

**State of Alaska
FY2009 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	mtn 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.
- **Public and Hunter Information Services:** Among other things, 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, and deal with nuisance and injured wildlife. Division personnel are located in the following Alaskan communities, depicted in this table through the regional locations 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
Craig (new in 08)	Homer	Galena	
	Cordova	Ft. Yukon	
	Dillingham		
	Kodiak		
	King Salmon		

- Hunter Education:** This effort includes providing education and information to hunters in an effort 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 data, and provide testimony, analyses, and recommendations on proposed changes offered by individuals and organizations. During FY09, Board of Game meetings are planned for the Southeast region for fall, 2008 (Game Management Units 1-5), and Southcentral for spring, 2009 (Game Management Units 6-11, 13-17).
- 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 Game Management Units.
- 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.

End Result	Strategies to Achieve End Result
<p>A: Healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska that provide a diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment.</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). <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. <u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of species for which recovery strategies are being implemented.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> No increase in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level. <u>Measure #3:</u> 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. <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). <u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of planned surveys completed.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Maintain the number of active research projects at 95% or more of the previous year's totals. <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 federal regional council meetings that affect state management. <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. <u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of recommendations adopted.</p> <p>A3: Maintain wildlife habitat on state lands capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of wildlife.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase the percentage of management plans for state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries. <u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of areas with existing plans or plans in process of development.</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> <p>A5: Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife.</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>A6: 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 annually the number of opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management. <u>Measure #1:</u> Change in the number of forums and lectures offered. 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. <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 hunter education</p>
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	clinics offered. Measure #3: Percentage change in the number of hunter education clinics offered.
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Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- 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.
- 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.

FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

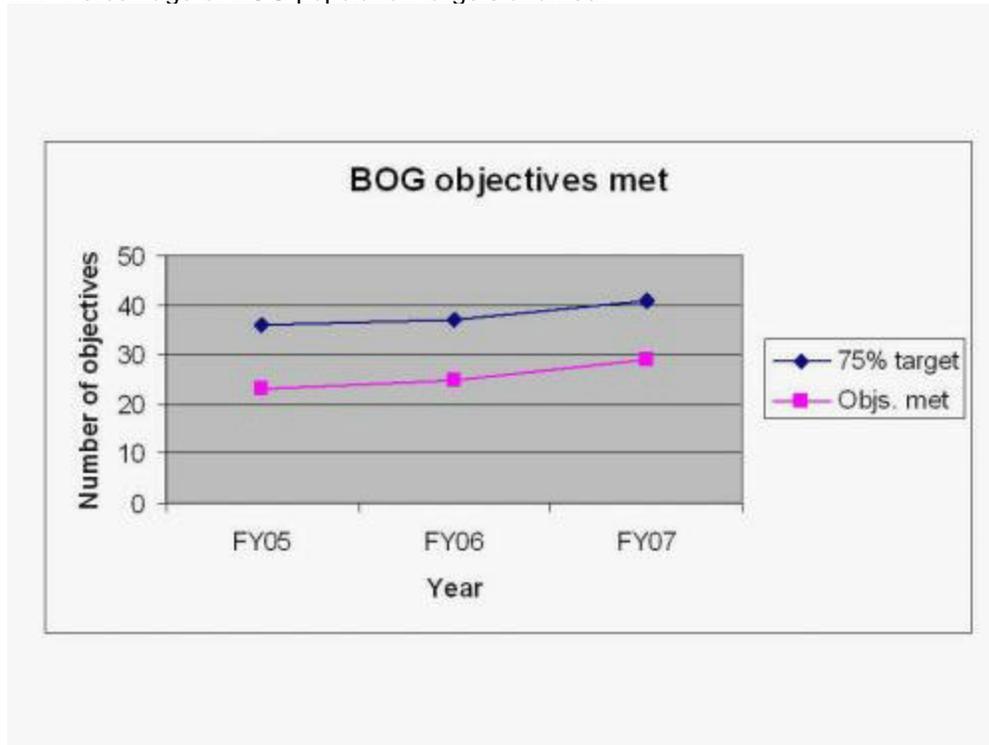
FY2009 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$36,376,300	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Personnel:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Full time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part time</td> <td style="text-align: right;">55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">230</td> </tr> </table>	Personnel:		Full time	175	Part time	55	Total	230
Personnel:									
Full time	175								
Part time	55								
Total	230								

Performance Measure Detail

A: Result - Healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska that provide a diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment.

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).

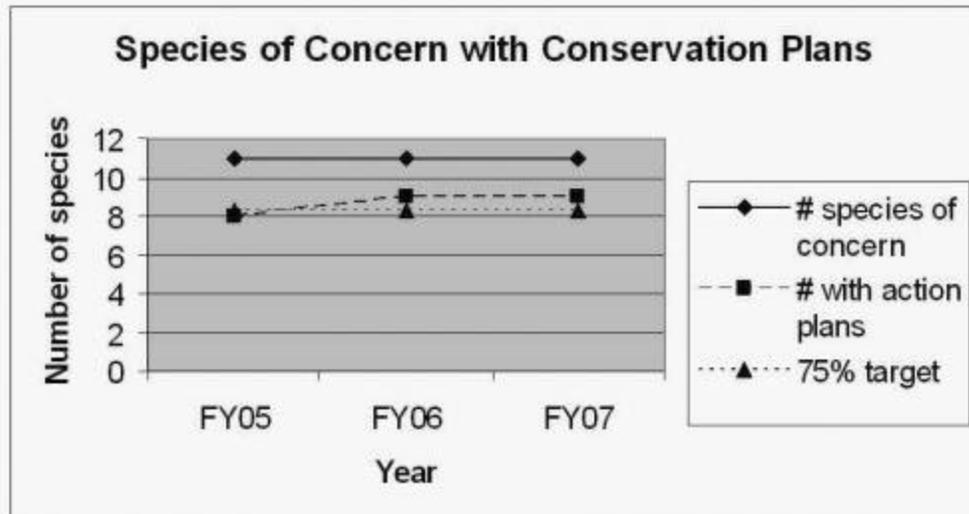
Measure #1: Percentage of BOG population targets attained.



