

SCR

59



**STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BILL ANALYSIS**

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Game	BILL NUMBER SGR 59	SPONSOR Senate Resources Committee
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Relating to the Transplanting of Sitka black-tail deer.			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Opposed			
PREPARED BY Donald E. McKnight	DATE 4/11/88	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>Don Williams</i>	DATE 4-11-88

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Kenai Wildlife Refuge)	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Sport and Subsistence Hunters
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL Unknown	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL Unknown

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The natural range of Sitka black-tailed deer extends from northern British Columbia north on the mainland to about Berners Bay, where winter snow depth is excessive for deer survival. These deer also occur naturally on all of the islands of the Alexander Archipelago. From 1916 through 1923 deer from Southeastern were translocated to the islands of Prince William Sound where they have established thriving populations. Beginning in 1924, deer were transplanted to Kodiak Island and by 1953 hunting was initiated at Kodiak. Deer have moved naturally to Afognak Island (continued next page).

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

SCR 59 directs to Administration to conduct a feasibility study of a proposed transplant of up to 100 deer from Kodiak to the Chugach Islands and southern end of the Kenai Peninsula. This study should first determine whether appropriate habitat is available to support deer in this area. If habitat is available and it is determined that deer would not compete with or cause other problems with existing wildlife species in this area, then the availability of deer on Kodiak and the expense of capturing and transporting deer for transplant must be determined. Before a transplant could be conducted it would also be necessary to determine if the public in Kodiak and on the Kenai Peninsula would support such a transplant.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

BILL ANALYSIS
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BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT (continued)

and some of the smaller islands as well. Not all deer transplants have been so successful. In 1934 deer were transplanted to islands in Yakutat Bay. They established a huntable population and even moved naturally to the mainland. The deep snow winter of 1971-72 virtually eliminated deer from the Yakutat area and now, even though a few animals persist, hunting is not allowed. Deer were also transplanted to the Taiya Valley near Skagway and to Sullivan Island in Lynn Canal. Deer are occasionally seen in the Skagway and Haines vicinities, but these may be animals that have worked their way north from natural ranges. The only transplant which was a complete failure was a 1923 transplant to the Homer spit on the Kenai Peninsula. It appears that winter snow accumulations were too deep for deer survival in this area and on the mainland along Prince William Sound where deer from Hawkins and Montegue Islands have been unable to establish viable populations. The intent of SCR 59 is have a study conducted to determine the feasibility of establishing deer on the Chugach Islands and the lower Kenai Peninsula.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Relating to the transplanting of Sitka black-tail deer.
Sponsor: Resources
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: Fish and Game
BRU: Game
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		30.9	32.1			
TRAVEL		4.0	4.0			
CONTRACTUAL		10.0	10.0			
SUPPLIES		2.0	2.0			
EQUIPMENT		2.0	0			
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	48.9	48.1	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	48.9	48.1	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME	0	.5	.5	0	0	0
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This study would require approximately 6 months of a Game Biologist II's time for 2 years to analyze existing information on deer habitat requirements and to conduct field studies in and analyze existing snow records for the proposed transplant sites. This would be a 2-year study.

Prepared by: Donald E. McKnight
Division: Game

Phone: 465-4190
Date: April 11, 1988

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
Agency: _____

Date: 4-11-88

Distribution (by preparer) :

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