

**HB**

**172**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: March 5, 1993

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/6/93

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 172

HOUSE BILL NO. 172

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TAG AND FEE

"An Act relating to the wildlife conservation tag and to entry onto state game and wildlife sanctuaries, state game refuges, state range areas, and fish and game critical habitat areas; and providing for an effective date."

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

be replaced with CS HB 172 (Fin)  the same title

a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: \_\_\_\_\_ (Dept/Date)

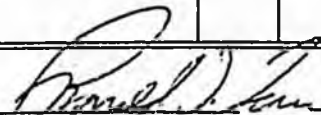
fiscal impact F + G

fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_

zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Ronald J. Larson</i>	X				
<i>Ben Grossendorfer</i>	X	<i>Therriault</i>			
		<i>Gene Therriault</i>		X	
		<i>Alan K. Parnell</i>		X	
		<i>Terry Martin</i>			X
		<i>Karl Brown</i>		✓	
		<i>Mark Stanley</i>		X	
		<i>Mike Spawny</i>		✓	
		<i>Tom Hoff</i>		✓	

  
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 172(FIN)

Revision Date: 4/5/93

Department Affected: Fish and Game

Title: An Act relating to the wildlife conservation tag and to entry onto state game and wildlife sanctuaries

BRU: Wildlife Conservation

Sponsor: Representative Williams

Component: Wildlife Conservation

Requestor: House Finance

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES	9.0	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	33.3	18.9	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>20.0</b>

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE: 1005	17.0	23.7	27.4	31.1	34.7	38.4
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**FUNDING:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	25.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF Program Receipts	17.0	23.5	19.7	19.8	19.9	20.0
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>20.0</b>

**POSITIONS:**

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

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: \$ 0.0

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary.)  
See attached page.

Prepared By: John Schoen Phone: 267-2280

Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: 4/5/93

Approved by Commissioner: *Carl A. Rosen*

Agency: Department of Fish and Game Date: 4/7/93

## FISCAL ANALYSIS OF CSHB 172(FIN)

Page 2 of 2

The Finance Committee Substitute exempts Alaskan residents from the tag requirements of the Wildlife Conservation Tag and further increases the voluntary nature of this revenue source. Consequently, both revenue and operating costs are predicted to be considerably lower (see below). Costs of administration will exceed revenue generation over the short-term, and under the committee substitute the department will not be able to depend on mandatory sales to support the cost of establishing the program or ensure a favorable cost/revenue ratio. The annual increase in voluntary sales of the tag will depend largely on the amount of support and cooperation the department receives from the tourism industry in marketing this product to their clients. The tourism industry has indicated a willingness to cooperate with the department on a voluntary tag program. However, we have not yet developed a clear strategy for effectively marketing and promoting this product. The long-term outlook for generating a substantial revenue base from this program is unclear at this time.

### Operating assumptions:

1. In the first year (FY94) approximately two man-months of a Wildlife Biologist II or Project Assistant position will be needed to help establish the program. Thereafter, one man-month/annum will be needed to continue the program.
2. Contractual costs include design, purchase, distribution of the "proof of purchase" element of the legislation. These costs also cover development, production, distribution, promotion, and inventory costs of the tag itself (i.e., patch, emblem, decal, stamp, or other item). Once the program is established and the marketability of tags is determined, costs are expected to decline.

### Revenue assumptions:

1. The wildlife conservation tag fee will be \$10.00; lower than had formerly been forecast but more in line with the need to generate revenue almost exclusively from voluntary sales.
2. Voluntary sales will start at 500/annum; double in the second year; and increase by 20 percent annually through FY99.
3. Sales of tags to nonresident visitors at Round Island (Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary) will remain constant at 82/annum and nonresident applicants for McNeil Sanctuary viewing permits will increase from 1120 to 1960/annum through FY99.
4. Additional revenue may be earned from the sale of required tags at Pack Creek State Game Sanctuary or other state game refuges, as appropriate. However, no such projections are included in this fiscal analysis.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 172( )  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES WILLIAMS, Phillips, Larson, Davies, Bunde, Finkelstein, Porter,  
Ulmer, James, Mulder

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the wildlife conservation tag and to entry onto state game  
2 and wildlife sanctuaries; relating to the issuance of citations for violations under  
3 the Fish and Game Code; and providing for an effective date."

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

5 \* Section 1. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

6 (1) the diversity of wildlife species in Alaska and the size of Alaska make  
7 wildlife management extremely expensive;

8 (2) the growth in Alaska's human population has placed pressure upon wildlife  
9 habitat and wildlife populations and has increased demand for use and appreciation of wildlife;

10 (3) the Board of Game and other resource management agencies need current,  
11 accurate wildlife population and human use data for regulatory and planning purposes;

12 (4) the quality and extent of wildlife information provided by the Department  
13 of Fish and Game have a direct effect on the types and levels of human use of wildlife that  
14 are allowed;

1 (5) the establishment of a wildlife conservation tag program will allow more  
2 Alaskans to directly and actively support wildlife conservation programs in the state through  
3 the voluntary purchase of a wildlife conservation tag;

4 (6) a wildlife conservation tag program will benefit wildlife conservation  
5 programs in the state through revenue generated by the voluntary purchase of a wildlife  
6 conservation tag by nonresidents who want to support the conservation of wildlife in the state  
7 or who use certain state game and wildlife sanctuaries to view, study, and enjoy wildlife;

8 (7) revenue generated through the sale of wildlife conservation tags should be  
9 used to supplement, but not supplant, funds available from other sources for wildlife  
10 conservation, wildlife education, and wildlife viewing.

11 \* Sec. 2. AS 16.05.165 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 16.05.165. FISH AND ISSUANCE OF CITATION. (a) When a peace  
13 officer stops or contacts a person concerning a violation of this title except AS 16.51  
14 and AS 16.52 or of a regulation adopted under this title except AS 16.51 and AS 16.52  
15 that is a misdemeanor or a violation, the peace officer may, in the officer's discretion,  
16 issue a citation to the person as provided in AS 12.25.180.

17 (b) The supreme court shall specify by rule or order those misdemeanors and  
18 violations that are appropriate for disposition without court appearance, and shall  
19 establish a schedule of bail amounts. Before establishing or amending the schedule  
20 of bail amounts required by this subsection, the supreme court shall appoint and  
21 consult with an advisory committee consisting of two officers of the division of fish  
22 and wildlife protection of the Department of Public Safety, two representatives of the  
23 Department of Fish and Game, two district court judges, and the chairpersons of the  
24 House and Senate Judiciary Committees of the legislature. The maximum bail amount  
25 for an offense may not exceed the maximum fine specified by law for that offense.  
26 If the misdemeanor or violation for which the citation is issued may be disposed of  
27 without court appearance, the issuing peace officer shall write on the citation the  
28 amount of bail applicable to the offense [VIOLATION].

29 (c) A person cited for a misdemeanor or violation for which a bail amount has  
30 been established under (b) of this section may, within 15 days after the date of the  
31 citation, mail or personally deliver to the clerk of the court in which the citation is

1 filed by the peace officer

2 (1) the amount of bail indicated on the citation for that offense; and

3 (2) a copy of the citation indicating that the right to an appearance is  
4 waived, a plea of no contest is entered, and the bail is forfeited.

5 (d) When bail has been forfeited under (c) of this section, a judgment of  
6 conviction shall be entered. Forfeiture of bail and all seized items is a complete  
7 satisfaction for the misdemeanor or violation. The clerk of the court accepting the  
8 bail shall provide the offender with a receipt stating that fact.

9 (e) If the person cited fails to pay the bail amount established under (b) of this  
10 section or to appear in court as required, the citation is considered a summons for a  
11 misdemeanor or violation, as appropriate.

