

**HB**

**582**

## FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: 3-13-90  
 Title: An act relating to the hunting of bears  
 Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Fish and Game  
 BRU: Wildlife Conservation  
 Components: Wildlife Conservation

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** (thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0

**POSITIONS:**

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

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No effects in FY 90

Prepared by: Bruce Dinneford Phone: 465-4190  
 Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: 3-30-90

Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]* Date: 4/5/90  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer) :  
 Legislative Finance  
 Legislative Sponsor  
 Requestor  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Impacted Agency(ies)



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

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Wildlife Conservation	BILL NUMBER HB 582	SPONSOR Resources
SHORT TITLE OF BILL An act relating to the hunting of bears			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Do not pass. We support continuation of legal black bear baiting.			
PREPARED BY Bruce Dinneford	DATE 4-04-90	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>A. Hammond</i>	DATE 4/5/90

**SUMMARY**

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL  Department of Public Safety	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL  Hunters
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL

FISCAL IMPACT:  NONE  FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

HB 582 would prohibit the use of bait in the hunting of black bear. Before 1975, black bear baiting was legal. From 1975 to 1982 it was illegal because bears could not be intentionally fed. Since 1982, the Board of Game (BOG) has authorized this practice for black bears. Since 1982 the BOG has progressively closed densely populated or heavily used recreation areas, prohibited the practice in areas predominated by brown

(Cont. on pg 2)

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

1989 was the first year since 1983 in which registration of bait stations with the department was required. In 1989, 199 black bear were taken over bait and at least 1,457 total black bears were killed in Alaska (this does not account for bears from some units that are not required to be reported to the department if the meat is salvaged). Therefore, harvest by baiting accounted for 13.7 % of the total statewide harvest.

<u>baited bears</u>		<u>1989 total</u>	
#	(%)	#	(%)
199	(14)	1457	(100)

A total of 656 individual hunters registered bait stations, 260 for one station, 396 for two (a total of 1,052 stations). Hunters are limited to no more than two active stations. (Cont. on pg 2)

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

None

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT CONT.

bears, and placed substantial restrictions on hunters using bait. The bear baiting season currently lasts for 60 days in the spring, but recent BOG action extended the baiting period in some interior locations by 15 days, closed Denali State Park, and shortened the baiting period by 15 days in the Mat-Su Valley.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS CONT.

No brown/grizzly bear kills or human injury have been proven attributable to bait stations in Alaska, or to our knowledge, elsewhere in North America. Some people have alleged that brown bears are taken illegally at black bear stations. However, of more than 600 brown bears killed in Alaska during the spring of 1989, only two people with bait stations also killed brown bears; one hunter baited in GMU 20D and killed a brown bear in 6D, the other baited in GMU 7 and killed a brown bear in 13B. In both instances the bait stations were several hundred miles distant from where the brown bears were taken. A third person baited black bear and his wife killed a brown bear in 20D, but the brown bear was killed on April 4th, prior to the April 15 opening of the baiting period.

Opponents of baiting have also argued that the practice increases the number of problem bears. An excellent indicator of this potential increase is defense of life or property (DLP) kills. The following figures are for GMUs 7, 14, 15, and 20, where over 80 % of the statewide baiting occurs:

	<u>1975-81 average</u>	<u>1982-89 average</u>
brown bear DLP	7.1/year	7.2/year
black bear DLP	14.1/year	8.3/year

During 1975-81, black bear baiting was not legal. This practice was legal in 1982-89. Thus, the argument that baiting increases the number of "problem bears" is not supported by an increase in DLP kills.

There is substantive public demand to use this method of hunting for black bears especially in portions of southcentral and interior Alaska. There is no biological justification for elimination of this form of black bear hunting. In large areas of heavy tree cover, few bears would be taken without this provision. We believe that bear baiting should be handled by the BOG. Current baiting regulations address a wide range of biological and social concerns. The BOG considers this a "methods and means" issue that they have the authority to regulate.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: PATRICK HOPPER  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: 2240 CARIBOU LOOP RD  
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687  
PHONE: 376-7896  
BILL NO: HD 502  
SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING  
MESSAGE: I AM TOTALLY AGAINST THIS BILL. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE UPSET ABOUT THE  
INTRODUCTION OF SUCH LEGISLATION. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

POMID: 14161707  
DATE: 03/30/90  
TIME: 16:17:07  
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

MENARD	SZYMANSKI
JACKO	KERTTULA
FOSTER	
NAVARRE	
FURNACE	
SHARP	
HUDSON	
DAVIS, M.	
LARSON	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: TOM HOCKING  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1131  
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645  
PHONE: 745-2885  
BILL NO: HD 502  
SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING  
MESSAGE: I OPPOSE HD502. I FEEL THAT THE MATTER WAS HANDLED SUFFICIENTLY BY  
THE BOARD OF GAME IN THIER PUBLIC HEARINGS. IF CERTAIN PEOPLE WANT LEGISLATION  
THEY SHOULD GO THROUGH THE BOARD OF GAME FOR FISH AND GAME MATTERS.

