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165



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BILL ANALYSIS

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------|
| DEPARTMENT Fish and Game | DIVISION Game | BILL NUMBER SSHB 165 | SPONSOR Taylor-Sund |
| DEPARTMENT POSITION Neutral | | | |
| PREPARED BY Robert Hinman | DATE 4/17/85 | COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>Conrad Belenewich</i> | DATE 4/17/85 |

SUMMARY

| | |
|---|---|
| OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL U.S. Forest Service | CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Sportsmen's groups, Advisory committees, Environmental groups |
| ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Sitka and Ketchikan sportsmen's groups Alaska loggers | ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL Unknown |

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

Various groups, particularly the sportsmen's group from Ketchikan have supported a transplant of Roosevelt Elk to southeastern Alaska. This bill would mandate such an introduction.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

Prior to transplanting elk or any other species, permission must be granted by the land managing agency--in this case, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The Forest Service has indicated that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be necessary and possibly an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if the EA indicates that a more detailed evaluation is necessary. Board of Game policy is that an introduction or transplant of wildlife must be preceded by an analysis indicating that sufficient habitat exists to sustain the species, that the transplant would not adversely affect indigenous species, and that the transplant would likely serve a useful purpose. The department and the USFS have met and agreed upon proposed criteria (attached) for a feasibility study. The Commissioner has agreed with the USFS Regional Forester to work cooperatively in developing a plan for the feasibility study. Among the questions to be addressed are the potential effects on indigenous Sitka blacktail deer. Because predator-prey relationships, forage availability, and other factors may affect the (continued)

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

Line 9: years, (COOPERATE and assist in the) Transplant(ING) to Zarembo Island or other appropriate location in southeastern Alaska (OF)

Delete last sentence, lines 15 and 16: the department already has this authority.

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

success of a proposed transplant, it is desirable to evaluate more than one possible transplant location.

The department is not currently funded to conduct the necessary feasibility study. Work of this type can be conducted over a period of years in conjunction with existing research and management activities. In this way, costs could be minimized, but a substantial period of time would be necessary. To conduct the work over a shorter period would require additional funding. Assuming the study indicates that the transplant is feasible, funding to cover the actual transport of animals (and related costs) would be needed.

INTRODUCTION OF ELK INTO SOUTHEAST ALASKA

PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY

The following criteria should be addressed when conducting a feasibility study on the introduction of elk onto public lands in Southeast Alaska:

1. Consider possible implications of introducing elk to Southeast Alaska.
 - a. Biological implications
 - b. Ecological implications
 - c. Recreational implications
 - d. Economical implications
 - (1) Estimate of cost/benefit
2. Consider potential types of public use.
 - a. Sport hunting
 - b. Non-consumptive
3. Consider attitudes of people in Southeast Alaska towards introducing elk.
 - a. Public sectors
 - b. State and Federal agencies
4. Compliance with agency policies, direction, and regulations.
 - a. State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game
 - b. USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
5. Historical Record of Elk Introductions to Southeast Alaska.
 - a. Literature review
 - b. Past experience and results
6. Biological and Habitat Relationships
 - a. Suitability of habitats for elk
 - (1) Winter ranges-optimum/minimum acres
 - (2) Summer ranges-optimum/minimum acres
 - (3) Effect of timber harvest on elk habitat
 - b. Forage availability (quantity, quality, forage species)
 - (1) Winter range
 - (2) Summer range

- c. Habitat competition with other species
 - (1) Forage competition
 - (2) Space competition
 - (3) Reproduction/breeding
- d. Biological potential for elk in Southeast Alaska
 - (1) Subspecies most suitable to Southeast Alaska
 - (2) Availability of transplant stock
 - (3) Habitat adaptability of the animal
 - (4) Reproduction
 - (5) Survival/mortality
- e. Predator/Prey Relationships
 - (1) Effects of predation on Elk
 - (2) Potential problems with other species
- f. Diseases and Parasites
 - (1) Potential problems with elk populations
 - (2) Potential problems with other species
- g. Land Use/Habitat Relationships
 - (1) Effect of timber harvest on public and native lands on habitat utilization by elk
 - (2) Effect of State land disposal activities

