

RG 0022 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Department of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service. Division of Wildlife

Entry# P 186: Post-War Planning Program Files, 1942-45;  
1942-1945

Post War, Miscellaneous THRU Post War, Supplemental Estimates

Container # 1

ARC# 6102331

RG 22, FWS  
E. 186, Post-War Planning, 1942-45  
Box 1

Post War  
Miscellaneous

~~1945-1947~~  
1947

RG 22, FWS  
E. 186, Post-War Planning, 1942-45  
Box 1

IN REPLY REFER TO  
Post-War  
Planning

C O P Y

ADDRESS ONLY THE  
DIRECTOR, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

██████████  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

September 4, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for the Assistant Secretary.

Attached hereto are revised supplemental estimates covering surveys, investigations, detailed plans and specifications for a Federal Works program for the fiscal years 1944 and 1945, for the Fish and Wildlife Service requested in memoranda for heads of bureaus and offices and subsequent instructions.

(sgd) Ward T. Bower  
Acting Director.

Enclosure 690.

RG 22, FWS  
E. 186, Post-War Planning, 1942-45  
Box 1

1  
18 or  
sup copy  
LPE  
G\*

ALASKA REFUGE PROGRAM

Considerable exploration and study still are necessary to fully delineate this program. Impending settlement and economic development of Alaska seem certain to occur in the post-war period. Alaska now contains our greatest concentration of primitive game and fish stocks. We must act at once to survey and set aside necessary areas to preserve this fine heritage from the same fate that overtook companion species in the growth of the United States proper. Conservation problems of Alaska, other than fisheries, fall under the following groups:

- I. Alaska is now known to be a great waterfowl breeding ground, supplying millions of ducks and geese to our United States flyways and shooting grounds. Certain river deltas and interior river valley marshes are unique nesting grounds serving as great waterfowl incubators which should always be dedicated to this purpose. Among the many important areas needed, the following general areas are known to be especially worthy of being set aside as National waterfowl refuges:
  - A. The Lower Kuskokwin River to mouth of Yukon River. Finest waterfowl nesting area in America. Probably 15,000 square miles.
  - B. The Kobuk River and others on the Bering Coast.
  - C. Stikine Flats. Make into a waterfowl management area, zoning into refuge and public shooting ground areas.
  - D. Upper End Glacier Bay. Important eider duck area.
  - E. Morzhovoi-Cold Bay. A most important concentration point in migrations, not only for waterfowl but also for caribou.
  - F. Interior marshes of Yukon River and its tributaries. Some of these marshes are large scale and important waterfowl producers. Much work yet to be done here to segregate the important areas.
  - G. Little Diomede Island and other islands (as the St. Lawrence group) which harbor important colonies of birds, sea otter, walrus, etc. Should be set aside to safeguard such species.
- II. Big Game Herds. It is vital that we set aside permanent ranges to perpetuate the Alaskan big game herds. Most of the land they range realizes its most suitable use by producing forage for such animals. The natives are absolutely dependent upon these great natural herds. Sometimes the summer

RG 22, FWS  
E. 186, Post-War Planning, 1942-45  
Box 1



ENTERED  
INDEXED  
SERIALIZED  
FILED  
APR 22 1945  
FBI - DENVER

RG 22, FWS  
E. 186, Post-War Planning, 1942-45  
Box 1

range is adequate and it's the winter range which must be guarded. Again it's a fawning ground which must be protected. Particular attention must be given to those herds which use, in part, lands which give preliminary promise of being suitable for agriculture. Such areas are the Kenai Peninsula, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, including lower Yentna River, Tanana Valley centering at Fairbanks, and Forty Mile-Seventy Mile section of Upper Yukon River. These valleys cut across important hereditary migration routes of Alaskan big game animals. Likewise, the Alcan Highway and other highways render this game so vulnerable that all shooting should be prohibited within a broad stretch of territory on either side of a given highway. Important areas to be zoned for big game are as follows:

- A. Caribou. Provide winter range adjoining McKinley National Park, which supplies a good summer range. Set aside essential ranges north of the Yukon, such as the Krokines and the Chandalar River areas. Increased fire protection on the tundra ranges is imperative for the welfare of both caribou and reindeer.
- B. Buffalo. The fine herd of these animals in the Big Delta area of the Tanana and Delta Rivers is now threatened by the increased traffic and settlement to come over the Alcan Highway. This herd's range is bisected by the main road. Such a herd could be a fine tourist attraction. Also, the herd could be built up until the surplus animals would supply a considerable quantity of food to local inhabitants. By all means, the Big Delta area should be set aside to maintain these splendid animals. Likewise, the Nabesna River country should be investigated as a secondary range.
- C. Reindeer. Proper management of the reindeer herd can make the Alaskan native secure, if not wealthy, especially if Alaska's population greatly increases after the current conflict, as seems inevitable. Large areas of coastal tundra should be preserved solely to nurture these herds. In general, the reindeer should be kept on the coastal tundras and short coastal river valleys. They should be kept out of the Colville River drainage and all territory east of its mouth. Moreover, the interior Yukon drainage above and east of Kaltag should not be penetrated by reindeer in the interest of caribou preservation.
- D. Mountain Goats. Endicott and Tracy Arms, as well as other herds, should have their ranges permanently designated and protected.
- E. Furs. To prevent over-trapping and to save brood stock, local fur preserves should be set aside in many areas as needed. There is no more effective method of fur conservation.
- F. Southeastern Alaskan Refuges. As population increases in this region, refuges will be needed to protect important local wildlife resources, especially where dairying and vegetable farms abut wildlife ranges or sever their migration routes.

G. Wildlife Research. 7,000 acres of land adjoining the University of Alaska are needed for practical wildlife management studies and demonstrations in connection with university courses in modern game management.

The famous Alaskan moose and the brown bear are basically provided for in the recently-established Kenai and Kodiak Refuges, respectively.

Bureau no.	Name of Project	Total est cost to comp. const.	% of const. completed	% of planning completed	Exam & Invest.	Survey + Plans	Total
A-50	as listed above	1,127,000	0	0	118,000	395,900.	513,500.

RG 22, FWS  
 E. 186, Post-war Planning, 1942-45  
 Box 1