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SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
LEGISLATION CHECKLIST

IDENTIFICATION:

BILL NUMBER: *SB 337*

BILL NAME: *Relating to Delta Inst. Bison Range*

SPONSOR(S): *MOSS*

DATE INTRODUCED: *1-9-84*

REFERRALS: *Resources
Finance*

RELATED BILLS PENDING: .

SB 339 - companion bill

HB 551 - Schultz

4/30/84 - Res. & Fee

INITIAL RESEARCH:

BILL SUMMARY COMPLETED:

SPONSOR CONTACTED FOR
BACKUP MATERIALS:

AGENCY RESPONSE:

SUMMARY BY LEGAL DIVISION:

DEPT. OF LAW SUMMARY:

FISCAL NOTE:

OTHER INTERESTED SENATORS OR
REPS. NOTIFIED:

BACKGROUND RESEARCH:

SIMILAR BILLS INTRODUCED IN PREVIOUS LEGISLATURES:

RESPONSES FROM INTERESTED PERSONS/GROUPS:

OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL PRECEDENTS, REGULATIONS, LAWS:

HEARING PREPARATION:

CHAIRMAN BRIEFED:

STAFF MEMO TO COMMITTEE:

BACKGROUND MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED:

LIST OF WITNESSES:

DATE AND PLACE SET:

TELECONFERENCE:

PSA/PRESS RELEASE:

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE
SUBSTITUTES DRAFTED:



Salcha - Big Delta Soil Conservation Subdistrict
Box 547 - Delta Junction, AK 99737 - Phone (907) 895-4241

January 5, 1984

DELTA BISON HERD

Resolution to Update Policy Position
(Motion by Forck, seconded by Carlson, passed unanimously at the regular monthly supervisor's meeting on 1/5/84)

The Supervisors of this District wish to reaffirm their support for the Delta Bison Herd and the Delta Bison Management Area as expressed in the Delta Land Management Planning Study. We also affirm our support of the Delta Bison Management Plan as subsequently developed by the Department of Fish and Game. This support extends to the clearing of land and planting of grain and/or forage on parts of the management area, on the Fort Greely Military Reservation, and the summer range development plans for the area west of the Delta River. We also support continuation of permit hunts as a good management tool for maintaining herd size and herd health, and to help to keep the animals from damaging or destroying private property and becoming a public nuisance.

In conjunction with these positive reactions, the Supervisors also wish to make note that herd size has increased well beyond that proposed in the Delta Study. Until such time as range is provided within the Bison Management Area to replace that which has disappeared due to natural vegetative progression and pre-emption for other uses (military, residential and commercial, agricultural), we feel the herd size should be cut back to that originally envisioned and maintained at that level unless additional range is provided.

The current proposal to construct a line or drift fence to keep the bison from foraging on newly-developed farm lands which have never before been a part of their natural range, has great merit and we support this concept. However, we consider the proposed location for this fence -- primarily along the north side of the Alaska Highway -- a drastic misconception. The "north side" fence has a gap in it through which not only the highway and traffic, but also bison, can flow; there are necessary accessways to the farms on the north side which cannot be rendered bison-proof. The bison are to be contained along the highway right-of-way area, increasing the possibilities for accidents involving highway traffic; the private lands just to the south of the highway will receive greatly increased pressure from the northern containment; the proposed Alaska Railroad extension is planned south of these properties south of the highway -- leaving the bison open to the same "iron horse" depredation currently suffered by the moose between Fairbanks and Anchorage. Gradually, the

"north side" fence will be incorporated by the various farmers there into their own perimeter fence systems. Finally, no "bison fence" will exist. The bison will move through the many gaps, on to the farm-to-market roads, on to the farm lands, on to the highway, the lands south of the highway, the railroad tracks.

And nothing delineates the north boundary of the bison range. Nothing "says"... "this is the bison's area; they feed here; you can see them here; you can hunt them here; and no damage is done to others by them or to them by others".

We feel that without such delineation -- not exclusively, but most logically, by a fence -- the bison range is subject to pre-emption for other uses. A "south side" fence will not only better protect the separate interests of the human residents and the bison, but the very bison management area itself. To all concerned, we urge a "south side" fence as the best next addition to the Bison Management Plan.

QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS ON THE BISON HERD
AND BISON RANGE DEVELOPMENT

Senator H. Pappy Moss
February, 1984

1. How many bison are in the herd today?

According to Dave Johnson, Fish and Game Biologist at Delta Junction, there are between 300 and 325 bison now in the herd. His approximate figure is 321. By the spring, immediately prior to calving, this number will have been reduced by roadkills and hunting to approximately 300.

2. How many farms are actually impacted by the bison damage?

Before development of the Delta I & II projects, the bison roamed the Clearwater/Big Delta agricultural areas. Since the Delta I & II projects have been producing crops, most of the damage done has occurred there. In 1983, the winter bison range supported the bison herd through September, significantly reducing the amount of damage to crops. However, by September, having depleted the forage on the winter range, the bison moved across the highway to the Brehmer tract and up the Gerstle River to the Mitchell and Rutt tracts where they still caused considerable damage to the crops.

The damage to the crops is caused by the bison eating, trampling, and wallowing in the fields, and also by contamination of certified fields through the introduction of non-certified grains and weeds via the bison's droppings.

3. Is there any barrier currently in place and what exactly is a bison drift barrier?

There is currently no bison drift barrier in place. The proposed bison drift barrier is a training device more than a physical barrier. It is a type of fence that is commonly used in bison and other wildlife management. The barrier is constructed of four high tensile strength smooth steel wires, two of which are electrified.

The barrier will not contain the herd, but will deflect their movement away from the agricultural areas.

4. How important is the barrier to the effectiveness of this bill?

The main emphasis of the bill is the development of the winter range for the bison. The development of the range will largely control the bison herd by providing a diversionary planting which will be an attractive alternative to the agricultural fields. The barrier reinforces the use of the bison range by the herd by deflecting their movement back into that area.

The conflict between the bison and the farmers develops between August and October. This harvesting time for the farmer coincides with the depletion of the bison's currently available winter forage.

5. Why is an Advisory Committee necessary?

There are few issues that an entire community can come to total agreement on. The City of Delta Junction, from a diversity of areas within the community, uniformly supports the bison herd. Input from Advisory Committee members representing the Delta agricultural project; nonconsumptive wildlife users; timber, mining and other consumptive natural resource industries; and tourism would offer local advice to the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and the Alaska Agricultural Action Council. Local participation in the development of a game management plan and the construction and maintenance of the bison drift barrier would help maintain the consolidated support for the bison projects within the community. The Advisory Committee, representing all concerned factions of the community would be of considerable help to the state departments in developing policies in a mood of compromise and single purpose, rather than in conflict.

Members of the Advisory Committee would not be entitled to per diem, travel, or other compensation from the state for their duties as committee members, so there would be no fiscal impact from this portion of the bill.

6. What tourist facilities exist at this time, and what type are being proposed?

There are currently no tourist facilities at the Bison Range. There is a general tourist information center in the City of Delta Junction about 13 miles to the northwest which is operated by the Chamber of Commerce. There is no special presentation there, or at the range, where the bison project and the bison range could be explained to the public at this time.

Simple viewing platforms are being proposed. There are two well sites on the range where pools would be developed and salt would be placed to attract the bison. In nearby groves of trees, elevated

platforms with slots or holes in plywood fronts facing the watering holes would be set up. These platforms would provide viewing and photography sites where tourists could observe the bison without disturbing them. These sites would be within reasonable walking distance from the highway. These facilities will be simple and relatively easy to build and maintain.

Future development of the tourist facilities at the range would be gradual and based upon the use and demand placed upon the existing facilities. A more elaborate facility might include an information station or an interpretation center at the range and special guided tours into the range. Any funds generated by offering these tours, or through sale of publications at the information center, could be fed back into the program to further develop walking trails or interpretive exhibits at the range.

7. What type of burning is required to clear the range?

Originally, naturally caused wildfires periodically swept the range, keeping it clear of brush and deciduous growth. The absence of brush allowed the winds to sweep the range clear of snow, enabling the bison to graze throughout the winter. When the area became populated, the wildfires were strictly controlled, and much of the grazing area became covered with dense brush. This allowed the snow to accumulate in drifts, burying what grazing range had been left available to the bison in their original winter range.

The burning which will be required to clear the range will duplicate the action of the natural wildfires by removing the brush thereby increasing light and moisture available to the natural grass seed. The natural grasses will be able to grow back and become re-established as a perennial. The low brush which does follow after such prescribed burning creates a browse for moose, which also inhabit the range area.

Prescribed burning takes place under strictly controlled conditions with extreme precautions against mishap. Only when wind and moisture conditions are exactly right for that operation, would the burning be allowed. Extensive measures are taken to insure safety during this operation which involves the use of a helicopter and over 60 people to monitor the burn. The cost of providing a range by this method of burning and natural seeding is approximately \$20/acre as compared to \$100/acre for conventional clearing and seeding.

