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SPONSOR STATEMENT  
by  
Senator Robin Taylor

The original intent of Senate Bill 43 was to initiate a transplant program to be done with volunteers and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Since its introduction I have tried to work with ADF&G to undertake a cooperative effort. Unfortunately the department has thrown every possible obstacle up to try to prevent a transplant similar to the one that took place in 1987.

I filed this legislation at the request of constituents and other southeast Alaskans. They have requested by petition and letter, transplants on the Islands of Kruzof (near Sitka), Prince of Wales, and Gravina, and also the Cleveland Peninsula near Ketchikan. The Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club, the Sitka Sportsman's Association, and the Stikine Sportsman Club have all lent their support in some manner. I have included letters from the groups. **A**

Also, Kavalco, Incorporated, an Alaska Native Corporation, has through it's President and CEO, Louis A. Thompson requested the transplantation of elk to their land holdings on Prince of Wales Island. The Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club has volunteered to assist this transplant. **B**

I have attached letters and petitions from the residents of Sitka and Prince of Wales Island supporting this effort. The balance of this statement is a listing of the issues that have been brought up by the department of Fish and Game in response to this bill-- as well, my response. I hope this sheds some light on the issue. **C**

**CAN ANIMALS CERTIFIED HEALTHY SPREAD DISEASE?**

In the mid 1980's, when I initially filed a bill to transplant elk into southeast Alaska the department resisted stating that it had been tried in southeast Alaska before and had failed, therefore it wasn't worth the effort. Another argument against the transplant was disease.

Now the transplant has proven a success, the animals were certified, when transplanted as disease free and their numbers are estimated at 100 to 150

animals. With that being said, now the department is bringing up the issue of disease. The department must perform the transplants and must certify that the animals are disease free, if they are ill they can't be released in the state.

### **EXOTIC SPECIES OR FORMERLY INDIGENOUS?**

In addition, the department has very recently, again, brought up the indigenous species issue. Of course the preferred name is more inflammatory -- the animals are called exotics. This conjures up tropical animals being introduced into Alaska. (This was written before attached Anchorage Daily News cartoon was published.) D

*One of the principle facts a student learns in the first biology class is about the disasters that have occurred from the introduction of the wrong species into an area. The starling and the mongoose come to mind. These are the monumental mistakes. **Of course, the successful transplantation of the bison and musk-ox here in Alaska and the introduction of the pheasant and chukar game bird transplants in the lower forty-eight are not mentioned.***

Moose only recently appeared in southeast Alaska, arriving about one-hundred years ago, **consequently they are by definition exotic species.** They have only recently populated the Mitkof, Wrangell, and Kupreanof Islands in numbers of any consequence and are now a huntable population on the former two. No doubt they carry parasites and diseases, some of which may affect deer. I have heard no arguement from the Department of Fish and Game that we should eliminate them when they move onto islands to which they aren't indiginous, because they may compete with deer. I wonder if the same effects alleged to elk; overgrazing of vegetation, food competition, ect., will also be attributed to moose. Maybe these exotic species should have been shot at the border, before they crossed into Alaska from Canada.

Is an elk non-indigenous? Perhaps -- perhaps not, the elk in North America either were here or in Europe and Asia first. It would seem logical that they traveled through Alaska to get to either place. It would seem evident that they were "indigenous" to Alaska at some point. E

**Contrary to the assertions made by Fish and Game employees, the elk on Vancouver Island are indigenous.** In modern times, this has been their northernmost natural range. Perhaps, they were forced south from Alaska during the last ice age. So in a historical sense, elk were likely indigenous to southeast Alaska at some time as surely were moose. If Queen Charlotte Sound immediatly to the north of Vancouver Island were not so vast, they likely would have spread farther north on their own.

### **ESCALATION OF REAL COSTS?**

An additional tactic is inflating the cost of the transplant. The cost of the last transplant was approximately \$1000 per animal. This cost included the trading of Alaska game for animals in other states, which eventually led to Alaska

obtaining elk from Oregon and Washington states. Now the department is escalating the cost to make it appear to be an outrageous expense. This makes for great media, but inaccurate costs; the department's one point five million dollars for the bill is quite extreme. The attempts to equate this bill as a trade-off between inadequate education funding and the transplant of elk isn't worthy of further comment. **The Ketchikan Sport and Wildlife Club has volunteered to pay the total cost of the transplants they are interested in seeing done.**

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### **MORE SKY IS FALLING?**

Another scare tactic initiated is that elk would destroy the native Sitka Black-tail deer by eating their food supply. This is unfortunately, another red herring that has been put forth. **Fish and game has presented no studies documenting the so-called food competition between deer and elk in southeast Alaska or Afognak.** I have attached a copy of a study that suggests a beneficial relationship between deer and elk -- it suggests that the alarm elk make when danger is sensed is similar to a deer and so benefits any nearby deer. Nonetheless the charge has been made and unfortunately the damage has probably been done. This is a well-practiced tactic of environmentalist extremists.

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Then there is the Afognak Raspberry Island deer/elk transplants. The deer outnumber the elk by a ten to one ratio. They have existed (both transplanted) together for over 60 years. Again, where are the studies that demonstrate the competition of elk and deer in Alaska? How many years have elapsed since the first transplants and no studies have been performed?

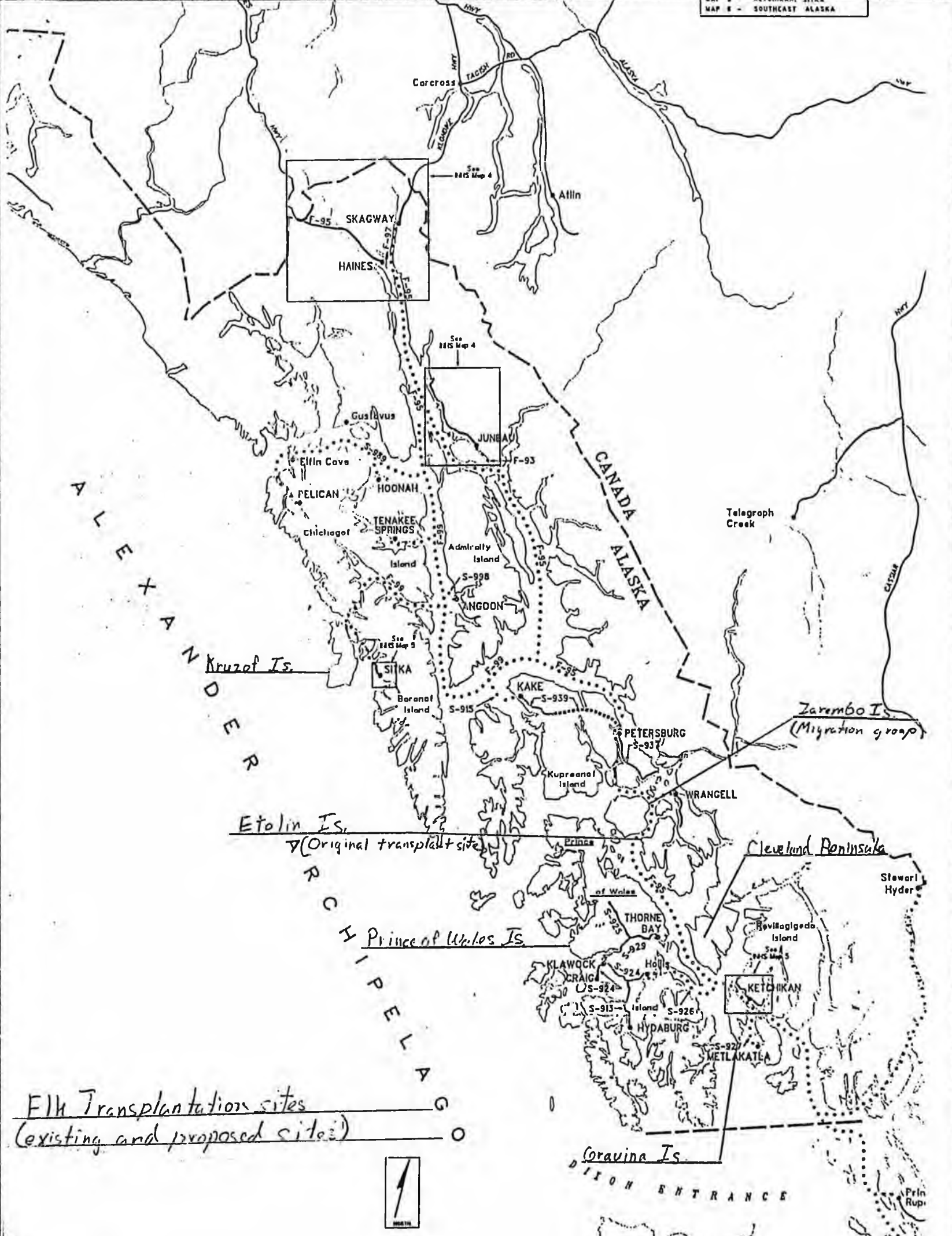
### **BOTTOM LINE**

There is another issue that has not been raised. Since logging has occurred on Mitkof, Wrangell and Zarembo Islands the number of moose on those islands has risen dramatically. **I suspect the increase of habitat for moose does not fit into the biologists view of logging being harmful to habitat for fish and game.** Certainly, having moose, elk and deer all doing well causes alarm to these folks because it doesn't fit their preconceived notion that logging is harmful. I submit this is the bottom line, not food competition.

### **BOARD OF GAME PROCESS - IS IT TRUELY A PUBLIC PROCESS?**

There have been allegations that there was political interference in the Board of Game process. There has been a lack of public process with the Board of Game's recent decision to open a year-round elk season on the areas surrounding Etolin (the site of the original transplant) and Zarembo Island (where some elk migrated) and then their subsequent reversal of that opening. **The original proposal before the Board of Game was to have a one-elk permit hunt.** By the time the biologists were finished, the entire intent had been changed, reflecting none of the original.

There was no public process on the ADF&G biologist's proposal to the Board of Game. No response by the public to the ADF&G biologist's proposal was possible, since public comment had already been taken. **Had there not been a circumvention of the public hearing process, this proposal would have most certainly been defeated by the public at the local level.** *The local Fish & Game advisory committees were not given the opportunity to respond to the Fish and Game biologist's proposal -- they had never seen it.* This is clearly an abuse of that process. Why has no one cried foul to the department's obvious effort at circumventing the public process?



F1h Transplantation sites  
(existing and proposed sites)



Zarembo Is.  
(Migration group)

Etolin Is.  
(Original transplant site)

Prince of Wales Is.

Cleveland Peninsula

Coravina Is.

Stewart  
Hyder

Prin  
Rup

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB43(FIN)

Revision Date: 3/19/93

Department Affected: Fish and Game

Title: An Act relating to transplanted elk.

BRU: Wildlife Conservation

Component: Wildlife Conservation

Sponsor: Senator Taylor

Requestor: House Resources

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES	179.1	185.3	196.0	40.8	40.8	40.8
TRAVEL	29.0	29.0	29.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
CONTRACTUAL	125.4	125.4	125.4	27.0	27.0	27.0
SUPPLIES	70.8	70.8	70.8	14.0	14.0	14.0
EQUIPMENT	10.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>415.1</b>	<b>415.5</b>	<b>426.2</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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**FUNDING:**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	415.1	415.5	426.2	86.8	86.8	86.8
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>415.1</b>	<b>415.5</b>	<b>426.2</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	4	4	4	1	1	1
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: \$ 15.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)  
See attachment for detailed breakdown.

Prepared By: David A. Anderson, Regional Supervisor Phone: 465-4265

Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: 3/19/93

Approved by Commissioner: *Carl A. Johnson*

Agency: Department of Fish and Game Date: 3/22/93

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## Assumptions for Operating Expenditures:

1. Approximately 350 elk will be obtained and introduced to four locations in Southeast Alaska during a 3-year period, with approximately 1/3 of the animals moved each year. Estimates of cost are based on costs of moving 50 elk to Etolin Island in the mid-1980s with an adjustment for inflation, multiplied by seven.

2.	Current fiscal year (FY93) costs =	\$	15.0
	Total 3-year cost w/o monitoring =		955.1
	Total 6-year monitoring cost =		562.1
	TOTAL =		1,532.2

3. Due to the magnitude of this undertaking, four new positions will be necessary to conduct a successful operation without impacting other regional functions and responsibilities. Three of these positions (WB III, WB I, FWT III) will lapse after the program's third year (FY96), and the fourth position (FWT III) will continue to monitor elk movements, mortality, etc. through FY99. (See "Request for New Position" forms.)

4. Summary of other major expenditures:

Travel (line 200): includes point-to-point travel and per diem for department staff within Southeast Alaska and outside to assist in capture efforts and escort elk from "lower 48" capture sites. Also, includes per diem expenses for wildlife agency staffs in affected states.

Contractual (line 300): includes costs of elk. In the past acquisition was by exchange for mountain goats, river otters, etc., which the department captured in Alaska and crated and shipped to states where elk were obtained. Also includes costs of veterinary services, rental of animal transport vehicles, fixed-wing and helicopter charters for monitoring, expense of holding public meetings, negotiations with other states for animal acquisition, telephone, miscellaneous.

Supplies (line 400): includes costs of drugs for elk and/or other "game"; materials for crates for elk, goats, otters, other "game"; 200 radios; visual collars; corrals and wing traps.

Equipment (line 500): includes telemetry equipment.



Position Title WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST I			No. of Positions 1	Range / Step 14/A	Barg. Unit GGU	
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12		Location Juneau	Election District 1,2,3,4,5		
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT			
Salary		31.7		31.7	<b>Justification</b> 1. Provide direct support and assistance to Elk Transplant project leader (WB III) on all aspects of the project. Serve as project leader in absence of WB III. 2. Directly supervise handling of all wildlife species involved. Travel to states/provinces providing elk to oversee trapping efforts, veterinary services (e.g. disease screening), and transport. The incumbent in this position must be someone with experience in handling large ungulates. 3. Work with other states/provinces on all technical aspects of wildlife exchanges. 4. Purchase equipment and supplies (including drugs, antibiotics, and telemetry equipment), and materials for constructing traps, crates, cages, etc. 5. Supervise and participate in all capture operations.	
Benefits		13.4		13.4		
Premium Pay						
Other						
Total Personal Services		45.1		45.1		
Travel						
Contractual						
Commodities						
Equipment						
Other						
Total Cost				45.1		
FUNDING SOURCE FOR TOTAL COST						
Federal Receipts	1002					
G.F. Match	1003					
General Fund	1004			45.1		
I-A Receipts	1007					
CIP Receipts	1061					
Other						

## Request For New Position

AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
BRU Division of Wildlife Conservation  
COMPONENT Fiscal Note CSSB43 - Elk Transplant

FY 94

Page 1 of 1  
Revised Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title FISH & WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN III			No. of Positions 1	Range / Step 11 A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12		Location Juneau	Election District 1,2,3,4,5	
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT		
Salary		26.4	26.4		
Benefits		11.9	11.9		
Premium Pay					
Other					
Total Personal Services		38.3	38.3		
Travel					
Contractual					
Commodities					
Equipment					
Other					
Total Cost			38.3		
FUNDING SOURCE FOR TOTAL COST					
Federal Receipts	1002				
G.F. Match	1003				
General Fund	1004		38.3		
I-A Receipts	1007				
CIP Receipts	1061				
Other					
Justification					
1. Serve as technical staff to the WB I.					
2. Assist in all animal capture/handling operations.					
3. Where necessary, construct traps, cages, fences, crates, etc.					
4. Accompany elk from capture sites to release sites to ensure proper treatment and handling.					
5. Assist WB I during transport to avoid capture myopathy, hyperthermia, and stress due to exposure to people on ferries, etc. Feed and water elk in transit. Assist with transferring elk from traps to trucks and from trucks to ferries or aircraft.					
6. Maintain inventory of equipment and supplies. Maintain all veterinary files, including disease testing records.					
7. Assist with monitoring operations during first three years of project.					

## Request For New Position

AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
 BRU Division of Wildlife Conservation  
 COMPONENT Fiscal Note CSSB43 - Elk Transplant

FY 94

Page 1 of 1  
 Revised Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Title FISH & WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN III		No. of Positions 1	Range / Step 11/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12	Location Juneau		Election District 1,2,3,4,5
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT		
Salary	26.4	26.4		
Benefits	11.9	11.9		
Premium Pay				
Other				
Total Personal Services	38.3	38.3		
Travel				
Contractual				
Commodities				
Equipment				
Other				
Total Cost		38.3		
FUNDING SOURCE FOR TOTAL COST				
Federal Receipts	1002			
G.F. Match	1003			
General Fund	1004	38.3		
I-A Receipts	1007			
CIP Receipts	1061			
Other				
Justification				
1. Conduct all monitoring activities for transplanted elk including flying telemetry surveys as well as conducting ground and water-based surveys.				
2. Monitor mortality censuses and whenever possible determine cause of death by immediate, on-the-ground inspection.				
3. Maintain complete files of all data obtained through monitoring, including movements and survivorship.				
4. Work with U.S. Forest Service staff on monitoring programs; arrange logistics with USFS to minimize costs to both parties.				
5. Assist with initial capture and transplant activities as outlined in job description for the other F&W Tech III.				

## Request For New Position

AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
 BRU Division of Wildlife Conservation  
 COMPONENT Fiscal Note CSSB43 - Elk Transplant

FY 94

Page 1 of 1  
 Revised Date:

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB43(FIN)

Revision Date: 12/16/93  
 Title: An Act relating to transplantation of elk  
 Sponsor: Senator Taylor  
 Requestor: House Resources

Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 BRU: Wildlife Conservation  
 Component: Wildlife Conservation  
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. (473)

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES	179.1	185.3	196.0	40.8	40.8	40.9
TRAVEL	29.0	29.0	29.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
CONTRACTUAL	125.4	125.4	125.4	27.0	27.0	27.0
SUPPLIES	70.8	70.8	70.8	14.0	14.0	14.0
EQUIPMENT	10.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>414.3</b>	<b>415.5</b>	<b>426.2</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						
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**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	414.3	415.5	426.2	86.8	86.8	86.8
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>414.3</b>	<b>415.5</b>	<b>426.2</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 15.0

**POSITIONS**

FULL-TIME	4	4	4	1	1	1
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

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

See page 2 and attached Requests for New Positions for detailed breakdown.

Prepared By: Kim Titus, Regional Supervisor Phone: 465-4265  
 Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: 12/16/93  
 Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]  
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Date: 12/20/93

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## Assumptions for Operating Expenditures:

1. Approximately 350 elk will be obtained and introduced to four locations in Southeast Alaska during a 3-year period, with approximately 1/3 of the animals moved each year. Estimates of cost are based on costs of moving 50 elk to Etolin Island in the mid-1980s with an adjustment for inflation, multiplied by seven.

2.	Current fiscal year (FY94) costs	= \$	15.0
	Total 3-year cost w/o monitoring	=	950.4
	Total 6-year monitoring cost	=	566.0
	TOTAL	=	1,531.4

3. Due to the magnitude of this undertaking, four new positions will be necessary to conduct a successful operation without impacting other regional functions and responsibilities. Three of these positions (WB III, WB I, FWT III) will lapse after the program's third year (FY97), and the fourth position (FWT III) will continue to monitor elk movements, mortality, etc. through FY00. (See "Request for New Position" forms.)

4. Summary of other major expenditures:

Travel (line 200): includes point-to-point travel and per diem for department staff within Southeast Alaska and outside to assist in capture efforts and escort elk from "lower 48" capture sites. Also, includes per diem expenses for wildlife agency staffs in affected states.

