

Introduced: 1/22/82
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to habitat management.

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

7 WHEREAS different stages of ecological succession favor different plant
8 and wildlife species; and

9 WHEREAS in many parts of Alaska vegetation in early stages of succession
10 provides prime food for many highly valued game and fur animals; and

11 WHEREAS fire historically has been the major factor in causing beneficial
12 habitat changes in large areas of the state; and

13 WHEREAS recent fire control policy generally has been to follow the
14 principle of "initial attack" on fires whenever possible; and

15 WHEREAS this policy has resulted in significantly less acreage burned
16 annually, compared to the natural condition, as determined by studies of fire
17 history in Alaska; and

18 WHEREAS this course of events has resulted in significantly less prime
19 habitat for browsing species and their predators in many areas of the state;
20 and

21 WHEREAS during the last three years the state and federal agencies have
22 developed fire management plans in Interior Alaska to enhance habitat improve-
23 ment opportunities by providing for selective fire control and prescribed
24 fires; and

25 WHEREAS the U.S. Forest Service has used prescribed burns on the Kenai
26 Peninsula to enhance extremely poor moose ranges; and

27 WHEREAS in many areas of the state wild fires or prescribed burns have
28 substantially increased the populations of moose, hares, grouse and other
29 prey species and predators of these species; and

1 WHEREAS other forms of habitat manipulation may in some cases also prove
2 beneficial to wildlife populations; and

3 WHEREAS wildlife population increases resulting from habitat improvement
4 can contribute to improved hunting and trapping by all resource users;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the efforts of
6 state and federal agencies and private landowners to enhance habitats through
7 management programs, such as cooperative fire management planning, and other
8 habitat rehabilitation efforts where ecologically appropriate; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Natural Resources and other
10 state agencies that deal with habitat management are urged to continue
11 developing plans for fire management, and to include in their budgets sub-
12 mitted to the governor plans and funding requests that will ensure the con-
13 tinuance of cooperative fire management planning and other habitat management
14 programs.

15 A COPY of this resolution shall be sent to the Board of Game.

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