Analysis of results and challenges: The Board of Game (BOG) has set population objectives for selected ungulate populations that it has determined are important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use. To meet BOG management objectives, sufficient animals must exist in a game management unit in order to meet the highest levels of hunter demand. For FY07, 29 of the population objectives set for deer, caribou and moose were met; out of a total of 54 objectives set by the BOG. Four more game management units (GMU) met management objectives in FY07 than in FY06. The division's target is 75% of the number of GMU objectives. Some big game surveys were not conducted due to poor weather conditions or a lack of funding. Some of the population objectives may not be possible to meet given the habitat capacity that can be achieved in some areas. Population objectives for those areas should be reviewed by the BOG and possibly revised.

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

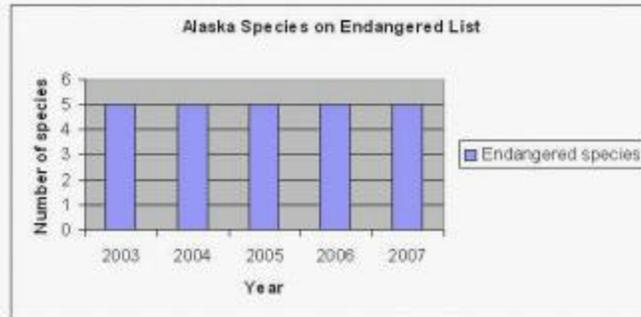
Measure #2: Percentage of species for which recovery strategies are being implemented.



Analysis of results and challenges: There are 11 wildlife species of special concern under primary or shared division management. Conservation action plans are in place for 10 (91%) of these species, including blackpoll warbler, Townsend's warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, Steller's eider, spectacled eider, northern goshawk, Arctic peregrine falcon, American peregrine falcon, Aleutian Canada goose and Kenai brown bear. In 1999 the Pacific Flyway Council adopted a management plan for Aleutian Canada goose (updated in 2006) to resume "normal" management after delisting. A plan has not been prepared for the Gray-cheeked thrush. In the state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), completed during FY06, both species are on the nominee list for species of special concern. The State of Alaska Species of Special Concern list was last revised in 1998; therefore, when the list is formally revised Aleutian Canada goose can be removed. Revision of that list is expected to occur within the next year.

Target #3: No increase in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.

Measure #3: Number of new threatened or endangered species designations.

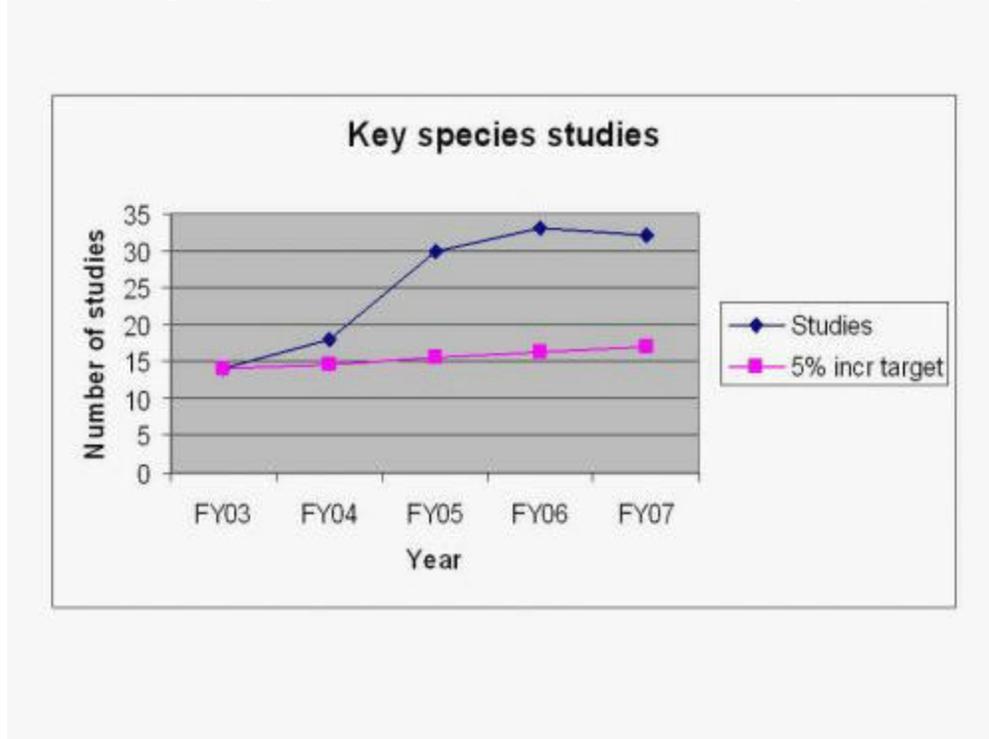


Analysis of results and challenges: The state endangered species list includes the Eskimo curlew, short-tailed albatross, humpback whale, right whale, and blue whale. There has been no change in the state endangered species list since 1993 and no new species were added to federal lists in FY07.