Contractual (line 300): includes costs of elk. In the past acquisition was by exchange for mountain goats, river otters, etc., which the department captured in Alaska and crated and shipped to states where elk were obtained. Also includes costs of veterinary services, rental of animal transport vehicles, fixed-wing and helicopter charters for monitoring, expense of holding public meetings, negotiations with other states for animal acquisition, telephone, miscellaneous.

Supplies (line 400): includes costs of drugs for elk and/or other "game"; materials for crates for elk, goats, otters, other "game"; 200 radios; visual collars; corrals and wing traps.

Equipment (line 500): includes telemetry equipment.

Position Title WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST III		No. of Positions 1	Range / Step 18/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12	Location Juneau		Election District 1,2,3,4,5
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT		Justification
Salary	42.0	42.0		<p>This position will report directly to the Regional Supervisor and will perform the following tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Negotiate with other states or Canadian Provinces to secure elk. Arrange terms and conditions for exchanging native Alaskan wildlife for elk in other states. Other states will not <u>sell</u> elk to Alaska.</li> <li>2. Draft MOU's and cooperative agreements with other states/provinces to identify the obligations of each party; i.e., time-lines, numbers of animals to be relocated, etc.</li> <li>3. Coordinate physical relocation of elk and species exchanged for elk. Based upon previous department experience, at least 15 separate elk relocations will be necessary. Coordinate all public participation in relocations. Work with regional administrative staff to develop contractual arrangements with other states/provinces to fund travel for employees of other wildlife agencies, secure trucks, landing craft, ferry space, etc.</li> <li>4. Coordinate and attend public meetings in Southeast Alaska and in other states. Past experience has shown that obtaining elk from other states requires broad public support in the other states.</li> <li>5. Supervise all field activities involving elk introductions and trades for other species. The 1987 transplant to Etolin Island involved capturing mountain goats and otters. It also involved buying otters from Louisiana to provide to Nebraska to pay a 15-year debt Oregon owed Nebraska for wild turkeys.</li> <li>6. Work with U.S. Forest Service to draft management guidelines, feasibility reports, and NEPA documents.</li> <li>7. Coordinate media contacts, news releases, and respond to information requests from the media, the public, the Board of Game, the Alaska Legislature, and conservation and environmental organizations.</li> <li>8. Develop and implement all elk monitoring programs.</li> <li>9. Supervise a staff of three full-time positions: one WBI and two F&amp;W Tech III's.</li> </ol>
Benefits	16.2	16.2		
Premium Pay				
Other				
Total Personal Services	58.2	58.2		
Travel				
Contractual				
Commodities				
Equipment				
Other				
Total Cost		58.2		
FUNDING SOURCE FOR TOTAL COST				
Federal Receipts	1002			
C.F. Match	1003			
General Fund	1004	58.2		
I-A Receipts	1007			
CIP Receipts	1061			
Other				

## Request For New Position

AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BRU Division of Wildlife Conservation

COMPONENT Fiscal Note CSSB13 - Elk Transplant

FY 95

Page 1 of 1

Revised Date: 12/16/93

Position Title WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST I			No. of Positions 1	Range / Step 14/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12		Location Juneau	Election District 1,2,3,4,5	
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE			AMOUNT		
Salary		31.7	31.7		
Benefits		13.4	13.4		
Premium Pay					
Other					
Total Personal Services		45.1	45.1		
Travel					
Contractual					
Commodities					
Equipment					
Other					
Total Cost			45.1		
FUNDING SOURCE FOR TOTAL COST					
Federal Receipts	1002				
G.F. Match	1003				
General Fund	1004		45.1		
I-A Receipts	1007				
CIP Receipts	1061				
Other					
Justification					
1. Provide direct support and assistance to Elk Transplant project leader (WB III) on all aspects of the project. Serve as project leader in absence of WB III.					
2. Directly supervise handling of all wildlife species involved. Travel to states/provinces providing elk to oversee trapping efforts, veterinary services (e.g disease screening), and transport. The incumbent in this position must be someone with experience in handling large ungulates.					
3. Work with other states/provinces on all technical aspects of wildlife exchanges.					
4. Purchase equipment and supplies (including drugs, antibiotics, and telemetry equipment), and materials for constructing traps, crates, cages, etc.					
5. Supervise and participate in all capture operations.					

## Request For New Position

AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
 BRU Division of Wildlife Conservation  
 COMPONENT Fiscal Note CSS143 - Elk Transplant

FY 95

Page 1 of 1  
 Revised Date: 12/16/93

Position Title FISH & WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN III		No. of Positions 1	Range / Step 11/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12	Location Juneau		Election District 1,2,3,4,5
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT		Justification 1. Serve as technical staff to the WB I. 2. Assist in all animal capture/handling operations. 3. Where necessary, construct traps, cages, fences, crates, etc. 4. Accompany elk from capture sites to release sites to ensure proper treatment and handling. 5. Assist WBI during transport to avoid capture myopathy, hyperthermia, and stress due to exposure to people on ferries, etc. Feed and water elk in transit. Assist with transferring elk from traps to trucks and from trucks to ferries or aircraft. 6. Maintain inventory of equipment and supplies. Maintain all veterinary files, including disease testing records. 7. Assist with monitoring operations during first three years of project.
Salary	26.4	26.4		
Benefits	11.9	11.9		
Premium Pay				
Other				
Total Personal Services	38.3	38.3		
Travel				
Contractual				
Commodities				
Equipment				
Other				
Total Cost		38.3		
FUNDING SOURCE FOR TOTAL COST				
Federal Receipts	1002			
G.F. Match	1003			
General Fund	1004		38.3	
I-A Receipts	1007			
CIP Receipts	1061			
Other				

## Request For New Position

AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
 BRU Division of Wildlife Conservation  
 COMPONENT Fiscal Note CSSM3 - Elk Transplant

FY 95

Page 1 of 1  
 Revised Date: 12/16/93

Position Title FISH & WILDLIFE TECHNICIAN III			No. of Positions 1	Range / Step 11/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12		Location Juneau	Election District 1,2,3,4,5	
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT		Justification	
Salary		26.4	26.4	1. Conduct all monitoring activities for transplanted elk including flying telemetry surveys as well as conducting ground and water-based surveys.	
Benefits		11.9	11.9	2. Monitor mortality sensors and whenever possible determine cause of death by immediate, on-the-ground inspection.	
Premium Pay				3. Maintain complete files of all data obtained through monitoring, including movements and survivorship.	
Other				4. Work with U.S. Forest Service staff on monitoring programs; arrange logistics with USFS to minimize costs to both parties.	
Total Personal Services		38.3	38.3	5. Assist with initial capture and transplant activities.	
Travel					
Contractual					
Commodities					
Equipment					
Other					
Total Cost			38.3		
FUNDING SOURCE FOR TOTAL COST					
Federal Receipts	1002				
G.F. Match	1003				
General Fund	1001		38.3		
I-A Receipts	1007				
CIP Receipts	1061				
Other					

# Request For New Position

AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
 BRU Division of Wildlife Conservation  
 COMPONENT Fiscal Note CSS143 - Elk Transplant

FY 95

Page 1 of 1  
 Revised Date: 12/16/93

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526  
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

April 29, 1993

The Honorable Bill Williams  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 128  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

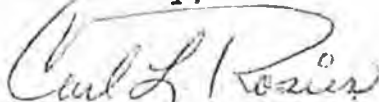
Dear Representative Williams:

During the April 19 Resource Committee hearing on SB 43 The Department of Fish and Game was requested to provide the list of scientific studies which form the basis for the department's opposition to transplanting elk to Southeast Alaska. I am enclosing three items for the committee:

1. An annotated bibliography of 58 scientific publications on elk ecology and deer/elk interaction.
2. A department position paper on this issue entitled "The Introduction of Elk to Southeast Alaska: An Assessment."
3. A letter from Dr. Tom Hanley to Representative Bill Hudson on this issue. Dr. Hanley is an expert on deer/elk relationships and worked in cooperation with ADF&G biologists on deer ecology in Southeast Alaska.

If you or your committee members need more information, please contact me at 465-4100.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier  
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Senator Robin Taylor

**THE INTRODUCTION OF ELK TO SOUTHEAST ALASKA: AN ASSESSMENT**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

April 1993

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## INTRODUCTION

There has long been interest in elk (Cervus elaphus) in Southeast Alaska. Although elk are not native to Alaska, since at least the 1920s there have been expressed desires from the public to establish this species in the panhandle.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has consistently expressed concerns about introducing nonindigenous elk into Southeast Alaska. Concerns have stemmed from information regarding deer and elk relationships in other parts of North America and staff observations on Etolin Island. This paper reviews these concerns, and is organized with a brief background statement, followed by a review of the department's policy concerning introductions of nonindigenous species, and specific concerns under three discrete headings: direct competition for food between deer and elk; predation and its role in the relationship between deer and elk; and disease and parasite considerations. Also included is a breakdown of anticipated costs associated with legislation proposed in 1993, Alaska Board of Game resolution number 93-67-BOG relating to elk in Southeast Alaska, and an annotated bibliography.

## BACKGROUND

For decades there has been interest among some groups and individuals to introduce elk into Alaska. The colonization of Afognak Island following the 1929 elk introduction has undoubtedly contributed to this interest. Prior to 1987, attempts to introduce 45 elk to various parts of Southeast Alaska were unsuccessful.

Legislative action in 1985 resulted in the introduction of 50 elk (33 Roosevelt and 17 Rocky Mountain) to Etolin Island in 1987. Although mortality was substantial immediately following the introduction, recent monitoring reports from department staff indicate that the elk adjusted to their new surroundings and established themselves on Etolin and Zarembo islands. Elk have been documented on Mitkof and the Kashevarof islands, immediately adjacent to northeastern Prince of Wales Island. Elk have also been reported by the public to be on Deer Island, adjacent to the Cleveland Peninsula.

In the absence of any specially appropriated funds with which to intensively assess the interactions between elk and deer on Etolin and adjacent islands, department activities have been limited to cursory on-the-ground observations and periodic monitoring of radio-collared elk resulting from the graciously donated helicopter support offered by Ketchikan Pulp Company. In an effort to secure funding for possible future studies on Etolin Island, the department submitted grant requests to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Safari Club International.

## DEPARTMENT POLICY

The department's species management policies allow for the introduction of nonindigenous species if four minimum requirements are met: 1) the proposed transplant site provides sufficient and suitable habitat to support a viable population of the species as determined by comprehensive study; 2) prior study establishes that the introduction of the species will not significantly adversely affect the numbers, health, or utilization of resident species; 3) protection of the proposed transplant population from incompatible land use is assured; and 4) future public use of the resource is guaranteed.

When these four minimum requirements are met, as they were prior to the 1983 and 1991 mountain goat introductions to Revilla Island and the 1989 reintroduction of goats to Mt. Juneau, the department has been willing to endorse and assist in transplant efforts. However, when there are questions about whether any one of these requirements can be met, the department has felt a responsibility to express its concerns. In the case of elk introductions, wildlife managers have repeatedly expressed concerns about the impacts elk can have on native deer populations.

### DIRECT COMPETITION FOR FOOD

With the assistance of the Ketchikan Pulp Company, our Ketchikan area wildlife biologist conducted ten radio-tracking flights between March 12, 1991, and February 9, 1993. Findings indicate that elk regularly inhabit the coastal fringe of forested habitat on Etolin and Zarembo islands. This same fringe, as many know, is where deer tend to concentrate during deep-snow winters. The fact that elk use these areas during relatively mild winters suggests that they are utilizing and impacting plants which are important and necessary for winter deer survival. In fact, through on-the-ground evaluations, department staff have documented extensive elk use of blueberry shrubs, an important winter food for deer. In 1989 staff biologists observed that on Marsh Island (a small island near the Rocky Mountain elk release site) elk severely browsed blueberry shrubs only two years after the release date. Similarly, staff observations near McHenry Anchorage in 1991 indicated severe browsing of blueberry shrubs by elk.

Extensive research has been conducted on the feeding habits of Sitka black-tailed deer in Southeast Alaska. While forbs are considered critical to the survival and reproductive success of deer, shrubs are important in maintaining sufficient energy levels during winter months when forbs are covered by snow and thus unavailable. The well-documented starvation of deer which has periodically occurred as a result of severe winter weather, illustrates that competition among deer for limited food can occur even in the absence of an introduced exotic such as elk. Adding elk, with their superior size, foraging capabilities, and well-understood physiological digestive differences, unquestionably

exacerbates existing competition among deer. The expected result is an even greater loss of deer during severe winters, which would in turn prolong the time necessary for deer populations to recover.

As with deer, elk feeding habits have been extensively studied in areas where they are native. Findings show that elk are extremely diverse in their selection and consumption of plants. Additionally, because elk rumens are 30 percent larger than those of deer and their protein requirements are lower than for deer (5.5 percent for elk versus 7 percent for deer), elk can successfully maintain themselves on diets consisting of low-nutrient plants, whereas deer require diets complete with specific high-nutrient plants in order to survive. The fact that elk can, and will, utilize the high-nutrient plants in addition to low-nutrient plants, results in fewer high-nutrient plants being available to sustain deer. Ultimately, the elk-caused reduction in high-nutrient plants can create a shortage for deer and result in fewer deer surviving through winters when food is most limited.

British Columbia biologists working on Vancouver Island have intensively studied feeding habits of their resident elk populations. Elk on Vancouver Island feed on many of the same plant species that deer likewise feed on in Southeast Alaska. For example, Kim Brunt of the British Columbia Ministry of Forestry has documented extensive elk use of blueberry shrubs as well as important high-nutrient forbs including bunchberry, twinflower, and deer fern. The use of these forbs is especially noteworthy because they are among the same plants which deer in Southeast Alaska require for protein assimilation and fat deposition. Without forbs in the diet, deer are severely handicapped in their ability to survive through winter.

In the book "The Elk of North America," biologist Olaus Murie points out that elk have been known to compete with mountain sheep, antelope, deer, and moose, particularly on winter range. Murie goes on to point out that in planning for deer and elk it is necessary to keep in mind that while elk will utilize practically any type of vegetation present on winter range, deer are confined to browse. Deer are the first to suffer in serious competition, and the range suffers to the detriment of both species by the combined pressure on available forage.

In a 1970 report assessing the advisability of introducing elk to Kruzof Island, wildlife biologists A. Courtright and H. Merriam noted that elk would almost certainly compete with deer and, at least during severe winters, a reduction in the deer population would be a likely result. Because of this concern, which was shared by several biologists, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew funding for the proposed transplant.

During May 1972, former Washington State Regional Game Director and elk specialist, E. Reade Brown, visited Ketchikan after receiving an invitation to do so from the Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club (now the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club). After spending time

looking at habitat on Revilla Island, Mr. Brown concluded that in his opinion elk could be established in the area, but that the elk would compete quite closely with the existing deer population for the winter food supply. In fact, he went on to conclude that he felt the deer population would probably decline as a result of this competition.

In both Washington and Idaho, biologists have found that elk, which are generally grazers (grass eaters), will utilize browse (shrubs) extensively. Where browse is the major forage type (as it is during winters in Southeast Alaska), Idaho and Washington biologists have concluded that direct competition between deer and elk does exist. In northwestern Montana, Kurt Jenkins and Gerald Wright reported 71-81 percent dietary overlap between elk and white-tailed deer. Similarly, David Leslie found dietary overlap between elk and black-tailed deer in western Washington to be 78-93 percent, with the greatest overlap during the winter. Former Idaho Fish and Game Director Joseph Greenley has concluded that a winter range being used heavily by elk has virtually no carrying capacity for deer.

Similar to findings in Idaho and Washington, the Oregon State Game Commission has pointed out that while elk in western Oregon favor green grasses and annuals in the spring and early summer, during late summer, fall, and winter browse assumes major importance in the diet. Observations provided by internationally-recognized deer and elk expert Jack Ward Thomas have indicated that as elk moved into some deer-occupied parts of Oregon, mule deer numbers and distribution decreased.

Recent articles and editorials have pointed to Afognak Island as proof that elk and deer can coexist in Alaska. It is indeed true that since their introduction in 1929 elk have coexisted with deer on Afognak and Raspberry islands. What hasn't been as clear are the implications associated with this coexistence.

Kodiak area wildlife biologist Roger Smith observed that when elk herds in northwestern Afognak Island were harvested at well below maximum sustained levels in the late 1970s and 1980s despite a five-month general season, the winter range was heavily used, and when recent declines in elk numbers occurred, the declines were steepest in the remote herds with low harvest. Even when deer numbers were exceptionally high on Kodiak Island and parts of Afognak Island, the elk-inhabited northwestern part of Afognak Island provided relatively poor deer hunting. Smith is convinced that competition with elk was the reason. These observations from Afognak have made ADF&G skeptical about introducing elk to Kodiak Island. Notably, there is concern that elk will degrade Kodiak Island's historical ability to support some of the state's highest densities of deer, and thereby reduce public use opportunities.

## PREDATION AND ITS ROLE IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEER AND ELK

In addition to the concerns about direct competition for food, there is the question of the role wolf predation plays in the relationship between deer and elk. On Vancouver Island, where elk, deer, and wolves occur together, observations have shown that deer populations on some parts of the island have declined substantially as a result of high predation rates. Byron Mason, a former predator-control agent with the British Columbia government, has noted that predation pressure on deer is most severe in wolf territories that have concentrations of elk. This has been attributed to the fact that elk provide a source of alternate prey which enables wolves to continue exerting intense pressure on declining deer populations in elk-occupied areas. British Columbia wildlife biologist D. M. Hebert reported in 1981 that as wolves recolonized the northern half of Vancouver Island they nearly exterminated deer before significantly affecting elk numbers.

## DISEASE AND PARASITE CONCERNS

Numerous articles and publications have been written about problems and concerns associated with the spread of diseases and parasites through the translocation of wild animals. Although regulations generally require that transplanted animals be quarantined and tested for diseases prior to being translocated, Wyoming biologists R. Lanka, E. Thorne, and R. Guenzel point out that these regulations do not guarantee that all diseases will be detected. As pointed out in a 1988 publication by M. E. Scott, the ability of most current tests to confirm particular diseases and parasites is largely unknown when used on native and exotic wild ungulates. Interpretation of test results is exceedingly complex, and there are no tests for many diseases found in wildlife. Furthermore, the identification of some diseases and parasites can only be made from carcass necropsies and histological examinations, and according to Canadian parasitologist W. Samuel, there is evidence that quarantine and testing may not be enough to determine whether certain parasites are present in many wild ungulates. In a publication prepared by C. G. Mackintosh and N. S. Beaton, these biologists have further pointed out that animals which show no sign of disease when tested may develop clinical diseases after being stressed.

In dealing with elk, specific diseases and parasites of notable concern include meningeal worms, bovine tuberculosis, and bovine brucellosis. Meningeal worms, which have been found in elk and deer in other parts of North America, are not known to exist in Alaska. These worms, which are most often found on the membranes of the brain, are fatal to deer and elk; however, in a Wildlife Society Bulletin publication, D. Welch, M. Pybus, W. Samuel, and C. Wilke reported that worms or their larvae are detected only 50 percent of the time in live animals. Obviously, translocated elk containing undetected meningeal worms or their larvae could transmit the parasites to native deer or even moose, with ensuing

catastrophic implications for resident species. Unfortunately, free-ranging wildlife cannot be treated once infected with this parasite.

As reported by Alberta Department of Forestry biologist, L. Fjordbotten, Alberta now has a moratorium on the import of wild ungulates because of the possibility of bringing meningeal worm into the province. In May 1991, British Columbia also banned importation of moose, elk, white-tailed deer, and mule deer because of concerns about this parasite.