POMID: 14110016  
DATE: 03/30/90  
TIME: 11:00:16  
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

MENARD
JACKO
FOSTER
NAVARRE
FURNACE
SHARP
HUDSON
DAVIS, M.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: JIM MCINTOSH  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: P O BOX 3394  
CITY: PALMER  
PHONE: 745-2400  
BILL NO: HD 582  
SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING

ZIP: 99645

MESSAGE: I AM COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO THIS BILL. THE REASON IS WE HAD THE FISH AND GAME HEARINGS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION OF THIS BILL AND AT THE TIME THE TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BOARD ON HOW THEY FELT ON THE BEAR BAITING ISSUE. I FEEL THE F & G BOARD IS THE PROPER PLACE TO ADDRESS THESE TYPE OF ISSUES AND NOT THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

POHID: 14121747  
DATE: 03/30/90  
TIME: 12:17:47  
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

MEHARD  
JACKO  
FOSTER  
NAVARRE  
FURNACE  
SHARP  
HUDSON  
DAVIS, M.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: DON POOLE  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: BOX 2200  
CITY: SOLDOTHA, ALASKA  
PHONE: 262-7542  
BILL NO: HD 582  
SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING

ZIP: 99669

MESSAGE: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU TO WITHDRAW THIS BILL. RECENTLY IT WAS DECIDED BY THE BOARD OF GAME TO CONTINUE BEAR BAITING. THERE IS NO BIOLOGICAL REASON TO DISCONTINUE BAITING AND THERE IS NO PUBLIC SAFETY PROBLEM. WHEN THIS BILL IS WITHDRAWN WILL YOU PLEASE NOTIFY ME?

POHID: 13122330  
DATE: 03/30/90  
TIME: 12:23:30  
LIONAME: SOLDOTHA LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

MEHARD  
JACKO  
FOSTER  
NAVARRE  
FURNACE  
SHARP  
HUDSON  
DAVIS, M.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: JERRY FLETCHER  
 TITLE:  
 ADDRESS: PO BOX 2947  
 CITY: PALMER  
 PHONE: 376-3730  
 BILL NO: HD 502  
 SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING  
 MESSAGE: DO NOT PASS THIS BILL. I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL, AND I HOPE IT DIES IMMEDIATELY.

ZIP: 99645

POMID: 14141238  
 DATE: 03/30/90  
 TIME: 16:18:51  
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

MENARD	SZYMAŃSKI
JACKO	KERTTULA
FOSTER	
NAVARRE	
FURNACE	
SHARP	
HUDSON	
DAVIS, M.	
LARSON	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: DEBBIE OSBORN  
 TITLE:  
 ADDRESS: 830 HILLTOP  
 CITY: PALMER, ALASKA  
 PHONE: 745-7295  
 BILL NO: HD 502  
 SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING  
 MESSAGE: DO NOT FEED THE BEAR'S. I AM AGAINST THE BILL.

ZIP: 99645

POMID: 14141238  
 DATE: 03/30/90  
 TIME: 14:12:38  
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	DINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIS, C.	DAVIS, M.	DUNCAN
DOHLEY	ELLIS	ELIASON
FINKELSTEIN	FOSTER	FAHRENKAMP
FURNACE	GOLL	FAIKS
GRUENBERG	GRUSSENDORF	FISCHER
HANLEY	HOFFMAN	FRANK
HUDSON	JACKO	HALFORD
KOPONEN	KUBINA	JONES
LARSON	LEMAN	KELLY
MACLEAN	MARTIN	KERTTULA
MENARD	MILLER	PEARCE
NAVARRE	PETTYJOHN	POURCNOT
PHILLIPS	RIEGER	RODEY
SHARP	SHULTZ	STURGULEWSKI
SHACKHAMMER	TAYLOR	SZYMAŃSKI
ULMER	WALLIS	UEHLING
ZANACKI		ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: MARVIN GODLE  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: 1500 WEST LAKE LUCILLE  
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687  
PHONE: 376-8608  
BILL NO: HB 582  
SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING  
MESSAGE: THIS BILL IS A PIECE OF GARBAGE, HAS NO PLACE IN THE STATE. THIS IS  
SOMETHING FOR THE GAME BIOLOGISTS TO BE TAKING CARE OF.

POHID: 14124753  
DATE: 04/02/90  
TIME: 12:47:53  
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON	KERTTULA
MENARD	SZYMANSKI
JACKO	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	ELIASON
NAVARRE	FRANK
FURNACE	HALFORD
SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
HUDSON	ZHAROFF
DAVIS, M.	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: DUNCAN PURVIS  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: 2915 RAVEN'S FLIGHT DRIVE  
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687  
PHONE: 373-1172  
BILL NO: HB 582  
SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING  
MESSAGE: I URGE YOU NOT TO SUPPORT HB582. IF LEGISLATION LIKE THIS  
NONSENSE IS ALLOWED TO PASS, THIS WILL JUST OPEN THE DOOR TO OTHER  
HUNTING RESTRICTIONS IN ALASKA. THESE DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY THE  
BOARD OF FISH AND GAME BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY AREA BIOLOGISTS.

POHID: 14080505  
DATE: 04/02/90  
TIME: 08:05:05  
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

DAVIS, M.	KERTTULA
FOSTER	SZYMANSKI
FURNACE	
HUDSON	
JACKO	
LARSON	
NAVARRE	
SHARP	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: JOHN TOENES  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: 1580 EAGLE RIVER ROAD  
CITY: EAGLE RIVER  
PHONE: 694-3931  
BILL NO: HB 582  
SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING  
MESSAGE: BEAR BAITING IS AN ISSUE GOVERNED BY THE BOARD OF GAME AND SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION. PLEASE CANCEL HB 582. /BN  
ZIP: 99577

POMID: 03084145  
DATE: 04/03/90  
TIME: 08:41:45  
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

MENARD  
JACKO  
FOSTER  
NAVARRE  
FURNACE  
SHARP  
HUDSON  
DAVIS, M.

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: BARBARA FLETCHER  
TITLE:  
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2947  
CITY: PALMER  
PHONE: 376-3730  
BILL NO: HB 582  
SUBJECT: PROHIBITING BEAR BAITING  
MESSAGE: I STRONGLY URGE PULLING HB582. THIS IS A PIECE OF POLITICAL GARBAGE THAT HAS NO PLACE IN POLITICS. THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT IS BEST DECIDED BY THE GAME BIOLOGIST IN THEIR AREA'S. AS LONG AS WE HAVE A STABLE POPULATION OF BEAR'S, LETS HARVEST THEM.  
ZIP: 99645

POMID: 14111933  
DATE: 04/03/90  
TIME: 11:19:33  
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

MENARD  
LARSON  
JACKO  
FOSTER  
NAVARRE  
FURNACE  
SHARP  
HUDSON  
DAVIS, M.  
SZYMANSKI  
KERTTULA

Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Protection Black Bear Bait station violations. 1987

<u>Case #</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Area</u>
87-27742	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of cabin	Steese Hywy
87-25076	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-27793	Bait & tree stand stolen	Elliott hywy
87-29147	Unmarked bait station	Elliott Hywy
87-31236	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31253	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31265	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31055	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31056	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31057	Bait station w/i 1/4 of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31058	Bait station on trail	Elliott Hywy
87-31659	Unmarked bait station	Elliott Hywy
87-31060	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31063	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31065	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31066	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31067	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31068	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31070	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Dalton Hywy
87-31073	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31074	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31076	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31077	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31078	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31079	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31257	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31260	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-31270	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-32659	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-32661	Use moose meat for bait	Rosie Creek
87-32662	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Spinach Creek
87-32670	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-34175	Take grizzly on bait station	Ft. Wainwright
87-34440	Unmarked Bait station	Bonanza Creek
87-34441	Unmarked bait station	Bonanza Creek
87-34512	Bait station w/i 1 mi of res	Fairbanks Creek
87-39203	Take grizzly at bait station -DLP	Steese Hywy
87-39243	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-39254	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-42126	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy
87-43409	Game birds as bait	Bonanza Creek
87-43412	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Murphy Dome
87-44372	Unmarked bait station	Ft. Wainwright
87-44374	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Parks Hywy
87-46364	Bait station w/i 1/4 mi of hywy	Elliott Hywy