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.

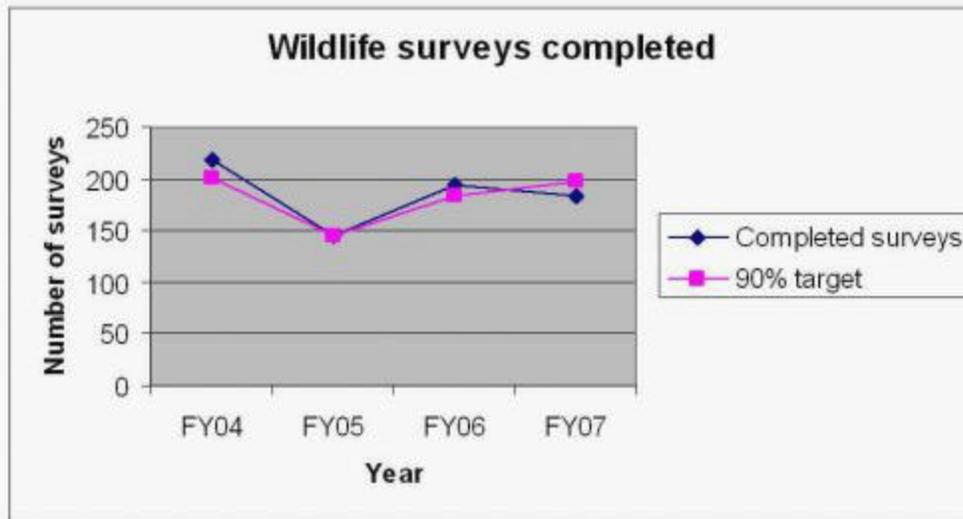
Measure #1: Percentage change in the numbers of studies initiated, underway, and completed.



Analysis of results and challenges: In FY07, 26 key species projects were continued and 6 were initiated for a total of 32. This represents a slight decrease over FY06's 33 projects, partly due to the availability of federal State Wildlife Grant funds. However, several of the projects initiated in FY07 are for surveys of multiple key species. These projects include surveys of raptors on Minto Flats State Game Refuge and in western and northwestern Alaska. Another project initiated in FY07 is surveying many species of landbirds on state managed lands. Thus, the number of FY07 projects indicated is much less than the actual number of key species that are being surveyed.

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).

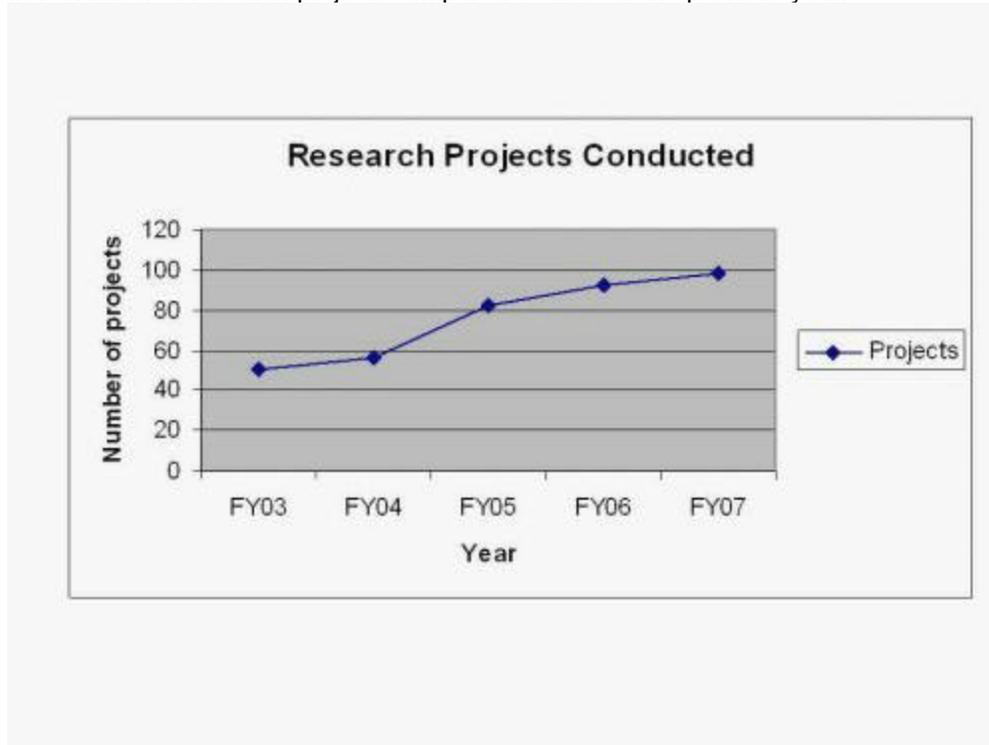
Measure #2: Percentage of planned surveys completed.



Analysis of results and challenges: During FY07, the division completed 84% of planned wildlife surveys (184 of 219) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor. Of those not completed, most were due to budget constraints. A number of planned surveys (not included in the 219 count) were not conducted because of survey conditions, such as lack of snow on the ground or adverse weather. 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% or more of the previous year's totals.

