

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Restoration Grant**

Grant Number: W-33

Segment Number: 11

Project Number: 1.72

Project Title: Identification of factors affecting calf production, calf survival, and survival of female adult moose in Game Management Unit 15C

Project Duration: July 1, 2011 – June 30 2013

Reporting Period: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

Report Due Date: Sept. 1 2013

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Thomas McDonough, ADF&G

WORK LOCATION: Lower Kenai Peninsula, GMU 15C

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING LAST SEGMENT

OBJECTIVE 1: Quantify pregnancy rates, parturition rates, and parturition dates of adult cow moose.

Job/activity 1a: We captured 35 adult female moose in November 2012 and 38 in March of 2013. Pregnancy rates were 88% as determined through blood testing. Parturition rates were 77% based on aerially monitoring cows daily during calving. Parturition dates were from 16May through 18June with a median parturition date of 25May. Parturition dates were determined through daily aerially monitoring using vaginal implant transmitters. Similar data will be collected again in 2014.

OBJECTIVE 2: Determine twinning rates of adult cow moose.

Job/activity 2a: We conducted aerial surveys of radio collared cows during calving to determine a twinning rate of 36%. Similar data will be collected again in 2014.

OBJECTIVE 3: Determine cow and calf mortality rates.

Job/activity 3a: Radio collared cows were aerially monitored daily during calving. Since getting a visual confirmation on calves after green-up is difficult, calf survival will be fully assessed in the fall when visual confirmations can be done.

OBJECTIVE 4: Determine seasonal movements of radio collared cows.

Job/activity 4a: Periodic aerial telemetry flights of collared cows have occurred since initial collaring. Movement data has not yet been analyzed.

OBJECTIVE 5: Assess nutritional condition of cow moose at the yearly peak and nadir.

Job/activity 5a: Body condition from rump fat indices were assessed during spring 2012 captures. Median rump fat of adult cows was 1.1cm. Body condition will be assessed in the fall of 2013 and again in the spring of 2014.

V. PUBLICATIONS

None

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

We recommend continuing this project at least through FY2015 or for the life of intensive management activities.

Prepared by:

Thomas McDonough

Date:

29August, 2013