opportunities for Alaskans. These programs are targeted at subunits within Game Management Units 12, 13, 16, 19, and 20, and more programs will likely be adopted this year. The department has allocated all available funds to supporting studies and currently lacks resources to document population parameters in order to support, sustain and defend new intensive management programs in the face of ongoing opposition and litigation. Without these programs, hunting opportunities will continue to be severely reduced.

The division's ability to maintain healthy populations of wildlife is directly related to the ability of Alaska's land and water resources to support these populations. Loss or serious alteration of important wildlife habitats can have direct and long-term economic impacts on the state by reducing the sustainable yield of these renewable resources. Because of increasing human populations and the need for an expanded and more diversified economy, the division must work closely with development interests and other agencies to effectively mitigate the effects of development through active management programs to ensure adequate protection of wildlife values and continued opportunities for public use of these resources. The process depends on the division's ability to provide the latest information, techniques, and research findings to all parties involved in a rapid and efficient manner.

Protect State Interests in the Designation and Management of Endangered Species

The listing of species as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act can have great adverse economic impacts on Alaska. Division programs have been designed to provide for population recovery of listed species as well as preventing the need for additional listings. The division will continue to collect information on several species in an effort to ensure species are not unnecessarily listed under the federal act.

Dual Management

The federal assertion of management authorities for subsistence hunting on federal lands continues to have major impacts on the management of wildlife in Alaska. The division continues to work to address resource management and allocation conflicts between state and federal managers.

Funding Sources

There continues to be a need to address funding for the division's programs. Revenues into the Fish and Game Fund are derived from the sale of hunting and trapping licenses to residents and non-residents, special permits, tag fees, sanctuary access permits, shooting range fees, waterfowl stamps and limited edition prints, and educational publications and videos. Revenue generated from these sources has decreased steadily from FY01 through FY05. Revenue in FY05 was 9.5% less than FY01.

General Funds for the division were added as a base adjustment and during legislative committee hearings during the FY06 budget process. This additional funding source helps offset declining revenue into the Fish & Game Fund as well as diversifies the funding base for division operations. A General Fund increment in FY07 will enhance game management and hunting opportunities.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2007

The Division has three increments proposed.

Increase funds for Big Game Management and Research. Addition of requested General Funds will significantly enhance the division's ability to manage the state's wildlife resources. These will supplement the mix of federal aid funds and Fish and Game Fund monies that finance wildlife survey and inventory activities, wildlife research projects, public services, regulatory activities, and other core functions of the division. By helping to compensate for increased costs and inflationary effects felt since 1992, this will allow the retention of experienced, highly skilled staff and enable the division to resume adequate levels of wildlife inventories and studies across the state, with sufficient coverage and intensity to facilitate intensive management and maximum allocation to consumptive uses.

This increment addresses the division's strategies of collecting scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska; providing up-to-date biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state advisory committees; and increasing low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.

Increase funds for Research on Wildlife Species Pending Listing as Threatened. Federal management of species designated as "threatened" or "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act can affect a broad array of economic activities in Alaska from commercial fishing to logging and oil and gas development. Currently 12 species have been listed in Alaska as endangered; these include nine species of marine mammals and three bird species. The State needs to be actively involved in any new designations and efforts to identify "critical habitat" and develop recovery plans. State involvement in the management of marine mammals, which were formally under federal jurisdiction in Alaska, is also critical to ensuring that state interests and scientific expertise are adequately considered. Field research into candidate and threatened waterfowl species is needed to map migration and reproduction patterns.

This increment addresses the division's strategy of - 0% change in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.

Increase federal funds for Satellite Tracking of Bowhead Whales. Grant funding has been obtained from the Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of Interior, for a study titled Satellite Tracking of Bowhead Whales. Current information indicates the western Arctic stock of bowhead whales winter in the Bering Sea and migrate through the Chukchi and Beaufort seas in spring to feed in eastern Beaufort before returning to the Bering Sea in late fall. It is not known where in the Bering Sea bowheads winter, if they feed in wintering areas, and if they segregate by sex and/or age during winter.

This study will work with Alaska Native subsistence whalers to cooperatively deploy 25 satellite tracking tags per year for the next four years on bowhead whales. Satellite telemetry will allow individual whales to be tracked year-round providing information regarding distribution, movements and migration, and important feeding, summering, and wintering areas.

This increment addresses the division's strategy of collecting scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska. This effort will significantly increase the department's knowledge about bowhead whales and their movement patterns.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2005

Conducted wildlife survey and inventory management projects for 11 big game species (black and brown bears, bison, caribou, Dall sheep, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, muskox, and wolf) as well as furbearers and migratory birds.

Research projects conducted during FY05 include 27 related to big game and 3 for waterfowl or game birds. Of those, 22 are ongoing and 8 were completed during FY05 (Title & Federal Aid project number noted):