8. Why are the hunt permit fees being raised, and who administers the Bison Hunt Permits?

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game issues the Bison Hunt Permits. There were 75 permits issued last year among 10,000 applicants. The plan to raise the fee for application from five dollars to ten dollars will increase the revenue from that sale to about \$100,000 to the state. The addition \$50,000 obtained is approximately the same amount as would be required to maintain the larger bison range. The increase in permit application fees is supported by the Alaska Outdoors Council.

9. Is there currently any timber harvesting on the bison range?

Within the bison range there have already been some small scale timber sales. Some areas within the bison range have been marked for timber sales, and the sales would be administered by the Division of Forestry. Approximately \$32,000 is expected to be derived from sales of firewood and pole cutting after burns. Increased revenues would be obtained by commercial sales. This combined personal use/commercial timber harvest sale would be managed by staff from the Delta area already employed by the Division of Forestry.

10. Is the range a bison reserve to be used exclusively by the bison?

No, in addition to serving as the bison's winter range, the area would also serve moose, caribou and other wildlife indigenous to the area. The Range would provide a new habitat for sharp-tailed grouse and additional hunting opportunities for bison, moose, bear, grouse, hares, and furbearers. The area is also used for recreational purposes as well as for timber and firewood sales, with the public being encouraged to use the area for camping, fishing, hunting, trapping, hiking, viewing, photography, dog sled racing and so forth.

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator H. Pappy Moss, Chairman

NOTES ON THE DELTA JUNCTION BISON RANGE

February, 1984

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 70,000 acre Range 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 recreation and wildlife, especially bison, and the land north of the highway should be developed for agriculture.

THE PROBLEM

Shortly after their arrival in the Delta area in 1928, a pattern of annual bison movements began to emerge. During summer, the animals spent their time on the gravel bars along the Delta River, and in fall they gradually moved to the Delta area to take advantage of the open forests. Later in the winter, they slowly moved back toward Delta River. This basic movement pattern continues today.

When small farms were developed in the Delta area in the early 1950's, the grain fields in the farming area became, and will continue to be until some alternative has been provided, a major part of the bison's winter range. The development of the Bison Range will provide diversion feed areas, and as they are increased in size, they will become able to support the bison throughout the winter periods.

THE SOLUTION

The effectiveness of providing an alternate range to the agriculture fields has been shown. As land on the Range has been cleared and planted, bison use of the range has increased and agricultural damage has been reduced. Implementation of Senate Bills 337 and 338 would provide fall bison range to reduce or eliminate crop depredations; increase bison winter range; and also provide a variety of 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.

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator H. Pappy Moss, Chairman

NOTES ON THE DELTA JUNCTION BISON RANGE

February, 1984

"DON'T FENCE ME IN"

While there is almost unanimous agreement that the development of the Delta Junction Bison Range is a good idea, the issue of whether, and where, to put up a bison barrier is the subject of much debate.

Opposition to placing the barrier along the northern boundary of the bison range is strongly felt by area sportsmen, who view that placement as the first step to fencing in the now free-roaming bison. It is important to consider several factors regarding placement of the bison barrier, including the fact that the barrier's main function is as a training device, rather than a physical barrier. It is designed to deflect the movement of the bison back into the Bison Range, not to contain them.

Placement of the bison barrier along the northern edge of the Delta Junction Bison Range is proposed for the following reasons:

1. Improved Alaska Highway safety for highway travelers and reduced roadkills of bison.
2. Reduction of bison trespass onto private property of residents living on the south side of the Highway.
3. The proposed Alaska Railroad extension is planned south of the highway, and the barrier should be south of the planned extension for the safety of the bison herd as well as the rail operations.



CHAIRMAN
SENATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
SENATE SPECIAL AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE

MEMBER
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REAA BUDGET OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

Alaska State Legislature



State Senate

SENATOR
H. PAPPY MOSS
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DELTA JUNCTION, ALASKA 99737
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SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE Senator H. Pappy Moss, Chairman

SENATE BILL 337/338

February 17, 1984

- Senate Bill 337: "An Act relating to the Delta Junction bison range; and providing for an effective date."
- Senate Bill 338: "An Act making special appropriations for development of the Delta Junction bison range and construction of a bison herd drift barrier; and providing for an effective date."

Ever since agriculture was introduced into the Delta area there has been a conflict between the bison and the farmers. Senate Bills 337 and 338 are introduced to offer a lasting solution to the problems created by bison getting hungry at the same time that the farmers' crops are ripening in the fields.

These two bills would provide for the development of an alternative feeding area to the agricultural developments for the bison's fall and winter range. In addition to providing for forage for bison, SR 337 and 338 would provide for the construction of a bison drift barrier to aid in keeping the bison herd from drifting into the agricultural fields. These bills also provide for timber sales on the range, expansion of tourist facilities, and the creation of a Bison Range Advisory Committee.

(b) the board shall require the person or governmental agency to obtain the written approval of the commissioner as to the sufficiency of the plans or specifications before construction is commenced. (§ 2 ch 140 1972; am § 28 ch 206 SLA 1975)

Sec. 16.20.270. Additional critical habitat areas. The commissioner shall submit a list of additional critical habitat areas to the legislature annually. (§ 2 ch 140 SLA 1972)

Article 6. State Range Areas.

Section

300. Delta Junction Bison Range Area

310. Game management plan

320. Activities on range area

Cross reference. — For legislative purpose, see sec. 1, ch. 39, SLA 1979 in the Temporary and Special Acts.

1979, as amended by sec. 1, ch. 73, SLA 1980, provides that the provisions of AS 16.20.300 — 16.20.320 "terminate" on August 1, 1989.

Editor's notes. — Section 3, ch. 39, SLA

Sec. 16.20.300. Delta Junction Bison Range Area. The following described areas, excluding valid existing rights, are established as the Delta Junction Bison Range Area:

(1) Township 11 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 28: S 1/2 SW 1/4, SW 1/4 SE 1/4 and that portion of the NW 1/4 SW 1/4 east of the west bank of Granite Creek excluding A.S.L.S. 78-93, Tract A, Unit 1

Sections 29, 32: those lands east of the west bank of Granite Creek

Section 33: all, excluding A.S.L.S. 78-93, Tract A, Unit 1

Section 34: S 1/2 NW 1/4, excluding A.S.L.S. 78-93, Tract A, Unit 1, S 1/2

Section 35: S 1/2, S 1/2 NW 1/4, that portion of the NE 1/4 lying south of the Alaska Highway excluding a corridor extending 1320 feet from the centerline of the highway

Section 36: that portion lying south of the Alaska Highway excluding a corridor extending 1320 feet from the centerline of the highway

(2) Township 12 South, Range 11 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 13, 24-26, 35, 36: all

Sections 1, 11, 12, 14, 22, 23, 27, 34: those lands east of the west bank of Granite Creek

(3) Township 12 South, Range 12 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 1-4, 7-25, 30, 36: all

Sections 5, 6: those lands east of the west bank of Granite Creek

(4) Township 12 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian
Sections 5, 6, 9: that portion lying south of the Alaska Highway
excluding a corridor extending 1320 feet from the centerline of the
highway

Section 7: all

Section 8: all, excluding a corridor extending 1320 feet from the
centerline of the Alaska Highway

Section 10: that portion of the SW 1/4 lying south of the Alaska
Highway excluding a corridor extending 1320 feet from the centerline
of the highway

Section 14: S 1/2 S 1/2 SW 1/4

Section 15: S 1/2, NW 1/4, excluding a corridor extending 1320 feet
from the centerline of the Alaska Highway

Sections 16-22: all

Section 23: S 1/2, NW 1/4, S 1/2 NE 1/4, S 1/2 N 1/2 NE 1/4

Section 24: SW 1/4, S 1/2 NW 1/4, excluding a corridor extending
1320 feet from the centerline of the Alaska Highway, S 1/2 S 1/2 SE 1/4

Sections 25-36: all

(5) Township 12 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 19, 28-30, 33-35: that portion lying south of the Alaska
Highway excluding a corridor extending 1320 feet from the centerline
of the highway

Sections 31, 32: all

(6) Township 13 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 1-5, 9-15, 23-25, 36: all

(7) Township 13 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 1: that portion lying south of the Alaska Highway excluding
a corridor extending 1320 feet from the centerline of the highway

Sections 2-36: all

(8) Township 13 South, Range 15 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 5, 6, 8-10, 15: that portion lying south of the Alaska
Highway excluding a corridor extending 1320 feet from the centerline
of the highway

Sections 7, 16-20, 30: all

Sections 21, 22, 28, 29, 31, 32: that portion lying west of the east bank
of the Little Gerstle River

(9) Township 14 South, Range 14 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 1: that portion lying west of the east bank of the Little
Gerstle River

Sections 2-6: all

(10) Township 14 South, Range 13 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 1: all

(11) Township 14 South, Range 15 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Section 6: that portion lying west of the east bank of the Little
Gerstle River. (§ 2 ch 39 SLA 1979)

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Sec. 16.20.310. Game management plan. (a) The commissioner of fish and game shall develop and may amend a game management plan for bison in the area described in AS 16.20.300. After holding public hearings in accordance with AS 44.62.310 and 44.62.312, the commissioner shall implement the game management plan.

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(b) The game management plan shall include, but is not limited to

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(1) planting grains for bison and planting other wildlife forage;

1320 feet

(2) altering existing plant cover to create additional range and year-round habitat for bison and other animal species in the area;

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extending
1/2 SE 1/4

(3) tilling to produce forage.

(c) The commissioner of fish and game shall develop and amend the game management plan to coordinate, as closely as possible, the game management plan with the activities of the Agricultural Development Authority, Department of Natural Resources, relating to the Big Delta agricultural development project. (§ 2 ch 39 SLA 1979)

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Sec. 16.20.320. Activities on range area. Nothing in AS 16.20.300 — 16.20.320 shall be construed as prohibiting activities on land described in AS 16.20.300 which are otherwise permitted in accordance with the laws and regulations of this state, including, but not limited to, hunting, trapping, engaging in recreational activities, using the land for access to adjacent areas and a 300-foot Alaska Railroad right-of-way. (§ 2 ch 39 SLA 1979)

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Chapter 25. Stocking of Public Lands.

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10. Program adopted

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Sec. 16.25.010. Program adopted. There is adopted a program of stocking land in the state with valuable game and fur-bearing animals which do not at present occur on the land. The department is responsible for establishing priorities on the species of animals to be stocked and the area of the stocking. Priorities shall be based on the habitat requirements of the species, the population of native game animals present, and other factors that will effect the successful establishment of the species. (§ 39-7-1 ACLA 1949; am § 1 ch 97 SLA 1970)

east bank

Secs. 16.25.020 — 16.25.060. Projects enumerated; duties of department; stock and offspring property of state; unlawful taking; penalty. [Repealed, § 2 ch 97 SLA 1970.]

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Chapter 30. Destruction of Big Game Animals and Wild Fowl.

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Section

10. Wanton waste of big game animals and wild fowl

12. Possession of horns or antlers

Section

15. Surrender of salvaged portions, license forfeiture

17. Defenses

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QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS ON THE BISON HERD
AND BISON RANGE DEVELOPMENT

Senator H. Pappy Moss
February, 1984

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The damage to the crops is caused by the bison eating, trampling, and wallowing in the fields, and also by contamination of certified fields through the introduction of non-certified grains and weeds via the bison's droppings.

3. Is there any barrier currently in place and what exactly is a bison drift barrier?

There is currently no bison drift barrier in place. The proposed bison drift barrier is a training device more than a physical barrier. It is a type of fence that is commonly used in bison and other wildlife management. The barrier is constructed of four high tensile strength smooth steel wires, two of which are electrified.

The barrier will not contain the herd, but will deflect their movement away from the agricultural areas.

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 337
Title: Delta bison range

Sponsor: Moss
Requestor: _____
Date of Request: 1-9-84

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Natural Resources
Program Category Affected: Forestry
Presuppression/Northcentral small timber
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: sales
Forest Management

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

SB 338 appropriates \$60,000 from the general fund to DNR for administration of the timber sale and fire suppression on the Delta bison range.

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Sharon L. Barton Phone: 465-2400
Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 2-13-84
Approved by Commissioner: William D. Arnold, Deputy Date: 2-13-84
Agency: Dept. of Natural Resources

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

Offered: 2/28/84
Referred: Finance

Original sponsor: Moss

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 337 (Resources)

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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;

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and providing for an effective date."

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

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* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

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(1) the Delta Junction bison herd is a highly valued state

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wildlife resource;

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(2) drawing permits issued for the hunting of Delta Junction

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bison constitute a valuable source of state revenue;

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(3) the Delta Junction bison herd has established the Delta

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agricultural project as a fall and winter range;

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(4) the feeding, wallowing, and traveling by the Delta Junction

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bison herd within the Delta agricultural project has resulted in damage to

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crops, monetary loss to local farmers, legal conflicts, and physical harm

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to the herd;

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(5) the bison range concept is a proven means of keeping bison

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in an area as long as adequate forage is available on the range;

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(6) the current state of development of the Delta Junction bison

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range area is inadequate to sustain bison for more than a few weeks;

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(7) the expansion of available forage on the Delta Junction

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bison range area is required to provide a winter range for the Delta Junc-

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tion bison herd and to effectively keep the herd from grazing within the

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Delta agricultural project; and

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(8) a bison drift barrier must be constructed along the northern

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boundary of the Delta Junction Bison Range to prevent the Delta Junction

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

3 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.346 is repealed and reenacted to read:

4 Sec. 16.05.346. PERMIT APPLICATIONS. (a) If the Board of Game
5 establishes an open season for musk oxen and has not reduced or elimi-
6 nated the \$500 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16), the depart-
7 ment shall conduct a drawing for permits to take the musk oxen. If
8 the Board of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen for which
9 the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the resident tag fee, the
10 department shall issue permits to take the musk oxen in the order in
11 which applications are received by the department. A person is not
12 eligible for more than one musk oxen permit a year. The department
13 may not charge a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit for an
14 open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the
15 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases the
16 application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.

17 (b) The application fee for a drawing permit issued by the
18 department for the hunting of bison in the Delta Junction bison range
19 area is \$10.

20 (c) Except as provided in (a) and (b) of this section, the
21 permit application fee for all species for which a limited drawing is
22 conducted is \$5.

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29 the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the resident tag fee, the

1 department shall issue permits to take the musk oxen in the order in
2 which applications are received by the department. A person is not
3 eligible for more than one musk oxen permit a year. The department
4 may not charge a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit for an
5 open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the
6 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases the
7 application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.

8 (b) Except as provided in (a) of this section, the permit
9 application fee for all species for which a limited drawing is
10 conducted is \$5.

11 * Sec. 4. AS 16.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

12 Sec. 16.20.311. BISON RANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The
13 governor shall appoint a seven-member Delta Junction Bison Range
14 Advisory Committee. The governor shall appoint members to represent
15 the following interests:

16 (1) two members representing the Delta agricultural proj-
17 ect;

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

20 (3) one member representing nonconsumptive wildlife users;

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

23 (5) one member representing the tourism industry.

24 (b) The committee shall consult with and offer its advice to the
25 Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Commerce and Economic
26 Development, and the Alaska Agricultural Action Council, on matters
27 relating to the game management plan required under AS 16.20.310 and
28 the construction and maintenance of a bison drift barrier along the
29 northern boundary of the Delta Junction Bison Range.

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

4 Sec. 16.20.312. BISON RANGE TIMBER SALES. The Department of
5 Natural Resources, division of forestry, shall provide for the sale of
6 timber in the Delta Junction bison range area in a manner that does
7 not delay implementation of the game management plan required under
8 AS 16.20.310.

9 * Sec. 5. AS 16.20.300, 16.20.310, 16.20.311, 16.20.312, and 16.20.320
10 are repealed.

11 * Sec. 6. Section 3, ch. 39, SLA 1979 and sec. 1, ch. 73, SLA 1980 are
12 repealed. same as current statute termination date 1989

13 * Sec. 7. Sections 1, 2, 4, and 6 of this Act take effect July 1, 1984.

14 * Sec. 8. Sections 3 and 5 of this Act take effect August 1, 1995.

*sunsets
1995*

SB 337 DELTA JUNCTION BISON RANGE

MOSS IS SPONSOR - HE WILL CARRY ON FLOOR.

INCREASES HUNTING PERMIT FEE FOR BISON FROM \$5 TO \$10.

ESTABLISHES A BISON RANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON THE BISON RANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED UNDER CURRENT STATUTE.

CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A BISON DRIFT BARRIER TO PREVENT BISON HERD FROM DRIFTING ONTO THE AG. PROJECT.

RESOURCES C.S.

DRIFT BARRIER WILL BE ON NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF RANGE (NEAR SIDE OF THE ROAD) RATHER THAN SOUTHERN BOUNDARY (WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ACROSS THE HIGHWAY FROM THE RANGE).

EFFECTIVE DATES ARE WILD.

SECTION 5 REPEALS ALL THE SECTIONS WE'RE CREATING IN THE BILL, PLUS CURRENT STATUTE, WHICH EFFECTIVELY SUNSETS THE BISON RANGE IN 1995.

SECTION 6 REPEALS THE SESSION LAWS THAT SUNSETTED THE RANGE IN 1989.

SECTION 7 IS THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL (1984).

SECTION 8 MAKES THE SUNSET PROVISION EFFECTIVE 1995 AND RESTORES THE HUNTING PERMIT TO \$5.



Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives

*Schunke
for MOSS*

Official Business

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE

May 25, 1984

MR. PRESIDENT:

The House has passed CSSB 337(Res) (Delta Junction bison range; effective date) with the following amendment:

HCS CSSB 337(Res) (same title)

and it is transmitted for consideration.