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a serious disease affecting wild animals. Besides being fatal to wild ungulates, TB also poses public health risks. At least one veterinarian and several wildlife technicians in Canada have been exposed and infected with TB after working with diseased elk.

There is no treatment or vaccine for TB in wild animals. The potential for importing TB-infected animals into western North America is high because testing procedures are often unreliable or incorrectly applied. In a report prepared through the University of Georgia, V. Nettles reported that the importation of just two elk with TB from a menagerie in Iowa into South Dakota created significant health and economic problems in the early 1980s.

TB is difficult to control because the bacterium is relatively resistant to environmental conditions, and not all infected animals test positive with current techniques. As noted in a report published through the Smithsonian Institution, J. Silberman noted that animals which test negative for TB may develop the disease later, and animals with advanced TB may not respond to skin tests. M. Essey, Senior Chief of the USDA Veterinarian staff in Washington, D.C., stated that it will be impossible to eradicate this disease if it becomes established in free-ranging cervid populations of North America.

Bovine brucellosis, a transmittable disease which exists in some North American elk and bison populations, causes calf loss and lowered productivity. This disease was introduced into free-ranging wildlife around the turn of the century when ranchers had little or no knowledge of the disease or its ramifications.

In addition to meningeal worm, TB, and brucellosis, there are many other wildlife diseases, some of which have been identified only recently. Among the recently discovered diseases are chronic wasting disease, dermatophilosis, and pox virus in mule deer. R. Lanka, E. Thorne, and R. Guenzel conclude a 1992 discussion of ungulate diseases by stating that there is no excuse in the 1990s and coming century for repeating or exacerbating past mistakes by introducing diseases through wildlife.

We recently learned from Dr. Bill Samuel (professor of Zoology, University of Alberta) and from Mr. Kim Brunt (British Columbia Ministry of Environment) that giant liver flukes have become a

major concern in British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba. A recently-planned relocation of elk from the Kootenai to the Caribou Hills of British Columbia has been suspended because of the risk of spreading this parasite to other ungulates. It appears that elk in these areas are the most significant host, and although infested elk may not exhibit symptoms, some elk mortality has been documented. Additionally, moose mortality has been documented in Manitoba.

At present, all Oregon and Washington elk ranges are considered hot spots for the giant liver fluke, including Jewel Meadow (the only place from which Roosevelt elk could be obtained for the 1987 Etolin transplant). This fluke cannot be eliminated by treatment with the drug Ivermectin which was applied to transplanted elk in 1987.

Discussions with Dr. Samuel have made us aware that transmission of the giant liver fluke to other wildlife is favored by wet or boggy environments, with several species of mollusks functioning as intermediate hosts.

Although the older literature suggests that the giant liver fluke does not cause death in cervids (members of the deer family), more recent evidence contradicts that view. Hence, extreme caution should be taken to avoid introduction of this parasite into Southeast Alaska. Because there is at present no effective action available to guarantee that introducing elk will not also introduce the giant liver fluke, it appears inadvisable to introduce additional elk into Alaska at this time.

#### ANTICIPATED COSTS OF INTRODUCTION

Costs associated with the proposed implementation of CSSB43(FIN) were estimated by extrapolation of costs incurred during the 1987 introduction of 50 elk to Etolin Island. The cost of procuring and releasing 350 elk was estimated at \$955,100, excluding any monitoring of movements and mortality. Inclusion of a modest monitoring program (which, no doubt, would be required by the Forest Service NEPA process) increased the total cost to \$1,532,200. Additionally, four new full-time positions would be required during the three-year transplant period, and one position would be required for monitoring for two additional years. Because of concerns over competition and disease transmission, it is highly unlikely that any Pittman-Robertson federal matching funds could be used for elk introductions. Consequently, the primary funding source would be the general fund.

# Alaska State Legislature



Senate Majority Leader  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Vice Chair, Community &  
Regional Affairs

Member, State Affairs Committee  
Committee on Committees  
Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force  
Legislative Council

*Senator Robin L. Taylor*

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
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Fax: (907) 465-3922

352 Front Street  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
(907) 225-8008  
Fax: (907) 225-0713

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Representative Ramona Barnes  
Speaker of the House**

**FROM: Senator Robin L. Taylor** *R.L.T.*

**DATE: 4/22/93**

**REF: SB 43 and SB 46 - Committee Action**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please consider this my formal request that Rep. Williams be allowed a Resources Committee meeting in order to move out SB 43 and SB 46.**

**Please note that HB 69 moved from Senate Judiciary on the day of its first hearing, without changes.**

**Senator Miller and I appreciate your consideration of this request.**

**cc: Rep. Williams**

District A:

Hyder • Ketchikan • Kupreanof • Meyers Chuck • Petersburg • Saxman • Sitka • Wrangell

# Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Leader  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Vice Chair, Community &  
Regional Affairs

Member: State Affairs Committee  
Committee on Committees  
Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force  
Legislative Council




**Senator Robin L. Taylor**

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352 Front Street  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
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Fax: (907) 225-0713

To: Representative Bill Williams, Chairman  
Houses Resources Committee

From: Senator Robin Taylor 

Date: March 29, 1993

Subject: Senate Bill 43, relating to elk transplants

I would appreciate a hearing on the Senate Bill 43 as soon as possible. The Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club asked me to introduce legislation for a transplant program by volunteers performed in conjunction with the Department of Fish and Game. I would like to explain the past successful elk transplanting efforts and what is planned with this legislation. There is strong support for the legislation in Ketchikan. I encourage you to schedule it for a hearing soon.

I originally introduced legislation that would have put together a transplant mechanism for volunteers and the Department of Fish and Game to introduce more elk. Unfortunately, the department has taken an untenable position on my legislation. They have exercised the unwarranted and scientifically unfounded position that deer will be unable to exist in the same habitat as elk.

I would appreciate the opportunity to testify on this legislation so that we can discuss the facts surrounding this issue. Thank you.

District A:

Hyder • Ketchikan • Kupreanof • Meyers Chuck • Petersburg • Saxman • Sitka • Wrangell

# Alaska State Legislature

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WHILE IN SESSION:  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182  
465-2435 FAX: 465-2864

Representative David Finkelstein

## M E M O R A N D U M

To: Rep. Bill Williams, Chairman  
House Resources Committee  
From: Rep. David Finkelstein *DF*  
Date: April 27, 1993  
Re: SB 43

At the House Resources Committee hearing on SB 43, the sponsor asserted that the bill was discretionary upon the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. As you can see from the enclosed legal opinion, this does not appear to be the case. Could you please include the legal opinion in the bill packet?

# DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

### MEMORANDUM

April 23, 1993

**SUBJECT:** Implementation of CSSB 43(FIN)(efd fld); an Act relating to transplantation of elk

**TO:** Representative David Finkelstein

**FROM:** George Utermohle, *GU*  
Legislative Counsel

You have asked whether the elk transplant projects listed in CSSB 43(FIN)(efd fld) are mandatory or discretionary.

The elk transplant projects listed in CSSB 43(FIN)(efd fld) are mandatory. The bill states that the "Department of Fish and Game shall, . . . , transplant not fewer than 75 nor more than 100 elk" to each of the four locations mentioned in the bill. (Emphasis added.) The use of the term "shall" imposes a duty on the department to conduct the transplants mentioned in the bill.

The provisions of the bill supersede the general duty of the commissioner of fish and game and of the Department of Fish and Game to consider and conduct game transplants<sup>1/</sup> and compel the department to undertake those elk transplants

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<sup>1/</sup> Under AS 16.05.020(2), the commissioner shall manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state. (Emphasis added.)

Under AS 16.25.010, the Legislature has adopted the following policy regarding transplantation of game and fur-bearing animals:

There is adopted a program of stocking land in the state with valuable game and fur-bearing animals that do not at present occur on the land. The department is responsible for establishing priorities on the species of animals to be stocked and the area of the stocking. Priorities shall be based on the habitat requirements of the species, the population of native game animals present, and other factors that will effect the successful establishment of the species.

Representative David Finkelstein  
April 23, 1993  
Page 2

mentioned in the bill.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

GU:gc  
93-365.glc

*You may have  
seen this but I'll  
tell you, that elk  
introduction will just  
lead to more violence.*

JUNEAU EMPIRE, SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1993

## Man arrested in elk bone assault

### THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

Carl Bradford Phillips was in satisfactory condition at a Seattle hospital Saturday evening after he was attacked in his downtown Juneau apartment by a man wielding an elk leg bone.

Phillips, 44, suffered multiple skull fractures and scalp cuts in the Friday evening assault.

He was treated overnight at Bartlett Memorial Hospital, then flown by air ambulance to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle on Saturday morning, Juneau police said.

Phillips was able to identify his alleged assailant and police said a 20-year-old man has been arrested. Jason Lee Wright of Juneau has been charged with felony assault

and was being held without bail at Lemon Creek Correctional Center, police said.

Wright, who works for a trucking company, was arrested Friday night at his residence on Lupine Lane, police said.

If convicted, Wright faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

The beating occurred at Phillips' residence in the Fosbee Apartments on Distin Avenue about 7:30 p.m. Friday. Police were not called until shortly after 10 p.m., when Phillips arrived in the Bartlett emergency room.

Police officials Saturday released no other details about the attack.



# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3715

**Assault:** Jason Wright, 21, of Juneau, has been sentenced to two years and six months in prison following his no contest plea to felony assault.

Wright was originally charged with attempted murder for attacking a 44-year-old Juneau man with an elk leg in May. The victim suffered multiple skull fractures and scalp cuts and was flown to a Seattle hospital for treatment following the attack.

Charges against Wright later were amended by the district attorney's office.

Juneau Superior Court Judge Larry Weeks sentenced Wright to 10 years in prison but suspended seven years and six months for five years on the condition Wright successfully complete five years probation. Wright was also ordered to pay \$16,971 restitution. The judge recommended Wright receive alcohol abuse treatment, psychological counseling and vocational training.

Wright is lodged at the Lemc. Creek Correctional Center.

Juneau Empire 1-30-84

Could bringing in more elk  
lead to an increase in  
violent assaults in S.E. Alaska?

**CHAPTER 4**

**SPATIAL DISTRIBUTIONS BETWEEN ELK AND BLACK-TAILED  
DEER IN CLEAR-CUTS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

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G

### Abstract

The assumption that elk are behaviorally dominant over black-tailed deer was tested in this study. Distances between elk and deer were assessed using night observations with a spotlight in clearcut areas on commercial timberland in Washington. Deer were observed close to elk more frequently than farther away, and deer were closer to elk when herd sizes averaged approximately ten elk. I concluded from this study that elk are not dominant over deer. Rather, there seems to be a positive correlation between elk and black-tailed deer.

### Introduction

In areas where Columbian black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*) and elk (*Cervus elaphus*) are sympatric in the Pacific Northwest, they occupy similar habitats and have been shown to have a degree of dietary overlap. The magnitude of overlap varies between seasons due to differences in food selection between seasons (Leslie & Starkey 1982). Further, elk and black-tailed deer have been shown to prefer different microhabitats, with elk preferring the more mesic and deer preferring the more xeric patches of vegetation (Hanley 1984a). Several studies have indicated that elk might deplete deer forage resources through direct competition and behavioral dominance (Mackie 1970; Hanley 1980; Leslie & Starkey 1982; Collins & Urness 1983; Wickstrom et al. 1984; Jenkins & Starkey 1984). Management recommendations are often based on these assumptions (Leslie & Starkey 1982; Jenkins & Starkey 1984; Johnson 1991). In other parts of the U.S., it is believed that elk and mule deer have minimum competition despite a dietary overlap and similar habitat selections throughout the year (Mackie 1985).

However, more data are needed to assess the level of elk and deer interactions in different forest habitats. Most discussions of trophic relationships have been inferential, and only indicate potential exploitative competition between the two species, favoring elk (Mackie 1981; Leslie & Starkey 1982; Nelson 1982; Jenkins & Starkey 1984). Additional factors, such as phytochemical changes in mutual forage species due to browsing by the counterpart species or mixed species grouping in predator detection, that could serve to reduce competition have not been adequately studied.

As a result of extensive introductions (Schoen 1977), and subsequent colonization of the habitat of native ungulates by elk from the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, management plans often include provisions to limit the distribution, spread, or abundance of Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus elaphus canadensis*). For example, in several game management units of western Washington, big game management plans are designed to reduce the elk population. These management plans are based on the perceived competitive advantage of elk over black-tailed deer, and a desire to maintain productive deer populations by reducing this competition (Johnson 1991).

Behavioral interactions between elk and black-tailed deer have not been studied, although they are important components in evaluating possible competition. A good field indicator of possible dominance by elk over deer, is the distance observed between the two species. Strong behavioral dominance by elk should be reflected in greater distance between the two species.

There are three possible outcomes of elk-deer behavior interactions when assessing observed distances between deer and elk (Fig. 4-1): no interaction, negative interaction or positive interaction. If elk are dominant over deer, we would expect to observe few

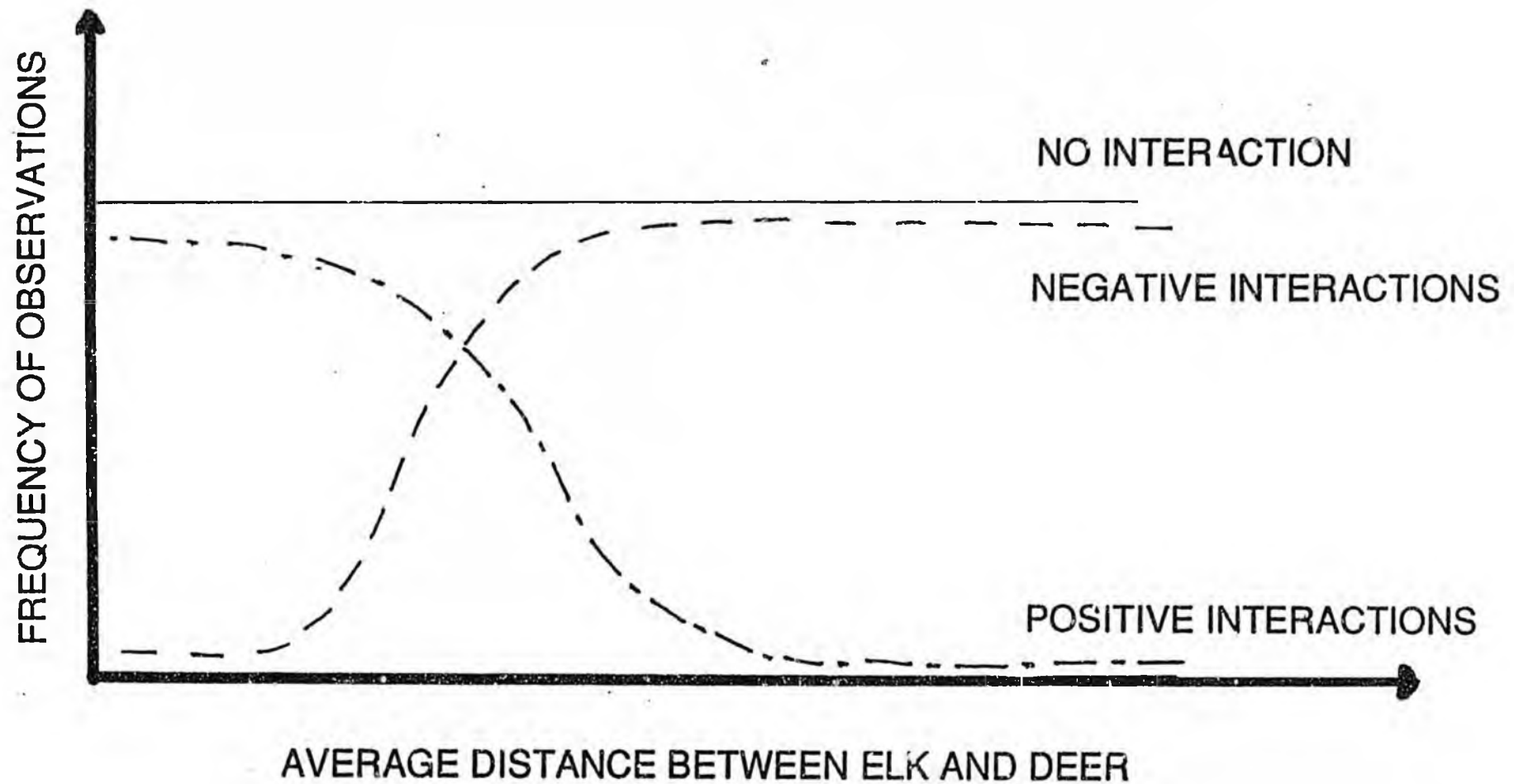


FIG. 4-1. Theoretical outcomes of behavioral relationship between elk and black-tailed deer expressed as frequency distributions of distances between the two.

short distances compared to long ones. If elk or deer do not interact at all, we would expect to see an even distribution of distances between the two species. On the other hand, if a positive interaction exist between elk and deer, we would expect to observe more short distances than long distances. Classically elk are considered to be dominant over black-tailed deer (Jenkins & Starkey 1984). Elk are generally considered better competitors than deer in commercial forests of western Oregon and Washington, because of their larger size and greater reach, mobility, and group size (Hanley 1982; Nelson 1982; Mackie 1985). Further, they are less selective than deer when foraging (Hanley 1982; Hofmann 1988). In contrast, black-tailed deer are mostly single or in small family units of one female with 1-2 fawns (Geist 1981). Exactly how the interference competition operates, if any should take place, is not known. However, if we look at their reproductive behavior, we know that visual displays combined with sounds are the means of communications in both elk (Clutton-Brock et al. 1982; Geist 1982), and black-tailed deer (Geist 1981). The objective of this study was to test the assumption that elk are dominant over black-tailed deer, that is, deer will avoid elk and maintain some minimum distance to elk.

### Methods

Elk and black-tailed deer were visually observed at night on commercial timberland within the Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) - western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) forest zone (Franklin & Dyrness 1984) north and west of Mount Rainier National Park (approximately 47 05' N, 122 07' W) (Fig. 1-3). Elevation varied from approximately 150 m to 1000 m. The observations were conducted over a period covering August 1990 to April 1991. A total of 25 nights were monitored.

Night observations were conducted by searching open cut-overs using a hand-held spotlight shone from a slow-moving vehicle travelling along a forest road (Fig. 1-3). When a pair of eyes were encountered, binoculars were used to determine species, sex, and total group size. Finally, the area surrounding the animal was searched intensely from several angles for the counterpart species. If encountered, the distance in meters was determined from maps and geographical features. Observations were limited to the first four hours after dark when elk (Bubenik 1982; Clutton-Brock et al. 1982) and black-tailed deer (Progulske & Durre 1964) are most active. Actively moving deer and elk are more easily detected. The spotlight technique has not been used in this context before. Traditionally, spotlighting has been used to determine the abundance of deer (Dealy 1966; Gunson 1979; Harestad & Jones 1980). Therefore, trial observations were conducted to see if the technique proved satisfactory. An evaluation whether if distances far away from the observation point could be estimated, was especially important. In every clearcut area used in this study distances of 300 m were possible to detect without obstructions. Elk were observed more often with deer than without in the clearcut areas. Therefore, elk-deer distances were believed to be detected with a reasonable detectability, regardless of the distance from the observer. The ratio of deer:elk is probably distance dependant from the observer. However, all observations were done within approximately 1200 m from the observer. The observability were considered to be fairly constant within this range. An observation was defined as a group of animals of one species including the counterpart species within 500 m.

