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DELTA JUNCTION BISON RANGE

A Proposal for Development

by

David M. Johnson

Division of Game

Department of Fish and Game

Region III

Delta Junction, Alaska

November 1983

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SUMMARY

This proposal is designed to carry out the ^{maddness} ~~mandates~~ of the legislation establishing the Delta Junction Bison Range (AS 16.20.300). The proposal would, if implemented, provide fall bison range to reduce or eliminate crop ~~degradations~~, bison winter range, and a variety of ^{what other wildlife} habitats for game and nongame species. Recreational opportunities, including hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography would be enhanced. Timber resources would be harvested, offsetting the costs of development over time and boosting the local economy.

The proposal would cost \$1.8 million, to be spent over 3 fiscal years. One full-time project position would be funded, and funding for 3 1/2 years of an existing seasonal position would be included. Purchase of equipment needed for light maintenance work is included. Maintenance costs are estimated to be less than \$34,000 annually.

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BACKGROUND

The Delta Junction Bison Range was established by the Alaska Legislature in 1979 to "provide an adequate winter range for the bison," and to "diminish the damage caused by the herds to agriculturally developed land." The Range concept grew out of the Delta Land Use Plan, in which citizens and agencies involved in resource management recommended that the land north of the mountains and south of the Alaska Highway should be used for public recreation and wildlife, especially bison, and the land north of the highway should be developed for agriculture.

Several small appropriations for the Range and a \$200,000 appropriation in FY83 permitted the clearing of about 600 acres. Around half of that

was planted by July 1983. Bison use of the Range has increased each year. After migrating from their summer range, the bison used the Range almost exclusively for nearly a month in fall 1983, leaving only after the bulk of the forage was exhausted. After that time, the bison crossed the Alaska Highway and caused extensive agricultural damage. Additional forage would have prevented most of those problems.

While the greatest bison use of the Range has been during the fall, the animals also use it during the winter months. They eat whatever perennial grasses are exposed by the scouring winds. Additional forage would mean much more winter use and would provide for the day when bison are excluded by fences from most or all of their former winter range.

The Bison Range provides an outstanding opportunity to develop techniques for improving wildlife habitats in interior Alaska, while providing for real wildlife needs at the same time. Prescribed fire, especially, can be used to advantage on the Range where the dominant cover type is old-growth black spruce. These fires can be used to develop additional forage for bison and to rejuvenate aging stands of deciduous trees for the benefit of moose, both at low per-acre cost.

OBJECTIVES

Short-term objectives are to provide the following:

1. Alternate fall forage for migrating bison to reduce or eliminate crop depredation losses;

2. Winter range for bison to compensate for increasing loss of traditional ranges;
3. New winter range for moose to allow expansion of the moose population;
4. Additional habitat for sharp-tailed grouse and other game birds;
5. New habitat for resident and migratory nongame species; and
6. New recreation opportunities for Alaskans and visitors.

Long-term objectives of Bison Range development are to:

1. Provide permanent wildlife habitat to mitigate for the loss of habitat to agricultural development; and
2. Provide retained public land to continue opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife in an easily accessible area.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Capital Phase

1. Clearing
 - a. Purpose: Clearing provides a seedbed for planting perennial grasses that will be used by bison for long-term forage needs. The clearings also provide wide firebreaks for prescribed fires that will be used to develop additional habitat at low cost.
 - b. Procedure: Survey interior and exterior perimeters, cutting line with caterpillar tractor; chain down standing trees with heavy anchor chair; stack organic materials into tight berm rows; create

small clearings for sharp-tailed grouse, bison, and nongame species. See map for layout. Exact location dependent on soil survey results (available December 1983 from USDA Soil Conservation Service) and timber cruise data (this proposal).

c. Time Frame: Before June 1 in spruce stands for maximum soil preservation. Midsummer clearing may be acceptable in heavy aspen stands.

d. Cost: Estimated 1984 cost - 3,980 acres x \$110/acre = \$437,800 (portion of total acreage already cleared)

2. Berm Removal

a. Purpose: Berms should be removed to eliminate snow drifts building up in the lee of the berms, which reduce the amount of forage available during winter for bison. Berms also reduce the total acreage that may be planted and are a fire hazard during prescribed fires.

b. Procedure: Allow 1 or 2 years drying time; burn berms; restack and reburn; disc soil and rootrake.

c. Time Frame: Burn berms in October and November. Restack during summer. Disc, rootrake, and plant berm rows during year three.

d. Cost: Estimated 1984 cost - 4,620 acres (includes clearings, roads, and trails) x \$20/acre = \$92,400

3. Planting

a. Purpose: Bison require grasses for fall and winter forage. Other species, including moose, bears, and small game, use grasses to a limited extent.

