

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Baseline conditions in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR), Alaska

Discipline: Natural
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: US Fish and wildlife Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 12/1/2009 - 6/1/2010
Funding Amount: \$ 10, 637

Investigators and Agency Representative:

USFWS Contact: Dan Gillikin, Fishery Biologist, USFWS, Yukon Delta NWR, P. O. Box 346, Bethel, AK. 99559; Tel: (907) 543-1022; Daniel_Gillikin@fws.gov

Investigator: Tom Bansak, Research Scientist, Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana, 32125 Bio Station Lane, Polson, Montana 59860; (406)982-3301 X229; tom.bansak@umontana.edu

Project Abstract:

The YDNWR and the Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) have been working cooperatively to assess baseline biological conditions in tributaries of the Kuskokwim River since 2004. Working together during the field season (May-Oct), YDNWR and FLBS personnel have been using a standardized protocol to collect a variety of samples types from different locations of interest within the Kuskokwim watershed, additional work is also planned on the tributaries of the Yukon River. Samples collected in 2009 include water, riparian vegetation, fish and animal tissue, algae, and aquatic insects. These samples now need to be prepared and analyzed for biomass and nutrient content (including marine derived nitrogen and carbon). YDNWR and FLBS personnel will work together to conduct these analyses at the FLBS laboratory.

Outcomes with completions dates: June 1, 2010

Keywords: biological samples, baseline conditions, Kuskokwim and Yukon River tributaries, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (YDNWR), Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana