

**HOUSE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

(11)
Date referred: 4/21/86

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 5-2-86

The FINANCE Committee has considered HB 482

"An Act relating to protection of natural rangelands."

and recommends:

- do pass
- do not pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- no recommendation
- replace with CS HB 482 (RES) same title
- new title

and recommends do pass

further referral to the _____ Committee

- and attaches:
- letter of intent
 - first fiscal note
 - new fiscal note
 - zero fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

Albert H. Adams
John [unclear]
John [unclear]
Ronald J. [unclear]
Bob [unclear]
Steve [unclear]
John [unclear]
Jim [unclear]

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mike [unclear]
Rich [unclear]
Don [unclear]

Albert H. Adams
Chairman

STATE OF ALASKA 1986 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date : 2/20/86

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. : CS HB 482 (Res)
 Title : Protection of Natural Rangelands

Sponsor : Representative Fuller
 Requestor : House Resources
 Date of Request : 2/12/86

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected : Natural Resources
 BRU : Land-Water Management/
 Agriculture Management

Components : Public Use/Agriculture
 Management

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES : (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING | FY 86 | FY 87 | FY 88 | FY 89 | FY 90 | FY 91 |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES | | | | | | |
| TRAVEL | | | | | | |
| CONTRACTUAL | | | | | | |
| SUPPLIES | | | | | | |
| EQUIPMENT | | | | | | |
| LAND & STRUCTURES | | | | | | |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAPIT/L | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| REVENUE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

FUNDING : (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | | | |
| FEDERAL FUNDS | | | | | | |
| OTHER | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

POSITIONS :

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| FULL-TIME | | | | | | |
| PART-TIME | | | | | | |
| TEMPORARY | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS : Attach a separate page if necessary

See attached

Prepared by : Michael E. Vediner *MEV* Phone : 465-2400
 Division : Land & Water Management Date : 2/20/86

Approved by Commissioner : William D. Armstrong, Deputy Date : 2/24/86
 Agency : Natural Resources

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note) :

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

ANALYSIS

No fiscal impact to the department is anticipated. Identification of rangelands will occur during the department's regular area planning process. The department assumes that eventual designation of state grazing preserves will not require additional activity for fire protection or preserve management. The department currently issues grazing leases and permits for activity on state land. This permitting and leasing activity would be employed in state grazing preserves.

Offered: 4/21/86
Referred: Finance

Original sponsor: Fuller

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 482 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to protection of natural rangeland."
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. The legislature finds that there is a substantial public
9 purpose in the protection of existing naturally occurring rangeland and for
10 the establishment of state owned or acquired land valuable for grazing as
11 state grazing preserves for the perpetuation of personal, commercial, and
12 other beneficial uses of the resources under the principles of multiple-use
13 and sustained-yield management. In this section, "naturally occurring
14 rangeland" means land of the state where cattle, sheep, or reindeer are
15 grazing or where cattle, sheep, or reindeer may graze under lease or permit
16 of the commissioner of natural resources.

17 * Sec. 2. The commissioner of natural resources shall report to the
18 Second Session of the Fifteenth State Legislature within the first 10 days
19 of the session on state land recommended for protection as state grazing
20 preserves.

from Rep. Fuller

Committee Substitute for House Bill 482 - An Act relating to protection of natural rangelands.

The intent of this legislation is to ensure that the Dept. recognized the need of establishing state protected grazing rangelands or preserves. The Dept. is currently in the process of finalizing the Northwest Area Plan and should be completed with the plan by next fall.

As part of the NW Area plan, the Dept. of Natural Resources can identify those state lands that should be protected as state grazing rangelands or preserves. Since the Dept. is capable of identifying those state lands with existing staff, there is no fiscal impact.

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill.

Section 1 of the bill finds that there is a public purpose in protecting existing naturally occurring rangelands in Alaska under the principles of multiple-use and sustained-yield and that there is a need to establish state grazing preserves. This section also defines what naturally occurring rangelands are.

Section 2 of the bill also requests that the Commissioner of DNR report back to the 15th Legislature within the first 10 days of session on state land recommended for protection as state grazing preserves.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

POUCH M
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: 907-465-2400

February 13, 1986

The Honorable John G. Fuller
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Fuller:

As you requested, the Department of Natural Resources has reviewed HB 482 which provides protection for naturally occurring rangelands in Alaska. The department supports the use of Alaska's rangelands for grazing as a part of its objectives to make maximum use of State land resources.

The importance of insuring the protection of naturally occurring rangelands has been recognized in the Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' resolution AASWCD 85-10 (attached). Additional support for the resolution has come from the Reindeer Herders Association. These two groups are particularly concerned about the protection of traditional grazing areas on Kodiak Island and reindeer grazing areas on the Seward Peninsula.

Section 1 of HB 482 finds that there is substantial benefit in the protection of existing, naturally occurring rangelands in Alaska under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The department concurs with this finding. The department does not object to the establishment of grazing preserves as long as they are recommended through a comprehensive resource planning process, evaluating other natural resource potential besides grazing. We are also concerned that preserves should not require fire protection beyond that already in place. The preserves should be managed for other compatible uses. The flexibility to meet all of these concerns exists in the bill as it is proposed.

A definition of naturally occurring rangelands is needed within the bill. We would suggest that naturally occurring rangelands are those lands where cattle, sheep, or reindeer are currently grazing under lease or permit. Additionally, more than 50 percent of the area to be included in a grazing preserve for cattle or sheep should be naturally vegetated to grasses or forbs.

The Honorable John G. Fuller -2-

February 13, 1986

Section 2 asks the department to report to the Second Session of the Fifteenth State Legislature on State land recommended for protection as grazing preserves. Again, this should be done through the department's area planning process. The additional fiscal impact to the department of this legislation should be zero if the identification and recommendation of grazing preserves is done through this planning process. Since area plans are amenable, we would hope that any grazing preserve legislation would provide the opportunity through area plans (AS 38.04) to review grazing preserves on a regular basis for additions, deletions, or modifications.

If you need additional information on grazing issues, please let me know.

Sincerely,

B. Wunnicke, Deputy

for Esther C. Wunnicke
Commissioner

Attachment

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION Kodiak Island Grazing Preserve
ORIGIN OF RESOLUTION Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation
Districts
DATE OF ORIGIN October 19, 1985

WHEREAS, grazing and red meat production are valuable to the state's economy and represent an important link in the state's agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, due to favorable environmental factors the natural grasslands on the peninsula of Kodiak Island located between Chiniak Bay and Ugak Bay afford grazing year round; and

WHEREAS, such rangeland constitutes unique and irreplaceable resources of statewide importance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of Alaska protect those rangelands by enacting the attached bill, entitled "An Act relating to the conservation and protection of natural rangelands" further identified as exhibit I of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to:

Governor Bill Sheffield
Senate Resources Committee
House Resources Committee
Commissioner Esther Wunnicke

ACTION TAKEN BY AASWCD STANDING COMMITTEE _____

ACTION TAKEN BY AASWCD RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE _____

ACTION TAKEN BY AASWCD PASSED



Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
PO Box 953 - Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

January 30, 1986

The Honorable John G. Fuller
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: HB 482, SB 343 An Act Relating to the
protection of natural rangelands.

Dear Representative Fuller:

The Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AASWCD) supports the legislation identified above, and further recommends that the bills be amended as in our own draft included with this letter.

The draft we've included establishes a system of creating state grazing preserves in Article 1, with Articles 2 and 3 identifying specific State Grazing Preserve areas. (The Kodiak Island State Grazing Preserve and the Seward Peninsula State Grazing Preserve respectively.)

We feel that these natural rangelands are unique and irreplaceable resources of statewide importance, and as such deserve protection for present and future contribution to the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mike Carlson
President

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an act entitled: An act relating to the conservation and protection of natural rangelands; and providing for an effective date.

