



Reporting Our Progress in Caring for the Land and Serving People



New Dusky Canada Goose Nest Island Installation Wildlife Program FY2012 Accomplishments Chugach National Forest, Alaska Region

State: Alaska

Congressional District: Alaska

Accomplishments:

- Built and installed 24 new floating nest islands for dusky Canada geese.
- The installed islands represent 156 core acre targets.
- This project was accomplished almost entirely with partnership help.

Forest Service Contribution: \$5,223

Partner Contribution: \$35,236

Project Costs: \$40,459

External Partners:

Ducks Unlimited, US Coast Guard, Prince William Sound Resource Advisory Committee, SAGA, Lyndon Transport.

Canada goose hunting in Washington, Oregon and Alaska has been restricted and may be further curtailed unless the downward trend of the dusky Canada goose population can be stabilized. The entire population of dusky geese nests on the Copper River Delta. Artificial nest islands have proven to be effective in enhancing the population. Reduced hunting will mean lost recreational opportunity and significant economic impacts to agriculture, especially in Oregon from large population increases of other geese subspecies formerly controlled through hunting.

While other agencies (USFWS R-1, R-7, ODF, WDF, ADF&G, USGS-BRD), hunter (DU) and other conservation interests (NFWF) have partnered with the Forest Service on new nest island construction costs in the past, new partners made it possible to provide additional safe nesting islands. Nesting success on the artificial nest islands is approximately 65%, which is much higher than the 20-40% nesting success rate of natural nest sites on the Copper River Delta.



Successful dusky goose nest on artificial island.



Adding vegetation to new nest island.

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