Concur 16-0
yes

House version drops out LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS section and establishment of ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Both these provisions are contained in HCR 51, which has passed both the House & Senate & gone to the Governor

(This is part of the deal Schultz & Moss finally worked out...)

Irene Cassin
Chief Clerk of the House

Has been transmitted to Governor.

Offered: 2/28/84
Referred: Rules

(passed Senate 15-0)

Original sponsor: Shultz and Liska

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51 (Resources) am
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the appointment of a Delta
6 Junction bison range advisory committee.

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

8 WHEREAS the Delta Junction bison herd is a highly valued state wild-
9 life resource; and

10 WHEREAS drawing permits issued for the hunting of Delta Junction bison
11 constitute a valuable source of state revenue; and

12 WHEREAS the Delta Junction bison herd has established the Delta agri-
13 cultural project as a fall and winter range; and

14 WHEREAS the feeding, wallowing, and traveling by the Delta Junction
15 bison herd within the Delta agricultural project has resulted in damage to
16 crops, monetary loss to local farmers, legal conflicts, and physical harm
17 to the herd; and

18 WHEREAS the bison range concept is a proven means of keeping bison in
19 an area as long as adequate forage is available on the range; and

20 WHEREAS the current state of development of the Delta Junction bison
21 range area is inadequate to sustain bison for more than a few weeks; and

22 WHEREAS the expansion of available forage on the Delta Junction bison
23 range area is required to provide a winter range for the Delta Junction
24 bison herd and to effectively keep the herd from grazing within the Delta
25 agricultural project;

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the governor is
27 requested to appoint a nine-member Delta Junction Bison Range Advisory
28 Committee with members representing the following interests:

29 (1) two members representing the Delta agricultural project;

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

3 (3) one member representing nonconsumptive wildlife users;

4 (4) one member representing timber, mining and other consumptive
5 natural resource industries;

6 (5) one member representing the tourism industry; and

7 (6) two members appointed statewide identified as potential
8 users of the bison herd; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor is requested to provide that the
10 committee shall consult with and offer its advice to the Department of Fish
11 and Game, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and the
12 Alaska Agricultural Action Council, on matters relating to the game manage-
13 ment plan required under AS 16.20.310; and to provide that a member of the
14 advisory committee is not entitled to per diem, travel, or other compensa-
15 tion from the state for the performance of acts as a committee member.

Essentially increases hunting permit fee for bison from \$5 to \$10 but only until 1989

Offered: 5/15/84
Referred: Rules

Original sponsor: Moss

HCR 51 (→ Governor) contains provisions missing from this bill

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 337 (Resources)

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. AS 16.05.346 is repealed and reenacted to read:

10 Sec. 16.05.346. PERMIT APPLICATIONS. (a) If the Board of Game
11 establishes an open season for musk oxen and has not reduced or elimi-
12 nated the \$500 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16), the depart-
13 ment shall conduct a drawing for permits to take the musk oxen. If
14 the Board of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen for which
15 the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the resident tag fee, the
16 department shall issue permits to take the musk oxen in the order in
17 which applications are received by the department. A person is not
18 eligible for more than one musk oxen permit a year. The department
19 may not charge a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit for an
20 open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the
21 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases the
22 application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.

23 (b) The application fee for a drawing permit issued by the
24 department for the hunting of bison in the Delta Junction bison range
25 area is \$10.

26 (c) Except as provided in (a) and (b) of this section, the
27 permit application fee for all species for which a limited drawing is
28 conducted is \$5.

29 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.346 is repealed and reenacted to read:

Senate;
"Legislative
Findings"

1 Sec. 16.05.346. PERMIT APPLICATIONS. (a) If the Board of Game
2 declares an open season for musk oxen and has not reduced or
3 eliminated the \$500 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16), the
4 department shall conduct a drawing for permits to take the musk oxen.
5 If the Board of Game declares an open season for musk oxen for which
6 the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the resident tag fee, the
7 department shall issue permits to take the musk oxen in the order in
8 which applications are received by the department. A person is not
9 eligible for more than one musk oxen permit a year. The department
10 may not charge a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit for an
11 open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the
12 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases the
13 application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.

14 (b) Except as provided in (a) of this section, the permit
15 application fee for all species for which a limited drawing is
16 conducted is \$5.

Senate Advisory Committee
* Sec. 3. AS 16.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 Sec. 16.20.315. BISON RANGE TIMBER SALES. The Department of
19 Natural Resources, division of forestry, shall provide for the sale of
20 timber in the Delta Junction bison range area in a manner that does
21 not delay implementation of the game management plan required under
22 AS 16.20.310.

23 * Sec. 4. AS 16.20.315 is repealed. *timber sale provision repealed 1989*

24 * Sec. 5. Sections 1 and 3 of this act take effect July 1, 1984.

25 * Sec. 6. Sections 2 and 4 of this Act take effect August 1, 1989.

so increased permit fee is only until 1989; so is timber sale provision

range would still sunset in 1989 (senate version repealed this)

Offered: 2/28/84
Referred: Finance

Original sponsor: Moss

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 337 (Resources)
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
10 (1) the Delta Junction bison herd is a highly valued state
11 wildlife resource;
12 (2) drawing permits issued for the hunting of Delta Junction
13 bison constitute a valuable source of state revenue;
14 (3) the Delta Junction bison herd has established the Delta
15 agricultural project as a fall and winter range;
16 (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;
20 (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 northern
29 boundary of the Delta Junction Bison Range to prevent the Delta Junction

*dropped
in House
version*

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

3 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.346 is repealed and reenacted to read:

4 Sec. 16.05.346. PERMIT APPLICATIONS. (a) If the Board of Game
5 establishes an open season for musk oxen and has not reduced or elimi-
6 nated the \$500 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16), the depart-
7 ment shall conduct a drawing for permits to take the musk oxen. If
8 the Board of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen for which
9 the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the resident tag fee, the
10 department shall issue permits to take the musk oxen in the order in
11 which applications are received by the department. A person is not
12 eligible for more than one musk oxen permit a year. The department
13 may not charge a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit for an
14 open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the
15 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases the
16 application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.

17 (b) The application fee for a drawing permit issued by the
18 department for the hunting of bison in the Delta Junction bison range
19 area is \$10

20 (c) Except as provided in (a) and (b) of this section, the
21 permit application fee for all species for which a limited drawing is
22 conducted is \$5.

23 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05.346 is repealed and reenacted to read:

24 Sec. 16.05.346. PERMIT APPLICATIONS. (a) If the Board of Game
25 establishes an open season for musk oxen and has not reduced or elimi-
26 nated the \$500 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16), the depart-
27 ment shall conduct a drawing for permits to take the musk oxen. If
28 the Board of Game establishes an open season for musk oxen for which
29 the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the resident tag fee, the

*dropped
in House
version*

1 department shall issue permits to take the musk oxen in the order in
2 which applications are received by the department. A person is not
3 eligible for more than one musk oxen permit a year. The department
4 may not charge a fee for an application for a musk oxen permit for an
5 open season in which the Board of Game has reduced or eliminated the
6 resident tag fee under AS 16.05.340(a)(16). In all other cases the
7 application fee for a musk oxen permit is \$10.

8 (b) Except as provided in (a) of this section, the permit
9 application fee for all species for which a limited drawing is
10 conducted is \$5.

11 * Sec. 4. AS 16.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

12 Sec. 16.20.311. BISON RANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The
13 governor shall appoint a seven-member Delta Junction Bison Range
14 Advisory Committee. The governor shall appoint members to represent
15 the following interests:

16 (1) two members representing the Delta agricultural proj-
17 ect;

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

20 (3) one member representing nonconsumptive wildlife users;

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

23 (5) one member representing the tourism industry.

24 (b) The committee shall consult with and offer its advice to the
25 Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Commerce and Economic
26 Development, and the Alaska Agricultural Action Council, on matters
27 relating to the game management plan required under AS 16.20.310 and
28 the construction and maintenance of a bison drift barrier along the
29 northern boundary of the Delta Junction Bison Range.

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

4 Sec. 16.20.312. BISON RANGE TIMBER SALES. The Department of
5 Natural Resources, division of forestry, shall provide for the sale of
6 timber in the Delta Junction bison range area in a manner that does
7 not delay implementation of the game management plan required under
8 AS 16.20.310.

9 * Sec. 5. AS 16.20.300, 16.20.310, 16.20.311, 16.20.312, and 16.20.320
10 are repealed. (would sunset in 1995)

11 * Sec. 6. Section 3, ch. 39, SLA 1979 and sec. 1, ch. 73, SLA 1980 are
12 repealed. (repeals 1989 sunset)

13 * Sec. 7. Sections 1, 2, 4, and 6 of this Act take effect July 1, 1984.

14 * Sec. 8. Sections 3 and 5 of this Act take effect August 1, 1995.