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

Section 1. AS 41 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

CHAPTER 12. CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF NATURAL RANGELANDS.

ARTICLE 1. STATE GRAZING PRESERVES

Sec 41.12.010. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to protect naturally occurring rangelands and to permit the establishment of state owned or acquired land and water areas as state grazing preserves. The primary purpose in the establishment of state grazing preserves is the perpetuation of personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of resources through multiple-use management and sustained yield.

Sec 41.12.020. MANAGEMENT PLANS. The commissioner shall prepare and may amend management plans to assist in meeting the requirements of this chapter. A management plan prepared under this section may designate incompatible uses and shall permit the following uses:

- (1) grazing permits and leases;
- (2) timber harvest;
- (3) material extraction;
- (4) mineral location and leasing;
- (5) surface lease, consistent with AS 38.05.070, for uses other than grazing;
- (6) recreation;
- (7) wildlife and fisheries habitat management;
- (8) hunting, fishing, and trapping; and
- (9) other traditional, compatible uses.

ARTICLE 2. KODIAK ISLAND STATE GRAZING PRESERVE

Sec 41.12.200. KODIAK ISLAND STATE GRAZING PRESERVE. Subject to valid existing rights, the state owned or acquired land and water lying within the parcels described in this section is designated as the Kodiak Island State Grazing Preserve.

SEWARD MERIDIAN

T 29 S, R 19 W, Secs. 31-36

T 29 S, R 20 W, Secs. 7, 12-14, 19-24, 25-35

T 29 S, R 21 W, Secs. 24-36

T 29 S, R 22 W, Secs. 33-36

T 30 S, R's 19-22 W

T 31 S, R's 19-21 W

T 31 S, R 22 W, Secs. 1-12

T 32 S, R 19 W Secs. 3-6, 9

T 32 S R 20 W, Secs. 1-5, 9, 10.

ARTICLE 3. SEWARD PENINSULA GRAZING PRESERVE

Sec 41.12.300. SEWARD PENINSULA GRAZING PRESERVE. Subject to valid existing rights, the state owned or acquired land and water lying within the parcels described in this section is designated as the Seward Peninsula State Grazing Preserve.

KATEEL RIVER MERIDIAN

T 1 N, R's 10-20, 28-44 W

T 2 N, R's 10-20, 28-44 W

T 3 N, R's 10-20, 28-43 W

T 4 N, R's 10-19, 28-39 W

T 5 N, R's 10-22, 28-37 W

T 6 N, R's 10-22, 30-37 W

T 7 N, R's 10-21 W

T 8 N, R's 10-21 W

T 9 N, R's 11-14 W

T 10 N, R's 11, 13, 15 W

T 11 N, R's 8-13, 15 W

T 12 N, R's 10-15 W

T 13 N, R 15 W

T 14 N, R's 15, 16 W

T 15 N, R's 16-18 W

T 16 N, R's 16-18 W
T 17 N, R's 16, 17 W
T 18 N R 17 W
T 1 S, R's 10-20, 28, 29 W
T 2 S, R's 10-18, 28, 29 W
T 3 S, R's 10, 28, 29 W
T 4 S, R's 28, 29 W
T 5 S, R's 25-30 W
T 6 S, R's 25-31 W
T 7 S, R's 26-33 W
T 8 S, R's 25-38 W
T 9 S, R's 21, 22, 24-38 W
T 10 S, R's 20, 21, 23-37 W
T 11 S, R's 20-38 W
T 12 S, R's 20, 22, 23, 30-33 W
T 13 S, R's 20, 21 W.

Section 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1986.



KAWERAK, INC.



