

2006 AACD/SWCD annual report form

Project: Forestry Program

Participating District(s): Alaska SWCD

Approximate public participation: 100 members of the forest management community and property owners in Southeast Alaska.

Funding source(s) and Partner(s), including leveraged funding: Alaska SWCD, Alaska Forest Association, NRCS, U.S. Forest Service, Southeast Conference and various Alaska Native Corporations.

2006 activities in the project (include very brief history as needed): The District worked with the U.S. Forest Service in the Tongass Forest Plan Amendment effort to incorporate land use designations: as well as management standards and guides that will provide for sustained production of economic timber to the industry while protecting the forest resources.

The District has sought to provide science based information that will help educate the public on the true impacts of timber harvest, the ability to provide for soil and water conservation and the benefits of wise use of the renewable timber resource. The District began working with Southeast Native Corporations and other private landowners to promote healthy forests and economic utilization by assisting with resolution of issues concerning regulatory compliance; second growth management; thinning projects; road maintenance and construction costs and methods, and safe water passage.

Purpose: Support implementation of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and related efforts to revitalize the timber industry throughout the Alaska SWCD, with special emphasis on conserving and developing natural resources, supporting the economy and employment in Southeast Alaska.

Impact: Potential to implement healthy forest practices, support active forest management, facilitate an increased timber supply in Southeast, to restore an integrated timber industry, and to expand the economy.

Briefly explain any unique or extraordinary aspects of this project:

Plans for 2007: Continue to work with the U.S. Forest Service in their Tongass Forest Plan Amendment effort, with NRCS on resource planning and grant applications in Southeast, and with various private partners to continue to seek to fulfill the Alaska District's goals.

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Project: Southeast Alaska Program

Participating District(s): Alaska SWCD

Approximate public participation: outreach to over 100 potential cooperators.

Funding source(s) and Partner(s), including leveraged funding: Alaska SWCD and NRCS.

2006 activities in the project (include very brief history as needed): The new SE Coordinator position was filled in 2006. The person began developing a comprehensive list of private landowners and potential cooperators in Southeast, and has had several meetings to discuss issues and public participation with the District.

Purpose: Begin to expand the Alaska Districts efforts in Southeast, with the goal of eventually recruiting enough cooperators to establish a Southeast Alaska District.

Impact: Private landowners in Southeast are beginning to understand what the Alaska SWCD can offer in their efforts to protect, restore, enhance, develop, and conserve their natural resources.

Briefly explain any unique or extraordinary aspects of this project: It is the first time the Alaska SWCD has had a focused effort to assist the private land owners in Southeast Alaska.

Plans for 2007: Continue to expand the cooperator recruiting effort and seek additional funding sources to continue the SE Coordinator.

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Project: Management of Moose Natural Resource and Habitat Enhancement

Participating District(s): Anchorage SWCD and Alaska SWCD

Approximate public participation: Thousands of Alaskan residents are affected by these projects, and all residents of the state will benefit by the work being done.

Funding source(s) and Partner(s), including leveraged funding: Funding sources and partners include the Anchorage SWCD, the Alaska SWCD, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Moose Federation, the Statewide Moose Safety and Rebuilding Task Force, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, several Native Corporations, Associations and representatives, several Municipal, State and Federal agencies and entities, and other interested individuals, organizations and groups.

2006 activities in the project (include very brief history as needed): In continuation of our support of the Alaska Moose Federation and its partners, a study entitled The Value of Moose, was commissioned and completed by the Anchorage SWCD and Alaska SWCD in 2006. Among other findings, the study revealed that, conservatively, vehicle-moose accidents cost the residents of Alaska approximately \$ 13,892,000 per year in personal and property loss and damage. See also, the Chistochina Project.

Purpose: Within the Municipality and Matanuska-Susitna Borough there is a significant problem concerning vehicle-moose collisions that, beyond the losses mentioned above, also cause the deaths of hundreds of moose every year, removing the possibility of those moose producing offspring and reducing the moose population.

At the same time that the moose natural resource is being wasted, residents in other areas of the state do not have a healthy enough moose population to support the residents. With habitat enhancement, responsible road construction, and a common sense approach to true management of this resource, everyone in the state will benefit.

Impact: Roads and adjacent fencing structures will be constructed so as to limit, if not totally eliminate, moose-vehicle collisions in known collision corridors, thereby preventing the waste of the natural resource; and certain habitat, browse and feeding areas of the state will be enhanced to better support a healthy moose population and entice the moose to stay off roadways, thereby increasing moose populations..

Briefly explain any unique or extraordinary aspects of this project:

Plans for 2007: Potential to add a burning component to the habitat enhancement effort and a continuation of working within our partnership.

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Project: Water Quality and Environmental Programs

Participating District(s): Alaska SWCD

Approximate public participation: Bristol Bay Native Association

Funding source(s) and Partner(s), including leveraged funding: Alaska SWCD, NRCS, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and support from the Mulchatna Watershed Council.