Data were analyzed using the procedures of Wilkinson (1989). The frequency distribution of distances was compared against an even distribution using chi square analysis. The relationship between herd size of elk and counterpart distances, and group

size of deer and distance to elk were evaluated using regression analysis. Finally, group size of black-tailed deer, herd size of elk, and distances were compared graphically.

### Results

Elk and deer were seen together in only 26 of 131 observations. Elk were observed alone in 16 cases, with herd sizes ranging from a minimum of three to a maximum of 54. Deer were observed alone in 51 cases with group sizes ranging from one to seven. In the analysis of these data, one assumption was made. Distances between elk and deer over 300 meters were not included in the regression analysis between group size and distance. This is based on observations of home ranges of black-tailed deer. They are generally very loyal to their home range, which in addition are relatively small (Geist 1981). Harestad (1979) demonstrated that the average core area of home ranges on Vancouver Island during winter were only 7.4 hectares. Consequently, deer would probably not be affected by elk at distances beyond 300m.

The frequency distribution of distances between elk and black-tailed deer shows that more observations were made in the range of short distances (0-100 meters) than distances farther apart (Fig. 4-2C). The observed distribution was significantly different from an even distribution ( $X^2 = 3.11$ , 4 d.f.,  $0.05 < P < 0.10$ ). The small number of observations resulted in the difference being marginally significant (Zar 1984). Distributions A and B in Fig. 4-2 are not testable due to low counts in each category (Zar 1984), but show the same pattern as distribution C. Within the 0 - 100 meter range the frequency distribution is fairly even (Fig. 4-2). The closest black-tailed deer were ever observed to elk was 12 meters.

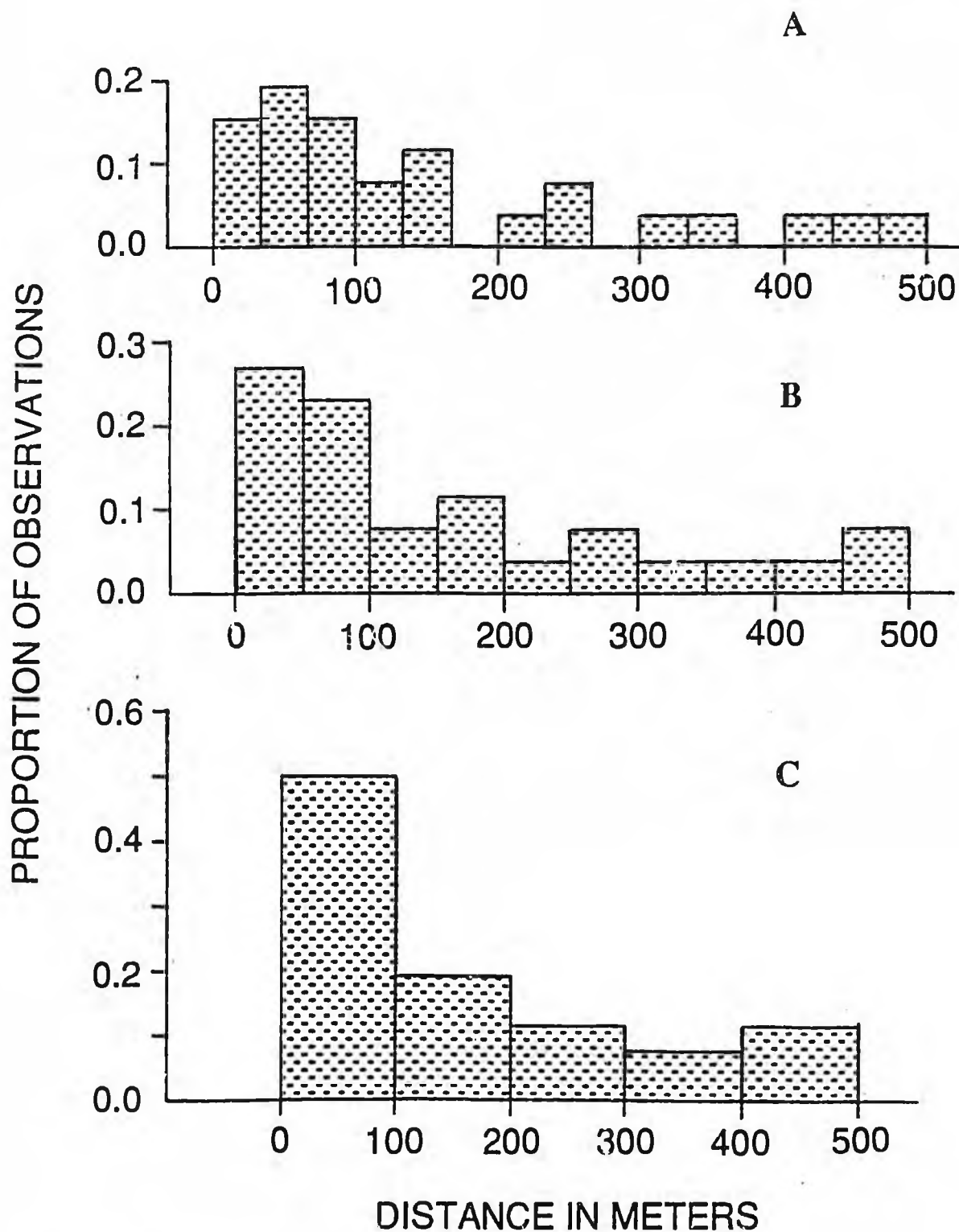


FIG. 4-2. Frequency distributions of distances between elk and black-tailed deer. The three distributions display the same data, but with a different scale of the X-axis. Distribution C is significantly different from an even distribution [ $P(X^2 > 2.706) = 0.10$ ]. Distribution A and B is not testable due to low counts in each category (Zar 1984).

The relationship between herd size of elk and their distance to deer (Fig. 4-3) shows that deer are significantly closer to elk when herd sizes are moderate (approximately 10 elk). Smaller herd sizes result in increased distances in most cases. As herd sizes increase, distances to black-tailed deer also increase. Black-tailed deer were never observed in proximity to very large elk herd sizes of 30 to 50 animals, even in very large cut-overs or in nearby fields. Group size of deer was not significantly correlated with distance to deer (Fig. 4-4).

### Discussion

The frequency distribution of distances does not show the pattern we would expect, if interference competition were present with elk being dominant (Fig. 4-1 & 4-2). There are more deer observed in close proximity to elk than further away. The results are opposite to the general assumption that elk are socially dominant over deer. The results indicate a positive interaction between elk and deer, when compared to the predictions of possible outcomes (Fig. 4-1).

The observed positive association between elk and black-tailed deer in clearcuts may be a result of two possible explanations. Elk and deer could be attracted to food patches which are preferred by both species. They are known to utilize some of the same plant species such as fireweed (*Amsinchia sp.*), blueberry (*Vaccinium sp.*), and salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*). (Hanley 1980; Leslie & Starkey 1982). Secondly, there could be a behavioral positive interaction between the two sympatric ungulates. However, these two possible reasons have an opposite effect on the two species. The former could lead to food competition, which would have a negative effect on both species. The latter would have a positive effect on deer only.

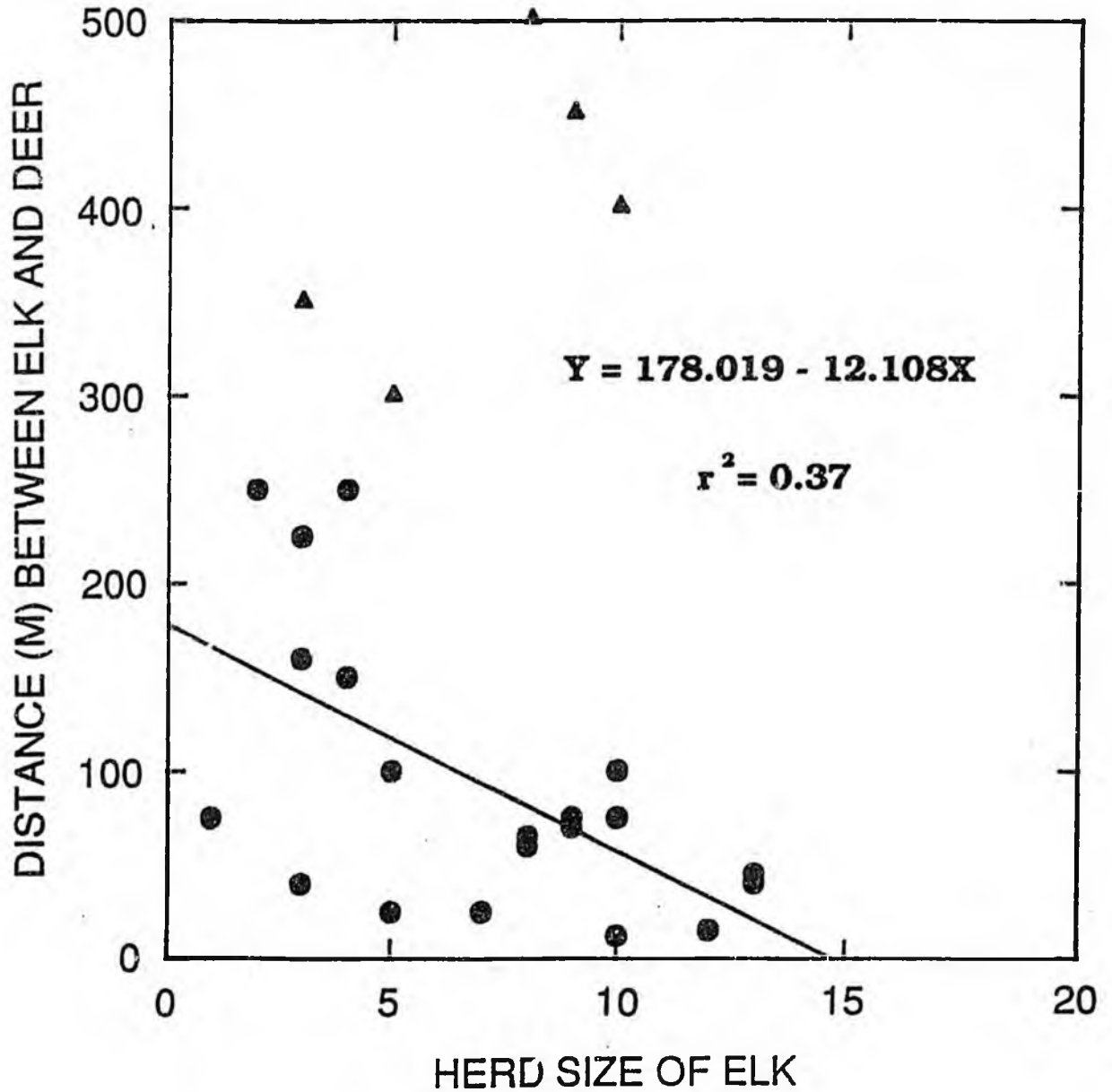


FIG. 4-3. Distances between elk and black-tailed deer in relation to herd size of elk. Significant ( $P=0.004$ ) regression line. ● Included in regression. ▲ Not included in regression.

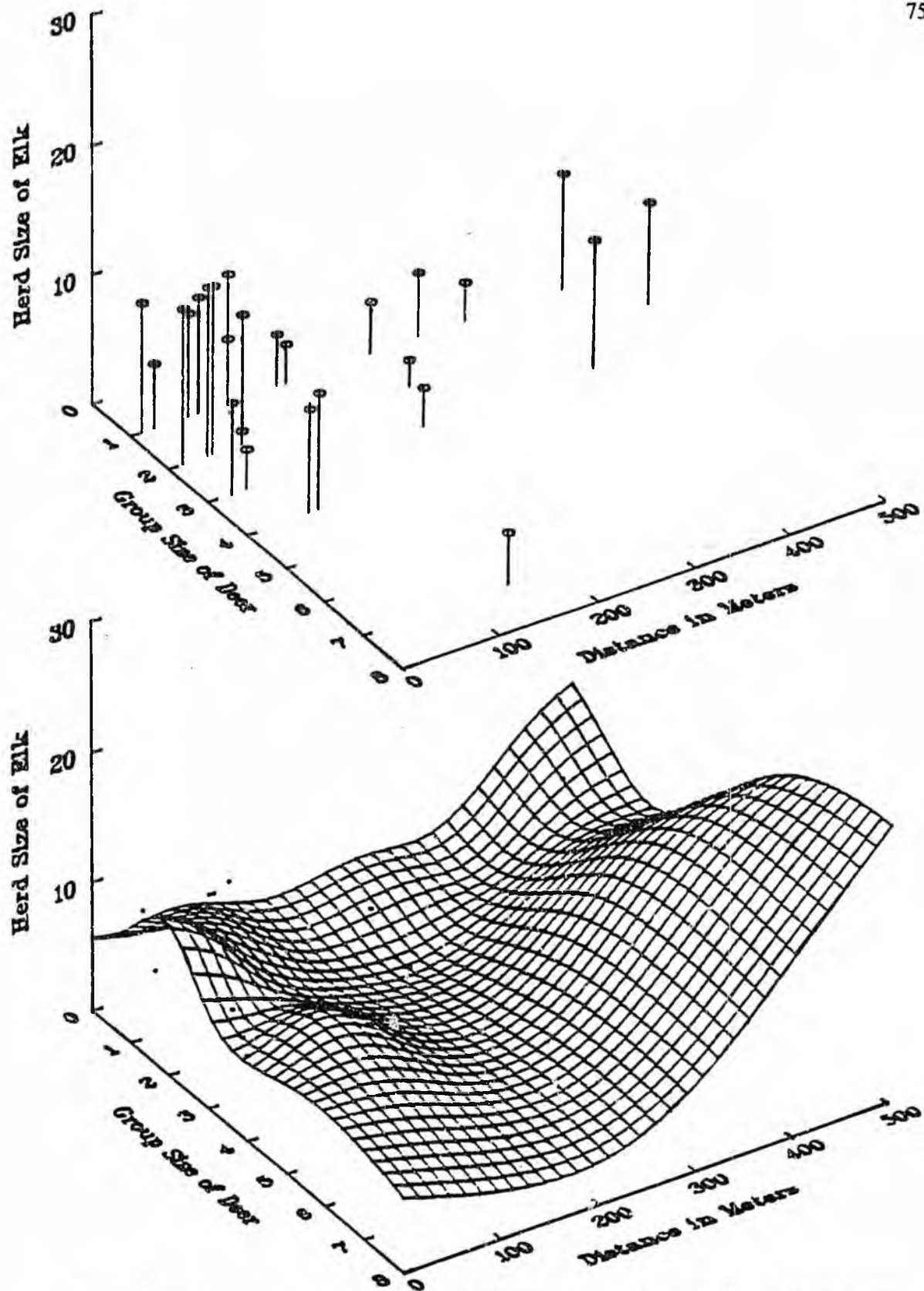


FIG. 4-4. Graph A shows observations of the relationship between herd size of elk, group size of black-tailed deer and the spacial distance between them. Graph B shows a smoothed surface over the observations in A. The surface is only reliable in areas where observations have been made or in their close proximity (Wilkinson 1990).

There seem to be large fluctuations in reported herd sizes of elk, most likely related to seasonal variation in social structure, and to the openness of the habitat. Franklin et al. (1975) showed that the group size of Roosevelt elk was related to the availability of cover near preferred foraging sites. Hirth (1977) showed that group size of white-tailed deer was directly and positively correlated to the openness of the habitat. He further argued that larger groups in open grasslands have a clear advantage over small groups by lowering their vulnerability to predation and increasing their predator detection. The relationship between social organization and cover, in terms of predation, has also been shown to be of importance among other ungulates (Dasmann & Taber 1956; Hamilton 1971) and other mammals (Kummer 1971).

When examining the results comparing herd size and distance to black-tailed deer (Fig. 4-3), a negative correlation is shown between group size and distance to black-tailed deer, up to a moderate size of approximately ten elk. This is lower than the average herd size reported for Rocky Mountain elk (Schoen 1977; Boyce & Hayden-Wing 1980), but close to the average herd size of Roosevelt elk (Franklin et al. 1975; Houston et al. 1987). The observed optimal herd size when black-tailed deer are associated closest with an elk group ranged from three to thirteen (Fig. 4-3). This may be because black-tailed deer in the Pacific Northwest have evolved exclusively with Roosevelt elk, which had a former range encompassing the entire west side of the Cascades (Bryant & Maser 1982) and therefore adapted to their herd sizes, which appear to be somewhat smaller than the herd sizes of Rocky Mountain elk herds (Franklin et al. 1975; Schoen 1977; Boyce & Hayden-Wing 1980). The presence of Rocky Mountain elk in the Cascade Range is a result of several introductions at the beginning of the century (Schoen 1977; Thomas & Toweill 1982). When elk herd size becomes really large, black-tailed deer were never observed with elk. The three dimensional representation of

the observations (Fig. 4-4) shows the trends seen in Fig. 4-2 and Fig. 4-3. The fitted surface shows that elk herd size may influence the distance to deer.

There is a clear advantage of grouping in the defense against predators among ungulates (Hirth 1977; Fitzgibbon 1990). Most work on antipredator benefits in grouping within species has been done on muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*) (Klein 1985) white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) (Hirth 1977), and several ungulate species from Africa (Sinclair 1977; Jarman & Sinclair 1979). If we compare the elk/black-tailed deer relationship with other ungulate assemblages from other ecosystems and biomes, it is clear that behavioral dominance only works at relatively short distances. In northern Europe, where both sika deer (*Cervus Nippon*) and fallow deer (*Dama dama*) have been introduced into forest communities with red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), all three species are often observed in close proximity to each other (pers. obs.). In East Africa, mixed species feeding groups are a very common phenomenon (Sinclair 1977; Sinclair & Norton-Griffiths 1979; de Boer & Prins 1990). De Boer and Prins (1990) demonstrated that mixed species groups of zebra and buffalo in Manyara, East Africa associate to increase chances of detecting an approaching predator. Large ungulates often mix with smaller species. In the case of African ungulates, grazing successions play a large part of this close relationship among species (Bell 1970; Lamprey 1963), but not in all the cases (de Boer & Prins 1990). A study on mixed species grouping in Thompson's (*Gazella thomsoni*) and Grant's (*G. granti*) gazelles demonstrated the antipredator benefits to the smaller Thompson's gazelle (Fitzgibbon 1990). The likelihood of a black-tailed deer becoming aware of an approaching predator is much greater if a group of elk is close by. The likelihood that at least one elk is scouting for predators is very high, and the alarm behavior from the elk can be utilized by the deer as well.

This may explain the negative correlation between group size of elk and distance to deer. When the elk herds become very large, the benefits from the elk alert behavior may be lost because too many individuals are present. It is difficult to scan many individuals at all times. Elk frequently move around, feed, change location or interact in other ways when herd sizes become really large (pers. obs.). Elk herds with few individuals may not increase the antipredator advantage for deer as strongly as from moderate herd sizes. It is reflected in the results in a wide range of distances to deer (Fig. 4-3).

If we make inferences from the social behavior between elk and black-tailed deer and their geographic counterparts such as mule deer and red deer, it becomes clear that visual communication between individuals is the most common form of communication (Clutton-Brock et al. 1982; Geist 1981,1982). Sound and odor are primarily used in reproductive behavior and in calf recognition. Visual communication is used between both sexes and all age groups. Antler size, posture, and hair and tail raising are the prevailing behavioral patterns. Alarm behavior in elk (Geist 1982) is very similar to the alert behavior in black-tailed and mule deer (Geist 1981). Therefore, it may be concluded that black-tailed deer, without special interpretation adaptations, can take advantage of the alarm behavior in elk. Black-tailed deer can simply watch a nearby elk herd.