Salcha - Big Delta Soil Conservation Subdistrict
Box 547 - Delta Junction, AK 99737 - Phone (907) 895-4241

February 3, 1984

Bettye M. Fahrenkamp, Chairperson
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Fahrenkamp:

We would like to express our support for SB-337 and SB-338, dealing with the accelerated development of the Delta Bison Range. We have always supported the concept of the Bison Range, and were among the earliest supporters of it, during the Delta Land Management Planning Study, in the late 1970's.

We do however, have some reservations concerning the placement of the drift fence. We would prefer it totally south of the Alaska Highway, and one continuous piece with only gates and no cattle guards. We do feel that the present proposal is the next best choice.

Please read the attached policy statement entitled "Delta Bison Herd," dated Jan. 5, 1984. It more clearly explains our position concerning bison.

To sum up, the rapid development of the Bison Range is needed urgently, to forestall a serious conflict between farmers, bison, and pro-bison people.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Roberts
Chairman

Encl: Policy Statement: Delta Bison Herd

cc: Senator H. Pappy Moss
Delta Bison Management Ad Hoc Committee

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



POUCH V
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

Senate

Committee on Resources

MINUTES

February 22, 1984
3:08 pm

Beltz Room
Room 211, Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Ziegler, Vice Chair
Senator Vic Fischer
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturgulewski

CALENDAR

SB 335, An Act amending the Alaska Grain Reserve Program; and providing for an effective date.

SB 337, An Act relating to the Delta Junction bison range; and providing for an effective date.

SB 338, An Act making special appropriations for the development of the Delta Junction bison range and construction of a bison herd drift barrier; and providing for an effective date.

SB 371, An Act relating to mining; and providing for an effective date.

SB 378, An Act relating to agricultural and industrial fairs.

SB 335

Dean Brown, Deputy Director, Division of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the bill and discussed DNR's proposed amendments that would convert the Alaska grain reserve loan fund to a revolving fund.

Senator Mulcahy moved to amend SB 335 to include DNR's amendments. There was no objection.

SB 337

SB 338

Dave Johnson, Area Game Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, testified in support of the bill that would continue a program of providing forage for bison, expand tourist facilities, create a Bison Range Advisory Committee, and construct a drift barrier to help resolve conflicts between farmers and bison.

Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp discussed a proposed amendment by Senator Pappy Moss that would change the location of the drift barrier.

Senator Sturgulewski moved to include Senator Moss's amendment in SB 337. There was no objection.

Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp recommended that the committee staff prepare an amendment clarifying the increased fee for bison hunting permits.

SB 378

Dean Brown, Deputy Director, Division of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the bill stating it would give the Department needed guidelines for defining agricultural and industrial fairs.

Senator Mulcahy moved to adopt SB 378 and move it from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

SB 371

Pedro Denton, Director, Division of Mining, Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the Committee Substitute and recommended an amendment that would establish the rental fee for the first two years of an offshore prospecting permit at \$6/acre.

Senator Ziegler moved adoption of the amendment. There was no objection.

Senator Mulcahy moved the bill from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



POUCH V
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

Senate

Committee on Resources

MINUTES

February 27, 1984
3:05 pm

Beltz Room
Room 211, Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Ziegler, Vice Chair
Senator Eliason
Senator Paul Fischer
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturgulewski

CALENDAR

SB 335, An Act amending the Alaska Grain Reserve Program; and providing for an effective date.

SB 337, An Act relating to the Delta Junction bison range; and providing for an effective date.

SB 338, An Act making special appropriations for the development of the Delta Junction bison range and construction of a bison herd drift barrier; and providing for an effective date.

SB 375, An Act relating to land disposal and management; and providing for an effective date.

SB 337

Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp explained that the Committee Substitute addressed the location of the drift barrier and clarified that the bison permit fee had been increased to \$10.00.

Senator Mulcahy moved SB 337 from Committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

SB 335

Senator Fahrenkamp explained that a Committee Substitute replacing "non-graded" with "non-standardized" had been prepared to clarify that inferior quality grain will not be accepted.

Senator Sturgulewski moved to adopt the Committee Substitute and move it from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

SB 338

Senator Ziegler moved the bill from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

SB 375

Senator Eliason discussed his proposed amendment (#1) that would allow the state to quitclaim title to lands back to the federal government to settle certain land claims.

Ned Farquhar, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, suggested additional language that would allow the Commissioner to quitclaim lands classified as agricultural.

Senator Eliason moved amendment #1. There was no objection.

Senator Fahrenkamp discussed amendment #2, which would allow eligible veterans a 25% discount on the purchase price of state land.

Farquhar, and Meg Hayes, Southcentral District, Division of Land and Water Management, Department of Natural Resources, answered questions on the current veterans' preference program and the impact of the proposed amendment.

Senator Eliason moved to adopt the amendment. There was no objection.

Senator Fahrenkamp discussed amendment #3, which would postpone land disposals until area plans have been approved.

Farquhar, and Hayes, testified that the Department supports the concept of planning prior to disposals. However, a statutory moratorium on disposals could seriously disrupt the program.

Senator Fahrenkamp discussed amendment #4, which would repeal the demand assesment statute, AS 38.04.020(f).

Farquhar, testified that the Department uses its area planning program to identify available lands and relies on the market as an indicator of demand. He recommended this section be dropped because of its high administrative and fiscal costs.

Senator Sturgulewski moved to repeal AS 38.04.020(f) and amend to read " The request of the commissioner under (e) of this section shall include an analysis and determination that there is a market demand for the land proposed for disposal. There was no objection.

Senator Fahrenkamp discussed amendment #5, which would require consideration of the useful life of a project in determining the term of a lease.

Farquhar supported the amendment.

Richard Harris and Bob Loescher, Sealaska Corporation, supported the amendment.

Senator Sturgulewski moved the amendment. There was no objection.

Senator Ziegler moved amendment #6, which would change the term and value of a negotiated lease. There was no objection.

Farquhar testified in support of amendment #7, which would amend the surface leasing procedure to allow survey costs to be credited to the lessee.

Senator Eliason moved the amendment. There was no objection.

Senator Eliason moved amendment #8, which would authorize the Commissioner to require prequalification of bidders for surface leases. There was no objection.

Farquhar supported amendment #9, which would amend leasing procedures for tidelands leases.

Senator Mulcahy moved the amenda nt. There was no objection.

Senator Ziegler moved amendment #10, which would allow the Department to convey remnants of land to an adjoining landowner. There was no objection.

Jay Nelson, Executive Director, Alaska Environmental Lobby, testified in support of amendment #11, which would create citizens advisory boards to offer advice to DNR prior to formal public hearings on land disposals.

Farquhar testified that there are ample opportunities for public involvement in the land offering process.

Senator Sturgulewski moved amendment #12, which would allow for joint disposals. There was no objection.

Farquhar testified in support of amendment #13, which would clarify the appeal process for contract violations.

Senator Sturgulewski moved amendment #13. There was no objection.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.

Alaska State Legislature

COMMITTEES

Co-Chairman -- House Resources
Committee
Chairman -- REAA Budget Oversight
Committee
Member -- House State Affairs
DOT -- Finance Sub Committee



House of Representatives

While in Session:


Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Phone (907) 465-4951
465-4940

Home - P.O. Box 355
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Dick Shultz

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chair
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Representative Dick Shultz, Co-Chair 
House Resources Committee

DATE: April 16, 1984

RE: Bills in Committee

Bettye--

HCR 51 and HB 552 are presently in your committee. This is to request that you waive both pieces of legislation from your committee since you have already heard both SB 337 and SB 338, which are companion bills. Then Pappy and I can work on them in Finance.

Attached is my memo from March 30th requesting the same. Consideration of this request would be most appreciated.

Thank you.

APR 17 1984

Alaska State Legislature

COMMITTEES

Co-Chairman — House Resources
Committee

Chairman — REAA Budget Oversight
Committee

Member — House State Affairs
DOT — Finance Sub Committee



House of Representatives

Dick Shultz

While in Session:

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Phone (907) 435-4951
465-4947

Home - P.O. Box 355
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chair
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Representative Dick Shultz, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee

DATE: March 30, 1984

RE: HCR 51/HB 552

This is to request you to waive out of committee HCR 51 and HB 552.

SB 337 that you passed out of committee is identical, in part, to HCR 51. In my discussion with Senator Moss we are in concurrence that we will use HCR 51 as the vehicle to establish the Ad Hoc Committee and will take that part out of his bill. A CS for SB 337 can then be offered by the Finance Committee to reflect the increase in bison fees and timber sales. I am presently holding my bill, HB 551, in House Rules pending passage of CSSB 337. I can then kill my bill and use Pappy's as the vehicle for raising the bison fees and providing for timber sales.

HB 552 and SB 338 (which you have passed from your committee) are the same appropriation bill. By waiving HB 552 out of your committee we can then use it as the appropriation vehicle to expand the bison range.

Consideration of this request would be most appreciated.

cc: Senator Pappy Moss

CHAIRMAN
SENATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE
SENATE SPECIAL AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE

MEMBER
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
REAA BUDGET OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

Alaska State Legislature



State Senate

SENATOR
H. PAPPY MOSS
P.O. BOX 182
DELTA JUNCTION, ALASKA 99737
(907) 895-4384

JUNEAU OFFICE
FOUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-4921

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

MEMORANDUM

April 17, 1984

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chair
Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Senator H. Pappy Moss, Chair
Senate Special Committee on Agriculture

RE: Bison Bills

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "H. Pappy Moss".

Senate Bills 337 and 338, the Senate Bills which deal with the development of the Delta Junction Bison Range, are the bills that deal most directly and effectively with solving the bison-related problems in Delta Junction.

I am working toward the passage of Senate Bills 337 and 338 in the form in which they were passed out of the Senate Resources Committee. These bills are now in the Senate Finance Committee. They have been reviewed by Senator Josephson and are now awaiting a scheduling date on the Senate Finance Committee calendar.

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 337
Title: Delta bison range

Sponsor: Moss
Requestor: _____
Date of Request: 1-9-84

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Natural Resources
Program Category Affected: Forestry
Presuppression/Northcentral small timber
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: sales
Forest Management

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

SB 338 appropriates \$60,000 from the general fund to DNR for administration of the timber sale and fire suppression on the Delta bison range.

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Sharon L. Barton Phone: 465-2400
Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 2-13-84

Approved by Commissioner: William J. Arnold Deputy Date: 2-13-84
Agency: Dept. of Natural Resources

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83



Free Ranging Bison and Agriculture: Can They Coexist?

by Dave Johnson
Area Game Biologist
AK Dept. of Fish and Game
Delta Junction

About the time Columbus was discovering the New World, Alaska's original bison were making their last stand. At one time, they had been the most common large land mammal in the state, but climatic changes favoring today's Interior Alaska forests did not favor the bison. Skulls found in the last decade in Alaska confirm that the same species of bison that roamed the Great Plains lived here in Alaska as well, but the last known native bison died some 500 years ago.

Sportsmen that reintroduced bison here in the late '20s knew nothing of that, of course. They only knew that the area and its extensive grasslands appeared well suited for bison. Bison have been an extremely popular game animal since that time.

Delta Area: Suited for Agriculture and Bison

Today, the Delta area is still well suited for bison, but now there's a rub: the area is also well suited for farming, and an energetic farming development is springing up where forest held sway for thousands of years. Unhappily, the bison and agriculture aren't getting along too well.

Ever since the first homesteaders started farming here years ago, the

bison have been a headache for farmers. They show up as the harvest is ready (and sometimes before) and have annually wreaked varying degrees of havoc. Some farmers report their damages from bison run to tens of thousands of dollars.

The basic problem is that the bison and the farms want to be in the same place at the same time. Looking from a historical perspective, the bison learned early that they could make use of parts of the Clearwater, the old 99-mile dry bar (an old bed of Jarvis Creek just east of the Junction), local lakes and other odd bits of forage in the fall and winter. The forage along the Delta River was, still is, and will likely always be inadequate for more than a few months during the summer. Healy Lake, 30 miles east of Delta, was an area of alternate range, and by trafficking between here and there, and elsewhere, the bison learned the country pretty well.

So, when farming got started in the Clearwater, it was natural for them to make use of the improved forage. Likewise, when Delta I got started, to the bison, it was just a vast improvement in part of their winter range.

No matter how it happened, no one that knows anything of the situation will dispute that there is a problem. The obvious solution is to get rid of either the farms or the bison, and had the problem dropped up 100 or even 50 years ago, Alaskans might have summarily disposed of the bi-

son. Times have changed, and there's no doubt of one fact: most Alaskans want the farms and the bison to remain in the area. But, at the same time, another large majority would undoubtedly admit that it isn't really fair for a few Alaskans—Delta farmers—to have to support the bison for several months out of the year. And this is what is now occurring.

So, what to do?

Ignoring the extremes mentioned above, the proposed solutions can generally be lumped into three categories: fence the bison, fence the farms, or develop the Delta Junction Bison Range to decoy the animals. The continuing inability of those involved to reach a solution has generally turned into a fairly disagreeable confrontation between sportsmen, the Department of Fish and Game, and agriculturists. Frankly, none of the combatants has strength enough to "win" and the conflict is wearing down the patience of the rest of the state.

Unless all can agree on something, I submit that there will eventually be a big loss for one side or another, and it is by no means clear which side will lose, and what will be lost.

The Department of Fish and Game believes development of the Delta Junction Bison Range can be the something that will work and can be agreeable to most. It is not perfect, to

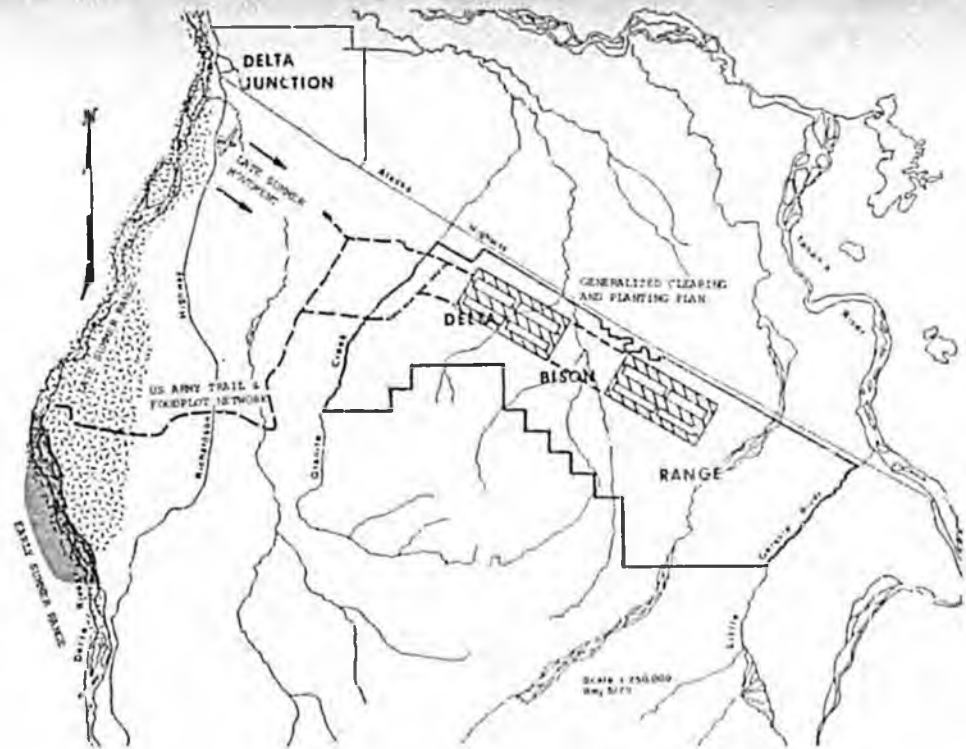
be sure, but from what we have already seen, the idea has real promise. Here, in brief, is what our proposal entails:

First, summer range improvement to hold bison longer on the Delta River: There is considerable evidence that bison leave that area in mid-summer because the forage is depleted. We believe fertilization, creation of new habitat and rehabilitation of deteriorating habitat will help. The first steps have already been taken, with the Soil Conservation Service, the Department of Fish and Game, the Agricultural Experiment Station, The Institute of Northern Forestry, the US Army and other interested parties cooperating to find out what can be done. Herbicide and fertilizer trials there last summer were very promising. Plans are already progressing for burning, and thereby rehabilitating, portions of the summer range each year.

Second, channelization of bison movements: The U.S. Army at Fort Greely is now in the third year of a long-term cooperative plan to develop a bison trail and foodplot network which should lead the bison from their summer range to the Delta Junction Bison Range. The trail system would slowly lead the bison toward the range as the year's summer range forage is depleted. The foodplots would hold the bison with desirable forage species for an additional time.

Last, development of the Bison Range itself. When bison arrive on the range, they would find the key elements they require: forage, cover, salt and water. Our long-term plans call for developing 4,000+ acres of clearings with an additional many thousands of acres of burns. (Bison take rapidly to burns, which will also benefit the local moose population, another goal of the Range concept.) The forage would consist initially of desirable annuals which would be succeeded by perennials. A well has already been drilled to provide a stable and readily-available source of water, and a pond would be developed to provide water, and a focus for tourist viewing.

All of the work in the capital phase of the project would be contracted out. Other than low intensity maintenance of the finished project, the Department has no desire to get into the farming business. Wherever possible, we intend to cooperatively farm to reduce costs to the state.



Key Point

The key to the project should be apparent: how are we proposing to confine the bison to the Bison Range? We demonstrated in Fall, 1981 that significant numbers of bison could be prevented from crossing the Alaska highway by making use of a knowledge of their whereabouts. We did it then almost exclusively with radio transmitter collars on lead cows, but in 1982, we would use a whole suite of activities, including the collars, zon guns, wing fences, gates, diversion berms, and automatic scaring devices.