Ongoing projects

- Population Dynamics of Moose in Alaska: Effects of Nutrition, Predation, and Harvest (1.57)
- The Analysis of the Nitrogen Budget of Moose in Unit 13A, Nelchina Basin and in Unit 15, Kenai Peninsula (1.59)
- Nutritional influences on moose reproduction (1.60)
- Evaluation of moose-habitat relationships in Southeastern Alaska (1.61)
- Habitat use and survivorship of Sitka black-tailed deer in Southeast Alaska (2.13)
- Assessing wildland fire impacts on the nutritional performance and distribution of caribou (3.44)
- Population Dynamics of Interior and Southwest Alaska Caribou Herds (3.45)
- Effects of oil field development on calf production and survival in the Central Arctic caribou herd (3.46)
- Monitoring of Fortymile Ungulates and Wolves Following Wolf Sterilization and Translocation (3.48)
- Effects of snowshoe hare population cycles on demography of Dall sheep and their predators (6.14)
- Coarse-Scale Surveys for Wolverine Distribution and Habitat in Interior Alaska (7.21)
- Habitat Assessment of Potential Wood Bison Relocation Sites in Alaska (9.10)
- Development and Testing of Breakaway Snares (15.12)
- Wildlife Health and Disease Surveillance in Alaska (18.73)
- Region I research planning, design, and support (19.10)
- Grizzly bear use of North Slope oilfields
- Brown bear riparian buffers
- Marten abundance and forest management
- Population Structure and Distribution of Steller's Eider (E-4-1)
- Population Status of Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse in Southeast Alaska (E-4-2)
- Satellite Tracking of Tule White-fronted Geese (E-4-3)
- Kenai brown bears: response to human intrusions at salmon streams (T-1-7)

Completed projects

- Landscape Ecology and Population Dynamics of Moose in Game Management Unit 13 (1.55)
- Evaluation and testing of techniques for ungulate management (1.56)
- Factors limiting moose in Unit 19D East; interactions between moose, predators, harvest, and habitat (1.58)
- Ecological studies of the Kenai Peninsula brown bear (4.29)

- Preparation of brown bear manuscripts (4.32)
- Identifying and evaluating techniques for wildlife habitat enhancement in Interior Alaska (5.00)
- Predation ecology of wolves in Nelchina Basin (14.21)
- Preparation of manuscripts on wolf ecology in Interior Alaska (14.22)

Conducted 227 hunting clinics and classes in 33 communities around the state, certifying 3,037 total students. There were 129 basic hunter education, 76 bowhunter, and 15 muzzleloader classes. The division trained 74 volunteer instructors at regional workshops in Nome, Juneau, Fairbanks, Anchorage, the Mat-Su valley, and Kenai Peninsula. Continued to enhance the division's outreach to schools and community groups, holding wildlife curriculum training for 642 teachers, and supporting the work of division managers by better informing the public about wildlife management issues and challenges.

Implemented 5 intensive management programs in an effort to increase ungulate species for human consumption by controlling predators in 6 game management units 13, 16B, 19A, 19D, 20E/12.

Directly served hunters and the public by receiving and responding to an estimated 600–1,400 public contacts on an average daily basis (telephone, email, letters, and walk-ins) from the general public, students, teachers, civic organizations, and media about wildlife biology, hunting and trapping regulations, wildlife management programs, etc. Estimated total contacts are 120,000–150,000 at 4 regional and 18 area offices.

Drafted and distributed approximately 200 news releases, public service announcements, brochures, and flyers and gave approximately 125 media interviews with information about wildlife safety, hunting, trapping, management, and research to satisfy immediate and ongoing public information needs. Updated other informational materials about hunting areas and wildlife viewing on an "as needed" basis, including hunt area maps and updates reflecting changes made by the Alaska Board of Game; also provided packets containing hunting information to an estimated 6,500 hunters and distributed specialized Game Management posters to over 7,200 households.

Conducted 12 State Wildlife Grant projects. Of those 5 are ongoing and 7 were completed during FY05:

Ongoing projects

- Wolverine Creek planning (T-1-1)
- Walrus Islands conservation planning (T-1-2)
- Conservation of Kenai brown bear populations (T-1-7)
- Conserving Alaska's biodiversity (T-1-8-1)
- Partnerships for conservation of nongame species (T-1-6)

Completed projects

- Marine mammals conservation planning coordination (T-1-10)
- Creamer's Field conservation and management (T-1-12)
- Interior Refuges: conservation and planning (T-1-13)
- Conservation Research planning for McNeil River Bears (T-1-15)
- Southeast Refuges and Critical Habitats: conservation and planning (T-1-8-2)
- Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary: conservation and planning (T-1-8-3)
- Monitoring and assessment of strategies for conservation of brown bears at Chilkoot River (T-1-8-5)

Continued to develop a division nongame wildlife program and completed preparation of a statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as required by federal State Wildlife Grant legislation.

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**Wildlife Conservation
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2005 Actuals				FY2006 Management Plan				FY2007 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<u>Formula Expenditures</u>												
None.												
<u>Non-Formula Expenditures</u>												
Wildlife Conservation	73.3	8,845.9	7,202.6	16,121.8	696.7	9,061.4	9,032.1	18,790.2	4,596.7	9,061.4	9,032.1	22,690.2
WCRP	3.3	2,571.9	553.2	3,128.4	528.8	3,699.1	374.8	4,602.7	550.4	3,764.0	374.8	4,689.2
W.C. Special Projects	6.1	4,674.5	1,293.5	5,974.1	77.6	5,551.0	1,726.5	7,355.1	112.7	5,951.5	1,735.0	7,799.2
Totals	82.7	16,092.3	9,049.3	25,224.3	1,303.1	18,311.5	11,133.4	30,748.0	5,259.8	18,776.9	11,141.9	35,178.6

Wildlife Conservation
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2006 Management Plan to FY2007 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2006 Management Plan	1,303.1	18,311.5	11,133.4	30,748.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Wildlife Conservation	627.3	0.0	0.0	627.3
-WCRP	19.9	59.8	0.0	79.7
-W.C. Special Projects	32.4	92.5	7.8	132.7
Proposed budget increases:				
-Wildlife Conservation	3,272.7	0.0	0.0	3,272.7
-WCRP	1.7	5.1	0.0	6.8
-W.C. Special Projects	2.7	308.0	0.7	311.4
FY2007 Governor	5,259.8	18,776.9	11,141.9	35,178.6