- b. Procedure: Disc soil with heavy or light disc depending on soil depth and amount of surface litter; rootrake with powered rake; plant up to 500 acres with a grass with hay value (e.g., brome); plant remainder with a low maintenance species such as bluegrass and native bluejoint. All plantings should be a mixture of annuals and perennials to protect the perennials in the first year. Suitable annuals include barley and oats.
- c. Time Frame: June or early July to retard plant maturation to provide maximum palatability of the annual for bison. Plant about 1,000 acres during year one, the balance during years two and three. This allows drying time for especially ice-rich areas.
- d. Cost: Estimated 1984 costs - 4,400 acres x \$140/acre = \$616,000

4. Prescribed Fire

- a. Purpose: Fire would be used to rapidly and inexpensively treat large areas. Post-fire vegetative growth would be managed for bison, moose, and/or small game. Repeated fires produce grassy areas; sporadic fires can be used to produce brushy areas.
- b. Procedure: Develop prescribed fire plans in cooperation with Alaska Division of Forestry; burn areas within cleared areas during prescription conditions in summer; use helitorch for maximum cost efficiency and safety.
- c. Time Frame: Summer, when conditions permit.
- d. Cost: Estimated 1984 costs - 5,680 acres x \$20/acre = \$113,600

5. Water Site Development

- a. Purpose: Water is only sporadically available on the portion of the Range proposed for development. Water is available within

the daily movement limits of bison, but additional water within the proposed habitat development would provide an added incentive for bison to stay within the developed areas and would provide a focus for bison activity for viewers. The ponds would be constructed so as to be suitable for other species as well.

b. Procedure: Develop 2 water sites separated by about 10 miles, one in each rectangle; drill wells to a consistent water source (1 well currently in place); pump water with windmills into stock tanks, the overflow to be piped into earthen ponds lined with a water-impermeable membrane or material.

c. Time Frame: Construction of ponds during clearing activities or year two; erection of windmills during year two.

d. Cost: Estimated 1984 cost \$20,000

6. Forest Openings

a. Purpose: Sharp-tailed grouse in Alaska are known to favor habitats with a mixture of shrubby brush and grassy openings. These openings will provide optimum habitat for grouse, as well as additional habitat for bison and the mixture of habitat types preferred by a variety of nongame species. If this procedure is as successful as expected, the technique could be used more widely on the Range at low cost at a later date.

b. Procedure: Within a 300-acre portion of one of the burned areas, clear plots varying in size from 2 to 20 acres, totaling 120 acres; stack organic materials in center of clearing and burn after suitable drying time; disc to break up aspen roots; allow native grasses to vegetate the openings.

- c. Time Frame: Same as clearing
- d. Cost: 120 acres x \$110/acre = \$13,000

7. Develop Forest Inventory

- a. Purpose: A forest inventory would have the dual benefit of preventing loss of valuable forest products during habitat manipulation activities and would set the stage for future timber sales on the Range. Sale of forest products would in time help offset the cost of Range development and would improve the local economy.
- b. Procedure: Using a reimbursable services agreement or other suitable instrument, contract with the Alaska Division of Forestry to provide timber cruise data on selected portions of the Range. Cooperate with Forestry to sell timber in areas designated for habitat manipulation (clearing, prescribed fire, etc.).
- c. Time Frame: Begin in year one, complete work during year two, to allow time during the project to complete habitat work.
- d. Cost: Estimated 1984 cost = \$60,000

Maintenance Phase

1. Renovate Perennial Grasses

- a. Purpose: Most grasses become sod-bound in time and require breaking up for optimum productivity. Woody plants will invade grasslands if not periodically disced.
- b. Procedure: Using ADF&G equipment and personnel, lightly disc soil on about 10% of the grasslands annually; fertilize and replant as needed up to a maximum of about 50 acres per year.

c. Time Frame: Begin renovation in year three, annually thereafter.

d. Cost: Estimated 1984 cost -

(1) light discing: \$20/acre x 440 acres = \$8,800

(2) complete replanting: \$100/acre x 50 acres = \$5,000

Total = \$13,800

2. Maintain Roads, Trails, and Forest Openings

a. Purpose: Vehicle passage, falling trees, high water, invasion of woody plants, and other considerations will require regular maintenance of access roads, trails, and forest openings.

b. Procedure: Use disc, light bulldozer (both ADF&G equipment, purchased this proposal), herbicide, prescribed fire, etc., as required to maintain openings, keep roads drivable, and trails passable by bison, pedestrian traffic, snow machines, dog teams, etc.

c. Time Frame: Annually, as needed

d. Cost: Less than \$2,000 annually

3. Maintain Prescribed Fire Areas

a. Purpose: Burned areas tend to return to the vegetative cover initially burned. Management of these areas for bison will require annual or biennial burning to enhance grass production and to prevent invasion by spruce and deciduous trees. Areas managed primarily for moose and sharp-tailed grouse will probably require reburning every 10-20 years to keep the shrubby vegetation from growing out of reach of moose.

- b. Procedure: Using prescribed fire, reburn previously burned areas as required to meet management objectives for each site.
- c. Time Frame: Summer, beginning year two or three.
- d. Cost: Costs will vary from \$0 in some years to a maximum of about \$10,000.

4. Maintain Water Sites

- a. Purpose: Use of water sites by big game will damage equipment and the ponds. High winds will damage the windmills.
- b. Procedure: Repair damaged equipment; reline ponds; reshape ponds as required; remove windmill blades October through May.
- c. Time Frame: Summer
- d. Cost: Less than \$2,000 annually

5. Maintain Hay Fields

- a. Purpose: The 500 acres planted to hay would be fertilized in early summer and mowed in late June. Refertilization would promote lush growth to attract bison in early fall.
- b. Procedure: Contract with local farmer(s) to cooperatively farm this segment on the Range. The farmer would take the first cutting of hay in exchange for fertilization of the forage. This procedure is still experimental. Some cash input may be required.
- c. Time Frame: Beginning year two or three as soon as hay is ready for first harvest.
- d. Cost: Estimated 1984 cost less than \$5,000 annually.

RECREATION ENHANCEMENT

Capital Phase

1. Roads and Trails

a. Purpose: Visitors will need roads to enter the area. Trails will be used by wildlife, visitors, hunters, trappers, hikers, snow machines, and dog teams. Staff will require access to clearings and manipulated habitat for maintenance.

b. Procedure: Cut necessary roads and trails during clearing operations using caterpillar tractor. Stack organic materials for burning later. Roads to be dirt; no fill or gravel to be added.

c. Time Frame: During clearing, year one

d. Cost: Estimated 1984 cost = \$6,000

2. Viewing Facilities

a. Purpose: Considerable interest exists in bison and other wildlife both among Alaskans and visitors. Viewing facilities will simplify viewing wildlife (especially bison) and provide a means for doing so that does not unduly alarm the animals.

b. Procedure: Construct raised and camouflaged viewing platforms near water sites; construct nature drive or similar interpretative feature.

c. Time Frame: Summers of years two and three

d. Cost: Estimated 1984 cost = \$10,000

Maintenance Phase

1. Roads and Trails: To be handled as part of habitat maintenance.
2. Viewing Facilities: Repair as required; add new facilities as opportunities present; erect information signs as appropriate. Annual cost less than \$5,000.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

1. Helitorch - Helicopter-transported aerial firing device. Required for cost effective and safe ignition of prescribed fires. Usable by ADF&G and other resource management agencies statewide. On hand now
2. Tractor and Implements - A small- to medium-sized tractor with implements, including disc, broadcast spreader, rototiller, drill, and spare parts inventory. Use for the renovation of perennial grasses, maintenance of forest openings, fireline construction for prescribed fire, seeding and fertilizing of small areas, etc. Cost = \$75,000.
3. Small Bulldozer - A small dozer with 6-way blade for road and trail maintenance, reshaping of ponds, light clearing, berm stacking, etc. Cost = \$6,000.
4. Storage Barn and Shop - Needed for safe storage of equipment above and shop facilities for maintenance. Usable for storage of materials

and hand tools. Includes cost of electrical hookup, road, foundation pad, etc. Cost = \$100,000.