12 (f) Notwithstanding other provisions of law, if a person cited for a  
13 misdemeanor or violation for which a bail amount has been established under (b) of  
14 this section appears in court and is found guilty, the penalty that is imposed for the  
15 offense may not exceed the bail amount for that offense established under (b) of this  
16 section.

17 \* Sec. 3. AS 16.05.350 is amended to read:

18 Sec. 16.05.350. EXPIRATION OF LICENSES AND TAGS. Licenses and tags  
19 required under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, except biennial licenses, the nonresident  
20 special sport fishing license, the resident trapping license, and the waterfowl  
21 conservation tag, expire at the close of December 31 following issuance. Biennial  
22 licenses expire after December 31 of the year following the year of issuance. The  
23 resident trapping license expires at the close of September 30 of the year following the  
24 year in which the license is issued. The waterfowl conservation tag expires at the  
25 close of January 31 of the year following the year of issue of the tag. The wildlife  
26 conservation tag provided under AS 16.05.828 expires at the close of December 31  
27 following issuance.

28 \* Sec. 4. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

29 Sec. 16.05.828. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TAG PROGRAM. (a) In  
30 order to provide support for the wildlife conservation activities of the department, there  
31 is established the wildlife conservation tag program.

1 (b) The department shall provide a patch, emblem, decal, stamp, or other  
2 suitable item to serve as a wildlife conservation tag. The wildlife conservation tag and  
3 proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag shall be available through vendors of  
4 fish and game licenses and other outlets at the discretion of the commissioner.

5 (c) Notwithstanding AS 16.05.080, the commissioner shall establish the fee for  
6 a wildlife conservation tag by regulation. The commissioner may establish a different  
7 fee for residents and nonresidents. The commissioner may establish a different fee,  
8 or waive the requirement for a wildlife conservation tag under this section, for a  
9 person who is

10 (1) under the age of 16 years or over the age of 59 years;

11 (2) a public employee engaged in official business; or

12 (3) a contractor or agent for a public agency while the contractor or  
13 agent is engaged in the business of the agency.

14 (d) A nonresident shall

15 (1) have in the nonresident's physical possession a valid proof of  
16 purchase of a wildlife conservation tag, and comply with other applicable statutes and  
17 regulations including requirements for permits, in order to enter the McNeil River State  
18 Game Sanctuary or the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary; and

19 (2) provide a valid proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag at  
20 the time of application for a permit to enter the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary  
21 or the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary if a permit from the department is  
22 required for entry to the sanctuary.

23 (e) A wildlife conservation tag may not be required

24 (1) for access to or from private property within or adjoining a state  
25 game or wildlife sanctuary;

26 (2) to use a public easement or right-of-way across a state game or  
27 wildlife sanctuary;

28 (3) of a person for whom the commissioner has waived the wildlife  
29 conservation tag requirement under (c) of this section.

30 (f) The commissioner may request the legislature to designate by law  
31 additional state game and wildlife sanctuaries, state game refuges, state range areas,

1 or state fish and game critical habitat areas where possession of a wildlife conservation  
2 tag is required to enter, or to apply for a permit to enter, the sanctuary, refuge, or area.

3 (g) The department may contract with a person to perform the responsibilities  
4 of the department under this section to provide a wildlife conservation tag.  
5 Contracting under this subsection is governed by AS 36.30 (State Procurement Code),  
6 except that a contract may include provisions for advance payment or reimbursement  
7 for services performed under the contract.

8 (h) The revenue received from the sale of wildlife conservation tags may be  
9 appropriated by the legislature to the department for programs that benefit wildlife  
10 conservation, wildlife education, and wildlife viewing. In this subsection, "wildlife"  
11 has the meaning given "game" in AS 16.05.940.