45 cases

**BRN CHARGED**

**KILL ON BAIT**

STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CASE NO. 87-39203

CHECK BOX IF PROPERTY VALUES LISTED BELOW ARE SUPPLEMENTS TO ORIGINAL REPORT

NUMB. LICENSE PLATE NO.	STATE	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO.	VEH. YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY STYLE							
NUMB. OCCUP.	MALE	FEM.	EVIDENCE FOUND IN VEHICLE	YES	NO	VEHICLE STATUS	IMPOUND	STOLEN	SEIZED	SUSPECT	AIRCRAFT INFORMATION	NUMBER	REGISTRATION (M) NUMBER
MODEL	YEAR	COLOR	LANDING GEAR TYPE	AIRCRAFT STATUS	IMPOUND	STOLEN	SEIZED	SUSPECT					
NUMBER	USCG OR DOCUMENTATION NO.	NAME OF WATERCRAFT	MAKE	LENGTH									
DOC. OR	ADF&G NUMBER	HULL SHAPE	HULL MATL.	PROPUSION	WATER-CRAFT STATUS	IMPOUND	STOLEN	SEIZED	SUSPEC				
SCENE	AUTOPSY	OTHER	EXHIBITS	WAVEA RIGHTS	ALCOH. INF. RPT.	OTHER	EVIDENCE SEIZED	YES	NO				
VICTIM	EVIDENCE		DIAGRAM	IMPL. CONSENT									
PROPERTY LOSS VALUES BY TYPE AND OFFENSE (See Codes on Back)													
TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #				
\$		\$		\$		\$		\$					
TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #				
\$		\$		\$		\$		\$					
TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #				
\$		\$		\$		\$		\$					
TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #	TYPE	OFFN #				
\$		\$		\$		\$		\$					
TOTAL PROPERTY LOSS/RECOVERY VALUES - EACH OFFENSE													
IS RECOVERED	OFFN #	LOSS	IS RECOVERED	OFFN #	LOSS	IS RECOVERED	OFFN #	LOSS	IS RECOVERED				

**SYNOPSIS:**

ON 6/11/87 @ 2330 Hrs Fish & Wildlife Protection in FBIS was notified by Barry L. Jennings (PI: #102) and David C. Dowler (PI: #201) that they had shot & killed a grizzly bear. This occurred in the same creek drainage near 57 mile Steese. Furthermore they were hunting black bears @ a baiting station. They immediately notified Fish & Wildlife Protection. They salvaged the bear & skin.

On 10/17/87 both complainants filled written statements and surrendered the grizzly bear to FWP.

CASE STATUS: CLOSED

ARREST	PROG. DECL. UNFOUNDED	NO O/LEADS	EXCEPTION	CASE REF.	REFERRED TO	COPIES TO
			X			
REPORT	FBI IDENT.	REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY	FBI IDENT.	DATE CLOSED		
	CFP					

CASE #

87-39203

STATEMENT OF Barry L. Jennings 6320866

ADDRESS 1277 Goldrush Dr, FBKS, AK 99709

Barry L. Jennings

make the following voluntary signed statement

born on 3-4-54 at Portland, Ore. I have completed 13 years of school

On June 16, 1987 @ approx, 2230 hrs, I was bear hunting on Nome Creek Rd, off 57 mile Steese Hwy. We arrived at the location of our bear bait at about 2230. Myself and Dave Dowler got ready and then walked down to where our bear bait was at. There had been a bear in the bait recently, so we set everything back and stood there and talked for a couple of minutes. We then walked back towards the area where our stand was. As we got back to the stand, I turned and noticed movement down by the bait. I put my scope up and saw the bear had come out of the brush and had gone past the bait and was headed towards us. I hollered at Dave who was in back of me not yet at the stand. I then hollered at the bear and he kept coming so I shot and then Dave shot.

END OF STATEMENT

I have read the above and foregoing statement consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ page(s). I have been given an opportunity to make any corrections or changes that I might want to make. The changes which I have made are initialed by me in my own handwriting.

I sign this statement in the presence of Imogen Falger and \_\_\_\_\_ and the same is true and voluntarily made.

at FBKS, AK on the 17 day of JUNE 1987  
Barry L. Jennings

Dr. Sidney Huntington  
Box 49  
Galena, Alaska 99741

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November 15, 1989

**TO THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES WHO WROTE TO ME ABOUT THE ISSUE OF BEAR BAITING:**

I received a letter from some of you expressing concern over the black bear baiting regulation. I have the same opinion on this issue as I had on the garbage bear legislation which you passed in the last week of the 1989 legislative session. The issue is a tempest in a teapot concocted by a very small minority of citizens. It is being misrepresented to you.

(1) We have a subsistence law in this state and it is supposed to protect us from this urban interference and set of values which contrast with our lifestyle. The garbage bear bill already puts subsistence hunters in jeopardy for no good reason. It is just one more stupid law. It does nothing to protect the resource except in the areas the Board of Game had already acted on.

(2) Our black bear population in the state is higher than I have ever seen in my life and I am 74 years old. The brown/grizzly bear population is equally high statewide except in the area right around Juneau.

The words in your letter parroted the misinformation being spread by Alaska Reform. Did you talk with any other "experts" before formulating your position?

I have been working on this Board of Game for over 15 years. I have probably worked through at least 5000 proposals in my time on the Board and I think I have gotten pretty fairly good at my "job". I always try to listen to the people who are most directly affected by a regulation and I watch the resource carefully because in my early years some of my relatives starved because there wasn't enough resource for us to share. I've watched a steady increase in game resources for the people of Alaska and I am proud of my effort for the past 15 years in working with the Department of Fish and Game. I think we manage game conservatively and it shows.