STAFFING

1. Bison Range Manager - Three-year project position; permanent/full time Game Biologist II; total 36 man-months; cost \$150,000 for 3 years.
2. Technician - An existing Fish and Game Technician IV position. Assist manager and continue maintenance work beyond project conclusion. Total 18 man-months during project. Cost = \$56,000 (estimated annual cost during maintenance phase for 6 months work = \$19,000).

BENEFITS

Implementation of this proposal will provide benefits for Alaskans and for area wildlife. Some benefits are:

1. A dramatic reduction in crop depredations in the Delta Junction area, which should in turn
2. Reduce the cost to the State of the proposed State-assisted crop damage insurance program;
3. New moose winter range to replace that lost to development in the Delta Agricultural Project and to provide for expansion of the local moose population;

4. An easily accessible area for recreational pursuits, including hunting, trapping, hiking, viewing, and photographing wildlife, dog sled racing, and so forth. While not a part of this proposal, 2 stocked lakes are on the eastern section of the Range;
5. A stable source of winter forage for bison that will allow maintenance of the free-ranging herd as new fences exclude bison from old winter ranges;
6. A reduction in State expense spent hazing bison out of agricultural areas;
7. A source of free firewood for area residents;
8. Revenue to the State from the sale of timber;
9. New habitat for sharp-tailed grouse and additional hunting opportunities for this and other game species, including bison, moose, bear, grouse, hares, and furbearers; and
10. Improved area and State economy through increased visitor use of the area.
11. Improved Alaska Highway safety and reduced road kills of bison as bison should remain south of the Alaska Highway.

COST SUMMARY

Capital Phase

	<u>Thousands of Dollars</u>	
1. Clearing	\$ 437.8	
2. Berm removal	92.4	
3. Planting	616.0	
4. Prescribed fire	113.6	
5. Water site development	20.0	
6. Forest openings	13.0	
7. Forest inventory	<u>60.0</u>	
Total Habitat		\$1,352.8
8. Roads and trails	6.0	
9. Viewing facilities	<u>10.0</u>	
Total Visitor Facilities		16.0
10. Tractor and implements	75.0	
11. Small bulldozer	60.0	
12. Storage barn/shop	<u>100.0</u>	
Total Equipment		135.0
13. Staffing	<u>206.0</u>	
Total Staffing		206.0
TOTAL CAPITAL PHASE		\$1,809.8

Maintenance Phase

1.	Renovate perennial grasses	\$ 13.8
2.	Maintain prescribed fire sites	0 to 10.0
3.	Maintain water sites	2.0
4.	Maintain visitor facilities	5.0
5.	Assist Division of Forestry timber sales	<1.0
6.	Maintain roads, trails, and openings	2.0
7.	Maintain hay fields	<5.0
8.	Seasonal staffing (6 mo)	<u>19.0</u>

TOTAL MAINTENANCE PHASE \$ 57.8 (maximum)

LONG-TERM DIRECTIONS

1. Bison habitat maintenance should be a long-term commitment for the Delta Junction Bison Range. As conflicts with development are eased, and as summer range improvement continues, the Game Division should examine the possibility of increasing the bison herd beyond the present population goal (275 animals, precalving).
2. Recreational opportunities present a major challenge for the Division. Fast-paced development in the area has eliminated some recreational possibilities. Bison Range development should include new and improved opportunities for the spectrum of outdoor uses of wildlands.

3. The moose population in the Delta area is currently growing. Existing habitat may be outstripped in less than a decade. New habitat developed on the Bison Range should provide a large portion of the winter range needed. The prescribed fires described in this proposal should be only a beginning.

4. Timber management can parallel and in many situations complement wildlife habitat management. Sale of timber from the Range can provide the State continued revenues to repay costs of initial and subsequent development and a boost to the local economy. The Game Division should continue to closely cooperate at a local and district level with the Division of Forestry.

5. Visitors and Alaskans alike are greatly interested in bison. The Division should continually explore opportunities to make bison more accessible to people and should cooperate with the local Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Visitor's Association, and others as appropriate to optimize use of this resource.