7. Management of the Elk Populations in Southeast Alaska.

- a. Mobility of the animals-likelihood of expansion to other areas outside the original transplant site.
- b. Population Management - regulations needed to maintain population size and areas occupied to meet management objectives
- c. Potentials for Animal Damage
 - (1) Land Use Conflicts - public and private lands




ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
RESEARCH AGENCY

Pouch Y. State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-3991

December 12, 1984

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative-Elect Robin Taylor

FROM: Sharman Haley 
Legislative Analyst

RE: Transplanting Elk to Southeast Alaska
Research Request 85-053

You requested information to help formulate legislation requiring the Department of Fish and Game to cooperate with sportsmen in a program to transfer elk from Afognak Island to Southeast Alaska. This memorandum provides some background on the issue, outlines the political and legal hurdles for undertaking a transplant, discusses some of the alternative methods for rounding up and transporting the elk, and draws some conclusions regarding legislation.

Background

The history of elk transplant to Southeast Alaska was summarized by the Director of Game in a letter to the Alaska Sportsmen's Council, Inc.:

As you are doubtlessly aware, there has been considerable public interest in an elk transplant to southeast Alaska since at least Statehood. During the early 1960s, two elk transplants were attempted but failed (to Revilla and Gravina Islands). Another transplant was planned in early 1972, but the department's request for Federal Aid funding was denied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on grounds that such a transplant was not biologically sound... The Service's denial of this request was primarily based on documented competition between deer and elk in several western states with the ultimate result being depressed deer populations. This was particularly evident in areas of harsh winter weather.

This federal action combined with an increasing biological awareness of resident species and habitat conditions in Alaska led the department to review proposed transplants much more critically during the 1970s and to establish firm policies governing transplants statewide. The Alaska Legislature, which had previously

endorsed long-standing but biologically unsound transplant statutes, took a firm stance on such matters in 1970 and repealed Sections 16.25.020, 16.25.030, and 16.25.040 of Title 16, Alaska Statutes.¹

Last August, the Governor and the Commissioner of Fish and Game met with Representative Ron Wendte, Bob DeWitt, and other sportsmen's representatives on the issue of elk transplant to Southeast. Their conclusion was that if the sportsmen could get the support of the fish and game advisory committees, the Fish and Game Regional Council, and the State Boards of Fish and Game, the department would proceed with the transplant. When the issue came before the State Board of Game December 8, 1984, the board recommended that it be taken to the advisory committees.

Legal and Political Hurdles

Wild game may not be possessed or transported in the state without a permit from the Department of Fish and Game.² There are no specific statutory or regulatory guidelines for the department to follow in considering a permit request. The position of the department outlined in its letter to the Alaska Sportsmen's Council is as follows:

4. As a matter of policy, we will not approve of, nor participate in, transplants of nonindigenous wildlife without detailed feasibility studies and ecological investigations.
5. We are not currently funded, nor are we likely to be in the future, for elk transplant feasibility studies.
6. We would be willing to conduct or participate in elk transplant feasibility studies involving ecological investigations only if: (a) outside funding were made available; and (b) the Division of Game received additional positions for research biologists such that our existing research and management programs on resident species were not affected.
7. Until such time that detailed feasibility studies may be completed and the results closely analyzed, resource agencies in

¹Letter from W. Lewis Pamplin Jr. to Ronald J. Somerville, November 3, 1983.

²AS 16.05.255; 5AAC 81.040; 5AAC 81.130.

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December 12, 1984
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Alaska should maintain consistent opposition to transplanting nonindigenous wildlife species.³

The approval of federal agencies is also required to transplant game. The National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), requires an environmental analysis prior to federal action. This analysis could take the simpler form of an Environmental Assessment, or NEPA might be interpreted to require a more detailed Environmental Impact Statement.

If federal aid funds are to be used, which would normally be the case for a wildlife transplant program, approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required. In 1972, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service evaluated and rejected the State's proposal to transplant elk to Kruzof Island. The evidence suggested that the deer population would decline as a result of the elk's competition for forage, and that the proposal was therefore "biologically unsound."

With or without federal aid funds, approval by the U.S. Forest Service is required. The Forest Service is the federal manager of most of the land and habitat in Southeast. For fish and game management, the Forest Service has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. One of the provisions of this agreement is that the department will not sanction the introduction of any species onto National Forest land without Forest Service agreement. Further, the department is obligated to conduct the necessary research for the Forest Service's environmental analysis of the proposal. My conversation with Phil Janik, Director of Wildlife and Fisheries for the Forest Service, indicated that the Forest Service review would likely be technical, not political; if the feasibility study and environmental assessment showed the proposal to be technically sound and indicated that the only significant biological impact would be a trade off of deer for elk, the Forest Service would not necessarily reject the proposal on that basis. The decision to proceed with the transfer would likely be left to the State's political process.

One way the State makes political decisions regarding game is the process agreed to in August by the governor and sportsmen's representatives and recently affirmed by the State Board of Game: the proposal should first be considered by each of the 18 Southeast fish and game advisory committees and the Southeast Regional Council before reviewed by the State Board. The State Board will consider the recommendations of the local and regional entities and make a final decision for the State. This process would allow residents in all areas that might ultimately be affected by the decision to be heard on the issue.

³W. Lewis Pamplin Jr., op cit.

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Legislation is another means of making a political decision on the elk transplant issue. A bill could be introduced directing Fish and Game to conduct the necessary studies, and subject to federal approval, transplant elk to Southeast Alaska. An appropriation would also be needed. If the legislation were passed and signed into law, action by the State Board of Game would not be required.

Operations

Once the decision is made to proceed, there are at least two methods of rounding up and transporting the elk. The most appropriate method for elk from Afognak Island would be to tranquilize the elk individually with darts and pick them up with a helicopter. The elk would then be flown to Kodiak and on to Southeast. This operation would likely require six to eight experienced people. An alternative method would be to import surplus elk from Washington or Oregon where the elk can be driven into existing corrals and loaded into trucks. Although a veterinary inspection would be required for every elk to be transported across state lines, this still might prove to be less expensive than a roundup on Afognak.

Conclusions

The first thing the Department of Fish and Game needs to participate in the proposed elk transplant to Southeast is a political mandate to do so. This could be accomplished through legislation. To facilitate the required federal cooperation, you may wish to specify in the legislation that no federal aid funds are to be used. This way only the approval of the Forest Service, and not of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Protection, would be required. You might also consider having the legislation drafted generally enough to allow the department to pursue the least expensive roundup and transportation option, and to direct them to utilize available volunteer services.

The second thing the department needs to proceed is money. If you introduce legislation, the department will be required to prepare a fiscal note estimating the costs to carry out your proposal. You and your staff (or you may request assistance from this agency) should review the fiscal note very carefully to determine whether you agree with the department's estimates. In particular, you may wish to ascertain whether the department has considered the volunteer services of interested sportsmen. You can expect that the department will request funding for additional research biologists to carry out the necessary studies. You may wish to review the department's existing research commitments to determine whether you agree that additional positions are needed, or whether you feel that existing staff should alter their

Representative-Elect Taylor
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research priorities to perform the necessary elk research. If you disagree with the department's fiscal note, you may want to prepare your own version for committee consideration.

* * * * *

I hope that this memorandum has provided you with useful information. More detailed information on specific requirements in terms of personnel, equipment, time, etc. will be forthcoming in a departmental fiscal note after legislation is introduced. If you have any further questions for this agency, please don't hesitate to call.

SH

Alaska Loggers Association, Inc.



111 STEDMAN, SUITE 200
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901
Phone 907-220-8114

October 29, 1984

Honorable Bill Sheffield
Governor State of Alaska
Pouch A State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Sheffield:

Once again Alaska Loggers Association has been invited to support the Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club in its effort to establish an elk herd in Southeast Alaska. You will wish to know, the ALA Directors support this program. We would suggest the transplant be made to an area already designated as wilderness or some other set aside which does not permit timber harvest. We would hate in years hence to have a battle with the fish and game over elk habitat with the possibility they could not exist if the old growth forest were harvested.

Why not give it a try.

Sincerely,

Donald A. Bell
General Manager
ALASKA LOGGERS ASSOCIATION

DAB/mjh

cc: Mike Barton
Commissioner Collinsworth
Win Green
Jim Clark
Jerry Larrabee
Bob DeWitt
Earl Mossburg

BILL SHEFFIELD
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

November 23, 1984

Mr. Donald A. Bell
General Manager
Alaska Loggers Association
111 Stedman, Suite 200
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Don:

Thank you for your letter of October 29, 1984, regarding the support of the Alaska Loggers Association for an elk transplant in southeastern Alaska. Commissioner Collinsworth and his staff have been in contact with the Forest Service and various public groups in Southeastern concerning this matter. Department of Fish and Game staff will brief the Board of Game on the request at its next meeting, December 2-8, 1984. I appreciate the continuing concern of your Association for enhancement of wildlife in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

Bill Sheffield
Governor

Sitka Sportsman's Association

BOX 1200 • SITKA, ALASKA • 99835



January 12, 1984

Honorable Don Collingsworth
Commissioner Dept. Fish and Game
P.O. Box 3-2000
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Commissioner Collingsworth:

We agree with the Ketchikan, Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club that the multiple use management concept would work and be more beneficial to the hunter. Our association ask you to please review the facts and issue a permit to transplant Elk to the Ketchikan, Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club.

The first obstacle received from the Fish and Game Dept. was no money. The Ketchikan group have received pledges from Sitka, Wrangell, Ketchikan, and Petersburg to help finance this project. Private parties have offered the use of aircraft, helicopters, landing craft, barges, boats and other equipment for the transplant. The Forest Service said they had funds, equipment, and biologists who could be used.

The second obstacle was the need for more research. After inquiring, we found three reports of assessment to introduce elk in Southeast Alaska. One by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two by the Dept. of Fish and Game; the latest in 1970 by Alan W. Courtright and Harry R. Merriam which favored the introduction of elk to Kruzof Island.

The third and last obstacle was the elk would compete with the deer. We have found in other states where they have had a healthy herd of elk and deer in the same area for many years. From the Fish and Game reports we found Afognak Island has six herds of elk totaling around 800 animals and during the 1982 season the total harvest was 150 animals. At the same time, the deer limit was seven per year the highest limit in Alaska.

Respectfully,

Foy Nevers
Foy Nevers
President

cc: Governor Sheffield
Sitka Sentinel
Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club

KETCHIKAN FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 4, 1984, 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Lundamo, Maurice Ingman, Bob Stanker, Larry Painter, Hal Brown, Jim Canary, John Peckham, Mike Painter.

Other: Sports and Wildlife Club, USFS, and general public.

AGENDA

1. Notification of term expiration (1984) for J. Canary, O. Haynes and B. Stanker. Nominations and vote to be conducted during the January 7th meeting.
2. Proposed elk transplant discussed to date: proposed 1982 for Revilla Island. Reproposed 1983 twice suggesting Prince of Wales Island or Zarembo Island. Apparently not a conflict of feed with existing black tailed deer population. Afognak Island has a bag limit of 5 deer and 1 elk. Last local elk transplant had 18 animals and were seen several years ago but none since. Certain groups in Wrangell are behind the Sports and Wildlife Club for an elk transplant. Suggested 100 animals minimum for the transplant and that they all be adults.

Motion made and ~~2nd to favor~~ transplant of elk to Southeast

For - 7 Against - 0 Abstain - 1

3. Discussed Wolf Study: \$300,000.00 for a four year study. Input from the group and audience was that it is a complete waste of money. What people want is some wolf control. How do you get ADF&G to go for it was an unanswered question.
4. Comments on the Misty Fjords, or other parts of S.E being used by private commercial use by promoters for setting Guide Camps, tent platforms and other. Question - should we favor or oppose the commercial guide camps on lakes in the National Forest. Opinion vote - advisory to the Forest Service.

Motion to recommend to the USFS to continue constructing cabins consistent with present uses that are open to the public use, and not allow commercial guide camps, because we feel the current use of cabins fully satisfies the public demand.

For - 7 Against - 1 Abstain - 0

5. Discussed proposal for a goat transplant on parts of Prince of Wales Island, north end preferred.

For - 7

No - 0

Abstain - 0

Maurice Ingman
Secretary



Shop now for the best Christmas selection

New shipment of blankets and comforters, twin to king size. Comforters in floral prints and plain colors. All washable. And towels galore! And don't forget to make those hand-made gifts early. We have batting, Poly Fill and pillow forms for your handicrafts.

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FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE

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Mon.-Fri. 9-5 772-3390

Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 10
Starts at 11 am
Wrangell Alcohol Center
Raffle for Cabbage Patch Doll
and Debonair Bear

Donated by Nancy Martin
Drawing at Midnight Madness

Wrangell varsity splits with Kake

By COREY JOHNSON
The defending 2A state champion Kake Thunderbirds gave the Wrangell Wolves boys teams a run for their money last Friday and Saturday by winning three out of the four games played.

Last week's action brought the season records for the Wolves varsity and the JV both to 3-3.

Friday, the Wrangell varsity lost 58-57, but the junior varsity had an easy 46-40 win.

On Saturday night, both Wrangell teams suffered losses when the Thunderbirds took advantage of the numerous Wrangell turnovers

and beat the varsity 49-40 and the JV's 63-54.

Coach Bill Gablehouse's prediction that Kake would give an outstanding performance proved true when he saw a "well-balanced attack" from the Thunderbirds. Friday's varsity game was "back and forth throughout the whole game."

Gablehouse said he was pleased with his team's approximately 60 percent accuracy at the free-throw line. Although Gablehouse said he enjoyed the varsity game Saturday, he felt Wrangell had too many turnovers, with an estimated 15 that night.

"We had some bad breaks, and Kake shot well," Gablehouse said.

Gablehouse also pointed out Kake's use of various defenses in the second half, which he said led to the majority of Wrangell's turnovers.

The coach said Eddie Henry played excellently both nights for the JV's, with 25 points Friday, and 27 points Saturday. He also complimented Gus Brock, Peter Schonwandt and Vern Meissner on their fine performance under the boards for both nights.

Gablehouse said he thinks he needs better ball control

from his team, to reduce the large amount of turnovers in each game.

Gablehouse said Kake did an overall good job, saying, "Kake could compete with any 3A team".

Looking ahead to next week's game at home, in which the Wrangell Wolves will be hosting Juneau at home, Gablehouse expects a tough "man to man — all the way."

Neither of the Wrangell girls teams played last week, but they will travel this week to play Juneau.

Official favors study of elk transplant proposal

The Alaska Game Board should seriously consider a proposal to transplant elk to Southeast, a member of that group says.

Joel Bennett said during a recent visit to Wrangell that the board should consider the proposal despite opposition from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

"We're not going to kill the proposal just because the department is against it," he said.

The Wrangell City Council is backing a plan by the Alaska Sports and Wildlife

Club to transplant elk to Southeast. In a resolution approved last month, the council urged the department and U.S. Forest Service to participate in an elk transplant.

Bennett said department officials generally oppose the plan because of competition for range with deer. In critical winter weather, he said, only a thin strip of range is available to deer along the coastline — and elk would compete for the limited forage.

When deer and elk compete, he said, the deer generally suffer.

Members of the Sports and Wildlife Club, however, point to other successful programs — and say the elk and deer can survive and prosper together.

Bennett said other attempts with elk transplants in Southeast near Ketchikan and Sitka could not be properly monitored because too many of the animals were poached before the population grew

large enough for state-sanctioned hunting.

Bennett said the Board of Game will have to consider both sides of the question and determine "if we want to gamble" on the transplant's success.

He encouraged citizens with views on the transplant issue to contact him by writing 114 West Sixth St., Juneau, Alaska, 99801.

Proposals to the game board are due in mid-December.

More entries expected in winter salmon derby

Organizers of Wrangell's Third Annual Winter King Salmon Derby are expecting more entries and a bigger

Last year's winner, James Stough, won \$1,000 in the event.

as far away as Houston, Texas, and Denver, Colo., he said.

Entrants each pay \$100 and the winner takes all.

ALCOHOL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL CENTER

Logging shows

Vern Eliason, Chairman of the All Alaska Logging Championship in Sitka, announced June 25 and 26 as the dates for the show. They expect a group of professionals from the lower '48 and a strong group of competitors from the Sitka area. The loggers from Larrabee Logging Company will be out to retain their camp championship.

ALA's Kirsten Held and Joe Staley of Sealaska Timber are co-chairing the 1983 July 4th Timber Carnival in Ketchikan. They have the support of an enthusiastic committee and are planning a topnotch show on July 4th at the Norman Walker Field.

Roy Martin advises Wrangell's logging show will start on July 3 and continue through the 5th. They plan on many contests including log rolling, ma pa bucking, choker setting, and log binding.

Let's hope they listen

Dick Borch, President Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club, recently wrote an excellent letter to the editor of Island News, the Prince of Wales Island weekly. It is hoped the Alaska Department of Fish and Game read it and recognize Dick's remarks are coming from more than 60 years of sports hunting in Alaska. In the early 60s, the ADF & G introduced wolves on Coronation Island to conduct a deer predator study. The wolves ate all the deer then swam to other islands. Dick reports the wolves are now gnawing their way through the deer population on Revilla Island. He suggested the introduction of Roosevelt Elk which can co-exist with deer and would have a better survival rate with the wolves.

They do it different

South Central Timber Development's 40 employees started logging the end of March at Icy Bay. Cliff Husted, ATIE Safety Director, made a trip to camp in May and snapped these pictures showing how they do it up north.



Mosquito nets keep the bugs away from the logger's face.



They use large ice cubes in their martinis. Floyd Johnson, partner, and Larry Varner, Camp Manager, explain why they need such

CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 10-84-213

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA,
URGING THE U. S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PARTICIPATE IN
AN ELK TRANSPLANT IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA: AND
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club has made a proposal
advocating the establishment of an elk herd in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club believes that the
multiple use management concept of the Wrangell District would be more
beneficial to the hunters of this area if an elk herd were made avail-
able for propogation and ultimate hunting in Southeastern Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Club has worked with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife and
the U. S. Forest Service and advocates proper management of Alaska's
recreational lands; and

WHEREAS, Sports and Wildlife activities are an important part of
Wrangell's tourism and subsistance attraction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WRANGELL,
ALASKA:

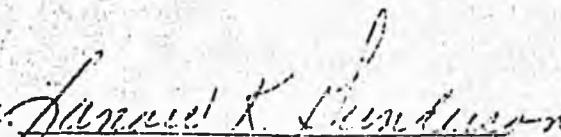
1. The Council urges the U. S. Forest Service and the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game to participate
in an elk transplant to Southeastern Alaska.
2. The City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of
this resolution to Governor Bill Sheffield; Area
Biologist Robert Wood, Alaska Department of Fish
and Game; and Forest Supervisor Win Green, U. S.
Forest Service.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED _____ OCTOBER 23 _____, 1984

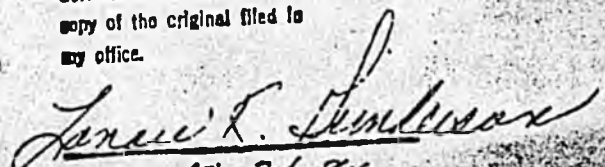


William B. Privett, Mayor

ATTEST


CITY CLERK

Certified a true and correct
copy of the original filed in
my office.


City Clerk 10-24-84
City of Wrangell, Alaska

We are aware that if either-sex hunting was to be initiated, it might be necessary to use a permit system due to limited moose numbers. This, of course, increases administrative requirements and restricts opportunities for hunters. It might be possible, however, to continue the open bull season and add a limited number of cow permits.