Please take the politics out of biology and resource management. Can the Legislature really involve itself with the 400 game proposals and 700 fish proposals each year? The governor has appointed, and you have confirmed, good, hard working people who spend (volunteer) 60-100 days each year listening to experts, public and 80 advisory committees. These people care about making conscientious decisions. **Bear baiting is not a broad public policy decision. It is part of a bear management program for the State of Alaska, and that strategic bear management plan is working just fine!** The Board of Game put severe restrictions on the method of bear baiting in the Spring of 1988 but it would be a serious mistake to get rid of bear baiting as a legitimate method of harvest. The activity you may find offensive is probably already illegal. If you want to do some good, put more money and encouragement into the Department of Public Safety so they can enforce the good laws and regulations we have already.

Sincerely,  


Sidney Huntington

cc: Gov. Steve Cowper

## BEAR BAITING FACT SHEET

HB 582

### TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF BAIT FOR HUNTING BEAR

#### WHAT IS BEAR BAITING?

Bear Baiting is the legal practice of feeding bears in order to lure them to a hunters tree stand. Almost anything, including meat and pastry scraps, household and restaurant wastes, is used. A black bear guide who baits uses an average of six tons of bait per season. In Bob McGuire's hunting manual, THE BLACK BEAR, chap.5 Advanced Bear Baiting Techniques, he recommends baiting long in advance of the season to condition bears and establish regular feeding patterns. He also advises leaving a sweaty shirt at the site to accustom bears to human scent.

#### BOARD OF GAME ACTIONS AND LACK OF AUTHORITY

In response to public pressure and local outrage, the Board has closed several areas to baiting since 1986, including Girdwood, Hope, Anchorage, Juneau and Chugach and Denali State Parks. The rest of the road system remains open.

The Board is not statutorily authorized to respond to public safety issues and so has consistently dismissed statewide proposals (based on these concerns) to ban baiting.

#### QUOTES FROM THE EXPERTS

"Bears conditioned by food rewards from human sources may seek food in response to a broad stimuli such as human scent, structures and equipment even when no food source is present.

Once habituated to garbage [human food sources], brown bears cannot be successfully returned to the wild.

Bears that feed on garbage may become drawn to areas of human habitation due to association of human scent with food."

1987 joint policy statement  
Solid Waste and Bears, signed  
by DEC, ADPS, ADFG and FS

"It is common opinion among professionals that non-sport kills and nuisance bears are more prevalent in baited areas"

Jeff Rohlman, Idaho F & G

"Discussions with bear biologists reveal it is their opinion that there is an increase in nuisance bears in areas where baiting is allowed.

James DeVos, Arizona F & G

"A bear which has lost its fear of humans and has learned the delights of high cholesterol human leftovers will likely not be satisfied with natural foods ever again. The only way people and bears can co-exist in urban Alaska is if we care enough to keep bears from becoming accustomed to human foods and garbage."

Lew Pamplin, ADF&G Game Director

"I believe that many of the bear incidents, both black and brown bears, that have occurred in Denali State Park are directly related to bear baiting practices. The public safety hazards and liability issues that have resulted from the current authorized bear baiting methods and practices are in direct conflict with responsible resource management and public safety as mandated by AS 41.21"

Dale Bingham, Area Superintendant  
of Parks, Mat-Su/Valdez-Copper  
River Area, internal memo to director  
1989

"If baiting is incompatible activity in one state park, then it should be in all state parks and areas accessible by roads."

Peter Panarese, Superintendent  
Chugach/Southwest Area State Parks.  
after testifying to B.O.G. against  
baiting in 1985

"There have been no studies to prove baiting habituates bears."

Lew Pamplin, B.O.G. Meetings  
1988 and 1989

"There's no question that baiting trains bears to be garbage bears. There's no difference between what's used for bait and human garbage."

Keith Specking, Master Guide and  
legislative liason to Hammond

"Bears don't necessarily link the smell of people and food. Bears may associate certain places with food more than they link people with an easy meal"

Lew Pamplin 1990 Board meeting

"This policy is in conflict with our solid waste management goals and responsibilities...The practice of baiting bears increases their association with humans and garbage."

Henry Friedman, DEC Solid Waste  
Division

"It sort of makes you wonder what's goin on. Baiting certainly increases the chances of man/bear encounters. As far as keeping bears and people apart, baiting is a real step backwards."

Derek Stonorov, AK Peninsula  
Brown Bear biologist

#### LAWS GOVERNING THE FEEDING OF BEARS

5AAC 81.218- Makes it unlawful to feed certain wild animals.  
Justification- "Feeding of bears causes severe public safety problems and has been the direct cause of several attacks on humans by animals."  
ADF&G staff 1979

18AAC 60.015 and 60.035(8)- Concerns the control of animal attraction to solid wastes, requires that wastes be stored in a manner that does not attract bears and other wild animals.

AS 41.21- prohibits the bringing in of refuse to a State Park and placing it on the ground.

SAAC 81.218- Amends feeding of game statute to exempt the baiting of black bears for hunting.