2006 activities in the project (include very brief history as needed): The Nushagak River study was completed and the final report was submitted to Alaska DEC and published.

Purpose: Conduct a complete benchmark assessment of the rivers current water quality, fecal coliform presence, and the potential impacts of river bank erosion and the presence of hydrocarbons by motor boats. The study was to identify possible sources of contamination and recommend mitigation measures. The study found no contaminants or resource degradation on the river in excess of state standards, except some elevated coliform counts occurring within mixing zones adjacent to some villages.

Impact: The study confirmed that there is currently very little pollution or resource damage occurring on the Lower Nushagak River.

Briefly explain any unique or extraordinary aspects of this project:

Plans for 2007: Additional inventory of potential watershed restoration and inventory projects will be evaluated. Watershed/water quality restoration opportunities are currently believed to exist in cooperation with the village of Marshall on the Lower Yukon River and another in the Glennallen area with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A feasibility study of a hydroelectric energy development project may be conducted on Glacier Creek near Nome, a the District would like to explores geothermal options in limited areas of the state.



Camp seen in transit between Sites 3 & 5.

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Project: Chistochina Moose Habitat Restoration Project

Participating District(s): Alaska SWCD

Approximate public participation: 50 members of the public, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Alaska Moose Federation and the Bureau of Land Management.

Funding source(s) and Partner(s), including leveraged funding: Alaska SWCD, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Cheeshna Tribal Council and the Bureau of Land Management.

2006 activities in the project (include very brief history as needed): During late last winter when the ground was frozen, a contract was awarded for a bulldozer to crush approximately 50 acres of over-mature willow and spruce vegetation in 30' to 50' strips in a number of sample locations in the Chistochina River area. The objective was to crush the vegetation that no longer offers a winter food source for moose in hopes of encouraging new growth more palatable and available for moose. The end result is hoped to be better moose habitat and an increase in the local moose population.

Purpose: Learn if vegetation crushing can be accomplished cost effectively to improve moose habitat and to ascertain the effectiveness of different methodologies and best-located work.

Impact: Expanded the understanding of the potential to restore moose browse through relatively inexpensive vegetative crushing projects in strategic locations. Additional study needs to be done to learn more about costs and most desirable enhancement sites.

Briefly explain any unique or extraordinary aspects of this project: This project began to demonstrate that moose habitat can be restored through willow crushing in strategic locations.

Plans for 2007: It is hoped that the moose habitat restoration effort can be expanded to include further willow revitalization demonstration projects, as well as potential burning projects.



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Project: Public Education, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program

Participating District(s): Alaska SWCD

Approximate public participation: The Alaska SWCD public education, outreach and technical assistance efforts reached over 350 people in 2006.

Funding source(s) and Partner(s), including leveraged funding: Funding sources include Alaska SWCD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Alaska SWCD regularly partners with entities, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Cooperative Extension Service, the National Park Service, the Alaska Forest Association and various other individuals, groups and organizations.

2006 activities in the project (include very brief history as needed): The Alaska SWCD provided numerous individuals, organizations, and government entities with technical assistance and advice; and is becoming actively involved in several projects related to natural resource restoration, development, and conservation.

Purpose: To educate and involve the public in the development and conservation of the natural resources within their control and to provide solid, science-based information to the public and all other entities seeking our assistance.

Impact: The Alaska District provides valuable coordination between various entities.

Briefly explain any unique or extraordinary aspects of this project:

Plans for 2007: Public outreach and brief technical assistance will continue.

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Project: Invasive Plant Program

Participating District(s): Alaska SWCD

Approximate public participation: Anticipate reaching over 5,000 individuals.

Funding source(s) and Partner(s), including leveraged funding: Alaska SWCD, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of Alaska Fairbanks Coop Extension Service and the Alaska Natural Heritage Program.

2006 activities in the project (include very brief history as needed): In 2004 the partners developed a publication "Invasive Plants of Alaska ". Over the past two years, the Alaska District printed the book and distributed the publication throughout the state.

Purpose: To educate the public regarding the importance of identifying and controlling certain noxious weeds.

Impact: The cumulative effect of over 5,000 individuals referencing the publication will produce tangible effects of broader public awareness and actual invasive weed control.

Briefly explain any unique or extraordinary aspects of this project: This publication has the potential of contributing to the prevention of various invasive weeds from becoming established and causing resource damage in Alaska.

Plans for 2007: Public education efforts will continue through additional distribution of the publication. In 2007 the Alaska SWCD and the Anchorage SWCD plan to identify a shortened priority list of approximately eight targeted weeds. These eight weeds will be highlighted in a public education campaign during 2007. Although there are other weeds of concern, the Districts feel it is important to focus the public's attention on the most serious threats and to build on that education in future campaigns.