12 (i) A person commits a violation if the person intentionally or knowingly  
13 enters upon a state game or wildlife sanctuary where the person is required to  
14 physically possess proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag under this section  
15 and does not have proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag in the person's  
16 physical possession. Upon conviction of the violation, the person may be sentenced  
17 to pay a fine not to exceed twice the fee that the person would have had to pay to  
18 obtain a wildlife conservation tag at the time the person committed the violation. In  
19 this subsection, "intentionally," "knowingly," and "violation" have the meanings given  
20 in AS 11.81.900.

21 \* Sec. 5. AS 16.05.925 is amended to read:

22 Sec. 16.05.925. PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS. Except as provided in  
23 AS 16.05.430, 16.05.722, 16.05.723, 16.05.828, 16.05.831, and 16.05.860, a person  
24 who violates AS 16.05.920 or 16.05.921, or a regulation adopted under this chapter or  
25 AS 16.20, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

26 \* Sec. 6. AS 16.20.094 is amended to read:

27 Sec. 16.20.094. AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER. Subject to  
28 AS 16.05.828(d) - (e), the [THE] boards may adopt regulations governing entry,  
29 development, construction, hunting, fishing, and all other uses or activities not in  
30 conflict with AS 16.20.096 and 16.20.098 for the purpose of preserving the natural  
31 habitat and the fish and game of the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary.

1 \* Sec. 7. AS 16.20.096 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2 (b) Except as provided under AS 16.05.828(e), a nonresident may not enter the  
3 Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary without having in the person's possession a  
4 proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag.

5 \* Sec. 8. AS 16.20.162(e) is amended to read:

6 (e) Subject to AS 16.05.828(d) - (e), the [THE] boards may adopt regulations  
7 governing access, entry, development, construction, fishing, and other uses and  
8 activities affecting the natural habitat, fish and wildlife, and public use of the McNeil  
9 River State Game Sanctuary.

10 \* Sec. 9. AS 16.20.162 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

11 (g) Except as provided under AS 16.05.828(e), a nonresident may not enter the  
12 McNeil River State Game Sanctuary without having in the person's possession a proof  
13 of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag.

14 \* Sec. 10. This Act takes effect January 1, 1994.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 172(RES)

Revision Date: 3/4/93

Department Affected: Fish and Game

Title: An Act relating to the wildlife conservation tag and to entry onto state game and wildlife sanctuaries

BRU: Wildlife Conservation, Administration

Component: Wildlife Conservation

Sponsor: Representative Williams

Requestor: House Resources

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473, 0479

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES	15.2	9.2	9.5	9.8	10.1	10.4
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	37.3	22.9	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>28.4</b>

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE: 1005	40.5	52.0	60.0	68.1	76.9	86.6
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	12.0	0	0	0	0	0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	40.5	32.1	27.5	27.8	28.1	28.4
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>28.4</b>

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME	1	1	1	1	1	1
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY93) Impact: \$ 0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)  
See attached page.

Prepared By: John Schoen and Kristin Wright Phone: 267-2280  
 Division: Wildlife Conservation, Administration Date: 3/4/93  
 Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]  
 Agency: Department of Fish and Game Date: 3/4/93

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: CSHB 172(RES)

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS

Page 2, lines 2 - 6:

Delete all material and insert:

"(5) the establishment of a wildlife conservation tag program will allow more Alaskans to directly and actively support wildlife conservation programs in the state through the voluntary purchase of a wildlife conservation tag;

(6) a wildlife conservation tag program will benefit wildlife conservation programs in the state through revenue generated by the voluntary purchase of a wildlife conservation tag by residents and nonresidents who want to support the conservation of wildlife in the state or who use state game and wildlife sanctuaries, refuges, ranges, and critical habitat areas to view, study, and enjoy wildlife;

(7) revenue generated through the sale of wildlife conservation tags should be used to supplement, but not supplant, funds available from other sources for wildlife conservation, wildlife education, and wildlife viewing."