DELTA JUNCTION BISON RANGE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Action	FY1984				FY1985				FY1986				FY1987			
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	
Clearing	Cut contract to clear to limit of fumes	Monitor administrative progress of contract	Monitor work progress		Cut contract(s) to clear 4,100 acres; modify if necessary to allow timber harvest	Monitor contract progress	Monitor work progress					Cut contract for any uncompleted clearing, monitor and execute contract				
Bern removal	Burn <u>only</u> berms needed for prescription fire safety		Acquire DEC smoke permit	Restack berms	Burn restacked berms		Acquire DEC smoke permit						Acquire DEC smoke permit		Burn berms	
Planting		Develop "in case" contract for planting remaining clearings	Fertilize existing forage; cut hay, cooperative farm/ refertilize	Plant remaining clearings (approx. 200 acres)	Cut planting contract 1,000 acres	Monitor contract progress	Monitor work progress	Select areas to plant	Cut planting contract 2,000 acres	Monitor contract progress	Monitor work progress			Cut planting contract on remaining clearings	Monitor contract progress	Monitor work progress
Prescribed fire	Burn berms (safety)	Revise prescription fire plan necessary	Ignite prescription fire as funds and weather conditions permit		Select areas to treat with prescription fire	Develop prescription fire plans	Ignite prescription fires as weather conditions permit		Burn berms (safety)					Ignite prescription fires as weather conditions permit		Ignite prescription fires as weather conditions permit
Water development					Cut contract for pond construction (in clearing contract)	Cut Purchase Requisition for equipment		Develop water sites								
Personnel	--Hire Game Biologist II Range Manager, position funded----- -----Fish and Game Technician IV funded-----														Terminate Game Biologist II-- --Fish and Game Tech IV funded	
Construct viewing facilities						Purchase materials	Construct viewing facilities			Purchase materials	Construct viewing facilities					
Construct roads and trails					Cut contract to develop roads/trails		Monitor work progress						Burn berms on roads/trails	Restack berms		
Purchase equipment						Cut Purchase Requisition to purchase equipment	Receive equipment									
Construct storage facility					Cut contract to construct barn/shop	Monitor contract administrative progress	Construction									
Forest inventory				Contract with DNR to develop Forest Data Timber Cruise	Timber Cruise Preliminary Report		Timber cruise	Timber cruise	Final Report							



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

JOHN RINGSTAD, CO-CHAIRMAN
RICHARD SHULTZ, CO-CHAIRMAN
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3715

To: Resource Committee members
From: Committee Staff
Date: February 7, 1984
Re: HB 552, appropriations for the Delta Junction Bison Range

This act makes several appropriations for the development of the Delta Junction Bison Range and provides for an effective date.

I. Sectional Analysis.

Section 1. Appropriates \$1,750,000 from the General fund to the Dept. of Fish and Game for:

Clearing.....	438,000
Berm Removal.....	92,400
Forage Planting.....	616,000
Prescribed Burning.....	110,000
Roads & Trails.....	5,000
Bison Viewing Facilities.....	5,000
Planting & Maintenance Equipment.....	135,000
Storage Barn.....	100,000
Water & Sewer Development.....	20,000
Forest Openings.....	13,000
Project Administration.....	206,000
	<u>TOTAL 1,750,000</u>

Section 2. Appropriates \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Department of fish and Game for a study, which would examine the possibilities of expanding tourist facilities at the range.

Section 3. Appropriates \$60,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for the administration of timber sales and fire suppression. Includes a timber inventory.

Section 4. Provides an effective date of July 1, 1984.

II. Comparison of HB 552 and CS HB 552.

The difference is that the House Resources Committee Substitute to the bill deletes Section 3 of the original bill. This section appropriated \$270,000 for the construction of a bison drift barrier (fence).



Greater Fairbanks

Chamber

of Commerce

First National Center

100 Cushman Street

(907) 452-1105

P.O. Box 74446

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

February 17, 1984

Representative John Ringstad
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear John:

The Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports the bison bills now before the legislature. They are SB 337 and SB 338 by Moss in the Senate and HB 551 and HB 552 by Shultz in the House.

The bills are carefully tailored to alleviate the problems associated with the Delta bison herd. Bison are grazing animals and need grass type forage to prosper. The bison range is predominantly a forest area and needs to be manipulated to support the bison or they will continue to wander onto area farms causing crop and property damage and creating hazards to equipment and people on the highway. Further, the welfare of the bison will be improved if the range is improved as they will not find it necessary to cross the Alaska Highway in search of food.