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

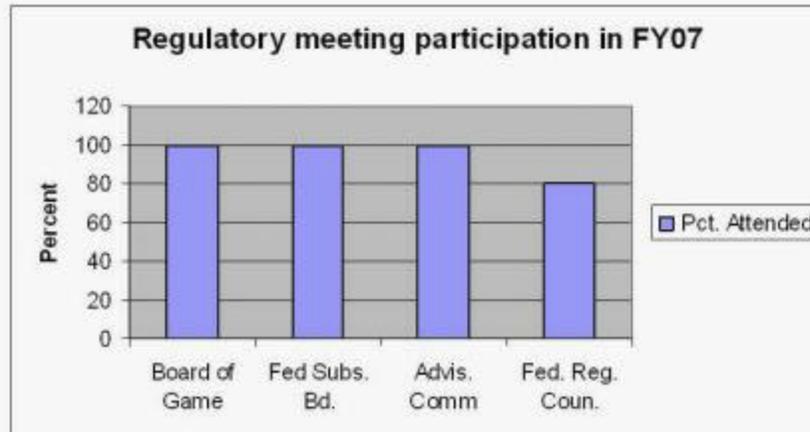


Analysis of results and challenges: During FY07, 62 big game research projects, 20 marine mammal program research projects, 2 waterfowl/game bird, and 17 nongame research projects were conducted, for a total of 98 division research projects. (20 additional nongame research projects were conducted by partners using State Wildlife Grant funds from the division.) The previous year, FY06, 35 big game, 4 waterfowl, 20 marine mammal, and 14 nongame research projects were conducted (19 additional nongame research projects were conducted by partners using State Wildlife Grant funds from the division.) for a total of 73 division research projects. The number of FY07 projects conducted by the division was substantially more than those conducted the prior year, as a result in funding from federal agencies, special appropriations and other sources.

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.

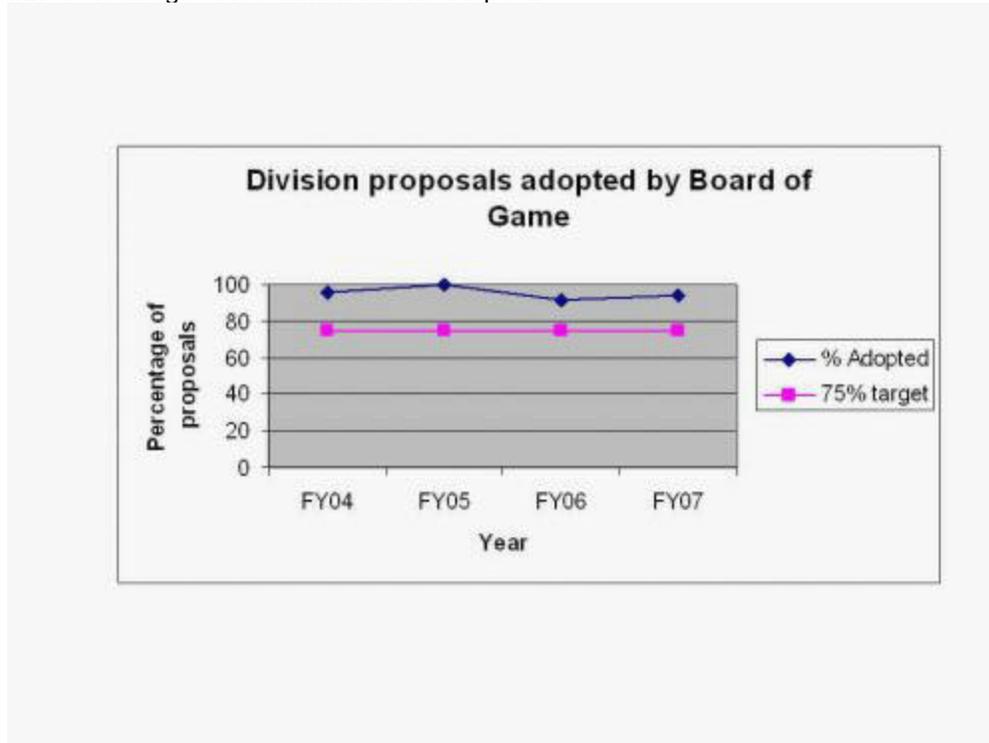
Target #1: Actively participate in 100% of Board of Game and Federal Subsistence Board meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of federal regional council meetings that affect state management.

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



Analysis of results and challenges: For FY07, division staff actively participated in all Board of Game meetings, all state advisory committee meetings addressing wildlife issues, all federal subsistence board meetings that dealt with wildlife issues, and approximately 80% 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 2006 through spring 2007 meetings, a combined total of 51 division proposals were submitted; 48 were adopted or amended and adopted by the Board of Game for a 94% adoption rate. Thus for Fiscal Year 2007, the target was achieved. The total includes 24 reauthorizations of cow moose hunts which require the agreement of local Fish and Game Advisory committees. All 24 reauthorizations were adopted.

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

Target #1: Increase the percentage of management plans for state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries.

Measure #1: Percentage of areas with existing plans or plans in process of development.



Analysis of results and challenges: While Sport Fish Division has the primary responsibility for the management planning process of Special Areas, the Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) has the lead responsibility for preparing the background (resource) information for each management plan. Through FY07, management plans were completed for 14 of the 32 state critical habitat areas, game refuges and sanctuaries; in addition, one area is managed under an interim plan, and another, the Chilkat River Critical Habitat Area, is managed as part of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. A new management plan for Izembek State Game Refuge was partially drafted during FY05 and 06, but this planning effort was set aside after a significant change in land status within the McNeil River State Game Refuge boundary resulted in the high priority need to revise the existing plan for that area and the adjacent McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. The department anticipates completing the McNeil River SGR/SGS revised plan and the new Izembek SGR plan during FY08. While this work is underway, the DWC will prepare the resource inventory for the 5 critical habitat areas in Bristol Bay so that an overarching plan may be developed for these areas in FY09. Management concerns in the 16 areas without plans are addressed case-by-case by local area biologists and regional staff.