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS

TO: CSHB 172(RES)

Page 4, line 10:

Delete "or"

Page 4, line 11 after "AS 16.05.341":

Insert ";

(5) a public employee engaged in official business; or

(6) a contractor or agent for a public agency while the contractor or agent is engaged in the business of the agency"

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: CSHB 172(RES)

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS

Page 4, lines 12 - 25:

Delete all material and insert:

"(d) A person shall

(1) have in the person's physical possession a valid proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag, and comply with other applicable statutes and regulations including requirements for permits, in order to enter

(A) the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary; and

(B) if designated by the commissioner by regulation,

(i) the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary; or

(ii) a state game refuge, state range area, or fish and game critical habitat area;

(2) provide a valid proof of purchase of a wildlife conservation tag at the time of application for a permit to enter a state game or wildlife sanctuary, state game refuge, state range area, or a state fish and game critical habitat area if

(A) a permit from the department is required for entry to the sanctuary, refuge, or area; and

(B) the commissioner has established by regulation that applicants for permits to enter the sanctuary, refuge, or area shall possess a wildlife conservation tag at the time of application for the permit."

Page 5, line 23:

Delete "possess"

Insert "physically possess proof of purchase of"

Page 5, line 25:

After "have"

Insert "proof of purchase of"

After "person's"

Insert "physical"

# Alaska State Legislature



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Committees:  
House Resources,  
Chairman  
Community &  
Regional Affairs  
Labor & Commerce

Representative William K. Williams

## POSITION PAPER ON HB 172 (RES) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TAG PROGRAM

CSHB 172(Res) creates a wildlife conservation tag program that would encourage, and in some areas require, that non-consumptive users of Alaska's wildlife help to pay for wildlife management and the programs and facilities they use.

Wildlife viewing is a fast-growing form of recreation in the world, and is one of the biggest drawing cards for tourism in Alaska. Careful management and development of viewing areas is important to protect the wildlife while enhancing visitor opportunities. This bill is a "user pays" approach to generating funds to support this growing area of wildlife use.

The primary thrust of HB 172 is a voluntary program. Participants would pay a fairly small price for the tag, and receive a pin or patch or other memento to show that they have supported the wildlife conservation program.

In addition, CSHB 172 designates two sanctuaries in the state (McNeil River and Walrus Island) where possession of the tag would be required for entry. The bill authorizes the commissioner of Fish and Game to designate additional areas of the state to the list of mandatory tag areas in the future. Purchase of an annual tag would allow an individual to apply to enter any of the areas of the state where tags are required. The bill provides exemptions from the requirement for this tag for individuals who already possess other sport hunting or fishing licenses or are engaged in subsistence activities.

The price of the tag is left to the department but will necessarily be kept low since the goal is to sell large numbers of the tags to those who voluntarily purchase them. While the bill provides for some flexibility for differential prices, the department is currently planning for an initial charge of \$15 for the tag. It will be the responsibility of the Department of Fish and Game to come up with a catchy logo and appealing pin or other memento, and to publicize and promote the tag program in order to successfully raise substantial amounts of new revenue for watchable wildlife management, facilities, education and programs.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
POSITION PAPER

Bill No: House Bill 172  
Sponsor: Representative Bill Williams  
Division: Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Bill Title: "An Act relating to the wildlife conservation tag and to entry onto state game and wildlife sanctuaries, state game refuges, state range areas, and fish and game critical habitat areas; and providing for an effective date."  
Department Position: Support

The department supports House Bill 172. This legislation is a response to the growing public interest in wildlife viewing, wildlife conservation, and wildlife education. A national survey performed a few years ago showed that wildlife watching was the fastest growing segment of wildlife oriented recreation. The department estimates that in Alaska over 288,000 people participated in wildlife viewing in 1985.

Alaska's wildlife is, along with our scenery, the major attraction bringing tourists to Alaska. Tourism is one of the major industries in Alaska. Alaska is facing stiff competition from other states, Canada, and other countries for these tourism customers. This legislation would provide a funding source to develop improvements and programs for an important component of the visitor industry.