The apparent benefits if the bison bills are passed include:

1. Improved welfare of the herd.
2. Decreased crop and equipment damage on farms.
3. Reduced hazard to people and equipment on the highway.
4. Improved tourist and sight-seeing activity.
5. Improved habitat for moose, grouse and bear.

We urge your support for these bills. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Best personal regards,

Buki Wright
President

cc: Senator Pappy Moss
Representative Richard Shultz

Thanks for your time the other day!



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature House Resources Committee

SIGN-IN

FEB. 7, 1984

HB 551
HB 552

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	REPRESENTING
DAVID M. JOHNSON	DEPT FISH & GAME 99737 P. Box 605 Delta	895-4484	FISH & GAME
Rupe Andrews	9411 Long Run Dr., JUNEAU	789-7422	Alaska Outlook Council
Steve Talovic	P.O. Box 654 Delta Jet	895-4323	SEA
Adrian Barton	Raycha	465-2400	DNR
Nince O'Keilly	ALASKA	2500	DCED
Jim Sturgeon	SRA Box 316M DNR	2400	DNR - Forestry
Rep. Shultz			

3:10 - Bussell, Larson, Shultz, Liska
Cordery, Ringstad

0008 Shultz - Intro bills
551 - CS

0039 Liska - advantage of extending to 1995?

Shultz - coming out -

0051 Ringstad - Resolution?

Shultz explained

Vaska - 315

0082 Shultz - HB 552

0105 Dave Johnson - Area Game biologist

Draft proposal

Said ADF&G couldn't support 552 because doesn't
appear in Gov's budget, but would use it if appropriated
Described plans for future

0212 Q: Ringstad - Misnomer Bison Range?

Yes - Wildlife range

0222 Q: Liska - Reasonably say this would do job?

Yes - Bison would have stayed, w/ more forage

Shultz - fence in his capital exp.

0249 Q: Liska: What planted, how many bison in ag?

300 acres - Essentially all went north, but
came back

0262 Rupe Andrews AK Outdoor Council

- Unqualified support to 551-552 to resolve
bison problem

- Should consider putting 952 in Gov. Budget
- 0295 Q Ringstad - Money necessary
Rupe - State will realize significant return
- 0305 Bussell - how many bison taken
Johnson - 75 permitted, av. 30-50 from all over state
- 0340 Vaska - raise to \$10 OK w organization
Andrews - Yes
- 0348 Steve Tolovich - ^{Delta} Support raising to \$10, even higher if money will go back into range -
would like to see Delta ag students work on range
- 0384 Ringstad - Constitution - no dedicated fund
- 0395 Vince O'Reilly - Support all 3 bills -
- 0410 Vaska - Dept. supports while ADF&G doesn't because it's not in Gov's budget -
- 0430 Vaska - What is Administration's position
- Support concept
- 0444 John Sturgeon - DNR supports concept - prescribed
five % timber sales
- 0485 Ringstad - well-coordinated between agencies
Sturgeon - yes - + realize positive cash flow to state -
- 0500 Bill Haring - ^{former} members of Delta ad hoc committee
Cost to maintain range 50,000, would be covered by raised fees

0530 HB 553
Shultz -

0545 Sharon Barton - DNR
Only variety now grown but not on schedule

0575 O. Liska - developed in AK
Yes - CAF, Plant center, made available

Ringstad - 552 -

0598 Shultz moved adopt CS 552 - appropriation bill

0605 Bussell asked about FN
A discussion ensued

0635 Liska moved CS from Comte w/indiv. recs

0643 Shultz moved adopt CS 553
A discussion of loan programs ensued -

0690 Sharon Barton - discussed proposal to amend
program to make it revolving

0740 Ringstad - No more fiscal impact?
None except to increase amount available in
fund.

0756 Vaska - DNR handles fund?
Yes - separate process

0764 Bussell - What testimony re: sunset last year?
- New Admin.

0780 Vaska - Fiscal impact
Discussion general

0800 Larson - what % grain unsold -
too early to tell - don't know how much participation
most farmers finding own market - may be more
as op. loans fall due.

Burton elaborated on Vaska's inq. re: fiscal impact
no new admin. burden.

