

Introduced: 1/30/84
Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SHULTZ

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 551

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Delta Junction bison range;

7

and providing for an effective date."

8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9

* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

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(1) the Delta Junction bison herd is a highly valued state
11 wildlife resource;

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(2) drawing permits issued for the hunting of Delta Junction
13 bison constitute a valuable source of state revenue;

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(3) the Delta Junction bison herd has established the Delta
15 agricultural project as a fall and winter range;

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(4) the feeding, wallowing, and traveling by the Delta Junction
17 bison herd within the Delta agricultural project has resulted in damage to
18 crops, monetary loss to local farmers, legal conflicts, and physical harm
19 to the herd;

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(5) the bison range concept is a proven means of keeping bison
21 in an area as long as adequate forage is available on the range;

22

(6) the current state of development of the Delta Junction bison
23 range area is inadequate to sustain bison for more than a few weeks;

24

(7) the expansion of available forage on the Delta Junction
25 bison range area is required to provide a winter range for the Delta Junc-
26 tion bison herd and to effectively keep the herd from grazing within the
27 Delta agricultural project; and

28

(8) a bison drift barrier must be constructed along the southern
29 boundary of the Delta agricultural project to prevent the Delta Junction

1 bison herd from drifting onto the project and causing further harm to
2 crops.

3 * Sec. 2. AS 16.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

4 Sec. 16.20.311. BISON RANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The
5 governor shall appoint a seven-member Delta Junction Bison Range
6 Advisory Committee. The governor shall appoint members to represent
7 the following interests:

8 (1) two members representing the Delta agricultural proj-
9 ect;

10 (2) two members representing Delta Junction sport hunters
11 and the state fish and game advisory committee;

12 (3) one member representing nonconsumptive wildlife users;

13 (4) one member representing timber, mining and other con-
14 sumptive natural resource industries; and

15 (5) one member representing the tourism industry.

16 (b) The committee shall consult with and offer its advice to the
17 Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Commerce and Economic
18 Development, and the Alaska Agricultural Action Council, on matters
19 relating to the game management plan required under AS 16.20.310 and
20 the construction and maintenance of a bison drift barrier along the
21 southern boundary of the Delta agricultural project.

22 (c) A member of the advisory committee is not entitled to per
23 diem, travel, or other compensation from the state for the performance
24 of acts as a committee member.

25 Sec. 16.20.312. BISON HUNT PERMIT FEE. The application fee for
26 a drawing permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game for the
27 hunting of bison in the Delta Junction bison range area is \$10.

28 Sec. 16.20.313. BISON RANGE TIMBER SALES. The Department of
29 Natural Resources, division of forestry, shall provide for the sale of

1 timber in the Delta Junction bison range area in a manner that does
2 not delay implementation of the game management plan required under
3 AS 16.20.310.

4 * Sec. 3. AS 16.20.300, 16.20.310, 16.20.311, 16.20.312, 16.20.313, and
5 16.20.320 are repealed.

6 * Sec. 4. Section 3, ch. 39, SLA 1979 and sec. 1, ch. 73, SLA 1980 are
7 repealed.

8 * Sec. 5. Sections 1, 2 and 4 of this Act take effect July 1, 1984.

9 * Sec. 6. Section 3 of this Act takes effect August 1, 1995.