Wildlife viewing is also popular with Alaska's residents. The department has developed areas such as Creamer's Field near Fairbanks and Potter's Marsh near Anchorage, which are visited extensively by residents.

The Department of Fish and Game constructed a board walk and parking lot to improve public access to this marsh. The board walk was also designed to protect the fragile marsh ecosystem, which would otherwise be damaged by the many visitors to the marsh. Improvements have also been made at Creamer's Field. Between these two projects, approximately one-half million dollars has been spent in capital improvements.

McNeil River State Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most famous wildlife viewing sites in the world. It is so popular that the number of people applying to visit the area exceeds what the department can allow into the area, while preserving the quality of the area for the bears and their human visitors. As a consequence, permits to enter the area are issued on a lottery basis. The

March 1, 1993

Division of Wildlife Conservation spent \$64,522 in FY92 to run the program at McNeil River. Revenues from the visitors to the area in that year were \$24,225.

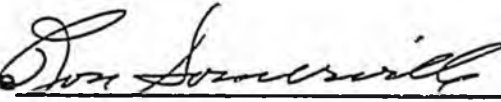
Currently the Division of Wildlife Conservation is spending \$371,700 in FY93 on what we call our watchable wildlife program. Most of the budget for the Division of Wildlife Conservation is provided by hunters and trappers. Virtually none of the cost of the watchable wildlife program is paid by the "users" of watchable wildlife, because there is no mechanism to recover from the users any of those costs. That is what this legislation offers as a modest beginning.

The primary revenue raising potential of this legislation is dependent on voluntary sales of wildlife conservation tags. In exchange for their voluntary contribution, people will receive a commemorative pin or other product, and the satisfaction of knowing that they have made a small contribution toward supporting an activity which they believe to be important.

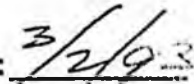
The success of the voluntary program will depend on an attractive cost for the tag, a desirable commemorative product, and a successful marketing effort for the program.

In order to gear up and provide a minimum promotion of this new program, House Bill 172 provides that visitors be required to purchase a wildlife conservation tag before entering three of Alaska's most outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities. These are McNeil River State Wildlife Sanctuary, Walrus Island State Wildlife Sanctuary, and Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary. The department believes that this would provide a modest level of assured funding to develop a successful voluntary program.

Commissioner's Signature



Date:



Division of Wildlife Conservation spent \$64,522 in FY92 to run the program at McNeil River. Revenues from the visitors to the area in that year were \$24,225.

Currently the Division of Wildlife Conservation is spending \$371,700 in FY93 on what we call our watchable wildlife program. Most of the budget for the Division of Wildlife Conservation is provided by hunters and trappers. Virtually none of the cost of the watchable wildlife program is paid by the "users" of watchable wildlife, because there is no mechanism to recover from the users any of those costs. That is what this legislation offers as a modest beginning.

The primary revenue raising potential of this legislation is dependent on voluntary sales of wildlife conservation tags. In exchange for their voluntary contribution, people will receive a commemorative pin or other product, and the satisfaction of knowing that they have made a small contribution toward supporting an activity which they believe to be important.

The success of the voluntary program will depend on an attractive cost for the tag, a desirable commemorative product, and a successful marketing effort for the program.

In order to gear up and provide a minimum promotion of this new program, House Bill 172 provides that visitors be required to purchase a wildlife conservation tag before entering three of Alaska's most outstanding wildlife viewing opportunities. These are McNeil River State Wildlife Sanctuary, Walrus Island State Wildlife Sanctuary, and Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary. The department believes that this would provide a modest level of assured funding to develop a successful voluntary program.

Commissioner's Signature *Don Somerville*  
*Joe*

Date: 3/2/93

Back-up



## Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

P.O. Box 22151 Juneau, Alaska 99802

907-463-3366

### Position Paper

## THE ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY SUPPORTS SB 107 AND HB 172 "CONSERVATION TAG"

SB107 and HB 172 are very similar to last year's HB 446. They require a conservation tag, similar in concept to a hunting or fishing license, for entry into three state game and wildlife sanctuaries (McNiel River State Game Sanctuary, Stan Price State Wildlife Area and Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary). This legislation also allows the commissioner by regulation to add other state game refuges, range areas or fish and game critical habitat areas to the program.