There is a clear advantage for black-tailed deer to pick up warning signs from elk. They historically share several common predators, such as cougar (*Felis concolor*), brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), wolf (*Canis lupus*) and man (*Homo sapiens*). Additionally, there is no obvious negative impact on elk from the deer behavior, unless competition for food or space is critical. No evidence in the literature was found to support the conclusion that elk and black-tailed deer may take advantage of each other. As Mackie

(1981) and Nelson (1982) point out, there have been many studies on elk and black-tailed deer indicate possible competition. However, there is, as yet, no substantial evidence to indicate that competition may regulate deer or elk populations. Furthermore, no studies have been conducted on interference competition.

### Conclusions

The original assumption that elk are socially dominant over black-tailed deer cannot be confirmed by this study. Rather, it appears that elk and deer may have positive behavioral interactions. Based on the present study and other studies on mixed ungulate groups, it seems possible that black-tailed deer benefit from their association with elk by increasing their antipredator avoidance. However, further studies are needed to assess the exact nature of the association of elk and black-tailed deer.

EIK

MEMO---

Enclosed please find all the interaction that the Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee had on the Elk Transplant Bill. As Chairman of that Committee I tried to get all the input that was available to us before we voted on a recommendation. I'm hoping you can see by our attendance and our minutes that we tried to be as fair and thorough with this process as possible. We only voted on the proposed Elk Transplant to Kruzoff Island as we didn't feel it was our place to try and represent the wishes and desires of other Advisory Committees areas. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the public process of dealing with things that concern us.

Respectfully,

*Sue Sturm*

Sue Sturm, Chair  
Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee

MEETING OF SITKA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE--FEB. 16,1993

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Reading of prior meeting minutes.
4. Discussion on Rock Fish Proposal -- considering change in accounting year of Demersal Shelf Rockfish.
5. Butch Young -- Presentation on proposed Elk transplant.
6. Mark Jacobs -- Update on Subsistence Issues.
7. Outline agenda for next meeting.
8. Set date for next meeting.
9. Adjourn.

SITKA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLLCALL

DATE 2/16/93

	YES	NO
JOHN VALLIE	(✓)	( )
BILL PADEN	(✓)	( )
PAGE ELSE	(✓)	( )
TIM NORTHRUP	(✓)	( )
DON WELLS	(✓)	( )
BOB YOUNGER	(✓)	( )
MARK JACOBS	(✓)	( )
THERESA WEISER	( )	(X)
LARRY BEBE	(✓)	( )
ANN LOWE	(✓)	( )
BILL FOSTER	( )	(X)
JOE DONOHUE	(✓)	( )
GREG CUSHING	( )	(X)
MIKE SVENSON	( )	(X)
SUE STURM	(✓)	( )
MOLLY AHLGREN (ALTERNATE)	(✓)	( )
HENRY BLAKE (ALTERNATE)	( )	(X)

Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Minutes - February 16, 1993 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.  
Roll was call. Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Rockfish proposal: To consider changing date. Accounting to conform to federal's date. Dan Falvey spoke for ALFA. He wants the state to change the accounting year to match federal year.  
Rockfish letter.

MOTION: Joe Donohue moved to support Dan Falvey's request in letter form.  
Motion passed unanimously. Joe will monitor deadlines and keep us current.

Requested that the Committee write a letter endorsing this change.

Tory O'Connell spoke for the ADF&G. She supports the change. Don Wells was concerned about carry over lowering quota. Don Wells, Joe Donohue and Sue Sturm will compose a letter.

Butch Young gave a slide presentation on ADF&G elk project. The availability of elk was discussed. Young said that they are not as easy to come by as some might think. Young said that Oregon traded elk to Alaska in exchange for mountain goats and river otters. Fifty elk were released on Etolin Island, of which 33 were radio-collared. There are about 100 elk now. ADF&G has no plans at this time to transplant elk.

Bob LaGuire and Foy Nevers from Sitka Sportman's Association spoke in favor of elk transplant. LaGuire feels that Game division is against transplants. He also said that two weeks ago, on a flight in Ketchikan area, five herds numbering 150 elk were sighted. He will bring a videotape of the Ketchikan area elk to the next meeting.

Anne Lowe felt that the 1970 study to introduce elk to Kruzof by ADF&G was way out of date and that a new study should be done before a transplant.

Page Else asked that if there were a transplant, would the animals be *inspected for disease*. Butch Young said yes.

Both Bob LaGuire and Butch Young said that the elk, if transplanted to Kruzof, would definitely spread to other islands.

Mark Jacobs, Subsistence.

Sue Sturm has talked to Janis Hotch who asked if we would support the subsistence issue being held here in Sitka instead of Anchorage.

Mark Jacobs gave a presentation on current subsistence issues.

MOTION: Page Else moved to have (Fish and Game Board) the subsistence issues heard here. *November 2, 1993.*  
MOTION passed unanimously.

Page Else questioned the 500 lbs. *Herring Roe* figure in the ANB resolution. She wanted to know if that would amount to a lot. (How many people would be involved?)

Joe Donohue asked that we investigate the possibility of writing a letter to the Board of Fish about the winter line in Sitka Sound issue.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Next meeting - TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1993, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Paden, Secretary

Eben Punderson	Sitka Sentinel	7-3219
Charles Webb	SPCS	7-5811
Dolly Garza	Marine Advisory	7-3988
Linda Blake (Mrs. Hank Blake)		7-4864
Robert B LaGuire	Sitka Spontaneous Association	747-8771
Foy J. NEVERS	Sitka Sports Assoc.	7-3469
E L Young	AD 7+6	

Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee held a meeting on Feb. 16, 1993. It was a unanimous decision to support the proposal to change the States accounting date for Rockfish from Oct, 1 to Jan. 1 to match the Federal accounting date.

Butch Young gave an informational discussion and slide presentation on Elk transplants. Sitka Sportsmans Assoc. representatives, Bob Laguire and Foy Nevers spoke in favor of the Elk transplant and presented pictures and information on other Elk transplants in Alaska. Proposed areas were also discussed, one of those being Kruzoff Island. It was a very interesting presentation. Elk transplants will be discussed again at the next F & G Adv. Comm. meeting, a video will also be shown.

Mark Jacobs gave an update on Subsistence issues. A vote was taken to address these issues at the Nov. Board of Fish & Game meeting to be held here in Sitka.

MEETING OF SITKA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE-MARCH 23/93

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Reading & Approval of prior meeting minutes.
4. Correspondance.
5. Bill Foster will give update on Salmon Treaty and the Endangered Species Act.
6. David Anderson PHD from ADFG will give presentation on Elk Transplants. A discussion will follow.
7. Bob Dejong will give Herring presentation.
8. Sub Committee report on Dinglebar/Lingcod fishery.
9. Discussion on Rockfish Proposals.
10. Discussion on next meeting.
11. Adjourn.

## SITKA FISH &amp; GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL

DATE 3-23-93

	YES	NO
JOHN VALLIE	(✓)	( )
BILL PADEN	(✓)	( )
PAGE ELSE	( )	(X) <i>used - out of town</i>
TIM NORTHRUP	(✓)	( )
DON WELLS	(✓)	( )
BOB YOUNGER	(✓)	( )
MARK JACOBS	(✓)	( )
THERESA WEISER	(✓)	( )
LARRY BEBE	(✓)	( )
ANN LOWE	(✓)	( )
BILL FOSTER	(✓)	( )
JOE DONOHUE	(✓)	( )
GREG CUSHING	( )	(X) <i>used / Family matter</i>
MIKE SVENSON	(✓)	( )
SUE STURM	(✓)	( )
MOLLY AHLGREN (ALTERNATE)	(✓)	( )
HENRY BLAKE (ALTERNATE)	(✓)	( )

Minutes, Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Meeting held on March 23, 1993

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.  
Roll call.

MOTION: M/S Joe Donohue/Bill Foster: to approve March 2, 1993, minutes as corrected.

*Adjust the records to state David Anderson, Phd, as Butch Young's boss. Paragraph 3: steelhead stamp should be King Salmon stamp.*

1. Read letter from Forest Service on camp in Rakovi Bay. Mark Jacobs worried a trend might start. Letter from Richard Teague who's concerned about this. John Vallie said that it is really a fish camp. Bill Foster and Eric Jordan questioned whether they pay sales tax. Delay and deal with this at the next meeting.
2. No comments on Bison herd letter read by Sue Sturm.
3. Bill Foster talked about Salmon Treaty (ST) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) and brought us up to date. They did not come to an agreement, and did not sign any agreement. Worst case scenario--no agreement on treaty, things would hopefully stay status quo. ESA says can't take one fish. But maybe can get exemption from ESA.

Hydro	)	
Habitat	)	4 player is this
Hatchery	)	
Harvest	)	20 Kings = 1 spawner

Hydro takes 95% of fish. Were being asked, not officially, to take a 25,000 drop in treaty quota. We could shut down all our fishermen and get approximately 14 spawners to Wash.

4. Tim Northrup is going to resign (Processor seat) effective tomorrow. Recommended Charlie Webb, office manager SPC. Sitka Sound Seafood agrees with choice.
5. Dave Anderson, Phd, with ADF&G, made a presentation on Elk transplant. He did research on interaction between elk and deer in Washington. He talked about Sen. Taylor's bill. He talked about bill going from paying for by matching funds to one of total state funding. The department estimated the cost for a three year project at \$1,000,000.00. Discussion on budget priority followed.

Exotic transplants have a fairly blemished record, and some have caused predation, diseases and habitat destruction.

Concern on elk. The top three concerns are: competition with deer,  
the spread of diseases, and damage to habitat.

Competition:

USFS official expert on comparative ecology of deer and elk said that every case elk or deer win out and damage to habitat. There's a concern that in moderate to severe winters elk will compete with deer. Elk are not large deer. Metabolic rate for elk is lower than for deer. No studies have been done on Etolin Island but studies have been done down south in areas of similar vegetation. If elk are transplanted they want elk from areas that do not have diseases. Not aware of the deer having a problem with giant liver flukes.

Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Comm.

Sign in sheet

Mar. 23, 1993

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>interest</u>
Terry Suminski	204 Siginaka way	U.S.F.S
J. F. Smith	Sitka	self
John M. [unclear]	2645 HPR #6	Sportsman
Dou Jiske	2308 HPR	Sportsman
Larry Mear	# 21 SHIFFERS	SPORTSMAN
Jack Johnson	2821 H.P.R.	Sportsman
Tory O'Connell	304 Lake St. Rm 103	ADFG
Dave Anderson	PO Box 20, Douglas	ADFG
Butch Young	304 Lake	ADFG
Robert B. McGuire	Box 792	Sportsman
Charles Webb	Box 2167	sportsman
CHRIS BREVICH	Box 2012	dingo bar Rockfish
Jackie Brewick	Box 2002	dingo bar Rockfish
Tom Stewart	3208 HPR #23	Elk transplant
Hannah D. Murray Ende	1805 HPR	Heering ELK
Kathy O'Hara	Box 3047	ELK / Rockfish
B. [unclear]	104 Chirikof	
W.C. Wheeler	2116 HPR	Sportfish
Wayne Newerz	HPR/2	Sportsman
Art Schmidt	4406 HPR	All
Bob De Jong	1907 Cascade Creek	ADFG
GEORGE ELIASON	102 KUNNIE DR.	Comm. FISH
Bill Davidson	618 SMC	ADFG
Thomas Jordan	124 [unclear] Dr PO Box 441	ADFG
STEVE PIERO	Box 2004 Sitka	SPORT/SUB
WAYNE STOTT	210 OBSERVATORY	SPOT/ELK
William A. Stantz	228 6198 Sitka	ELK / Subsistence

Name	Address	Interest
Eric Maden	103 Tibson Place	Lingcod, Rockfish, Herring, Elk
Linda Bickel	1709 HPR #33	Elk, Herring, Rockfish
DAN FALVEY	Box 6083	Rockfish
Robert H. Berger, CWB	Box 2821 Sitka	Individual (All F/W issues)
Ronald C Richter	PO Box 1582 Sitka	Elk, Herring, Rockfish, Lingcod
Dave Gordon		ADF&G
Linda Behnken	PO Box 1229	Rockfish, Elk
Mark Jacob J.	Box 625 Sitka	Substance - advisory Fed G

465-4265 - Fed G Juneau

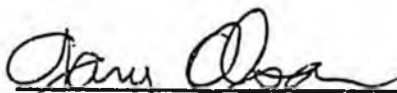
Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp # 1  
Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #4  
Box 72  
Sitka, AK 99835

To Whom It May Concern;

Sitka's Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp # 1 and Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp #4 are opposed to the transplanting of elk to Kruzoff Island and are further opposed to the expenditure of State funds on elk in general and elk transplanting.

Our membership relies heavily on deer for customary and traditional uses and we therefore do not support the introduction of species who could compete with deer; who could spread disease; or in time who could replace deer.

Respectfully,



Gary Olson, President  
Camp #1



Geraldine Williams, President  
Camp #4

MEETING OF SITKA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE--MARCH 2, 1963

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Election of alternate secretary.
4. Reading of prior meeting minutes.
5. Video presentation by Sitka Sportsmans Assoc.
6. Discussion on Elk transplant.
7. Bill Foster will give an update on Salmon Treaty.
8. Discussion on next and future meetings.
9. Adjourn.

SITKA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLLCALL

DATE 3/2/93

	YES	NO
JOHN VALLIE	(X)	( )
BILL PADEN	(V)	( )
PAGE ELSE	(V)	( )
TIM NORTHRUP	( )	(X)
DON WELLS	( )	(V)
BOB YOUNGER	(V)	( )
MARK JACOBS	(V)	( )
THERESA WEISER	(V)	( )
LARRY BEBE	(V)	( )
ANN LOWE	( )	(X)
BILL FOSTER	(V)	( )
JOE DONOHUE	(V)	( )
GREG CUSHING	(V)	( <del>MS</del> )
MIKE SVENSON	( )	(X)
SUE STURM	(V)	( )
MOLLY AHLGREN (ALTERNATE)	(V)	MS
HENRY BLAKE (ALTERNATE)	( )	(X)

Sign in sheet - Sitka Fish & Game  
Advisory Committee - Mar. 2 193

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>interest</u>
- Mike Schmiot	Box 136	SITKA SPORTSMAN'S
Randy Gluth	3201 Y HPR	
Myra News	2616 HPR	
Jeff C Wheeler	P.O. Box 1356	Pioneer
Linda Blake	1709 HPR #33	All
Eric E. Anderson	153 E. Johnson Ave.	All
Eben Anderson	103 Cathedral Wy	Sportsman (All)
- Jan M. Jensen	2625 HPR #6	Sportsman -
Jill Madden	103 Cathedral Wy	ELK
Dale Kanen	204 Sigina Ka Way	All
Butch Young	AD7+6	

## FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes-March 2, 1993

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Roll was called.

Minutes of Jan. 21, 1993 meeting were read and approved with the correction of one typographical error.

Minutes of Feb. 16, 1993 meeting were read and approved after a few clarifications and corrections.

The Sitka Sportsmen's Association representative showed a video that was taken in March, April, and September of 1991 when the Elk that had been transplanted on Etolin Island were looked at. There were at least 3 different groups that were looked at and at least one more Elk that couldn't be found. At that time several of the radio collars were still transmitting and they were able to use them to find some of the Elk. There was considerable discussion about the idea of Elk being transplanted to Kruzoff Island. There were concerns about the competition for food with the deer, diseases that might be transmitted to the deer or from them, the costs involved and who would give funds or how they might be raised. The public was reminded that the committee has not an opinion either way at this time. Additionally, the Sportsmen's Association has not made a decision on their position. It seemed that most people thought there were so many questions and concerns that more study should be done to determine the answers to those questions. Butch Young gave a lot of information about the answers to people's questions and concerns and about what is not known. Then he said his boss should be here for our meeting on March 23, unless something comes up to alter his plans.

Next a report was given by Bill Foster about the Salmon Treaty. He said that there was good news and bad, that the process was working, however it was working slowly. At the present time there is no agreement, because there is no consensus. There is much concern about the effect of the Endangered Species Act because of the few fish caught in the Fall Chinook season. He gave us some interesting information about all the factors involved. He mentioned the two teleconferences this week. There was some discussion about the Steelhead Stamp and where the funds would be spent.

Then Greg Cushing told us about the results of some discussion by the Commercial divers that dive for Sea Cucumbers. They are suggesting that the season be reduced to 2 days a week from having two 2 day periods a week. He said they would like to have those days be Sunday and Monday. They will be petitioning the Board to consider their proposal. There was some discussion and several questions were asked.

MOTION: To support the request that the petition be considered by the board as requested by the Cucumber Divers.  
Moved by John Vallie and seconded by Bill Paden.  
There was one abstaining vote and the rest of the committee voted in favor of the motion.

The next item of business was a discussion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Subsistence issues. Dale Kanen led the discussion and told us that a closure date of December 15, is being considered. The Service uses a computer model developed to study the habitat for deer when logging. They are using numbers that are given them by the State Fish and Game Dept. and according to Butch Young were not intended to be used in such a rigid way, without the addition of local knowledge. The closing date will be considered by the Service at two meetings they will be having in the next couple of months. However, due to the demands of the time needed to print up the regulations, a decision would have to be made before the spring surveys are made by the A.D.F. & G. It was suggested that the local hunters might want to write and discuss their experience in the woods deer hunting to give them a better idea of what the situation is here. It was remembered that this committee at the November 19, 1992 meeting requested that no Federal changes be made at this time.

Next Eric Jordan suggested that a sub-committee be organized to consider and make a proposal about regulating the Ling Cod Dingle bar fishing. There was some discussion and several committee members showed an interest in being on the sub-committee they were: Theresa Weiser, Bill Foster, Page Else, Molly Ahlgren, and Greg Cushing. Eric Jordan said he would set up the meeting times and notify everyone when that would be. It was then suggested that 3 years between fin fish meetings is too long.

There was some discussion of the Katie John case, the decline of the cut throat trout and proposals for new bag limit, and the Interagency Viability Committee Report (effects of logging on the species). This report, it was suggested should be in the local Library.

The next meeting of the committee will be March 23, 1993 and Rockfish Issues would be discussed. Butch Young and his boss are expected to be in attendance. Bob De Jong will bring a Herring update and education presentation. There was some comment that it might be necessary to have a meeting on the 28th of March if there wasn't time to consider all of the issues on the 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.  
Next meeting on Tuesday March 23, 1993.

MEETING OF SITKA FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE-APRIL 8, 1993  
DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Reading & Approval of Prior Minutes.
4. Election of New Processor Representative.
5. Correspondance.
6. Comment on Whale Bay Wilderness Experience Tent Site.
7. Presentation by Sportsfish Division on Steelhead & Cutthroat.
8. LingCod Proposals & Clarification on Rockfish Proposals.
9. Elk Transplant Final Comment and Recomendations.
10. Discussion on Next Meeting.
11. Adjourn.

Minutes, Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Meeting held on April 8, 1993

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.  
Minutes were read. Correction 20,000 kings = 1 spawner  
Lingcod consensus - past 3 miles no closed season. Comment from William  
Storkes opposed to elk hunting.

MOTION: M/S Jacobs/ to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

Election of new processors.

MOTION: Nominations: Charlie Webb M/S Tim Northrup/Bill  
Motion passed.

