

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-12

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT NO. 24.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014

PROJECT TITLE: Fire Management Planning for Wildlife Habitat

Project Activities and Accomplishments

ACTIVITY 1: Represent the department on the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AWFCG) and related Committees and Task Groups.

Accomplishments: Sue Rodman in Anchorage served as the agency representative, becoming Vice Chair in January 2014. She also serves on the Wildland Fire Prevention and Education Committee. Tom Paragi in Fairbanks served as the alternate representative. He continued to participate on the Fire Research and GIS committees by phone and email as the primary participant for ADF&G and coordinated with Sue on Interior fire issues. Both participated in discussions (including Jim Durst of Division of Habitat in Fairbanks) that led to improved communication among agencies and delivery of resource information to fire managers in the field with respect to protection of fish and wildlife populations and habitat during suppression activities.

ACTIVITY 2: Participate in the two annual fall fire reviews sponsored by the AWFCG and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ANDR), Division of Forestry (DOF), respectively.

Accomplishments: Rodman and Paragi were prepared to participate in the federal review, but it was canceled because of the federal government shutdown. Rodman participated in the spring Agency Administrator / Fire Management Officer meeting in Fairbanks to set up interagency coordination for the summer fire season. Jim Durst presented at this meeting to delineate the permitting process for crossing anadromous streams during fire operations. Rodman also participated in the AWFCG business meeting at the end of that week.

ACTIVITY 3: Annually evaluate and comment on the selection of fire management options (Critical, Full, Modified, and Limited) under the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP) and recommend changes.

Accomplishments: An annual memo was routed to statewide management staff to solicit recommendations for changes in management options. For the 2014 season, staff had no requests to change options. However, plans are in place through coordination with State Forestry and federal partners to review opportunities for changing options in Regions II and IV.

ACTIVITY 4: Meet with federal, state and local level administrators to discuss fire-related policies, procedures or issues. Review and comment on state and federal fire-related policies and procedures. Develop and promote department policies and positions relative to fire management

Accomplishments: Rodman and Paragi participated in the teleconference review of the conversion date from Modified to Limited management options in early July (Limited provides more options for allowing naturally-caused fires to create habitat diversity). Rodman and Paragi drafted a letter for Acting Director Vincent-Lang with comments on the National Park Service draft Wildland Fire Strategic Plan. Rodman submitted comments to the Lake Clark National Park General Management Plan Amendment relative to fire management. Rodman met with the Refuge Manager Andy Loranger of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge along with refuge fire management staff (Doug Newbould and Dianne MacLean) in July 2014, April 2015 and June 2015. Rodman attended the Incident Management Team close out meetings for the Funny River and 100-Mile Creek fires in Kenai and Fairbanks, respectively. Rodman met with Division of Forestry Operations Forester Robert Schmoll to discuss how ADF&G can re-engage in advancing the use of prescribed fire for habitat statewide. Rodman also met with DOF staff in Palmer and Soldotna to discuss fire management for habitat at the local level.

ACTIVITY 5: Facilitate department staff involvement in fire-related issues

Accomplishments: An annual memo was routed to management staff on how to obtain timely fire information and work with fire managers to achieve habitat objectives. Rodman and Paragi discussed fire operations with local staff in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Palmer and Soldotna. Rodman relayed to the State Game Refuge and Sanctuaries staff how to stay informed on fire activities with respect to the newly developed Integrated Fire Management tool online or via mobile device.

ACTIVITY 6: Identify and review appropriate literature to maintain expertise on fire management issues.

Accomplishments: Paragi continued periodic literature downloads on fire and forest ecology and management pertinent to Alaska ecosystems. Rodman attended the Alaska Fire Consortium Workshop in Fairbanks on April 2 along with a special session on fire and climate change on April 1.

ACTIVITY 7: Prepare and disseminate information (e.g., news releases, guest editorials, brochures and video) on fire-related issues. Interact with broadcast media on fire-related issues.

Accomplishments: Rodman hosted a media event for Fire Prevention Week in May located in Anchorage with local television stations. Resource agencies were also present to discuss wildland fire prevention: Bureau of Land Management, Division of Forestry, and the Anchorage Fire Department. Rodman supported two Anchorage Daily News articles and one Peninsula Clarion article on the use of fire for habitat and fire prevention. Rodman worked with the Department Public Information Officer in Region II to issue a news release concerning the Funny River Fire and how it may impact habitat on the Kenai Peninsula. Rodman and Paragi reviewed an outreach brochure targeted at 5th-grade students produced by department education staff showing fire's role in the ecosystem and how the boreal forest fires are important for habitat.

ACTIVITY 8: Prepare an annual budget, work plan, and documents needed to satisfy Federal Aid and other reporting requirements.

Project No. 24.0 - Fire Management Planning
FY14 Annual Performance Report

Accomplishments: Rodman and Paragi drafted the Federal Aid performance report and reviewed program needs for FY15 budget preparation.

Submitted by: Doreen I. Parker-McNeill, Region III Management Coordinator

Date: August 20, 2014