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MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Ronald J. Somerville
Director
Division of Game

DATE: March 9, 1981

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 452-1531

FROM: Richard H. Bishop
Regional Supervisor
Division of Game
Department of Fish and Game
Fairbanks

SUBJECT: Attached Memo on
Wildlife: Agriculture
Interactions

Ron, the attached memo contains one technical refinement in item IV(A)(2) to be more accurate regarding bluetongue disease than was the first version of the memo.

It may be worthwhile to provide the House-Resources Committee a copy of this corrected version to preclude any misunderstanding.

Enclosure

cc: Goady

Handwritten notes:
cc. 977000
Duke
File

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

TO: Ronald J. Somerville
Director
Division of Game

DATE: March 2, 1981

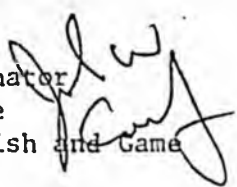
FILE NO:

THRU: Richard H. Bishop
Regional Supervisor

TELEPHONE NO: 452-1531

FROM: John W. Coady
Research Coordinator
Division of Game
Department of Fish and Game
Fairbanks

SUBJECT: Potential Impacts of Intensive Agricultural Development on Wildlife in Alaska



This is to provide an outline of significant interactions which have already occurred or that we should anticipate in the near future between agriculture and wildlife in Alaska. A more detailed and fully documented draft report or "white paper" on this subject will be completed soon.

I. Interaction between agriculture and wildlife will occur.

- A) The history of both favorable and unfavorable influences of agriculture on wildlife in North America is extensively documented.
- B) Small family farms generally benefit some wildlife species, while large fields, crop monocultures, and livestock grazing adversely impact several wildlife species.
- C) In Alaska, the best areas for agriculture are also frequently the best for some wildlife species.

II. Wildlife habitat will be impacted.

- A) Loss or alteration of habitat will occur through crop production, grazing, and use of herbicides.
 - 1) This is a major cause of wildlife population declines in many areas of North America.
 - 2) This may cause major impacts in Alaska on some furbearer, moose, bison, black bear, and small game populations.
- B) Competition for forage may occur.
 - 1) Competition for some willow species occurs between moose and livestock in southeast Idaho and Jackson Hole, and for herbaceous plants between livestock and bison in many areas including Alaska.
 - 2) Competition between livestock and moose for some willows and herbaceous forage is possible in Alaska.

- V. Direct mortality to wildlife will increase.
- A) Unintentional poisoning of wildlife by fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides has and will continue to occur.
 - B) Entanglement in fences will occur.
 - C) Shooting of "nuisance" animals and poaching will increase.
- VI. Movements of wildlife will be affected.
- A) Lengthy fences will create a physical barrier to local movements and seasonal migrations of some species.
 - B) Structures, open fields, and intensive human activity may create behavioral barriers.
- VII. Access-Trespass problems will increase.
- A) Access to or through areas by hunters and trappers will be limited by agricultural developments.
 - B) Trespass by outdoorsmen, possibly resulting in vandalism and unintentional property damage to agricultural developments, will increase.
 - C) Improved public access via agricultural development may create new wildlife management challenges which we should be prepared to meet.
- VIII. We should provide for the optimum sustained use of all natural resources.
- A) The agricultural industry should be developed and expanded in Alaska.
 - B) Policy decisions should be deliberate and objective and should strive for careful consideration of soil, water, plant, and wildlife resources.
 - C) Wildlife losses and the loss of traditional uses of wildlife can be mitigated with careful assessment and planning.
 - D) With proper planning, agricultural development can be compatible with the long-term well-being of most wildlife populations in Alaska.