The Alaska Environmental Lobby believes that nonconsumptive users of state refuges, game sanctuaries and critical habitat areas should pay a share of the management costs. Currently, the total allocation for wildlife viewing-related programs in the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Dept. of Fish and Game is only 3% of the Division's total budget. More money is necessary to meet the growing demands in this area. Estimated revenue from the Department of Fish and Game's Fiscal Notes is \$55,500 in fiscal year 1994, rising to \$101,600 in fiscal year 1999. The potential for ADF&G to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities, which are very important to both the environmental community and the tourism industry, would be a wise investment in Alaska's economic future.

SB 107 and HB 172 are similar bills, but they have one important difference. In the current form of SB 107, the revenue may be used to "enhance" these programs. We feel the word "enhance" is not strong enough to ensure that the money will be used for its intended purpose. We recommend that this section of SB 107 be amended using the language of HB 172. HB 172 states:

"the revenue received from the sale of wildlife conservation tags may be appropriated by the legislature to the department for programs that benefit non-game species of wildlife, threatened and endangered species of wildlife, wildlife education and wildlife viewing."

We do not want to see this money disappear into the General Fund and used for non-wildlife related programs.

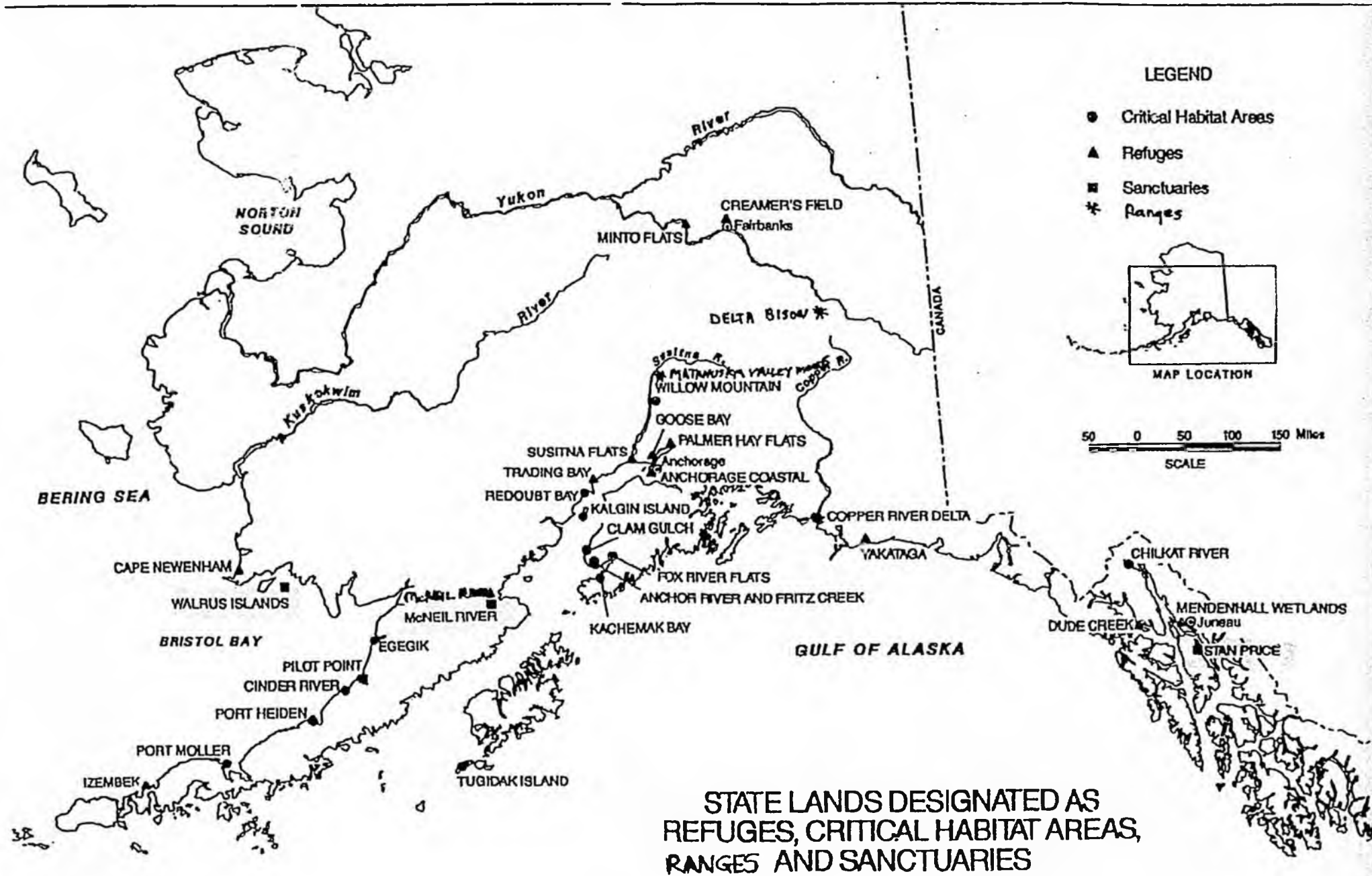
AEL would also like to see mandatory tags for more state game refuges, range areas and critical habitat areas added to this program, especially those areas most used by nonconsumptive users.