MOTION: M/S Wells/Jacobs--to close the nominations.  
Elected 28 for

Correspondence: Letter from Rosier on Swan Lake Creek closure--lengthy  
bureaucratic letter on Rakoi Bay  
no city taxes paid, might be one in Kelp Bay

(Ann Lowe correspondence) on pending budget cut in Fish and Game,  
essentially in Subsistence Division and Boards.

Correspondence Vallie - Senator Taylor's letter.

MOTION: M/S Theresa Weiser/Ann Lowe  
standing with motion coming from Ann Lowe  
USFS said Federal manager thinks Administration has given up hopes of  
coming back to state.

Write a letter supporting adequate funding for the Division of Subsistence  
because Sitka is recognized by the State and Federal Subsistence Board as  
subsistence users. This letter should also address the funding needs for  
the Division of Boards which could be crucial to the public participation  
process. The Habitat Division should also be protected in Petersburg and  
Sitka.

Alaska Outdoor and AFN have may be come together unanimously.

Pat Wood - gave a speech on his knowledge of cuts mainly habitat.

Cushing - thought we would not be happy with any reduction in ADF&G Budget  
and should put that in a letter.

Tent site in Rakoi Bay

Sue - read a letter from USFS on this camp.

Ann - too hard to follow. Basically we fought for commercial effort on  
wilderness lands and got it.

Foster - read a letter from Richard Teague, who has experience in that  
area, has several concerns basically environmental concerns.

Vallie had concerns , it is in fact a fish camp.

Todd Nevers - concerned also about their catch and release. How much  
resource are they taking?

Steelhead:

big declines  
(Steelhead management plan)  
(9 member group)  
informational document and questionnaire.

Elk:

Vallie - gave a presentation on correspondence from Robin Taylor and his Svenson's thesis on the social interaction on elk and deer.

Jordan - read comment from Richard Nelson, questions Svenson's thesis, that he is a graduate student and writing a dissertation. This guy was a deer expert, he opposes it in no uncertain terms.

Don Jeske - Sitka town survey: 2 to 1 in favor of elk transplants  
240 for and 124 against

Todd Nevers - supports the transplant.

Greg Cushing asked Don Jeske deer bag limit on Afognak.

T. Smith - no biological reason for not transplanting.

Larry Edwards - against it.

Ellen Drury - Butch Young - against it. Described testimony on the elk transplant.

Eric Jordan - questioned the poll.

Todd Nevers - questioned whether biologist get away from their books and computers.

Molly - read a letter from Page Else, conservation seat, can't support it for ecological and fiscal reasons.

MOTION: Vallie/Wells - to support SB 43 as to transplanting elk to Kruzof Island.

Jacobs called for roll call vote.

Sue Sturm - asked for opinions of Advisory Committee members.

Joe Donohue - against it--money should be spent on existing programs.

Theresa Weiser - against it.

Bill Foster - not in favor, fiscal - ethically

Greg Cushing - not in favor, jeopardize deer population.

Don Wells - opposition, enough big game.

Ann Lowe - opposition, against it in all Southeast.

Molly Allgran - strongly opposes transplants in all Southeast

Mark Jacobs - strongly opposes.

Sue Sturm - personally not opposed to it, wants it to be biologically safe.  
As long as money isn't taken from elderly, needy, or Fish & Game budget.

April 8, 1992

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Greg Killinger	P.O. Box 971	Elk transplant
Art Schmidt	4405 HPR	ADFG <sup>steel head</sup>
Doug Jones	9360 Mower Dr. Juv	ADFG
PAT WOOD	PO Box 2391	TROUT
Richard Nelson	Box 2808	Elk transplant
Nelen Drury	1011 HPR	" "
Larry Edwards	Box 6001	" "
Lisa Murnberger	28 Lincoln St.	KCMW
Charles Webb	Box 2167	SPGS
Todd M. MEYERS	2625 H.P.R. #6	Elk-Ling Cod-Sawtooth <sup>elk</sup>
Linda Blake	1709 HPR #33	Elk, Ling Cod, Rockfish
Don Jeske	2308	Like-to See ELK
37 Smith	3407 HPR	ELK Transplant
Erickson	103 Gibson	Jingled Elk Ranch
Tory O'Connell	304 Lakist Rm 103	
Eben Punderson	103 Cathedral Wy	ALL
Burgess Buder	Box 277	

To: Sitka Advisory committee

Re: Elk Transplants

From: Page Else

As the conservation seat representative, I cannot support elk transplants, both for fiscal and biological reasons. There are many better uses for the money; the cost conceivably being over half a million dollars (based on the previous elk transplant expenses). We need to deal with the problems we have, rather than introducing new problems

Biologically, there is too much potential for competition which will adversely affect deer, as well as potential disease introduction. Many transplants of new species worldwide have ended up with disasters so biological caution is well-justified. Evidence from Afoknak Island that competition from elk is adversely affecting deer, plus the knowledge that elk and deer will eat the same food sources, should be heeded.

There seems to be a grave potential that ADF&G will have to make this project #1 in their budget, at great cost to their other operations, since their budget is inadequate anyway.

I recommend that the committee send a letter to House Legislatures, urging them to defeat this bill and to support ADF&G in researching existing problems.

*Page Else*

*(Molly - Please read - Thanks - Sue)*



Would you like to see ELK

TRANSPLANTED to KUYOFF ISLAND?

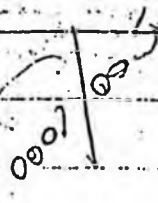
Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Ted THOMASSEN	702 ETALIN	7-8417	52 yrs	yes
John Steere	C-LADY		4	yes
Phyllis White	FIRSTWAY	7-8294	40 YRS	yes
Alvin C. Lund	<sup>Precinct Sitka #1</sup> 231 KATHIAN ST 2-25	—	11 YRS	yes
CLYDE WALLER	3514 REDSTONE RD NORTH POLE, AK 4884551		21 YRS	YES
Del Childress	207 CRABAPPLE		25 YRS	YES
Nick Quinn	704 LAKE ST	7-8628	29 YRS	YES
Larry Smith	102 Kincaft way	7-6425	28 YRS	YES
Shea Frank	Box 1722	7-3594	40 YRS	yes
Kate Wilson	Box 455	7-8345	4 YRS	yes
Ned Wilson	Box 455	7-7800	4 YRS	yes
Steve MCBRAW	Box 1974	NONE	46 YRS	yes
Ken Behrmann	Box 2565	5158	2 YRS	Yes
Christine French	2201 #10 21PR	3729	21 YRS	SURE
Mark H. Jizinka	P.O. Box 6166	7-5360	1	yes
David Meunier	P.O. Box 6356	747-3117	18 YRS	yes
Lowell Dennis	P.O. Box 57	747-8909	yes	yes
Tom Millikin	231 KATHIAN 1-20	747-3118	6 YRS YES	YES
HENRY OKSVO	11 P.O. 2845		15 YRS YES	YES
Rick Lewison	408 Pease st. #C	7-8424	22 YRS	yes
GARY ENMAN	234 LAVENVIEW DR	7-3648	31 YRS	YES
Fred Joderberg	1908 SMO RD	747-8287	33 YRS	yes
LEO TREIBER	1603 DAVIDOFF ST	747-8524	42 YRS	YES

# Would you like to See ELK Transplanted To Krusenoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Donald Smith	Box 38 Pelican Pt AK	99832	yes ✓	NO
PAT WOOD	2391 SITKA		✓	NO
Kevin Koelling	Thompson Harbor		✓	NO
Loyal Johnson	<sup>4320</sup> Vailhalla Dr	747-3664	✓	NO
Alan Davis	2023 HPRC			NO
Lynn Stephens	Box 3033 Sitka	747 8998	58 yrs	Yes
Leslie Burnett	203 Airport Fl4 Sitka	747-6687	yes	NO
Theresa Weis	Box 1505 Sitka	7-8883	yes	NO
Chal Hammel	Box 1003 Sitka		yes	NO
Mike Stenberg	GA Lifesaver	Sitka	7-5006	yes
Kirk Wolpin	Box 306 Sitka	7-8710	✓	NO
MIKE MASON	Box 223			NO
Will Donnelly	105 Shuler	Sitka		YES
Mike Svenson	104 Shuler	Sitka		Yes
yle Sniggerud	11	Sitka		NO
Paul Turner		Sitka		NO
ANDREW HERVE	Howe Bay			yes
Arny Jensen	PO Box 323	Sitka		yes

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruxoff Island?



Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Jim Edson	PO Box 2383 SITKA, AK. 99835	747-5615	YES	<del>NO</del> YES
DREWY TORGESSON	4017 H.P.R.	747-9363	YES	<del>NO</del> YES
RIS HOFFMAN	PO BOX 6280	747-16162	YES	<del>NO</del> YES
Carolyn Nichols	305 Skender Dr	SITKA 7-3146	YES	<del>NO</del> YES
JAM LANG	616 Borker		YES	<del>NO</del> YES
S. Richter	617 Katlin P-19	Study Thru OHS		WE'VE GOT
Brookman	2014 H.P.R.	747-5393	YES	YES !!!
L. Mattingly	819 Phearson St	747-5581	YES	YES
Lang Robert	2401 SMC	966-2227	YES	YES
Jim REARD	222 EBERST	7-4753	YES	<del>NO</del> YES
<del>XXXXXXXXXX</del>				
Robert D. Thom	313 Cascade St	7-5455	YES	<del>NO</del> YES
John Murray	PO BOX 20438	JULW 586-1978	YES	<del>NO</del> YES
Bruce Benjamin	113 Jeff Davis St	7-5937	YES	YES
John BEECHWOOD	PO BOX 6437	SITKA 7-5799	YES	YES
Brad Moore	BOX 794	SITKA 7-74607	YES	<del>NO</del>

Would you like to see ELK

TRANSPLANTED to KRUZOFF ISLAND?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Ernie Reinhardt	707 SMC	747-3407	37 yrs	NO
Russell Andrews	1619 SMC	747-8517	2 yrs	YES
JM Boyce	Po 3107 SITKA	7-3934	8 yrs	YES
Bruce Parker	Po-Box 6990	7-6006	8 yrs	YES
Tony Verscha	P.O. Box 9103	7-6782	1 1/2 yrs	YES
Bob Peed	Box 855	7-8176	18 yrs.	Yes
Eric Orr	Box 2026	747-5667	2 Y	NO
Troy Bayne	Bx 1541	747-6720	13	YES
Rob Johnson	Bx 2846	747-6573	10	No
Tom Miller	Bx 856	747-4702	24	yes
Ally Aice	Bx 756	747-3854	24	YES
Phil Hall	Box 2214	7-6976	24	YES
Mitch Cowan	605 DeGroot	7-7416	18	YES
Rusty Williams	104 Eagle Way	7-5905	4	Yes
Bob Beck	619 DeGroot	7-6120	37	YES
Patrick DeGroot	Box 472	7-8091	3:	YES
<del>Patricia DeGroot</del>				
Don Evans	611 Etolin St	7-81067	12 yrs	NO
WIM STORTZ	2809 Observer	7-5016	10 yrs	NO
Kristen Mitchell	Box 891	7-5428	9 yrs	No
Sam Stover	104 Remington Way	7-5593	4 yrs	Yes

Would you like to See ELK

TRANSPLANTED to KRUZOFF ISLAND

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Paul Addie	3208 HPR #6	6723	Sitka	NO
Rick Raphun	P.O. Box 1324	6605	SITKA	Yes
MILTON HUNT	P.O. Box 2355	747-8492	SITKA.	Yes
George R. Howard Sr.	P.O. Box 1833	747-1022	SITKA	Yes
Louis R. Howard Sr.	113 New Archangel		SITKA	Yes
Lanny Hanson	PO Box 2108	907-9900	SITKA	NO
Lee Slate	1801A Alcega Wy	747-8594	SITKA	Yes
Jack Livingston	Box 995	747-5434	SITKA, AK	NO
Max Houghton	CV Box 1033	747-1022	SITKA	NO
Clayton L. Hansen Sr.	General Delivery	788-3401	ANADON	NO
William E. Daulton	Gen Del	SITKA 998305		NO
A.G. Du Bois	6229	8821	SITKA	YES
Allen Im Van Horn	HPR - PH	747-12581	SITKA	Yes
Mary Ellen C. Wayne	2716 HPR #40	747-6486	SITKA	Yes
Kenneth E. Ring	2410 HPR	747-6407	SITKA	YES
Ray W. Howard	Ocean Side #18	747-1022	SITKA	Yes
James L. Anderson	P.O. Box 6084		SITKA	Yes

Would you like to see ELK

TRANSPLANTED to KRUZOFF ISLAND

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Vita Ledbetter	Box 2822 Sitka	747-3059	154FS	Yes
Bev E. Kibben	Box 6075	747-6143	50yr	yes
Lorraine Bell	410 Hallgeland	747-8336		yes
Dot Van Noy	P.O. 8013 PA	AK 568-2266	✓	yes
Jay Jay	PO 6393		YES	YES
Byron Adams	P.O. 2724	Sitka		No
William E. Sykes	P.O. 6224	SITKA, AK	Yes	Yes
Mark Petraboro	231 KATLIAN ST. 3-16	SITKA AK	YES	YES
Dick Walker	PO Box 6044	SITKA AK	Yes	yes
William Church	PO Box 1466	SITKA AK	Yes	Yes
Bob King	PO Box 6298	SITKA AK	"Yes"	"Yes"
Cheryl Hudson	PO 101 Dushkoff Dr. #41		Yes	Yes
Del Card	Box 6328	Sitka Ak	yes	no
Parres Dozier	1709 HPR #31	73321	Yes	Yes
Kevin Vance	Box 2516		yes	yes
Donald M. Duncan	Box 373	Sitka 76554	yes	Yes
Dwaine K. Duncan	Box 373	SITKA 7-6554	yes	yes
Matthew A. Konoike	Box 1782	Sitka 7-8343	✓	yes
Dan Williams	1782	SITKA 7-6405	yes	NO
Tom Aber	231 KATLIAN ST.		yes?	
Mark Reid	Box 1201		6 months	NO
Rich A. Allen	1709 HPR		Yes	Yes
Ken Merrill	131 SHELTROFF		YES	YES

Would you like to see ELK

TRANSPLANTED to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
PETRO, STEVE	Box 2004	747-6209	AK NATIVE	YES
JOE GARRISON	Box 1995	747-5497	Yes	Yes
FRAN HALLGREN	Box 1203	747-5076	yes	yes
LEE HALLGREN	Box 1203	7-5076	yes	yes
Holger Hansen	Box 2831	7-5497	Yes	Yes

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Krutzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Art Stramquist	1601 SMC	7495	Yes	NO!
By Payment	3002 Mike	7-3748	Yes	Yes
Ray Fatzerman Jr.	2103 C SMC	966-2969	Yes	Yes
James Fatzerman Sr.	2103 C SMC	966-2969	Yes	Yes!
Al of U.S.	700 Bierkurst	747-3191	Yes	NO
Steve Reidenstahl	218 SMC	747 6480	Yes	No
NORMAN CAMPBELL	106 RANOS	7-5941	YES	NO
Sod. Fletcher	528 Andrews	7-3467	Yes	NO
Joe Norman	2821 HPR.	7-3109	Yes	YES!!
Robert Walker	361 DORNER	6-2570	YES	NO
UIC SCARANO	3306 HPR	7-8263	YES	YES
Ralph Jones	PO Box 951	7-5619	Yes	Yes
Vick Johnson	PO Box 1702	7-3776	Yes	Yes
Preston O'Connell	Box 3055	1-3251	Yes	NO
Bill Katoski	Box 1504	7-8343	Yes	Yes
By Lane	Box 453	7-5597	Yes	Yes
Walter	104 Remington Way	7-5593	Yes	Yes
PHIL NIELSEN	P.O. Box 435	7-4755	YES	YES
Eric Christian	307 Waltham	7-6930	Yes	NO
Bonnie Brennan	3484 HPR	7-5735	Yes	Yes
WAMIE STOTT	210 OBSERVATORY	7-8841	Yes	YES
Sarah Stott	210 OBSERVATORY	7-8841	Yes	Yes

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Krutzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Leland	Fager P.O. Box 1901	7-6055	Sitka	Yes

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ELK

TRANSPLANTED TO KRUZOFF ISLAND?

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE#	AK RESIDENT	YES OR NO ? would like information
Steven D. Cox	Box 2404	7-5421	Yes	Yes
Steve Clayton	Box 2476	7-8236	Yes	No
Scott Stahl	207 Laurel dr. #3	7-0572	yes	<del>no</del> yes
Jerry Matthews	Box 1015	7-8930	Yes	Yes
Anthony McIntyre	Box 1333	7-6421	YES	YES
Chen Mitchell	Box 1321	7-3141	Yes	Yes
Monte McMillan		7-6911	YES	NO
Mike Kernin		7-7819	<del>YES</del>	NO
Don Balkow		7-5829	yes	NO
DON KORPELA		7-8103	YES	NO
Larry Konkol	Box 2216	7-8157	yes	yes
Royce R Rath	3912A	7-8731	yes	yes
J. Winand	606 Lake	7-8286	yes	yes
Steve Dea Herder	411 Workman	7-9506	Yes	no opinion
Rich Sigmund	POB 2163	7-5676	Yes	Yes
Bill Annally	105 Shuler	749-8091	YES	YES
Marty J Martin	Box 2752	7-3815	YES	NO
John Miller	Box 856		YES	YES
Phil Penn		7-6721	Yes	yes-
Chas Tricorse	Box 458	7-3200	Yes	NO (BUT NO HUNTING)
Brian Rejek	524 LAKE #1	7-8059	yes	YES THEM

Would you like to see ELK NO's - 13  
 Yes's - 11

TRANK PLANTED to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
George Reulink	1952 HPR	747-6327		Yes
BOB COLLIVER	603a HPR	747-6060	SITKA, AK	YES
Bruce Horton	Bx 2491	747-3691	SITKA AK	NO
DAN MARTIN	BOX 362		SITKA AK	YES
Kevin Curtis	3009 Barker St.	7-3081	Sitka AK	YES
Russell Ferguson	1104-7 HPR SITKA	7-8507	"	YES
MARK LIPSON	PO BOX 6288 SITKA	7-8391	SITKA AK	YES
Tom Young	P.O. Box 3097	sitka 7-8531	Sitka	NO
Brett Strain	P.O. Box 3086			NO
R. Robinson	101 Ron's Dr	7-3075	Sitka	yes
Loren L. Espilding	P.O. Box 6204	7-6241	SITKA	YES
Larry Inami	2008 HPR	7-8114	Sitka	NO
JOHN NIELSEN	464 Alice Loop		SITKA	yes
Mike Bergay	821 Charles St	747-8756	Sitka	Hell no
Douci Brockmaster	815 HPR	7-6497	Sitka	No
Diana Whitelhorn	815 HPR	7-6292	SITKA	NO
Ernie Seyhardt	707 SMC	7-3407	SITKA	NO
D. Ranges	3308 HPR	7-5783	SITKA	Yes
Buttley	1402 Edy	7-8875	Sitka	NO
Bob Henry	2805 HPR		Sitka	NO
Jim Kelly	1808-B SMC	747-8537	SITKA	Yes
Mike Calamak	Box 117	7-4834	Sitka	NO
CHRIS MEDALEN	BOX 821	772-4506	PETERSBURG	NO
Carl T. Dominicks	Box 43	8777	SITKA	NO

Would you like to see ELK

TRANSPLANTED to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Dennis Romine	PO Box 2903 Sitka AK.	747-8881	yes	yes
Jana Romine	"	"	"	yes
Harold Stacher	Box 2457	7-5110	Yes	yes
John A. ...	2308 HPR	747-1000	30 year	Yes
Mark White	Box 2402	7-3871	Yes	yes
B Knight	711 SMCR	7-3741	YES	yes
SCOTT SALINE	Bx 3183	77889	Yes	NO

NO!!! Do Not transplant Elk to Kruzoff or anywhere else on Barrow Chugot Island Group.