Board of Game 1982

DEFENSE KILLS AND MAULINGS INCREASE

Since baiting became increasingly popular between 1983 and 1984, when it was legalized, brown bear defense kills have increased by at least 52%. Brown bears are not legal to bait. Newsclip search shows unprecedented levels of bear encounters, attacks and maulings since that time.

WHO IS HURT BY BEAR BAITING?

Forest users and rural residents using trails or roadside areas in baited areas. Several maulings have occurred in baited areas.

WHO GAINS FROM BAITING BEARS?

The 650 hunters who are registered to use bait. This represents about 15% of all black bear hunters.

A COMPARISON OF LEGAL METHODS OF HUNTING BLACK BEAR IN ALL STATES AND PROVINCES WITH BROWN/GRIZZLY BEAR

	HOUNDS	BAIT	AT DUMPS	NO MEAT SALVAGE	COMMENTS
ALASKA	YES	YES	YES	YES	no closed season, no tags, 3 bear limit (except southeast)
NWT	NO	NO	NO <sup>1</sup>	NO	
YUKON	NO	NO	NO <sup>1</sup>	YES	
B.C.	YES	NO	NO	NO	
ALBERTA	NO	NO*	NO	YES	
MONTANA	NO	NO	NO <sup>1</sup>	YES	
IDAHO	YES	NO*	NO	YES	High defense kills and nuisance bears in baited areas
WYOMING	NO	NO*	-	-	

1. most areas closed by local ordinance, firearms restrictions or backfilled daily, open dumps are considered illegal baits
2. baiting not allowed in areas with brown/grizzly bear, elsewhere legal to bait blacks

# Anchorage Daily News

Gerald E. Grilly  
Publisher



Howard Weaver  
Editor

Michael Casey, Editorial Page Editor

Patrick Dougherty, Managing Editor

Katherine Fanning, Editor and Publisher 1971 to 1983

Lawrence Fanning, Editor and Publisher 1967 to 1971

Founded in 1846 by Norman C. Brown

## Bear-baiting

### *A tactic unworthy of the Alaska hunter*

Let's be clear about bear-baiting's tactics.

The first, and most important, part of the process involves the bait. Bear-baiters have been known to set out sweet rolls, Jell-O, bacon grease, doughnuts, peanut butter and private scent recipes.

The law allows anything biodegradable, except fish or game meat. One hunter says he uses an all-terrain vehicle to pull into the woods a 55-gallon, grease-lined drum with holes in it.

The purpose at this stage, of course, is to lure the bear into the hunter's sights.

The second part is the kill. This is when the bear-baiter — often in a tree, but sometimes hidden in a blind, behind a tree, or dug in somewhere close by — pops out and drops the animal.

Bows and arrows are common instruments at this point. But any kind of handgun or rifle is allowed.

If all of this doesn't sound very sporting — if it doesn't have the flavor of, say, the sheep hunter stalking his game over rugged, mountainous terrain — then you've reached the heart of the objection to the whole scheme.



The tactic is, in fact, as unfair, lazy and unsporting as any game-killing technique in existence. It's a shameful means of killing one of the state's most revered creatures. It is unworthy of the Alaska hunter to embrace it. And it's dangerous to humans who might wander into a bear-baiting station.

Give bear-baiters their due, though. They can be a creative lot. Disgruntled at any interference with their methods, they have come up with some imaginative arguments in support of more liberal baiting regulations.

One hunter called on the Alaska Board of Game to allow bear-baiting year-round, claiming in his proposal that unless bear-baiters were given carte blanche, "we will continue to inadequately use a plentiful resource." The yearning here is apparently that merely because the bear population exists, baiters should get the chance to make a bigger dent in it.

Another who argued for a much longer bear-baiting season than currently allowed said that unless the season is lengthened, "there will be an increase in nuisance bears." Get them before they have a chance to become troublemakers, seems the case being made on this one.

A third proposal arguing for longer seasons contended that the situation must change or "other hunting privileges that I enjoy will be threatened if these people (hunting regulators) are allowed to make decisions." Let game managers have a few rules and it will only increase their appetite to make more.

In all, more than 80 proposals for making the bear-baiters' life easier were before the Board of Game at its spring meeting. The board turned most of them down, although it also rejected opponents' requests that bear-baiting be banned.

The board, regrettably, remained unconvinced of the threat bear-baiting can pose to people. Bear-baiting teaches bears to associate humans with food. They are thus more likely to approach people, be they picnickers, backpackers or other hunters, in an encounter that can be deadly for either party.

A better, and safer, board decision would have eliminated the method as a permissible means of bear hunting. Such an action would be more fitting the dignity of both hunter and bear.