Prepared by Mary Forbes, February 25, 1993 AEL Volunteer

ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT • ALASKA CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB • ALASKA FRIENDS OF THE EARTH  
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PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND CONSERVATION ALLIANCE • SITKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY • SOUTHEAST ALASKA CONSERVATION COUNCIL



32 areas in state





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
Region 10  
Tongass National Forest

Admiralty Amendment  
Kootenai National Forest  
3461 Old Dairy Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 586-8790

Reply To: 1510

Date: March 18, 1993

Ms. Mary McDowell  
Staff Assistant for  
Representative Bill Williams  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Ms. McDowell:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft of House Bill No. 172 related to the proposed Wildlife Conservation Tag Program. This proposed legislation has bearing on management of the Pack Creek Cooperative Management Area, which is a brown bear viewing area on Admiralty Island comprised of National Forest System lands, and the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary (State land). This highly successful cooperative effort has produced a coveted visitor destination which requires considerable interagency coordination.

State Statute (AS 16.20.150) mandates that the Sanctuary be managed "compatibly with the United States Forest Service's management of the adjacent upland." We have reviewed the Committee Substitute proposed by the House Resources Committee and have worked with you and staff from the Department of Fish and Game and Legislative Legal Services to assure compliance with that objective.

We believe the three proposed amendments to the Committee Substitute for HB 172 (two dated 3/16/93, one dated 3/17/93 by Rep. Williams) satisfactorily resolve our concerns about the effects this legislation could have on management of the Pack Creek Cooperative Management Area.

The Forest Service values the cooperative relationship we have with the Department of Fish and Game in the management of this area.

Sincerely,

VIVIAN K. HOFFMAN  
Monument Ranger

cc: ADF&G-C. Br:ce



## Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association

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Float Trips

To: The Honorable Bill Williams  
From: Nancy R. Lethcoe, President  
Date: March 19, 1993



RE: HB 172 Watchable Wildlife Tag

The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association thanks you for your continued efforts on behalf of HB 172.

I have reviewed proposed amendments 650\E.3, 650\E.4 and 650\E.5 with our executive board. We support these amendments.

I raised AVA's concerns about limiting the commissioner's ability to make tags mandatory in additional areas again with the executive board. There is strong support of the bill's current language.

Again, we appreciate your support of this bill and hope that it will be passed out of the House Finance Committee quickly.