Ben Mitchell  
103 Dawlin  
Sitka  
747-5909  
28 yr. resident SE. AK.

This Money should be spent wisely. IE. Education etc. NOT TAKE MEAT (DEER) OUT OF SUBSISTANCE FREEDOM

we don't need another permit hunt in AK.

No! We don't need to make it harder for deer. Elk do compete with deer for choice food in hard winters.

Scott Brylinsky Box 17 4777 Yes No

Would you like to see ELK

TRACK PLANTED to KRUIZOFF ISLAND?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
John M. [unclear]	2625 H.P.R. #6	747-6615	Yes	Yes
Foy J. NEVERS	2618 H.P.R.	747-3465	yes	yes
Larry Melson	SITKA		yes	yes
Harry Pipes	Sitka		yes	yes
Michael Lutton	Sitka	747-5019	yes	yes

# Would you like to See ELK

## TRANSPLANTED to Kruzoff Island

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
JAMES T CATO	3882 HPR	747-3842	YES	YES
Hikki Nevers	Bx 1433	747-1491	Yes	yes
John Rennie	P.O. Box 182	7-6391	yes	yes
David Suser	PO Box 1777	7-7800	yes	yes
Milko Young	107 Dawn Dr	7-8055	yes	NO
K. FERGUSON	3850 HPR	7-3055	✓	yes
P. Baker	PO Box 472	7-8021	✓	yes
Merion Duff	Bx 272	7-3910	yes	NO
Dave Magnus	P.O. Box 135	7-8230	Yes	No
STANWOOD VILLANOVA	PO BOX 2947	7-5459	YES	No
Jodi KATASSE	3306 HPR #1	7-8021		NO
WALTER DUNING	4257 HPR	7-8915	Yes	Yes
MARK J BARTLETT	PO Box 1375	7-6979	Yes	Yes
Jon Shewets	114A Osprey	7-0565	Yes	Yes
Tom Shewets	"	"	"	4.1
STAVO HRECHAK	3908 HPR	7-6958	yes	yes
ADELAIDE K. JACOBS	108 K. St	7-8168	yes	—
JENNINE KUNIP	4416 HPR	7-5926	YES	YES
K. Salazar	4317 HPR #4	7-3224	Yes	Yes
<del>STAVO HRECHAK</del>	<del>3908 HPR</del>	<del>7-6958</del>	<del>yes</del>	<del>yes</del>
Shane Smith	PO Box 1294	7-6058	yes	yes
ALICE J. J. J. J.	2308 H.P.R.	7-1000	yes	yes

Would you like to see ELK

TRANSPLANTED to KRUXOFF ISLAND?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Ralph Jones	P.O. Box 951	7-5619	Yes	Yes
Walt Williams	Box 384	7-8915	Yes	Yes
Robert Jones	P.O. Box 853		Yes	Yes
Tom Young <sup>Tom Young</sup>	Box 3097		Yes	NO!!
JAMES COURTRIGHT	COOK AIRPORT	7-6408	Yes	NO <small>THEY WOULDNT LAST.</small>
George Elason	103 KANON DR.	7-6817	Yes	No
Earl Buelner	Box 6298	7-4828	Yes	Yes
AL Nelson	Box 642	7-3537	Yes	Yes
Steve JEHLY	Box 1982		Yes	No
Ted MOWATT	106 CEDAR BEACH RD	7-5725	Yes	No
Hal Spackman	1211 B Seward Ave	Sitka 7-6066	Yes	Yes
Glenn Richardson	Box 2486	Sitka 7-4783	Yes	Yes

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Krutzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
MELISSA MossBURG		7-7852	NO	NO
Sandy Cotter		7-5305	YES	NO
HAN Swanson		7-3416	yes	NO
Wile KLEN		7-8752	YES	NO
Jammy Duganell		7-1084	yes	NO
Jammy Poulson		7-8703	YES	NO
Cathy Poulson		7-8779	yes	No
Sarah Vandevanden		7-3590	yes	yes
Mike Takabern		7-6057	yes	NO
Berry McDonald		7-3740	Yes	No
Sharon Miller		5103	Yes	Yes
SCOTT Winnop		7-3872	Yes	No

Yes - 11  
 No's - 13

JIMMIE CUP	4251 HPR	SITKA ALASKA	7-6221	-	NO
FLOYD TOMLIN	505 Charles		7-5367	-	NO
Non Kulak	713	Kathleen	SITKA AK	747-6327	YES
Rebecca Hirsch	PO Box 1614		7724	yes-resident	NO
Dave Gordon	PO BOX 2662				NO!!
WALT GEREN	P.O. Box 344		7-6324	Yes-resident	NO!!!
Richard Dattney	491 Monastery St.		7-8985	YES	YES
Frank Kelly	Box 1884				Yes
RENE VANDENBORRE	Box 6088	SITKA	7-6030		NO NO
Rose Moore	Box 2025	Sitka	966-254	(YES)	NO
Chuck Moore	Box 2025	Sitka	966-25	(YES)	NO
Art Schuch	4406 HPR	SITKA			NO!
Hal Spackman	12113 Seward		7-6066		Yes!
Carrie Spackman	12113 Seward	SITKA			Yes!
Marie Hansen	P.O. Box 6098	Sitka			NO!
James Kenny	3009 Barton	Sitka			Yes
Laurence P. Garity	P.O. Box 626	SITKA			Yes
Steve Hirtel	3408 HPR	SITKA			YES
STEVE BRADY	PO Box 2362	SITKA			NO!!
Mika Shaver	PO Box 96	Petersburg	99733	26	YES!!
Floyd Johnson	HPR 3806	Sitka			yes
In	326	Cascade			NO!!
E.E. Blagg	116 Patterson Way	Sitka, Alaska			Yes
Strut Walter	2015 Nainulain	Sitka			NO

Would you like to see ELK

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Ken Bure	P.O. Box 6209 Sitka		yes	NO
TRACK PLANTED to KRUZOFF ISLAND				
Steve Reitensthl	218 Shotgun Alley	7476480	yes	No
Joe Kawahara	507 KATIAAL	7-5811	NO	HELL. N
Jerry Hall	2037 HPR	7-5263	yes	No
Jerry Pappa	1746 Edgemoor	7-6906	yes	No?
Scop Castle	2807 HPR	7-1496	Yes	NO
John F. Bahit	109 Darrin Dr	7-8590	yes	NO
Allen Barnett	203 Airport	1214	yes	NO
Cherub PITCHARD	Box 6209 - Sitka		YES	NO
David Castle	Box 6273 Sitka		YES	NO
Bill Stewart	Box 2622 SITKA		YES	NO
Paul Silvers	Box 2335 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St	7311	yes	yes
Henry J. Brette	Murder Cove Homestead	15	yes	yes
Blair McNeil	850 L John		yes	yes
Don Conner	419 Venstaben, Sitka		yes	No
Scott SALINE	434 Kocwanson		yes	NO
Wm. Startz	209 Observatory		yes	Absolutely NO
Eric MOVICKY				NO
Darrell Riggs	1921 Dalgard Circle	7-6745	YES	NO
Charles E. Wilcox	705 Estola		Yes	Absolutely NO
Laura Bowers	POB 6407 Sitka		yes	NO
Heather Barnes	805 20416		yes	(NO)
Ken [unclear]	P.O. Box 1615 Sitka		yes	NO // NO IN
[unclear]	Box 3156		yes	NO
[unclear]	500 Alameda St #611 Sitka		yes	NO

# Would you like to

TRANSPLANTED to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Tom Stewart	3208 HVR #23	747-3080	Yes	Yes
John Pell	312 Westman Ln	7-652	yes	yes
<del>Mark</del> Eugene Gibson	133 Wolf St	7-3922	YES	Yes
Russ Heiman	108 New Archangel	7-8607	Yes	NO!
CHARLIE HALEY	500 Lincan St #1A	7-3893	YES	NO
Kathy O'gara	Box 3047	7-8710	Yes	NO

TED C. BUCKMASTER	P.O. BOX 6081 SITKA	NO
Walter Edgar	807 Lincoln "	YES
Charles Cappel	P.O. Box 2183 "	YES
Amy Johnson	423 Verstovia	NO
Robert B. LaGuire	713 Biork	YES
Barbara LaGuire	713 Biork	yes
RICHARD L BOUSSON	112 BAILLOIC CT. SITKA	NO
TIM BROWN	P.O. BOX 2471 SITKA	YES

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	Yrs AK Resident	Yes or No
Ian Smith	8044 Water St Port Alexander AK.	568-2256	5 yrs	yes
Reggie Ozawa	Box 2223 Sitka, AK	747-7443	40 yrs	yes
DAVID TURNER	Box 624 Sitka	747-3775	9 yrs	yes
Don Soric	Box 2074 Wrangell	<del>747-3827</del>	6 yrs	yes
Oliver Bricker	Box 1017 Sitka	747-8467	32 yrs	yes
JAMES J. NIELSEN JR	Box 1753 SITKA	7-5478	39	YES
Robert J. Kirkman	Box 2716 Sitka AK.	7-5073		YES
Ernest W. Barnes	P.O. Box 673 Sitka, AK	568-9236		YES
JEAN CAULAN	8023 TRACT B PORT ALEXANDER AK	99836	YES	YES
Ian Caulan	8023 Tract B Port Alexander AK	99836		yes
Rob Fazel	163 Halst Oregon city Oregon	97045		yes
Clarence Peterson	1707 Edgewood Ave.	747-5029	6 yrs	yes
Perry Nelson	8020 Port Alexander AK	99836	yes	yes
Roger NESS	326 LINCOLN ST. Sitka AK.	99835	3 1/2 yrs	yes
Jim Brightman	409 Etolin Way Sitka AK.	804	yes	yes
Gandy Austin	429 Kathleen Sitka	1039	7 yrs	yes
Jim Simpson	PO Box 493 CRAIG AK	99921	6	yes
Richard Jay	Box 2316 Sitka, AK	15 yrs.		yes
Bill Ball	19734 N Tanbros Ketchikan AK.	8		yes
Pete Roddy	Box 6436 SITKA	17 yrs		NO
Neef Taylor	Box 6207 Sitka, AK	30 yrs		YES
Charlie Hazel	609 Etolin Sitka	11		YES
Jim Moran	507 Kathleen Sitka	8		yes
Bob Phillips	P.O. Box 2670 Sitka	8		Yes <sup>43</sup> <sub>76</sub>
Inay Bayne	P.O. Box 1541 Sitka	30		yes <sup>17</sup>
MIKE BROOKS	2306 H.P.R. Sitka	24 yrs		yes
Robin Truman	704 #13 Sitka	25 yrs		YES

# Would you like to see ETK Transplanted to Krizoff Island

Name	Address	Are you A Resident?	How long	Ph.	Yes or No
John Bell	Po Box 913	YES	32 yrs	747-5421	YES
Fouant Madson	607 Etolin SF	YES	22 yrs	747-5476	YES
Ed Smith	But 2166	YES	45	966 2243	YES
Clay Brown	3107 Marine	yes	36	747 8649	Yes
Tommy Rein	4256 HIR	yes	29 yrs	747-8700	yes
Will Jones Jr	Box 72 Klawock	yes	23 yrs	755-2227	YES
Al White	1303 west 46th Ave.	Yes	5 yrs	562.0490	yes
Carl Cadiente	1800 Marshallwood	yes	36 yrs	—	yes
James R. Mose	Box 240433	yes	2 days	—	yes
OREG POWER	JUNEAU, AK.	YES	35 YEARS	463-7204	YES
Jim N. Antekoff		<del>NO</del> YES		7-1468	NO
Jeff Stewart	1507 Edgewood	yes	31	747-4890	YES
Stew Edwards			33	747-1474	yes
Korey Peters		yes	4 yrs	747-4729	YES
Kenneth Greg Fuller		yes	6 yrs	747-4729	yes
Robert KEESF		YES	5 yrs	747-3457	YES
Andrew Keese		Yes	4 yrs	—	Yes

# Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Leader  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Vice Chair, Community &  
Regional Affairs

Member, State Affairs Committee  
Committee on Committees  
Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force  
Legislative Council



State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3873  
Fax: (907) 465-3922

352 Front Street  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
(907) 225-8088  
Fax: (907) 225-0713

**Senator Robin L. Taylor**

June 2, 1993

Honorable Walter J. Hickel  
Governor of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Hickel:

I have been informed that the Commissioner of Fish and Game is attempting to reduce staff support of the boards of Fish and Game by eliminating the Division of Boards. This is not the direction that the legislature has dictated this department follow. I would caution against any hasty decision which destroys a public process. This Division provides a necessary degree of public involvement and such a change would usurp a fundamental public process.

The board process serves to ensure that allocation decisions are made by an impartial public body rather than by department employees. Any attempt to give bureaucrats more authority will be met with strong resistance from the legislature. This has been attempted in the past and has been condemned by the public and the legislature. I encourage you to reject this effort.

The department should be warned that this type of action is unacceptable. Perhaps, if better management is needed, the department should examine its personnel and determine whether a better team would be helpful to attack some of the department's problems.

Please see that this initiative is nipped in the bud before it gets out of hand.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robin L. Taylor in cursive script.  
Robin L. Taylor

RLT:tco

cc:  
All Senators and Representatives  
Shelby Stasney, OMB  
Board of Fish members  
Board of Game members

District A:

Hyder • Ketchikan • Kupreanof • Meyers Chuck • Petersburg • Saxman • Sitka • Wrangell

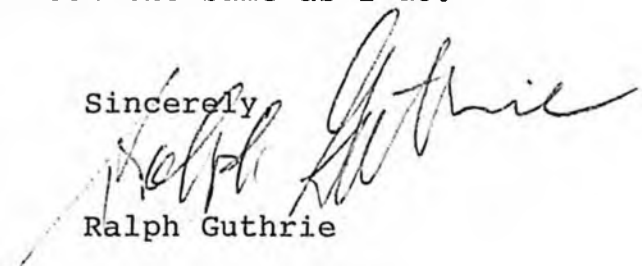
January 19, 1994

Honorable Bill Williams  
352 Front  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Dear Honorable Williams:

I want to tell you that I am against SB 43. I do a lot of hunting and don't want to take the chance of the deer population being wiped out. I also think that when they're talking about imposing a state income tax or doing away with the permanent fund it is really stupid to spend so much money bringing elk to Alaska. We already have enough things to hunt here. Leave it alone. Let the people that want to hunt elk go to Washington. I am an Alaskan Native and although my address is General Delivery, Petersburg. I live on my boat and go into many different ports. I also have lots of relatives in Metlakatla that feel the same as I do.

Sincerely



Ralph Guthrie

General Delivery

Petersburg, Ak. 99833

Briana Springer  
P.O. Box 3532  
Kodiak, Ak 99515

March 3, 1994

Chairman Bill Williams  
House Resources Committee  
Room 128  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Ak 99601-1182

Dear Bill Williams,

I am a concerned citizen in Kodiak Alaska writing to you about the grants going to transplant elk to South East Alaska. I feel the grants should be passed. Transplanting the elk down is a good idea.

The elk are dying off and we need to do something about that. If the grants were given then the elk could be moving to a more suitable environment were they could multiply. With more elk wolves and people would have a bigger hunting supply. The elk are very scarce in South east Alaska and adding more would provide a more abundant population. The elk are precious animals and belong to the earth.

I thank you for your time and hope you take my opinion in to consideration.

Sincerely,  
Briana Springer

LouAnn Swanson  
P.O. Box 1161  
Ward Cove Ak 99928

1-22-94

Representative W. Williams

State Capitol

Juneau Ak 99801

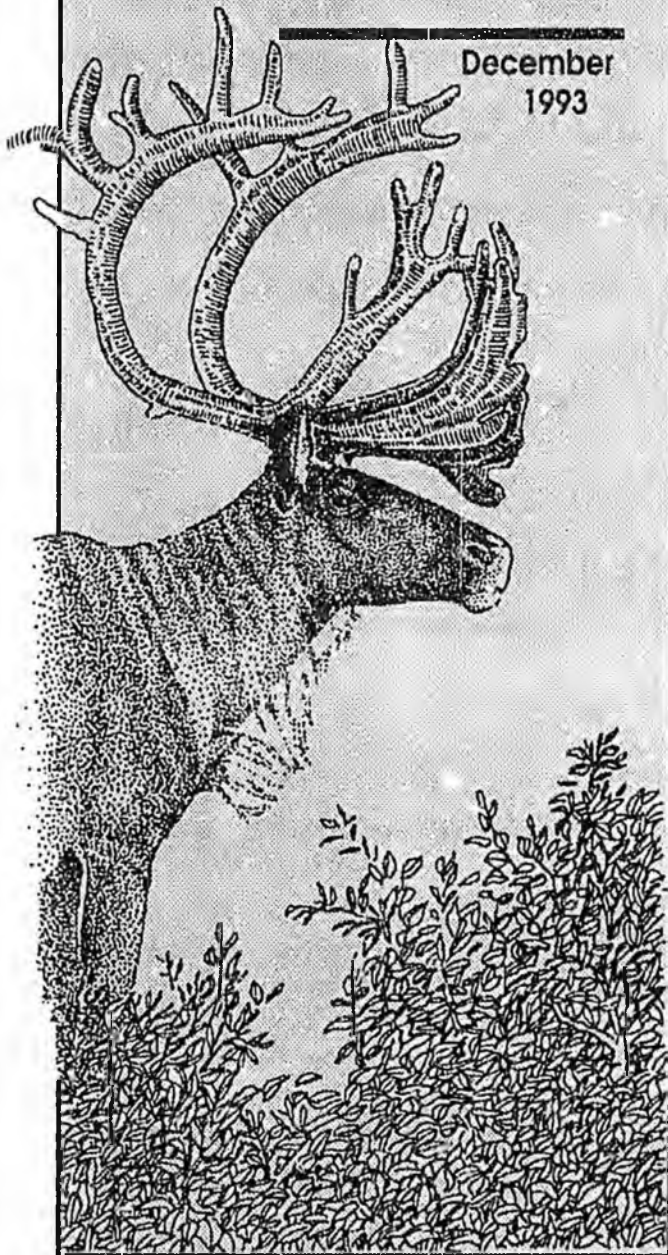
I am writing to express my opposition to  
S.B. #43. As a 30 year resident of Ketchikan,  
I have lived a subsistence life style & raised my family  
in that fashion. I believe that transplanting elk in  
south-east Alaska would severely threaten the habitat  
of the <sup>sika</sup> black tailed deer & therefore adversely affect the  
many people who depend on these deer for their food.  
Please listen to the needs of the people who live  
here

Thank you  
LouAnn Swanson



# Alaska Wildlife News

December  
1993



## Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Wildlife Conservation

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### Three Species Removed From Alaska's Endangered Species List

The Department of Fish and Game recently completed its 1993 review of Alaska's endangered species list. The review concluded that Alaska populations of three species—the American peregrine falcon, the Arctic peregrine falcon, and the Aleutian Canada goose—had recovered to the point that they should be removed from the state's endangered species list.

Five other species will remain on the list. They are the short-tailed albatross, Eskimo curlew, right whale, blue whale, and humpback whale.