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.

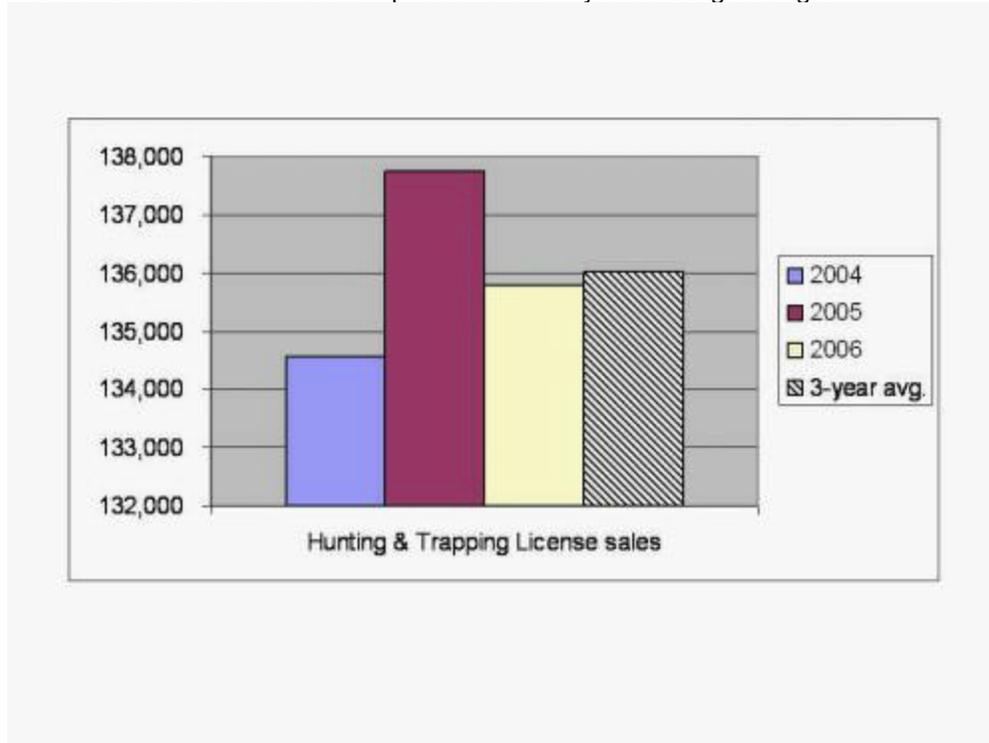
Intensive Mgt. Area	2% population increase in FY05	2% population increase in FY06	2% population increase in FY07
GMU 13	Yes	Yes	Yes
GMU 16B	Insuff. data	Insuff. data	Insuff. data
GMU 19A	Insuff. data	Insuff. data	Insuff. data
GMU 19D	Yes	Yes	Insuff. data
Upper Yukon / Tanana GMUs 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, 25C	Insuff. data	No	No

Analysis of results and challenges: Five Intensive Management Programs have been implemented by the division – in Game Management Units (GMU) 13, 16B, 19A, 19D-East, and in the Upper Yukon/Tanana area (GMUs 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, 25C). There was a greater than 2% increase in the GMU 13 moose population in FY07 over the prior year. The Nelchina Caribou Herd declined in FY07. This was in part because there was no census completed in FY06 and modeling of the population underestimated recruitment. In GMU 16B poor weather precluded any population estimation. No moose surveys were conducted in GMU 19A during FY07 because of poor survey conditions. In GMU 19D East, moose surveys within the Experimental Micro Management Area indicate at least a 2% population increase in this small portion (528 sq.mi.) of the Unit where predator control activities have been concentrated. No additional moose surveys were completed in the remainder of Unit 19D-East. Moose and caribou surveys in the Upper Yukon/Tanana program indicate no change in these populations between FY06 and FY07.

A5: Strategy - Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife.

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

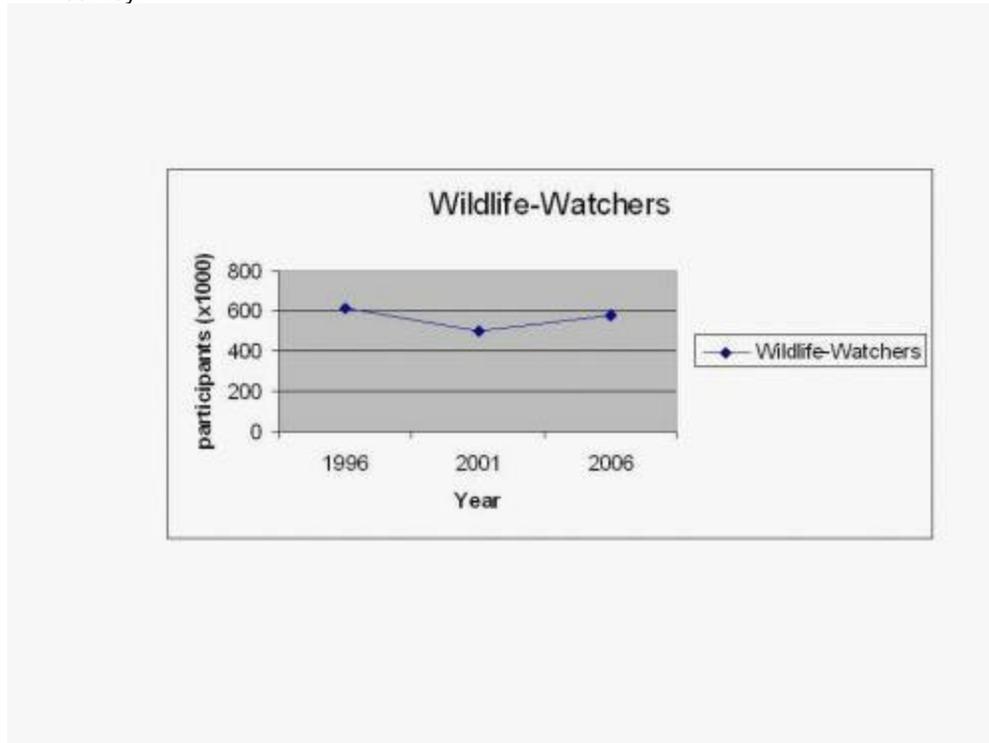
Measure #1: Number of licenses sold compared with the 3-year running average.



