

# 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:** AKW-D-2-2019 Hunter Access CIP19

**PROJECT NUMBER:** Project 2.0

**PROJECT TITLE:** Forest Road Improvements for Hunter Access–Tanana Valley

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** August 1, 2018–June 30, 2024

**PERFORMANCE YEAR:** August 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

**REPORT DUE DATE:** December 29, 2021

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Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328  
2 CFR 200.301  
50 CFR 80.90

### **I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERFORMANCE YEAR**

The tasks described in this grant are to be completed by the designated end date of June 30, 2024. The work done under this grant is to improve Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Forestry (DOF) managed state forest roads that are the publicly accessible hunting grounds. Roads within these State of Alaska managed forest lands require repair to accommodate the original purpose of forest practice operations while accommodating hunting and wildlife viewing access.

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Replace Fortune Creek Bridge.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** No construction work was completed during this performance period. DNR staff previously completed preliminary data collection and field survey for the project

in August 2020. Existing survey control (originally installed by DOWL engineering) was verified in the field and checked for accuracy for reference in future construction.

AK State Parks Design & Construction (ASPD&C) engineering staff have worked to correlate original bridge design plans and specifications completed by DOWL for incorporation into a new construction solicitation package. All plans and specifications have been updated to reflect new, more applicable standard specifications for construction. DOF standard drawings have been updated to include pertinent bridge construction details as referenced by the DOWL engineering bridge design. Original proposed material quantities and construction details have been checked for accuracy as original bridge design was completed in 2016 and was based on topographic survey data reflecting existing conditions from 2015.

Collection of additional field data was completed in September 2021 for environmental and construction permitting purposes. At that time, drone imagery data was collected of the bridge site.

**OBJECTIVE 2: Repair and harden 10 miles of Cache Creek Road.**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** No construction work was completed during this performance period. DNR staff completed preliminary data collection and field survey for the project in August 2020.

Engineering staff have performed design development based on the scope of work as discussed with DOF & ADF&G personnel. Based on preliminary estimates and the verification of specific project details, it was determined that designation and development of the Spinach Creek material source site for use on the project, would not be cost beneficial for the project. Current design development aims to address the full 10-mile alignment of Cache Creek Road leading up to the Fortune Creek Bridge site. LIDAR survey data as referenced from the Fairbanks North Star Borough has been used to determine the existing horizontal road alignment and vertical profile.

Road embankment construction is to be completed along the full 10-mile alignment, consisting of a uniform 1-foot-thick overlay of Selected Material, Type A material and installation of Geotextile, Separation material on top of the existing road surface. Installation of appropriate signage and stabilization of embankment fill slopes is to be completed as needed.

Additional collection of field data was completed in September 2021 for environmental and construction permitting purposes. At that time, drone imagery data was collected of the road alignment.

**OBJECTIVE 3: Repair and harden 12 miles of Standard Creek Road.**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** No construction work was completed during this performance period. DNR staff completed preliminary data collection and field survey for the project in August 2020. Based on preliminary engineer estimates and the availability of project funds, work corresponding to objective #3 was determined to be a lower priority compared to objectives #1 and #2 as discussed with DOF & ADF&G personnel. See the SDR section below requesting to remove this objective from the project scope of work.

OBJECTIVE 4: Educate wildlife recreationists and hunter user groups about sustainable road use practices.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: No work to educate wildlife recreationists and hunter use groups about sustainable road use practices was completed during this performance period. Based on preliminary engineer estimates and the availability of project funds, work corresponding to objective #4 was determined to be a lower priority compared to objective #1 and #2 as discussed with DOF & ADF&G personnel. See the SDR section below requesting to modify this objective.

## **II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE**

DNR staff completed preliminary data collection and field survey for the project in August 2020. Existing conditions assessment, environmental data collection, and analysis of pertinent project scope was completed for each of the three project components: Fortune Creek Bridge, Cache Creek Road, and Standard Creek Road. Additional collection of field data was completed in September of 2021 for environmental and construction permitting purposes. At that time, drone imagery data was collected of the road alignment (Cache Creek Road) and the Fortune Creek Bridge site.

ASPD&C staff completed the 35% design package as of September 2021, and 65% design package completed as of November 2021. The 95% design package is schedule for completion by late December 2021, with a final advertise set scheduled for late-December 2021 and subsequent advertisement and procurement period to follow shortly thereafter. Advertisement of the construction solicitation is scheduled for a total of 21 days.

Construction efforts are scheduled to commence in early spring/summer of 2022 and be complete by late summer/fall of 2022.

## **III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS**

At this time we would like to submit an SDR request to remove objective #3 and modify objective #4 due to unforeseen circumstances as this project has developed.

ADF&G and DNR DOF received funding for this project in August 2018. The project was originally brought to ADF&G in 2017 and after award the project initially experienced a number of delays primarily due to changes in PIs for both ADF&G and DOF, and the loss of DOF's only employee with forest road engineering experience. New ADF&G and DOF PIs then regrouped and approached DNR ASPD&C staff in January 2020 to ask for their assistance in completing the project which was approved in a grant amendment. Since then the project has greatly progressed.

However, since the inception of this project both Tanana Valley Forest Roads (Standard Creek Road and Cache Creek Road) have continued to deteriorate and after the first survey (August 2020) and preliminary work up of data D&C staff determined that not enough funding was available to complete the original scope of work. After thorough investigation D&C staff determined that the existing DNR owned pit planned as the main material source did not contain a large enough quantity of material to complete the original scope of work. This determination drastically impacted project costs as the closest material source (pit)

potentially available is a great distance away from both roads and would drastically increase the cost of transporting fill material to both sites. In addition, other pandemic related supply chain issues have also led to higher costs than originally anticipated.

After investigating and reviewing numerous alternatives, ADF&G and DOF staff determined that objective #3 (repair and harden 12 miles of Standard Creek Road) to be a lower priority than objectives #1 and #2. Therefore we would like to remove objective #3 from the approved scope of work as replacement of the Fortune Creek bridge and improvement of 10 miles of Cache Creek Road (objectives #1 and #2) has been determined to be the most cost beneficial use of project funds. Currently the project is at the 65% design level and engineers anticipate the full project budget will be required.

We would also like to request to modify objective #4 (education wildlife recreationists and hunter groups about sustainable road use practices) to focus on educational signs rather than kiosks, posters, and brochures as all funds are needed for construction.

#### IV. PUBLICATIONS



Figure 1.—September 2021 collection of additional field data. Aerial drone imagery of the existing Fortune Creek Bridge site.





Figure 2.—September 2021 collection of additional field data. Aerial drone imagery of the existing Cache Creek Bridge crossing.



Figure 3.—September 2021 collection of additional field data. Picture of existing roadway conditions observed at Cache Creek Road.





Figure 4.–September 2021 collection of additional field data. Picture of existing roadway conditions observed at Cache Creek Road.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

Project Design and Contract Procurement is scheduled to take place during FY22. Project Construction is scheduled to take place during FY22-FY23.

### **Prepared by:**

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**Date:** December 8, 2021