Based on what we observed in the fall of 1981, we believe that what we have outlined above will keep bison depredations down to an acceptable level. No rational proposal that has so far been advanced, including fencing, will totally eliminate problems.

There is something else here that has been generally overlooked. Until the farms came, the bison generally had a pretty tough time of it in the winter. True, they did make it for almost four decades on mostly native vegetation, but it did in some winters take its toll on the population. Today, a substantial portion of their traditional winter range is being developed for agriculture. The farms that are now supporting the bison over winter will someday be closed to them because large-scale fencing is, in the long term, inevitable.

The bison are going to need

something else to make it through future winters.

That something, too, can be the Delta Junction Bison Range. The same development used to reduce crop depredations can provide several months of winter feed. Obviously, Fish and Game must concern itself with this as well as the crop depredation aspect of the problem.

Representative Pappy Moss, who originally sponsored the Bison Range legislation, now has a bill in the legislature, that if approved this session, could accomplish a substantial beginning in 1982 for the plan outlined above. It narrowly missed being passed last session. His bill—CSHB 83—would provide \$275,000 for bison range development and diversion away from the farms.

In conclusion, we believe free-ranging bison and agriculture CAN coexist. It will take working together to get to that point, but it can be done, and it is of utmost importance that it is done, or there will be new conflicts between wildlife and agriculture; others loom already. But if we can bring about a mutually satisfactory solution here, it will be a ringing demonstration that future problems too can be peacefully resolved. One of the arguments against an Alaskan agricultural enterprise will have lost a lot of its impact. We CAN have both abundant wildlife and agriculture—if we work together.

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

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



POUCH V
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

Senate

Committee on Resources

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Resources Committee Members

FROM: Senate Resources Committee Staff

RE: Committee Meeting, February 22, 1984

DATE: February 20, 1984

On Wednesday, February 22 the Senate Resources Committee will be hearing the following bills relating to agriculture:

SB 335, An Act amending the Alaska Grain Reserve Program; and providing for an effective date.

AS 03.12 establishes the Alaska Grain Reserve Program to assist grain producers to develop markets for their products by making loans secured by grain reserves. Loans made under this program must be secured by grain that is graded number four or better. The USDA has no grading standards for the strain of barley commonly grown in Alaska. SB 335 would allow the Department of Natural Resources to accept grains for which no official U.S. grades have been established as collateral to secure a loan made under the Grain Reserve Program.

SB 337, An Act relating to the Delta Junction bison range; and providing for an effective date.

SB 338, An Act making special appropriations for the development of the Delta Junction bison range and construction of a bison herd drift barrier; and providing for an effective date.

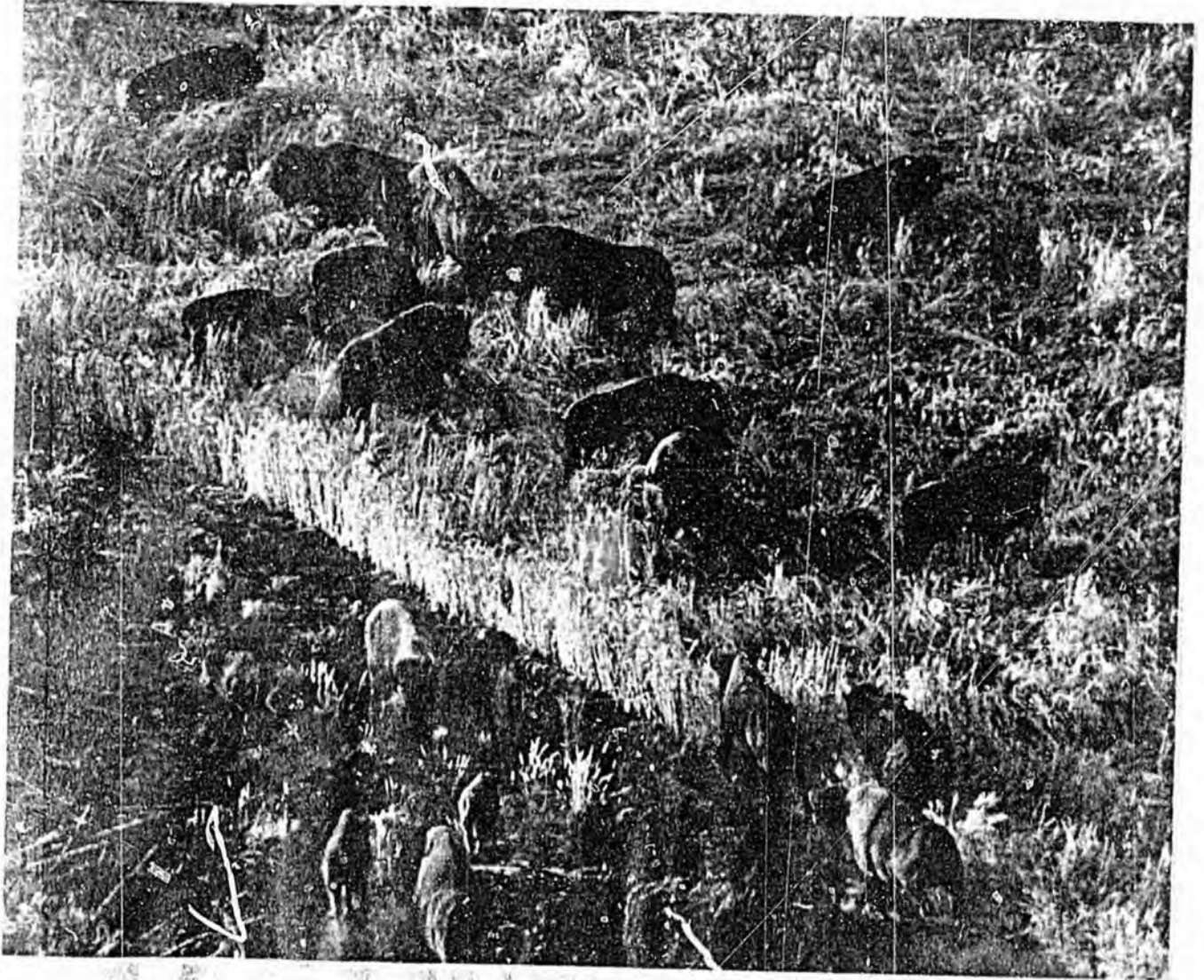
In an effort to resolve the problem of Delta bison feeding in farmers' barley fields, SB 337 would establish a citizen's committee to advise on the bison range management plan required under current statute.

SB 338 would make appropriations for further development of the bison range, including construction of a bison drift barrier. Tourist facilities, timber sales, and bison hunt fees are also addressed in the proposed legislation.

SB 378, An Act relating to agricultural and industrial fairs.

AS 03.20 provides for funding on a matching basis for the operation and maintenance of agricultural and industrial fairs. SB 378 would further define those fairs eligible for State aid by specifying that agriculture, industry, horticulture, native plants, livestock, and related domestic arts be exhibited. This proposal has been officially adopted by the steering committee of the Associated Alaskan Fairs and is intended to concentrate funding on bona fide agricultural fairs.

The meeting will be held at 3:00 pm in the Beltz Room.



Bison in a Delta barley field.

(News-Miner file photo)

DRAFT

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

DELTA JUNCTION BISON RANGE

A Proposal for Development

by

David M. Johnson

SUMMARY

This proposal is designed to carry out the 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 depredations, bison winter range, and a variety of 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 3½ 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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Recreation Enhancement	11
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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 chain; 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 perennial 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 \$150/acre = \$660,000

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

3

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. Stump 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.

Bison, farmers share home on the range

Trial shows conflict between herds, farms

By BRUCE BARTLEY
The Associated Press

DELTA JUNCTION — Bison, tons of trouble for some and brown-bearded remnants of the frontier's wide open spaces for others, have made themselves at home on the doorstep of the Alaska Range. Unfortunately, their dining area also includes the barley fields of the Delta Agricultural Project.

Their presence is a source of constant conflict between game managers trying to preserve one of the last free-roaming buffalo herds and farmers trying to make ends meet.

Attention will be focused on the conflict in the coming week when state prosecutors bring to trial a Delta farmer accused of killing three bison illegally last fall.

The bison have ranged the Delta area since about two dozen were transplanted from Montana more than 50 years ago.

The herd, now 300-400 strong, prospered. In the 1960s, Delta bison were used to start herds near McGrath, and along the Copper and Chitina rivers.

In the 1970s, former Gov. Jay Hammond's administration selected Delta as the springboard for an ambitious state-sponsored agricultural development program. And a successful game management story became the source of a bitter local dispute.

Already coping with extreme weather and climate, and operating under intense public scrutiny, farmers didn't need

bison roaming newly cleared fields and eating hard-won crops. And with grim regularity, the sight of burly buffalo trampling already stunted profits was enough to send a farmer over the edge — and a bison to his final home on the range.

