

Wildlife Restoration MULTI-YEAR GRANT INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Restoration Grant

GRANT NUMBER: #F20AF00015 AKW-C-4-2020

PROJECT TITLE: Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership: Conservation Visions, Inc. and Alaska Department of Fish and Game

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: September 30, 2020 through September 30, 2021

PERFORMANCE YEAR: September 30, 2020 - September 30, 2021; year 2 of a 5-year grant

REPORT DUE DATE: Deadline extended from 28 December 2021

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Eddie Grasser

COOPERATORS: Conservation Visions

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301
50 CFR 80.90

I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR

OBJECTIVE 1: Using Pittman-Robertson funds, ADF&G will pay Conservation Visions, Inc. \$37,500.00 USD per SFY for 5 years, beginning in 2019, in support of the Cooperator's Wild Harvest Initiative® which will collect important harvest data on Alaska wildlife species.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Conservation Visions has continued to make significant progress in collecting harvest data on Alaska's wildlife species. We have completed collection efforts and related quality testing for the study period 2014-15 and 2015-16. Initial species investigations are complete. Data from all publicly accessible databases have also been retrieved, compiled, and standardized for 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19, and quality testing has begun. All data-related and knowledge mobilization deliverables are on schedule.

OBJECTIVE 2: Work with Conservation Visions Wild Harvest Initiative® to advance mutually beneficial social media and other public communications efforts to advance the Wild Harvest Initiative® and the Cooperator's related efforts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Principal Investigator, Eddie Grasser has regularly engaged with the Wild Harvest Initiative's® Communications Committee and continues to participate in

meetings to help guide the program's communications and outreach components. We continue to develop messaging and social posts that explore the sustainable use of wildlife in the wider social contexts of food security, rural economies, human health, fitness and nutrition, as well as wildlife habitat and environmental management, including land use, and to make these available to ADF&G. We designed and shared a series of products to broadly communicate the results of the Texas Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey, which found that an overwhelming 97% of successful hunters share their wild harvested meat. Conservation Visions also produced and distributed a film, "COVID-19 Challenge: Zoonotic Diseases and Wildlife," in late 2020 cautioning the global community against the introduction of blanket bans on sustainable use activities. The film was further distributed by parties to the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) and shared with all Wild Harvest Initiative Alliance Members for use in their own social media efforts. An additional three species factsheets, highlighting program results and intended for social media distribution, have also been made available to partners for their own use. In January 2021, Conservation Visions participated in the Wild Sheep Foundation's Sheep Week Convention, presenting a public session to explain our program's rationale and purpose, as well as defining its modern relevance and value. This session was successful not just in showcasing the program and its new research outcomes, but in highlighting ADF&G's meaningful investment in, and engagement with, the Wild Harvest Initiative®, and was very well attended. In February 2021, we hosted a public meeting in New Mexico, "Ours to Save, Ours to Lose." Diverse stakeholders were invited to attend and learn more about the Wild Harvest Initiative® and its relevance to conservation and sustainable use priorities. This meeting was also very well attended and sparked energetic and positive discussions about hunting and food security. In mid-2021, we produced, distributed, and shared with all partners a film, "Wild Harvest and Public Land," which focused on the linkages between wild harvesting and public/private land, an issue of relevance to the entire partnership. Also, in mid-2021, we purchased ad space for the program in the annual USA Today Hunt & Fish publication. This ad reached an estimated 129 million subscribers via digital and print distributions. In September 2021, Conservation Visions participated in the *One With Nature World of Hunting and Nature Exhibition* in Budapest, Hungary, where the Wild Harvest Initiative® was featured prominently in a booth within the International Exhibition. This represented a first opportunity for the program to engage directly with the European public, showcasing the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation as a best practice example for sustainable wildlife management. All communications and advocacy deliverables are on schedule. These efforts will continue to ramp-up through 2022.

OBJECTIVE 3: Pending approval by ADF&G, electronically provide ADF&G logo and agree to permit Conservation Visions to use this logo in communications and promotional efforts for the Wild Harvest Initiative®

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Conservation Visions has received the ADF&G logo and it has appeared in all promotional and informational materials, including reports and, since September 16, 2019. The logo has also been added to the Wild Harvest Initiative's® website. We have also developed opportunities for ADF&G and Conservation Visions to bilaterally co-brand films.

OBJECTIVE 4: Assist Conservation Visions in creating a press release to announce its joining the Wild Harvest Initiative® Alliance. The Cooperator will be responsible for press release distribution, including related costs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Conservation Visions worked with ADF&G to construct a press release announcing the project and explaining how the Wild Harvest Initiative® program will benefit Alaskans and Alaska's wildlife. Conservation Visions (at the Cooperator's expense) distributed the release via a newswire service and promoted it on social media (reach is greater than 2 million unique users) during year 1 of the agreement.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

This is year 2 of 5. Initial analyses of hunting harvest data compilations for 2014-15 and 2015-16 are complete. Data collection for 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 is nearing completion and quality testing has begun. A review of recreational angling harvest data compilations for 2014-15 and 2015-16 is complete. Data compilation to support replacement costs analyses for fished species is complete. Data compilation to support replacement costs analyses for hunted species has progressed and remains ongoing. Economic valuations have progressed well and are ongoing. Domestic substitutes have been identified for all harvested wildlife species. An economic equivalence framework is complete for fished species. Our database has been improved to include a field to enable incorporation of commercial equivalent values. It has also been moved to a cloud-based server to enable additional improvements to data entry and quality testing procedures, as well as to enable collaborative and interdisciplinary research. Research findings for recreational angling in Canada are nearing publication (will be submitted for peer-review). Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Surveys have been launched and completed in Wyoming, Nevada, and Arizona. Analyses of all three are underway. A Wild Meat Sharing and Consumption Index Survey has been designed for Alaska and will launch in early 2022. We have added two new partners to the Wild Harvest Initiative® Partnership Alliance, welcoming both the New Mexico Wildlife Federation and Wildlife Systems, Inc. We also launched an engagement with the US Forest Service and expect to formalize this new partnership in early 2022.

III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

While no formal SDR reports have been completed, quarterly progress reports continue to be provided at regular intervals.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

COVID-19 Challenge: Zoonotic Diseases and Wildlife:

<https://www.facebook.com/369479089905524/videos/375409470472118>

Food for Thought: Wild Harvest and COVID-19:

<https://www.facebook.com/369479089905524/videos/329934271742334>

Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation Partners with Conservation Visions' Wild Harvest Initiative® to Evaluate Benefits of Wild Harvested Food: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/alaska-wild-sheep-foundation-partners-with-conservation-visions-wild-harvest-initiative-to-evaluate->

[benefits-of-wild-harvested-food-301180819.html](https://www.wyominggameandfish.com/benefits-of-wild-harvested-food-301180819.html)

The Future of Seal Hunting: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-122-the-broadcast/clip/15810490-can-n.l.-ifaw-eyes-future-seal-hunt-exploring>

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Partners with Conservation Visions' Wild Harvest Initiative® to Examine Benefits of Wild Harvested Food:

https://www.prweb.com/releases/wyoming_game_and_fish_department_partners_with_conservation_visions_wild_harvest_initiative_to_examine_benefits_of_wild_harvested_food/prweb17767042.htm

“A Culture of Generosity,” *Sports Afield*: <https://sportsafield.com/2021/a-culture-of-generosity/>

“Exploring the Modern Relevance of Natural Foraging,” *Backcountry Journal*: https://www.backcountryhunters.org/exploring_the_modern_relevance_of_natural_foraging

“Public Lands & Nation Building”:

<https://www.facebook.com/ShaneMahoneyConservationVisions/videos/776105479730519>

USA TODAY Hunt & Fish Issue, page 85: <https://usatodaysspecial-va.newsmemory.com/?special=hunt+and+fish&date=20210805>

Factsheet – Elk: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/qgh267s1kbqewfg/Factsheet%20-%20Elk.pdf?dl=0>

Factsheet – Wild Turkey: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/pu7rae4r8qqv7bz/Factsheet%20-%20Wild%20Turkey.pdf?dl=0>

Factsheet – Mule Deer: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/jerq7jif7tqlqgv/Factsheet%20-%20Mule%20Deer.pdf?dl=0>

Quarterly Report – December 2020:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/23pdnh4w13eqcx5/WHI%20Quarterly%20Report%20December%202020.pdf?dl=0>

Quarterly Report – March 2021:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kee8mtco4za5p16/WHI%20Quarterly%20Report%20March%202021.pdf?dl=0>

Quarterly Report – June 2021:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/e3vjlibd039b5wc/WHI%20Quarterly%20Report%202021%20June.pdf?dl=0>

Quarterly Report – September 2021:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hcozm3re3j3jr30/WHI%20Quarterly%20Report%20Sept%202021.pdf?dl=0>

Quarterly Report – December 2021:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/rod7y85xqwfirko/WHI%20Quarterly%20Report%20December%202021.pdf?dl=0>

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT The project is progressing as planned and on schedule. It is recommended that it should continue for years 3 through 5.

IPR AKW-C-4-2020 WHI FY21

Prepared by: Amanda Hull, Conservation Visions.

Date: January 13, 2022