

Wood Bison  
Message to the people of Holy Cross, Anvik, Shageluk and Grayling  
By House Representative Alan Dick

My main concern with the introduction of Wood Bison into our area is that the people of Holy Cross, Anvik, Shageluk and Grayling are going to end up a sad "Whereas..." in a sad petition to Washington DC where the government is no longer of by and for the people. Once you know the facts, I don't think you will consider it for a nanosecond.

The wood bison that ADF&G plans to introduce into our district is the ONLY Wood Bison herd in the US.

Should we think for one minute that the Federal Government will uphold their 10-J exemption to the Endangered Species Act?

Should we think that the 10-j exemption will last one weekend before Environmental groups file a law suit against it? We won't be hunters. We will become litigators in lawsuits!

I wanted the bison in the headwaters of the Stony River until I learned the story. They are *Trojan Bison*. Once we allow them through the gates, they will destroy our country from within.

Look at Delta. They have Plains bison to hunt. Over 16,000 people apply for a permit each year and only 130 people get one. What will our chances be ten years from now when bison hunts are opened? (If our lawyers perform a miracle and protect us from the Federal and environmental nonsense.) Do we want all those outsiders hunting in our backyard? Do we really think we will get a permit? Our chances are better at the local bingo hall.

Have you read the 10-J exemption to the Endangered Species Act. Here it is. There's nothing there that makes me feel safe.

The Feds have never rescinded a 10-J exemption yet... yet! When did the Feds pass up a chance to lie to Alaskans and take our land? When did the Feds not lie to Indians?

This is an endangered species we are talking about bringing into our country. These are the ONLY Wood Bison in the whole United States. Look at the polar bears. Reliable sources say there are five times more polar bears now than there were in the 70's, but the Feds recently have taken charge of 120 million acres, from the Canadian border to below Kotzebue. And the polar bears aren't even endangered. I think the Feds are using the bears to lock up the country. Doyon folks didn't want the bison in the Minto Flats and made sure they stayed in Portage.

Should we trust the Federal government?

Look at the Statehood Act

The Feds knew we didn't have many people to tax in order to run the State government, so the Feds agreed to develop the resources of Alaska. The state was to get 90% of the revenue to run the state. That was the Statehood Agreement act.

With ANILCA, President Carter violated the Statehood Act! The statehood act gave the State of Alaska 104 M acres of land. ANILCA locked up an equal amount, 104 M acres. The Feds promised they would NEVER do that again. Recently, President Obama, in violation of ANILCA, set in motion the process to take another huge chunk of Federal land in Alaska and lock that up too in the name of "wild lands."

They lie. Not once, but always. They lied with the statehood act, they lied with ANILCA, and now they are doing it again. Who in the Federal Government could sign a paper that you would believe?

I passed through Oregon when *one* Federal Judge shut down most of the logging industry in that state because of the spotted owl. Environmental groups said the Endangered spotted owl only nested in old growth trees, so they needed to be protected. Thousands of people were put out of work because of the owl.

But the truth is the spotted owl loves to nest in old pickup trucks and other such places. The environmentalists used the owl to lock up the state and put people out of work.

Recently on the House floor we passed HJR17 urging the Federal Government to reconsider the situation in Unalaska.

Unalaska had an exemption but the EPA revoked the exemption that Unalaska had regarding their water and secondary treatment plants. The EPA requirement is now an unfunded mandate of \$9.5 million for treatment for cryptosporidium and there is NO cryptosporidium in Unalaska! The secondary treatment mandate is between \$20-50 million. That totals over \$6,500 for every man, woman and child in the town of 4,370 folks. When Unalaska appealed, the EPA said "Too bad." The deadline for filing for an exemption had passed. They don't care about the people of Unalaska.

The reason I mention this is that we will be trusting in an exemption the same way Unalaska did.

Look how the Feds locked up the Tongass Forest. Remember, the Statehood Agreement said that Alaskans could develop resources on Federal lands and the state would get 90% of the revenue. Thousands of people were put out of their jobs by the Federal lockup of the Tongass. South East villages are dying now because there is no economy. Do we think the Feds care any more for us?

Should we trust the environmental groups? Do we think they will not immediately file a law suit against the 10-J exemption?

Do you remember how the environmental groups lied to the people of Alaska during the predator control issue? That is why we have few moose in many parts of the state. Environmental groups made big bucks on the wolf issue, bleeding money out of the uninformed people of the lower 48 to “save the wolves” that wiped out our moose population.

They would love to take your case to court... the ONLY wood bison herd in the United States.

This will be a big fund-raiser for them. They will make millions of dollars by challenging the 10-J exemption. We Alaskans have no way to fight back.

Should we trust our own State government? A herd of Plains Bison have been in Delta since the 20's. They are not an endangered species, but the Delta hunt is so popular, the State has ignored the cries of the Delta farmers for decades. The bison trampled \$150,000 worth of barley just last year, but ADF&G hasn't done a thing about it. If the State won't do something for the Delta farmers, what makes us think they will do something for us against the Federal Government when the Trojan Bison have our land locked up?

#### Concern

The bill I have submitted to the House only requires the Department of Fish & Game to get permission from the Legislature before introducing the Endangered Bison into a location in Alaska. It doesn't prohibit the introduction of bison; it just helps keep folks from being buffalo-ed by the buffalo.

If the land gets locked up, does the State government lose? No. Biologists still get to have their pet project to study the bison.

Do professional hunting groups lose? Well they will lose the money they put into the project, but their country won't be locked up.

Who is the loser? The people who will be hurt the most are the people of Holy Cross, Anvik, Shageluk and Grayling, but the whole state will be negatively affected as well.

What is the best-case scenario?

In ten years we get a one-in-a-hundred chance to hunt a bison, while competing with scores of outsiders in our country.

What is the worst-case scenario? Your corporation land, and all surrounding Federal and State land, will be locked up while the bison roam free. We will spend our lives in court, and some Federal judge no one ever voted for, who could care less whether we live or die, will decide whether we can tip-toe on the tundra.

The effect of the release of the Trojan Bison will be irreversible. Once they are loose, the problems they bring will never go away.

People of Holy Cross, Grayling, Anvik and Shageluk I think introducing the bison into your backyard is a HUGE mistake.

Some of your young guys will go out on a snowy winter night to taste bison meat and will end up in Federal prison for killing an endangered species. The bison will be free roaming and the people will be locked up.

Let me make a suggestion. Tell Fish & Game you want Plains bison like Delta, Fairwell and Copper River. I bet Plains Bison taste just as good as Trojan Bison. You will get all the benefits with none of the risks. Tell Fish and Game to find another place for the Endangered Bison.

The real solution is effective predator control to get our moose back.

I fear that we will become a very sad “Whereas” in a very sad petition to Washington DC that doesn’t listen to our Governor or any other entity in this state.

Consider the facts and get back to me. Thanks.