Anchorage Daily News  
Sept. 7, 1987

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## Training bad bears

It doesn't seem like a sporting practice at all: Set a batch of food out in the woods, wait for a black bear to show up, and then kill it. The technique is called bear baiting, and it is legal in Alaska, with some restrictions.

Defenders of bear baiting tend to dismiss opponents as knee-jerk, friend-of-the-furry types. But many responsible hunters also object to the practice.

The two sides can debate whether baiting is bad sportsmanship, but there's not much doubt the practice is dangerous. Bears who feed at bait stations learn to associate a human presence with food. Because baiters often let several bears go before shooting one they want, some bears remain free to roam about and indulge their newly-developed bad habit.

That has many people worried, since bait stations can be placed within a mile of campgrounds or homes. The area around Hope already has a problem with black bears, and many residents believe baiting is at least partly responsible.

Common sense suggests that state game regulators should push bait stations away from populated areas. If baiting is allowed to continue, it must be done so it doesn't endanger folks who want a safe stroll in the woods, not a confrontation with a bear.

# Anchorage Daily News

## Fri, Aug. 21, 87

### Bear baiting is no joke

Great, another bear story! This one shows, once again, how insensitive government agencies respond to citizens' needs. It doesn't make sense for the state to side with a few lazy bums who have nothing better to do than to sit in a tree until a drug-sized bear appears at their bait station, whence it'll be shot.

Baiters claim that they let most bears get

away or only shoot them with rubber arrows. What a splendid way to entertain oneself or should I say, to teach a bear dangerous habits. Leftovers are clearly used for bait and can be found at a dump or near human dwellings as well.

Contrary to a biologist, a bear can put these two together and thus get attracted to areas too close for our comfort and theirs. Yet state biologists disagree, as they will with anything that makes common sense. After all, they've got a job to keep and what better way is there than to create never-ending controversy? A proven way, be it in Washington, D.C., or Anchorage.

They are here to manage game, a job that came itself fulfilled ideally since the last ice age, until the arrival of white man. Then things started to go better skelter, species became extinct and endangered, all with our management and ignorance. Why do we bother with a bear population problem? Keeping it food around a resource? Support folks like Lee and Rubichand and Jonkel and Haiser fully; their concern is legitimate, involves all of us and requires our proper attention. This is no joking matter, as our state biologists seem to think.

— Peter Sennhauser

345-5577

345-5984

# Garbage Kills Bears



Alaska is bear country. No matter where we live in the state we're never far from bears. As Alaska's population has grown, we have moved into areas where bears have lived for thousands of years. We cannot expect bears to change. Our behavior must change if both bears and man are to live near each other.

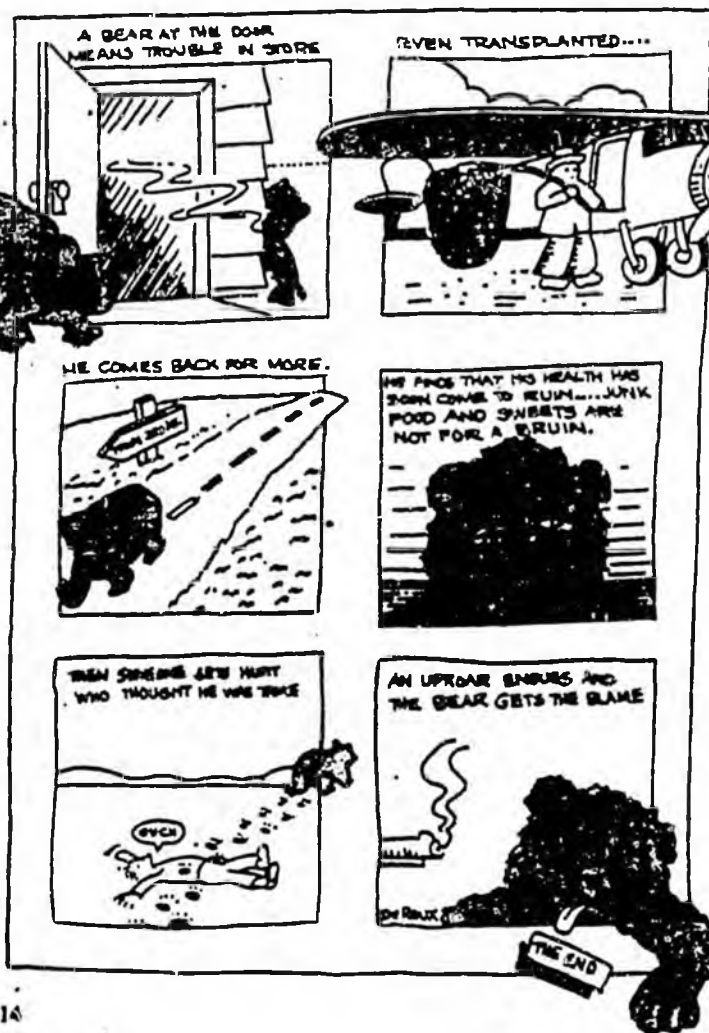
The law prohibits feeding bears in Alaska. Feeding includes both directly providing food and storing garbage in a manner which encourages bears to help themselves. Alaska's defense of life and property law permits the killing of a problem bear if "...the necessity for the (taking) is not brought about by the improper disposal of garbage or a similar attractive nuisance." Improper disposal of garbage may lead to fines and it may also lead to a bear's destruction.

