

## **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:**

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**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