Analysis of results and challenges: In the most recent year available (2006), 135,782 hunting and trapping licenses were sold, a 1.4% decrease from 2005 and slightly below the 3-year running average (136,030). Over the past three calendar years the sale of hunting and trapping licenses has ranged from a high of 134,562 in 2004 to a low of 137,747 in 2005. These totals include resident, nonresident and military hunting and trapping licenses. One incentive for hunters and trappers to buy licenses is confidence that game populations are abundant and that there are good opportunities to hunt and harvest game.

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.



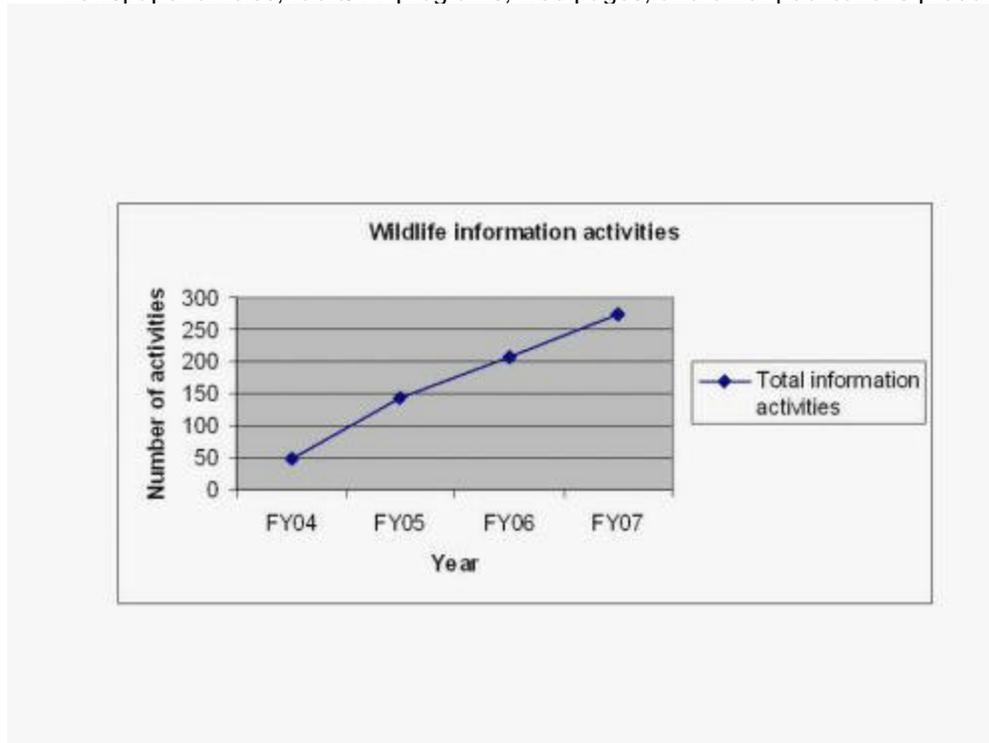
Analysis of results and challenges: Nationally, the number of adult (>16 year old) wildlife watchers increased in number by 8% from 2001 to 2006 (See <http://federalaid.fws.gov/surveys/surveys.html>). In Alaska, the trend was similar. The number of wildlife-watchers increased 14.5% from 2001 to 2006, but is still slightly below the level in 1996.

Existing Department data suggests that the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation may have significantly underestimated participation in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in Alaska in 2006. Discussions are ongoing with the USFWS over the 2006 estimates at this time and the wildlife viewing participation estimate may be revised in the future.

A6: 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 annually the number of opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management.

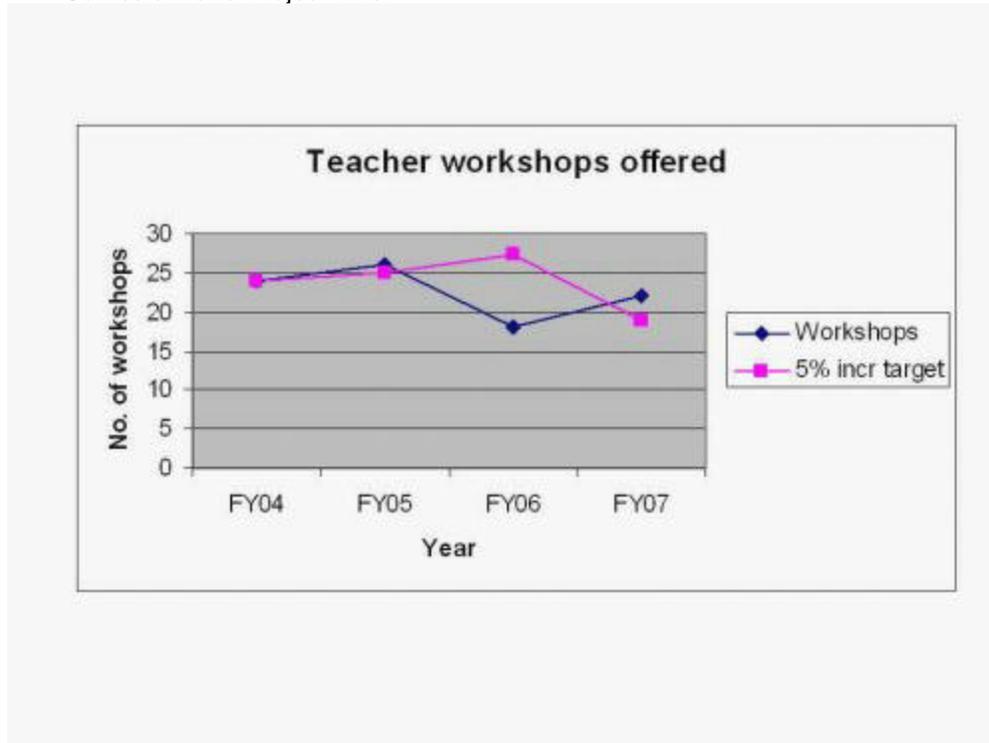
Measure #1: Change in the number of forums and lectures offered. Change in the number of brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications produced.



Analysis of results and challenges: Wildlife-related lectures and workshops to the general public and student groups increased dramatically from 88 in FY06 to 144 in FY07. A number of non-ADF&G volunteers that provide lectures and workshops were not enumerated; therefore, these numbers are somewhat conservative. In FY07 there were 68 separate media presentations and articles completed by Wildlife Education, up from 56 the previous year. Over this same time period, the total number of electronic and broadcast media opportunities dealing with wildlife and wildlife management, including weekly radio spots (60 Sounds Wild), frequent newspaper articles, and guest presentations on radio or TV shows remained about the same. It is difficult to quantify Division of Wildlife Conservation web page content, however posted information increased substantially as new management and research reports, and harvest information were posted for public access. Our online magazine, Alaska Wildlife news, featured about 26 articles on Alaska wildlife and management, and receives at least ten thousand visitors each month.

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

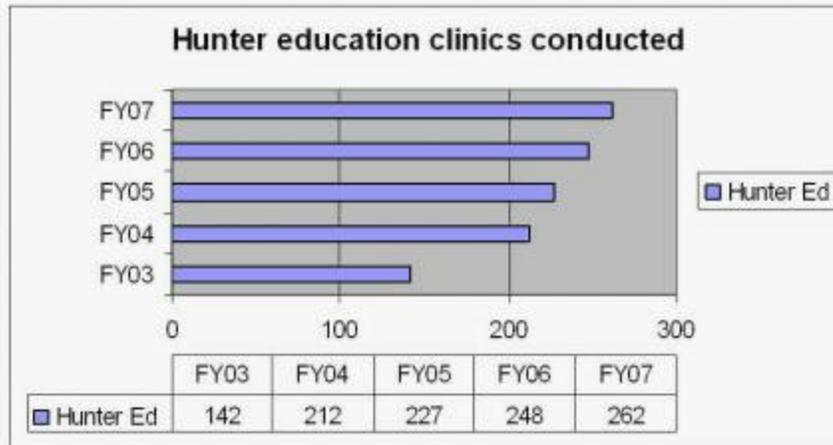
Measure #2: Percentage change in the numbers of workshops offered to teachers on use of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild.



Analysis of results and challenges: In FY07, 22 Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild (AWC/PW) workshops were offered, training 200 educators. In FY06 we offered 18 workshops to 244 educators. This year's increase in workshops is still lower than the level attained in FY05 when we offered 26 workshops to 642 educators. In FY 07 we completed revisions of 'Wetlands and Wildlife' - a volume of AWC and the AWC/PW Correlations Guide to be consistent with new state science standards, and we trained new facilitators to increase our ability to offer workshops more broadly across the state. Although, DWC prioritized capacity building of our teacher programs/materials this past year, the program coordinator position remains vacant. In FY08, we hope to fill the vacant coordinator position and to increase our ability to offer workshops, and so we expect to increase the number of workshops and teachers trained.

Target #3: Increase by 5% the number of hunter education clinics offered.

Measure #3: Percentage change in the number of hunter education clinics offered.



Analysis of results and challenges: The percentage of hunter education clinics offered by the division increased over the previous year by 7%, 9% and 6% respectively in FY05, FY06 and FY07 exceeding the 5% annual increase goal. The division is increasing the number of clinics it offers through use of the mobile training unit which travels to communities on the road system and to Southeast Alaska on the marine highway system. The division is also training more instructors in remote communities to run clinics in the absence of the division's hunter education staff. The division is offering more specialized clinics (archery, muzzleloader, bear hunting, etc.) to meet mandatory hunter training requirements that are in regulation and to appeal to hunters with specialized interests. Hunter education course schedules are posted on-line so that the public can plan ahead to attend the clinic most convenient for them. The division hopes to implement a pilot on-line hunter education program to provide training to those who can't attend normal clinics by the end of 2007.