Bears are intelligent creatures. It doesn't take them long to realize that an improperly maintained garbage can is an

easy source of food. The pattern of events is predictable. A bear feeds on garbage, and we enjoy the spectacle. After a few visits, the bear loses its fear of humans because the lure of the garbage is stronger than its natural aversion to man. When the bear no longer fears humans, it must be destroyed before it threatens a life. In plain language, the person who does not properly care for his or her garbage creates a situation which forces destruction of the bear.

Garbage bears are killed because it is the only honest option available. Transplanted bears often will return from great distances to their home territory, and those that don't return take their raiding habits with them to new areas.

We humans must accept responsibility for our trash. The only way people and bears can coexist in Alaska is if we care enough to keep bears from becoming accustomed to human foods and garbage.



## SAVE A BEAR Garbage Care Tips

1. Store garbage inside until pick-up day.
2. Take advantage of regular trash pick-up services. Don't stockpile your garbage.
3. Store garbage in tightly sealed bags; store fish parts and meat bones in freezer until garbage pick-up day.
4. Keep storage containers air tight and odor free.
5. Properly incinerate all garbage.
6. Properly incinerate and/or pack out all garbage from campsites and picnic areas.

Intentionally or knowingly feeding a bear is against state law.

## people cause bear problems

Dear Editor:

Letters published recently in several Alaskan papers and numerous callers to our offices have suggested that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) should not have moved the "blue" or "glacier" bear that was causing problems in Juneau to the Anchorage Zoo. A common theme has been that ADF&G should capture "nuisance bears" like this one and move them to remote areas where they would no longer conflict with people. Although there exists some uncertainties in bear management, studies throughout the United States have clearly demonstrated that transplanting nuisance bears is usually a poor policy and, in most instances, results in unsatisfactory consequences. There are several reasons for this.

1. Bears have the ability and strong desire to return to the site where they were originally captured, even if moved hundreds of miles. In one case, a bear was moved to Montague Island in Prince William Sound, but was back to the same garbage can in Cordova within 28 days; the trip included a 6-mile swim. Studies on Alaskan brown bears have shown that completely wild bears, unaccustomed to feeding on human garbage, will still return.

2. Moving a nuisance bear from one's back yard frequently just puts the problem at somebody else's door step. ~~A bear which has~~ lost its fear of humans and has learned the delights of high-cholesterol human leftovers will likely not be satisfied with natural foods ever again. There are few places in Alaska where a transplanted bear will not eventually encounter people or human developments.

3. Agency staff and budgets are too limited to undertake annual projects such as multiple bear transplants from urban areas, especially when the problem is seldom solved — just removed from sight to another area.

In essence, people are usually the cause of the problem, but bears pay the price. The first few times a bear feeds from a dumpster, garbage can, or dog dish, people tend to enjoy the spectacle and take pictures to show their friends "what it's like living in wild Alaska." Soon, however, the fun pales and we are called with demands to resolve a problem that is frequently, by this time, beyond resolving except by killing the bear. The citation that we may issue to those who created the situation which forced destruction of a bear seems a small penalty compared to the death sentence that careless citizens have given the bear.

~~The only~~ way people and bears can co-exist in urban Alaska is if we care enough to keep bears from becoming accustomed to human foods and garbage. By working together, we can minimize greatly the potential for human/bear interactions and thereby protect the bears and the public welfare.

W. Lewis Pamplin Jr.  
Director  
State Division of Game

Anchorage Times  
August 7



# Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



REPRESENTATIVE FRAN ULMER

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Rep. Davidson and Rep. Menard, Co-chairs  
House Resources Committee

FROM: Rep. Fran Ulmer

DATE: April 5, 1990

RE: HB 582-relating to Bear baiting

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I would like to add my support for passage of HB 582, relating to a prohibition on bear baiting.

In the Juneau area, there have been some very disastrous results from situations where bears have fed on food in people's garbage. Property has been destroyed and many bears have lost their lives because of the carelessness of residents. Bear biologists have shown that baiting increases the chances of human encounters with bears.

I am against the deliberate baiting and intentional feeding of bears for any reason, especially in order to enhance hunting opportunities. I feel that very dangerous situations can result if we do not make this practice illegal in Alaska.

I am in total support of the House Resources bill, HB 582, which would make it against the law to practice bear baiting, and would like to offer any help i can to see that this legislation is passed this year.

District 4B — Juneau

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