0835 Vaska - how different from CFAB loans -
does not overlap w/CFAB - no grain collateral
or short term op. loans -

0860 Rings - do we want to adopt DNR amendments?

0865 Bussell - CFAB - would only loan up to 50%?
Shultz - enables Alaska farmers to become
eligible for Fed program -

0930 Bussell - no oversight over bank account

0995 Shultz moved adoption of DNR amendments 1,2,3.
Vaska objected.

1015 Bussell asked Shultz remove motion

1028 Shultz withdrew - no obje

1035 Shultz moved CS 553 w/indiv recs no obje
Ringstad stated letter would accompany to
loans commitee

1115 Mtg adjourned

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

Funding Information
General Fund \$2,090,000
Other Funds -U-
\$2,090,000

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SHULTZ

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 552

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act making special appropriations for development

7

of the Delta Junction bison range and construction of

8

a bison herd drift barrier; and providing for an

9

effective date."

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

11

* Section 1. Subject to AS 37.25.020, the sum of \$1,750,000 is appro-

12

priated from the general fund to the Department of Fish and Game for com-

13

pletion of the Delta Junction bison range development program.

14

* Sec. 2. Subject to AS 37.25.010, the sum of \$10,000 is appropriated

15

from the general fund to the Department of Fish and Game to conduct a study

16

for planning an expansion of tourist viewing facilities at the Delta Junc-

17

tion bison range.

18

* Sec. 3. Subject to AS 37.25.020, the sum of \$270,000 is appropriated

19

from the general fund to the Alaska Agricultural Action Council (AS 44.33.-

20

450) for the construction of a bison drift barrier along the southern

21

boundary of the Delta Agriculture Project.

22

* Sec. 4. Subject to AS 37.25.020, the sum of \$60,000 is appropriated

23

from the general fund to the Department of Natural Resources, division of

24

forestry, for the administration of timber sales on the Delta Junction

25

bison range and fire suppression activities associated with required burn-

26

ing on the range.

27

* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1984

John.

Legislative Audit
is what oversight.



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

JOHN RINGSTAD, CO-CHAIRMAN
RICHARD SHULTZ, CO-CHAIRMAN
POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
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To: Resource Committee members

From: Committee Staff

Date: February 7, 1984

Re: HB 552, appropriations for the Delta Junction Bison Range

This act makes several appropriations for the development of the Delta Junction Bison Range and provides for an effective date.

I. Sectional Analysis.

Section 1. Appropriates \$1,750,000 from the General fund to the Dept. of Fish and Game for:

Clearing.....	438,000
Berm Removal.....	92,400
Forage Planting.....	616,000
Prescribed Burning.....	110,000
Roads & Trails.....	5,000
Bison Viewing Facilities.....	5,000
Planting & Maintenance Equipment.....	135,000
Storage Barn.....	100,000
Water & Sewer Development.....	20,000
Forest Openings.....	13,000
Project Administration.....	206,000
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>1,750,000</u>

Section 2. Appropriates \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Department of fish and Game for a study, which would examine the possibilities of expanding tourist facilities at the range.

Section 3. Appropriates \$60,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for the administration of timber sales and fire suppression. Includes a timber inventory.

Section 4. Provides an effective date of July 1, 1984.

II. Comparison of HB 552 and CS HB 552.

The difference is that the House Resources Committee Substitute to the bill deletes Section 3 of the original bill. This section appropriated \$270,000 for the construction of a bison drift barrier (fence).

DELTA FISH & GAME
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



BOX 1082

DELTA JUNCTION ALASKA
99737

January 26, 1984

Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Fahrenkamp:

The buffalo need a home of their own to roam! The Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee urges your committee to give favorable consideration to Senate Bills 337 and 338 that would solve the conflict between agriculture and bison.

This committee has been vitally interested in bison since we became active years ago. Since that time, we have seen problems with this important resource intensify, and spill over, at times, into a shooting war. We have seen a dozen dead bison scattered over a field after having eaten uncovered fertilizer. Then too, we have observed the bison decimate the farm profits of hard-working men and women.

These two bills offer the first real opportunity we have seen in years of observation for a lasting peace. They offer an opportunity for the business of agricultural development to continue without the threat of losses just at the moment of gain. They offer the opportunity for the bison herd to continue free-ranging on land that is set aside for them and the people that enjoy them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean W. Cummings
Chairman
895-4619

cc: Senator Moss
Representative Shultz
Fairbanks Delegation