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PREFACE

Between January 1980 and June 1986, the Alaska Power Authority (APA) contracted with the Game Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to provide field data and recommendations for assessing potential impacts and developing options for mitigating impacts of the proposed Susitna Hydroelectric Project on moose, caribou, brown bear, black bear, Dall sheep, wolf, wolverine, and belukha whales; ADF&G was only one of many participants in this program. Information on birds, small mammals, furbearers, and vegetation was collected by the University of Alaska and private consulting firms.

Formally, ADF&G's role was to collect data that could be used to describe the baseline, preproject conditions. This information was supplemented to include processes that might be sufficiently sensitive to either direct or indirect project-induced impacts to alter the dynamics of the wildlife populations. The responsibility of impact assessment and mitigation planning was assigned by APA to several private consulting firms. ADF&G staff worked closely with these firms, but only in an advisory capacity.

The project was cancelled before the impact assessment and mitigation planning processes were complete. In an effort to preserve the judgments and ideas of the authors at the termination of the project, the scope of this report has been expanded to include material relating to impact assessment and mitigation planning. Statements do not necessarily represent the views of the APA or its contractors. Conjectural statements sometimes are included in the hope that they may serve as hypotheses to guide future work, should the project be reactivated.

The following list of progress reports completely cover all of the Game Division's contributions to the project. It should not be necessary for the reader to consult them.

Moose

Modaferri, R. D. 1987. Susitna Hydroelectric Project, Big Game Studies, Final Report Vol. I - Moose - Downstream. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

Ballard, W. R. and J. S. Whitman. 1987. Susitna Hydroelectric Project, Big Game Studies, Final Report, Vol. II - Moose - Upstream. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

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