On Sept. 21, Earl Mitchell summoned Alaska State Troopers to his farm on the west bank of the Gerstle River. He told them he'd shot three bison, and invoked a state regulation which permits killing game animals "in defense of life or property."

When investigators arrived, Mitchell was salvaging the animals as required by the "defense" regulation. The meat was donated to churches.

But the regulation lists several criteria to be met before a game animal can be dispatched legally. Investigators cited Mitchell, alleging he had failed to fulfill them all.

It wasn't the first time bison had run afoul of Mitchell, or Mitchell had run afoul of the law. A year earlier, Mitchell shot a buffalo on his farm. He pleaded guilty to the illegal killing, was fined \$1,000 with \$500 suspended, and given a suspended 10-day jail sentence.

Mitchell worked off his fine on a bulldozer on the state's 70,000-acre bison range across the Alaska Highway, the dividing line between the farms and a look-alike development offering bison an alternative to farmers' fields.

The shooting of bison by farmers didn't sit well in a community originally named Buffalo Center. Also fuming were thousands of hunters who make the state's 75 annual Delta bison permits among Alaska's most coveted.

Farmers argued they couldn't and wouldn't stand by and watch their life's work ground under the bison's massive hooves.



ALASKA NEWS

But Delta residents are looking hard for a way to have their buffalo and barley too.

Since Mitchell was cited, farmers, businessmen, sportsmen and others have been meeting to devise a solution. And last week state Sen. Pappy Moss asked for \$1.75 million to pay for it.

Dave Johnson, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist most frequently cast as the villain in the controversy, says it's the closest thing to a consensus he's seen since he's been in Delta.

Responsible for protecting both the bison and the farmers' fields, Johnson has been catching it from all sides since he took the job in 1981.

"It's been a really tense situation," he says softly. But Johnson sees hope.

"If we can just convince the people who make the decisions that there are real, live people out here who are being hurt by

this, we can solve this problem. We can have both free-roaming bison and agricultural development."

Johnson and the others agree the key is further development of the alternative bison range. By clearing more black spruce planting more barley and grass and fencing the north side of the highway, they think the bison can be pretty well contained.

That was the plan when the barley project first was conceived but Johnson says it "fell through the cracks." There's never been enough money to develop the alternative range effectively, he says. That's what Moss' legislation is designed to do.

From April or May until August, most of the bison hang out west of the Delta River, Johnson says. But forage is limited, and about the time it runs out, the animals' migration instincts push them toward their winter range.

Unfortunately, that coincides with the ripening of the barley and hay crops in the 60,000-acre agricultural project. With a short growing season, everything has to go right for farmers to harvest their crops anyway. The presence of voracious buffalo doesn't help.

By developing the state range, which lies along the migration route, Johnson and the others hope to keep the bison south of the highway during the critical harvest weeks.

Hamstrung by a lack of money, game managers cleared an planted only 75 acres in 1980. Johnson says the bison ignored the offer. In 1981, the acreage doubled, and a few bison took advantage of it. In 1982, they spent perhaps a third of the critical period there. By last fall, the range had grown to 600 acres — about half of it cultivated — and most of the herd lingered until forage dwindled in late September.

Feds can award oil, gas leases in reserve: court

ANCHORAGE — The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Friday the federal government can award oil and gas leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, but must make sure no oil company activities disturb subsistence lifestyles until the case can be considered further.

Oil companies paid \$16.7 million last summer for 18 tracts in the 24-million-acre reserve. Two North Slope residents sued, claiming lease stipulations did not protect adequately the caribou calving grounds and waterfowl habitat in the area.

U.S. District Judge James Fitzgerald of Anchorage held up lease awards until Dec. 20 while he studied the case. He finally concluded the lease sale regulations were adequate and said he would lift his injunction. But he gave the villagers sufficient time to appeal.

"There's no doubt that the ruling was a two-edged sword," George Gurr, a spokesman for

the Bureau of Land Management, said Friday. "Until we can see the actual wording of the order we don't know how we feel. But at least we didn't lose."

Jim Bamberger, a staff attorney for Alaska Legal Services who represented Sara Kunaknana of Nulqsut and Jean Numnik of Barrow, said they were pleased.

"My feeling is that the court felt that our arguments on subsistence were substantive and that's why they enjoined the oil companies from any activities that might affect subsistence until they could make a full ruling," Bamberger said.

He said the appellate court probably will hear additional arguments in the case this spring.

Bamberger said the ruling will prevent oil companies from drilling any exploratory wells until a final decision is reached. He said he also would consider seismic testing as a danger to subsistence hunting patterns.

"We will have to meet and see if there is some middle ground," Gurr said.

Briefly Teacher accused of sexual assault

PALMER — Matanuska-Susitna school officials have suspended the principal of the Iditarod Elementary School, where a teacher has been accused of sexually assaulting his students.

Ray Carter, principal of the school since 1976, will be suspended with pay beginning Wednesday, school Superintendent Gordon Tope said Saturday.

"I have nothing to say on anything to do with that case," Carter said. "I'll see what happens."

Music teacher George Koenig has been indicted by a Palmer grand jury on 11 counts of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault involving seven girls.

Tope said he will ask the school board to fire the 33-year-old teacher when the board meets Jan. 23. Koenig has been suspended with pay since Jan. 7.

"Based on our investigation to this point, the administration is recommending the dismissal of George Koenig," Tope said.

The decision to suspend Carter came after consultations with the school district's lawyer, he said. He would not explain why the principal has been suspended.

"I'm really not at liberty to release any further information," Tope said. "We're still investigating."

Alaska State Troopers Sgt. Rollie Port said investigators have received reports from parents and others that officials may have been slow in responding to complaints concerning Koenig.

Elementary school roof collapses

ANCHORAGE — Structural engineers Saturday were studying the debris in the library of the Airport Heights Elementary School to try to determine why the roof collapsed.

Assistant Superintendent Bill Tanner said no one was injured when the roof gave way about 10:30 Friday night. He said the only people in the building were a few carpenters and custodians.

"It's almost the floor, it's to within a couple of

feet of the floor," Tanner said of the roof. A rubber barrier in the ceiling was the only thing separating shelves of books from the freezing rain and wet snow that have blanketed Anchorage in the past several days.

Surprisingly, Tanner said, none of the books, computer equipment or other equipment and books were damaged. He said one table was bent badly.

Tanner said there was an estimated 15 inches of snow on the slightly sloped roof, an amount he termed "not that unusual." He said the library is part of a wing that was added to the school 14 years ago. The original school was built in 1950, he said.

A demolition crew is expected to have the debris cleared away and the library sealed off from the rest of the building so classes for the 323 students can resume as normal Monday morning, Tanner said.

He said he anticipates it will be several days before the cause of the problem and the cost of damage are determined.

—The Associated Press

Court approves changes to 1935



NASA gets 'Golden Fleece' award

WASHINGTON — Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., has bestowed a Golden Fleece award for January on NASA for its practice on grounds that most of the people transported were U.S. government officials from the executive and legislative branches.

astronauts also were transported," he added. The flight of the nation's first Black and woman astronauts Guion Bluford and Sallie K. Ride, at

Individuals, 55 were foreign officials, five were judges and 6 could not be classified. "The problem with the VII trips to the space shuttle

City of Delta Junction

Box 229

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

907 - 895 - 4656

The North End of the Alaska Highway

RESOLUTION 84-23

WHEREAS, the Delta Bison herd has always been an important feature in the Delta Junction community, and;

WHEREAS, agriculture is rapidly increasing in importance to the Delta Junction community and the state, and;

WHEREAS, the Delta Bison herd each year without fail causes serious crop depredations and resulting financial losses for farmers, and;

WHEREAS, this continued conflict degrades the long term outlook for both the bison herd and agriculture, and;

WHEREAS, Senate Bills 337 and 338 and House Bills 551 and 552 would solve this problem by developing fall and winter range for bison on the Delta Junction Bison Range, and a drift barrier to keep bison out of the farming area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the City of Delta Junction requests that the Alaska Legislature and the Governor of Alaska pass into state law the provisions of the aforementioned legislation so that this problem may finally be resolved.

THIS RESOLUTION HAS BEEN PROPERLY ADOPTED this 7th day of February, 1984, by the authorized membership of the City Council of Delta Junction, in Delta Junction, Alaska.

FRANK W. GEIGER, MAYOR

Frank W. Geiger

LOUIS E. HEINBOCKEL, MAYOR PRO TEM

Louis E. Heinbockel

LEONARD LEMON, COUNCILMEMBER

MARY LEITH DOWLING, COUNCILMEMBER

Mary A. Leith Dowling

MARVIN HINSLEY, COUNCILMEMBER

GLEN WRIGHT, COUNCILMEMBER

Glen E. Wright

FREDERIC READY, COUNCILMEMBER

Fredric T. Ready

ATTEST

Laura L. Woodford
Laura L. Woodford
City Clerk/Treasurer