We received reports of occasional moose sightings on Mitkof, Kupreanof, and Prince of Wales Islands, and we also found the remains of a moose on Sokolof Island during our visit there. But our impression, from talking with knowledgeable people, is that these islands are even more marginal habitat than the pockets where moose occur on the mainland. Efforts to increase the carrying capacity for moose on these islands would therefore have rather low priority but should not be entirely discounted. We feel that any means of increasing the diversity of ungulates throughout southeast Alaska would be worth considering, especially if species can be found with diverse food habits and ecologic niche preferences. Broadening the variety of herbivores has been amply demonstrated in many parts of the world to improve the conversion of vegetation to useful animal products.

Introduction of Elk

For this same reason we believe that further efforts should be pursued to introduce Roosevelt elk to this area. Elk have demonstrated that they can survive the rigorous conditions of Afognak Island and if sufficient numbers could be planted in one area, we feel they would have a reasonable chance of becoming established. An isolated island might be selected for such a trial; Zarembo Island has been suggested as a possible site.

We are also aware of the previous attempts to introduce Roosevelt elk to southeast Alaska, (including Gravina and Revilla Islands). In spite of these failures, we consider it worthwhile to try again.

Before elk introduction is contemplated, however, it would be logical to analyze

the potential demand for this species and to assess their probable biological impact on the habitat as well as the possibility of spread to other islands.

Members of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have expressed strong reservations about the potential for competition between elk and deer and this should certainly be considered. Some background information which would aid the assessment of this aspect should be available from Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver Island where Roosevelt elk and Columbian black-tailed deer coexist.

There is some indication, however, that Roosevelt elk do not compete with deer to the extent that is often found with Rocky Mountain elk and deer. Additionally, Roosevelt elk do cause serious damage by browsing to Douglas-fir seedlings in Oregon and Washington, and it would be necessary to evaluate their preferences for the species of commercial conifers in southeast Alaska. Taber and Radeke (1980) point out that Roosevelt elk do browse on hemlock.

Retention Areas

In the planning process, particularly in the case of timber sales, areas to be retained uncut to meet wildlife needs should be designated as temporary or permanent depending upon management objectives. Beach front areas, because of their critical values for deer winter range, furbearers, and eagles, are among the best examples of sites for permanent retention. In contrast, intermediate elevation sites may or may not require the same consideration for permanency depending upon local conditions. Both temporary and permanent retention areas will lose value and ability to meet their needs if they are altered by unplanned changes in size or design. Blowdown of trees in windstorms is a good example. Ruth and Harris (1979) present a good discussion of the factors contributing to blowdown risks and ways in which risks can be reduced.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Voting "Yes": | Elkins Bartholomew Hansen Thomas McCarty |
| Voting "No": | None |
| Absent: | King Cruise |
| 4 votes required for passage | |
| Effective date: | 8/20/84 |

K E T C H I K A N G A T E W A Y B O R O U G H

Resolution No. 590

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, ALASKA, URGING THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ELK TRANSPLANT IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

R E C I T A L S

A. The Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club has made a proposal advocating the establishment of an elk herd in Southeast Alaska. The Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club believes that the multiple use management concept of the Ketchikan District would be more beneficial to the hunters of this area if an elk herd were made available for propagation and ultimate hunting in Southeastern Alaska.

B. The Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club was organized in 1947. Over the years, the Club has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service and advocates proper management of Alaska's recreational lands. The Club works to combat the declining deer population in Southeast Alaska, builds and maintains recreational cabins, provides skiffs on popular sportfishing lakes and supports many other sports and wildlife activities.

C. Sports and Wildlife activities are an important part of Ketchikan's tourism attraction.

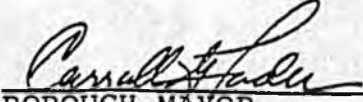
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH, ALASKA, as follows:

Section 1. The Assembly urges the U.S. Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to participate in an elk transplant to Southeastern Alaska.

Section 2. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Bill Sheffield; Area Biologist Robert Wood, Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and Forest Supervisor Win Green, U.S. Forest Service.

Section 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 20th day of August, 1984.


BOROUGH MAYOR

ATTEST:

Giorgiana Booth
BOROUGH CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Wesley W. Wall
MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY