

Alaska State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Alaska's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Counting Sea Birds, Photo Courtesy of Alaska FWS

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Marbled Murrelet Conservation**

The marbled murrelet, a small seabird which nests in the coastal, old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. As marbled murrelets have declined, commercial fishermen have been asked to change their fishing gear and cut back on the number of days they fish so the murrelets aren't caught in their nets. Loggers have also been prohibited from cutting trees in stands occupied by the birds. If declines continue, there will be increasing pressure to reduce threats from gill netting and logging in Alaska. This State Wildlife Grant funded project will help conserve the marbled murrelet now, before it becomes more rare and more costly to protect.



Critical Habitat, Photo Courtesy of Alaska DFG

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Planning in Alaska's Refuges**

Alaska has 32 legislatively designated refuges, sanctuaries, and critical habitat areas, comprising over three million acres. These areas were established to protect unique and exceptional habitats supporting a broad diversity of species and for public use and enjoyment. Sixteen of the 32 designated areas are without a management plan to guide uses on these lands. This project provides funding to update or establish management plans for these refuges. This will help conserve these vital natural areas that are important to many of our family traditions.



Measuring Chum, Photo Courtesy of USGS

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Fish in the Yukon/Kuskokwim River**

Good information is the key to successful conservation. This State Wildlife Grant project will provide a more complete knowledge of the fish living in the Yukon/Kuskokwim River, including what parts of the river they live in and their different life stages. Protection of Alaska's aquatic resources is based on this type of study, which provides information for land use plans, land acquisition choices, and best use practices. The more we know, the more we will be able to conserve wildlife and the places they live in the most cost-effective and timely manner.

Congress has appropriated \$18.3 million in State Wildlife Grants to Alaska since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$3.7 million state and partner dollars.