Key RDU Challenges

Six policy issues face the Division of Wildlife Conservation in FY09. These include: (1) meeting an increased demand for hunting opportunities from the public; (2) gathering and maintaining sound scientific information for 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 federal designation of species as Threatened or Endangered; (5) meeting demands of the public for a strong conservation education program, more wildlife viewing opportunities, and management of non-hunted species; and (6) continuing state involvement in management and research of marine mammals, particularly in light of rising concerns about implications associated with climate change.

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 enhance numbers and distribution 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. 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 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 that 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 timely 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 (ESA) 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 that species are not unnecessarily listed under the federal act. Funding has been included with the budget request to insure that the division and department is responsive when issues arise regarding potential ESA listings.

Funding Diversity

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 from FY01 through FY07. Revenue received during FY07 was 7.6% less than the amount received in FY01. Nationwide, hunting license sales are on the decline.

Contributions to the day-to-day work of Wildlife Conservation from the General Fund are appropriate as the mission of the division is to manage and conserve wildlife for the people of the state, including both those who consume resources and those who do not. During the 1990s and up through FY05, the division was funded almost entirely by dedicated revenue provided by hunting license purchasers and proceeds from the federal Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund. Diversification of the funding sources for the division helps staff meet public demands for services. A funding increment for game management work has been requested from the General Fund to meet the public's demand for ongoing services.

Matching Funds for State Wildlife Grants

The Department is apportioned funding from the Department of Interior for the State Wildlife Grants program as part of an annual appropriation. This program concentrates field work on species of greatest conservation need as identified by Alaska's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). The completion of the CWCS was a requirement by the Department of Interior in order to continue receiving funding through the State Wildlife Grant program.

Beginning in federal fiscal year 2006, the matching requirement for these funds changed from requiring a 25% match to a 50% match. The Division of Wildlife Conservation would require a state appropriation of \$2.0 million annually to meet this requirement. At this time, we have just over \$600.0 available to match federal funds. Without matching funds, the Department may be required to return federal funds.

Funding Decreases Expected for Marine Mammal Research

Marine mammal research on Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, and ice seals totals approximately \$2.5 million and is funded exclusively from grant agreements from the federal Department of Commerce/NOAA. The research work was formally shown in the NOAA budget as earmarks from Senator Ted Stevens. The earmark system has been revised and funding levels from Congress to NOAA have been reduced. Funding for activities to commence June 2008 and into FY09 is uncertain and could be reduced 40% over FY08 levels. The division does not have funding to replace lost federal funds.

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.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

The division expects to expand survey and inventory projects related to the management of big game species FY09.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2007

Wildlife Survey and Inventory

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 across 26 game management units and sub-units. Conducted coordination and support projects, including biometrics and geographic information systems (GIS) support, for research and management projects, a habitat enhancement project, and wildlife and fire management planning projects.

Wildlife Research

Wildlife research projects through Pittman-Roberson Wildlife Restoration funding conducted during FY07 include 22 related to the following big game species; moose, deer, caribou, bear, sheep, wildlife habitat, furbearers, wolf, and muskox. Research on Stellar sea lions, harbor seals, ice seals, bowhead whales continue.

Public Services

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

Conducted 262 hunter education clinics and classes in approximately 30 communities around the state, certifying 3,869 total students. There were 147 basic hunter education, 95 bowhunter, and 20 muzzleloader classes. Trained 79 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 teachers, wildlife-related lectures and workshops, and supporting the work of division managers by better informing the public about wildlife management issues and challenges.

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 and special interest organizations, and media about wildlife biology, hunting and trapping regulations, wildlife management programs, and the like. Estimated total contacts are 120,000–150,000 at 4 regional and 18 area offices.

Prepared written news releases, public service announcements, brochures, and 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 "Hunt Alaska" packets containing hunting information to an estimated 6,000 hunters.

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.

Contact Information

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**Wildlife Conservation
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2007 Actuals				FY2008 Management Plan				FY2009 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	1,555.8	9,139.7	8,152.5	18,848.0	2,888.6	10,047.8	9,031.4	21,967.8	4,698.3	10,395.3	8,755.8	23,849.4
WC Restoration Program	619.1	2,130.9	0.0	2,750.0	619.1	3,169.0	0.0	3,788.1	632.0	3,207.7	0.0	3,839.7
WC Special Projects	36.4	4,298.1	1,633.9	5,968.4	37.8	5,951.5	1,870.1	7,859.4	172.2	5,851.5	1,987.0	8,010.7
Hunter Ed Public Shooting Ranges	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	125.6	0.0	530.0	655.6	0.0	0.0	676.5	676.5
Totals	2,211.3	15,568.7	9,786.4	27,566.4	3,671.1	19,168.3	11,431.5	34,270.9	5,502.5	19,454.5	11,419.3	36,376.3

Wildlife Conservation
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2008 Management Plan	3,671.1	19,168.3	11,431.5	34,270.9
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Wildlife Conservation	368.7	347.5	-125.6	590.6
-WC Restoration Program	12.9	38.7	0.0	51.6
-WC Special Projects	134.4	-100.0	116.9	151.3
-Hunter Ed Public Shooting Ranges	-125.6	0.0	146.5	20.9
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Wildlife Conservation	0.0	0.0	-150.0	-150.0
Proposed budget increases:				
-Wildlife Conservation	1,441.0	0.0	0.0	1,441.0
FY2009 Governor	5,502.5	19,454.5	11,419.3	36,376.3