P.O. BOX 948 • NOME, ALASKA 99762



(907) 443-5231

SERVING THE
VILLAGES OF:

- BREVIK MISSION
- COUNCIL
- DIOMEDE
- ELIM
- GAMBELL
- GOLOVIN
- KOYUK
- NOME
- SAVOONGA
- SHAKTOOLIK
- SHISHMAREF
- SOLOMON
- STEBBINS
- ST. MICHAEL
- TELLER
- UNALAKLEET
- WALES
- WHITE MOUNTAIN

Representative John G. Fuller
 Pouch V
 Juneau, Ak 99811

Dear Representative Fuller:

It was good to see you on Front Street near the Post Office the other day. As I mentioned, the Reindeer Herders' Association (RHA) is interested in supporting a Bill relating to the conservation and protection of natural rangelands.

I have been in touch with Jim Burton of Kodiak, a member of the Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation, District (AASWCD). He referred me to Senator Zharoff's office regarding Resolution No. AASWCD 35-10 and a proposed bill, (enclosed) which would create State Grazing Preserves. The Management Plans section of the proposed bill gives a very comprehensive list of multiple land uses other than grazing permits and leases.

Reindeer have been on the Seward Peninsula for almost 100 years and this should set some precedent for future land use designation. The reindeer herd distributions outside the Seward Peninsula are at Shaktoolik, Stebbins, Islands of Hagemeister, St. Paul, Umnak, Atka, Kodiak and St. Lawrence; as well as on the Baldwin Peninsula.

The cattle and sheep are two other examples of livestock in Alaska that I can think of which would benefit through a multiple-use management plan for Alaska's resources.

The Reindeer Herders' Association is asking for your assistance in sponsoring or co-sponsoring a bill to create and establish state grazing preserves.

I want to thank you for your continued support of the reindeer industry.

Sincerely,

Henry Ahgupuk
 Henry Ahgupuk, Director

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ORIGIN OF RESOLUTION Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation
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- TELLER
- UNALAKLEET
- VALES
- WHITE MOUNTAIN

Tom Panamarof:
 Aide of Senator: Fred F. Zharoff
 Alaska State Senator
 Alaska State Legislature Senate

Pouch V
 State Capital
 Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Tom;

I have enclosed Resolution No. AASWCD 85-10 passed by the Alaska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts on October 19, 1985 and a proposed Bill for an act entitled: "An Act relating to the conservation and protection of natural rangelands;"...

The Reindeer Herders' Association (RHA) supports the need to protect naturally occurring rangelands and to permit the establishment of state owned or acquired land and water areas as state grazing preserves.

It is my understanding that some thought has been given, not to identify specific areas or regions as grazing preserves. Instead that a general approach be used to determine and identify state lands that would be considered rangelands on a state-wide basis.

A Statewide grazing act needs to be developed to outline policies and regulations pertaining to grazing. Land users need something concrete to fall back on when issues arise. Open herding should continue and an open range is an issue that should be addressed.

I am thankful that Senator Zharoff has assigned you the task of looking into RHA's interest to establish state grazing preserves.

Sincerely;

Henry Ahguyuk
 Henry Ahguyuk
 Director, RHA

cc: Jim Burton, Kodiak
 John B. Coghill, Senator
 Albert P. Adams, Rep.

John G. Fuller, Rep.
 Frank R. Ferguson, Senator

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

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[legal description]

Section 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1986.

Offered: 4/21/86
Referred: Finance

Original sponsor: Fuller

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 482 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 A BILL

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12 other beneficial uses of the resources under the principles of multiple-use
13 and sustained-yield management. In this section, "naturally occurring
14 rangeland" means land of the state where cattle, sheep, or reindeer are
15 grazing or where cattle, sheep, or reindeer may graze under lease or permit
16 of the commissioner of natural resources.

17 * Sec. 2. The commissioner of natural resources shall report to the
18 Second Session of the Fifteenth State Legislature within the first 10 days
19 of the session on state land recommended for protection as state grazing
20 preserves.

Introduced: 1/17/86
Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY FULLER

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 482

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to protection of natural range-
7 lands."

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

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10 purpose in the protection of existing naturally occurring rangelands and
11 for the establishment of state owned or acquired land valuable for grazing
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14 ple-use and sustained-yield management.

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