Ten species were recommended for listing as "species of special concern." They are the Aleutian Canada goose, Arctic peregrine falcon, American peregrine falcon, spectacled eider, Steller's eider, Steller sea lion, harbor seal, bowhead whale, beluga whale (Cook Inlet population), and fall run of Snake River chinook salmon.

A species of special concern is any species or subspecies of fish or wildlife native to Alaska that has entered a long-term decline in abundance or is vulnerable to a significant decline due to low numbers, restricted geographic distribution, limited habitat, or environmental disturbance.

The department is also considering adding the marbled murrelet and northern goshawk in Southeast Alaska to this list. A final decision will be made by December 31.

For more information, contact John Schoen at 267-2179.

Please post and/or circulate. Feel  
free to excerpt or reprint articles.

## European Fur Import Ban Looms

On Jan. 1, 1995, legislation is scheduled to take effect that bans the importation of certain furs and fur products into Europe if the fur comes from a country that allows the use of leghold traps or has not adopted internationally accepted humane trap standards.

Eight furbearers trapped in Alaska will be affected by the ban: beaver, coyote, ermine, lynx, marten, muskrat, otter and wolf. Alaskan furbearers not affected include mink, fox, wolverine, squirrel and marmot.

In response to the upcoming ban, representatives from Fish and Game have been meeting with wildlife biologists from the Lower 48 and Canada to develop humane trap standards. Proposed standards will be submitted for international approval in 1994.

State wildlife director Dave Kelleyhouse says the division has requested funding to help trappers cope with the new trapping requirements or to develop new markets for Alaska fur if the United States does not meet the EEC requirements.

"The state has an obligation to help Alaska fur takers respond to the looming ban," Kelleyhouse said today. "Fur trapping has a long tradition in Alaska and provides much needed income to many Alaskans."

The department is also initiating a trapper education program which will include information about the EEC ban requirements. For more information, call 465-6195.



## Fish and Game To Study Food Habits of Elk

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game recently received \$6,000 from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to fund elk research in Southeast Alaska.

The research will take place on Etolin Island, south of Wrangell, and will evaluate whether Sitka black-tailed deer and elk depend on the same plant species for winter forage.

Fifty elk were brought to Etolin Island in 1987 from Oregon. Their numbers have increased, and biologists now estimate there are 100 animals in the area.

The issue of whether elk and deer compete for food arose last year when a bill was introduced in the state legislature to transplant 300-400 additional elk to four islands in Southeast.

Researchers with the Division of Wildlife Conservation will study what plant species elk are eating by collecting and analyzing their fecal pellets. Results will then be compared with previously collected data on deer pellets.

For more information, call 465-4369.

## Continued Hunting Ok'd At McNeil

The Alaska Board of Game voted last month to allow continued brown bear hunting in the McNeil River State Game Refuge. Hunting is generally allowed in state refuges but not in sanctuaries.

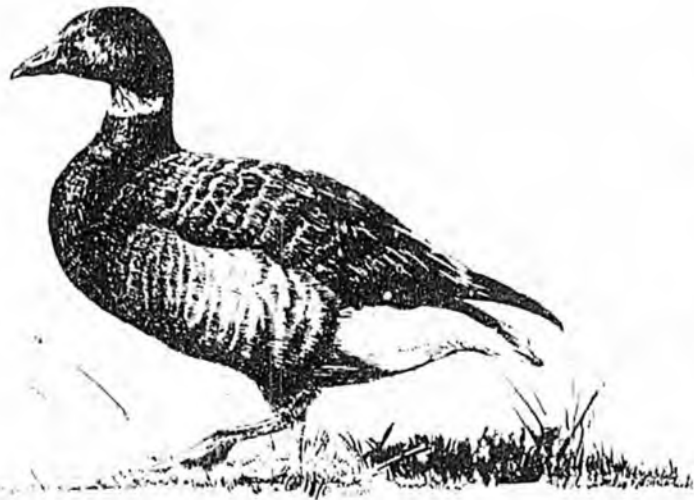
The refuge, created two years ago by the legislature, is located north of the McNeil River Sanctuary, where dozens of bears gather each summer to feed on migrating salmon.

Brown bear viewing in the sanctuary has become a world-famous attraction over the past two decades with increasing numbers of people applying for permits to watch increasing numbers of bears.

Both increases occurred while hunting was allowed north of the sanctuary in what is now the refuge. Board Chairman Dick Burley said the success of the McNeil River viewing program illustrates the compatibility of hunting and wildlife viewing.

The board voted to continue to allow a restricted harvest of only three bears per season. Department biologists testified that this conservative level of harvest would not adversely affect the area's overall brown bear population.

For more information, call 267-2269.



## Amendment of Migratory Bird Treaty Proposed

In 1916, the legal taking of ducks and geese during their spring migration was severely restricted by ratification of the Migratory Bird Treaty between the U.S. and Canada.

However, spring hunting of migratory birds is still common in remote areas of both countries where subsistence taking remains important to meet nutritional needs.

In 1979, an attempt to amend the treaty to allow this practice failed. But a renewed effort, led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is now underway.

The Department of Fish and Game supports amending the treaty to provide opportunities for regulated spring taking if certain conditions can be met.

These include extending harvesting opportunities to qualified people in a nonracial manner; limiting spring harvesting to specific remote geographic areas for nutritional purposes; not creating a harvest priority for any group of hunters; protecting the state's authority to regulate harvests within federal frameworks; and in no way jeopardizing conservation of North America's valuable waterfowl resources.

State wildlife director Dave Kelleyhouse, who is leading the state's effort on the amendment process, says amending the treaty requires careful thought, so that it will meet the nutritional needs of Alaskans in remote areas without threatening waterfowl conservation efforts elsewhere on the continent.

For more information, call 465-4190.

## Delta Caribou Herd Continues To Decline

When Fish and Game biologists surveyed about half of the Delta caribou herd this fall, they found that only four of every 100 cows had calves with them, the lowest number counted since 1972.

Wildlife biologist Robin Eagan says this is the fourth year in a row that the Delta herd has had very few calves during the fall counts. During the mid- to late 80s, biologists routinely observed 30 or more calves per 100 cows.

Calf numbers have been low in many Interior herds during the past several years. This is believed to be the result of drier than normal summer weather leading to low birth rates, relatively severe winters and high rates of wolf predation.

As a result, the herd has dropped from nearly 11,000 caribou in 1989 to its current size of 3,000-3,500 animals. Hunting did not cause the decline.

A ground-based wolf control effort was recently initiated in the range of the Delta herd to help stop the decline and allow the herd to recover.

For more information, call Eagan at 456-5156.

## Moose Season Extended in Southcentral Alaska

Moose hunting season in most of Southcentral Alaska began earlier and lasted longer this year than in nearly two decades. Hunters had 32 days to try to fill their freezers.

This was made possible by a new harvest strategy that restricted hunters to taking bulls with spike or fork antlers, bulls with antlers 50 inches or wider, or bulls with at least three brow tines on one side.

The new regulation was designed to increase the number of bulls in the breeding population. It will also lend stability to hunting regulations by eliminating the need for season changes from year to year, allow more young Alaskans to hunt by opening the season before the start of school, and enable the department to open and close most Southcentral moose seasons on the same dates, thereby simplifying the regulations for everyone.

Although some hunters expressed concern at having to look closely at antlers before shooting a moose, the regulation was generally well received.

For more information, call Bruce Bartley at 267-2269.

## ADF&G Offers Hunter Education Training for Women

Recognizing that many women have an interest in hunting but few opportunities to learn about it, the department's Hunter Education Program recently sponsored its first ever class tailored specifically for women.

The class, held in Anchorage, was designed to give women the basic skills they need: firearms handling and safety, fundamentals of wildlife conservation, and hunting ethics and responsibility.

A recent Fish and Game survey showed that approximately nine out of ten Alaska women voters approved of hunting wildlife for meat, and seven out of ten liked to eat game meat.

Alaska hunter education coordinator John Matthews said, "We believe there is quite a bit of interest in hunting among Alaska women, and we want to be there to provide training for those who want to pursue it."

Other training opportunities specifically for women will be offered in the future. For more information, contact John Matthews at 267-2236.

## New Wildlife Viewing Brochure Available

Ever wonder where to go to hear sea lions bellow and roar, to glimpse large flocks of snow geese en route to Siberia, or to cautiously watch as brown bears swat salmon with their massive paws?

A new brochure jointly produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Division of Tourism, and several other agencies and organizations answers these questions.

It lists 35 of the best places in the state to view wildlife and describes how to get there, when to go, what you'll see, and the type of visitor facilities available.

According to a 1991 survey, more than 76 million Americans and 229,000 Alaskans spend at least some of their free time observing or photographing wildlife.

Copies of the brochure can be obtained by contacting the state Division of Tourism or by visiting an Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage, Fairbanks or Tok.

Bulk orders can be obtained by writing to the Alaska Natural History Association at 605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 85, Anchorage, AK.

*Alaska Wildlife News* is a bimonthly publication of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. The *News* edited by Michelle Sydeman with assistance from other department staff.

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

Bulk Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Juneau, AK  
Permit No. 23

The Honorable Bill Williams  
352 Front St.  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

The Division of Wildlife Conservation's mission is to conserve and enhance Alaska's wildlife and to provide for a wide range of uses for the greatest benefit of current and future generations of the people.

RECEIVED AUG 13 1991

KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

RECEIVED AUG 13 1991

CARL ROSIER  
COMMISSIONER  
STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
P.O. BOX 3-2000  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802

Dear Commissioner Rosier;

August 13, 1991

Inclosed you will find proposals regarding the introduction of Roosevelt Elk to areas indicated. Our organization feels these introductions would benefit the residents of Alaska.

As you are aware, Elk have been successfully introduced to South Etolin Island west of Wrangell and are doing exceptionally well. Since South Etolin Island has been designated a Wilderness area we feel another introduction to one or all of the locations we are proposing should be taken into consideration by the Department of Fish and Game.

Our organization is looking forward to meeting with your staff to evaluate the proposed sites.

SINCERLY;

*Bob DeWitt*

Bob DeWitt

Vice President

Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club

cc; Ron Sommerville  
Rep. Robin Taylor ✓  
Sen. Lloyd Jones  
Mike Barton U.S.F.S.

A.

# KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

F.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

## PROPOSAL ROOSEVELT ELK TO KRUZOFF ISLAND

### INTRODUCTION

The Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club believes the multiple use concept relating to the S.E. Regional District would be more beneficial to Hunters and Non-hunters of the District if Roosevelt Elk were to be established to suitable habitat on Kruzoff Island .

### OBJECTIVE

To introduce Roosevelt Elk outside of National Monuments and designated Wilderness areas, to utilize suitable habitat for Elk where they are not present at this time, to allow future Hunters and Non-hunters alternate areas to utilize these resources.

### JUSTIFICATION

This proposal is based upon public interest and demand, population expansion within the local area and increasing pressure on existing populations of local Wildlife. We feel this Introduction would be consistent with the directives outlined in Alaska State Statute Title 16. Studies of various areas on Kruzoff Island were done in the mid 60's and again in the mid 70's in consideration of Roosevelt Elk.

### FINANCING

Funding and support for this proposal will be provided by the following organizations and groups:

Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
United States Forest Service  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

### CONCLUSION

It appears from private aerial surveys that there are many areas available and suitable for introducing Roosevelt Elk to Kruzoff Island. We hope this information we have provided will help in evaluating this proposal.

Sincerely,

KETCHIKAN SPORTS AND WILDLIFE CLUB

*Bob DeWitt byjem*

Bob DeWitt  
Vice President

# KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

## PROPOSAL ROOSEVELT ELK TO GRAVINA ISLAND

### INTRODUCTION

The Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club believes the multiple use concept relating to the S.E. Regional District would be more beneficial to Hunters and Non-hunters of the District if Roosevelt Elk were to be established to suitable habitat on Gravina Island .

### OBJECTIVE

To introduce Roosevelt Elk outside of National Monuments and designated Wilderness areas, to utilize suitable habitat for Elk where they are not present at this time, to allow future Hunters and Non-hunters alternate areas to utilize these resources.

### JUSTIFICATION

This proposal is based upon public interest and demand, population expansion within the local area and increasing pressure on existing populations of local Wildlife. We feel this Introduction would be consistent with the directives outlined in Alaska State Statute Title 16. Studies of various areas on Gravina Island were done in the mid 60's and again in the mid 70's in consideration of Roosevelt Elk.

### FINANCING

Funding and support for this proposal will be provided by the following organizations and groups:

Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
United States Forest Service  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

### CONCLUSION

It appears from private aerial surveys that there are many areas available and suitable for introducing Roosevelt Elk to Gravina Island. We hope this information we have provided will help in evaluating this proposal.

Sincerely,

KETCHIKAN SPORTS AND WILDLIFE CLUB

*Bob DeWitt by jcm*

Bob DeWitt  
Vice President

# KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

## PROPOSAL ROOSEVELT ELK TO PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

### INTRODUCTION

The Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club believes the multiple use concept relating to the S.E. Regional District would be more beneficial to Hunters and Non-hunters of the District if Roosevelt Elk were to be established to suitable habitat on Prince of Wales Island .

### OBJECTIVE

To introduce Roosevelt Elk outside of National Monuments and designated Wilderness areas, to utilize suitable habitat for Elk where they are not present at this time, to allow future Hunters and Non-hunters alternate areas to utilize these resources.

### JUSTIFICATION

This proposal is based upon public interest and demand, population expansion within the local area and increasing pressure on existing populations of local Wildlife. We feel this Introduction would be consistent with the directives outlined in Alaska State Statute Title 16. Studies of various areas on Prince of Wales Island were done in the mid 60's and again in the mid 70's in consideration of Roosevelt Elk.

### FINANCING

Funding and support for this proposal will be provided by the following organizations and groups:

Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
United States Forest Service  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

### CONCLUSION

It appears from private aerial surveys that there are many areas available and suitable for introducing Roosevelt Elk to Prince of Wales Island. We hope this information we have provided will help in evaluating this proposal.

Sincerely,

KETCHIKAN SPORTS AND WILDLIFE CLUB

*Bob DeWitt by am*

Bob DeWitt  
Vice President

## PROPOSAL

### Introduction:

Mountain Goat and Elk introduction to Prince of Wales Island.

### Objective:

To establish self sustaining herds of Mountain Goat and Elk to Prince of Wales Island. To allow the residents of Prince of Wales the opportunity of a varied wildlife population.

### Justification:

This proposal is based on public demand as supplied in the petition enclosed. The ADF&G's obligation according to Alaska State Statute Title 16, Fish and Game chapter 25 Section 16.25.010, Stocking of Public Lands.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita Haskin" followed by the date "2/10/93".

Rita Haskin

cc: Sen. Robin Taylor  
Repr. Jerry Mackie  
Sen. Fred Zharoff  
Dave Kellyhouse, ADF&G  
Ketchikan Sports & Wildlife Club



# Sitka Sportsman's Association

P.O. BOX 3030 • SITKA, ALASKA 99835

SENATOR ROBIN TAYLOR  
STATE SENATE  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

APRIL 3, 1993

SENATOR,

RE: SB 43

At the March meeting of the Sitka Sportsman's Association, the Board of Directors voted in support of SB 43, as introduced by you which would allow additional Elk Transplanting in S.E. Alaska.

The board realizes this does not solely involve the Sitka area and were understanding of the need for scientific study to choose the proper location, the need for matching local assistance and the other facets of your original concept.

We understand the changes that have come out of committee and of the organized opposition and political pressure which appears to have been generated against even the concept or idea of the project, but still support you intent and interest in providing additional game in S.E. Alaska.

Sincerely

Michael V. Schmidt  
Secretary

**Kavilco**  
INCORPORATED

ONE UNION SQUARE, SUITE 3431  
600 UNIVERSITY STREET  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101  
(206) 624-6166

September 18, 1992

Senator Frank Murkowski  
State of Alaska  
709 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Kavilco Incorporated is an Alaska Native Corporation formed under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Kavilco Incorporated is interested in working in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation by allowing them to plant elk on our land holdings near Kasaan, Alaska on the Kasaan Peninsula on the Prince of Wales Island.

We are requesting your support in working with Mr. Carl Rosier of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Mr. Mike Barton of the United States Forest Service. We have also been working with Mr. Bob Dewitt of the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club on this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience. I may be reached by phone at (907)542-2214 or fax at (907)542-2215.

Sincerely,

KAVILCO INCORPORATED

*Louis A. Thompson<sup>lw</sup>*

Louis A. Thompson  
President and Chief Executive Officer

LAT:lw

cc: Mr. Bob Dewitt ✓

B

THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENTS  
ARE  
POOR  
ORIGINAL  
COPIES

# KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

FEB 02 1980

MEMBERSHIP LIST  
Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club  
1979-1980  
Total 2000  
Amount \$100.00

NAME: [Faint text]

[Faint text, possibly a list of names or addresses]

[Faint text, possibly a list of names or addresses]

[Faint text, possibly a list of names or addresses]

[Faint text]

[Faint text, possibly a signature or name]

[Faint text]

**KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB**

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

October 5, 1992

Carl Rosier  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
PO. Box 3-2000  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Commissioner Rosier,

By now you have received the letter from Kavilco Inc. about an elk transplant on their Prince of Wales Island property. As we have stated in the past it is our policy to support this kind of project and will help with this one if asked.

We are now asking for your support with this project, with your support and the support of the Game Dept. this introduction can be made in a timely and cost efficient manner.

We are looking forward to meeting with you or your staff on this matter soon.

Thank you,

*Bob Dewitt*

Bob Dewitt  
President  
KSWC

c.c.

Louis A. Thompson, Kavilco Inc.  
Sen. Robin Taylor  
Rep. Carol Fader  
Rep. Jerry Mackie  
Mike Barton, USFS

CHILKAT INDIAN VILLAGE  
AN INDIAN RESERVATION ON THE STATE OF ALASKA  
UNDER ACT OF CONGRESSION, 1935  
BOX 210  
HAINE S. ALASKA 9902  
(907) 787 5508

TO: Rep. Bill Williams - Chairman

ADDRESS: House Resource Committee, Juneau, ALASKA

FAX: ~~907-586-7773~~ 3 465-3793

FROM: Joe Noto (Klotwon)

DATE: 3/31/93 TIME: 1:40 PM

# OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS ONE):

it would be

Appreciated if you held a hearing on SB77, SB43 and SB46 and put me on the public interested list. In addition we oppose the proposal before the State Finance Sub-Committee that will cut Substructure Division in nine Regions. Southeast Communities should be heard.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE AND THE LACK OF EXPERIENCE MAY PRODUCE IN THE TRANSMITTAL OF THESE MATERIALS, PLEASE CALL US BACK AT (907) 787-5515.

OUR FAX NUMBER: 787-5515



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



Name	Address	City
Jennifer Faylor	P.O. Box 124	Craig
Deneise M. Weckmiller Deneise Weckmiller	P.O. Box 19	Craig
Nary Hamman	P.O. 454	Craig
T. Blake	"	CRAIG
Henry Julian	Box 367	Craig
Sally Marta Crown	Box 114	Craig
Don Borders	P.O. Box 432	Craig
Pam Echols #17am	P.O. Box 133	Klawock
CLARENCE MAXEV	P.O. Box 19198	THOENE BAY
Cindy Clark	P.O. Box 176	Klawock, AK 99921
Gina Lester Dip	P.O. Box 200	Craig 99921
Shae Roserick	P.O. Box 103	Craig 99921
Shae Roserick	P.O. Box 418	Craig AK 99921
Lillian Lermine	Box 170	Craig AK 99921
Carl Boston	P.O. Box 321	Klawock, Alaska
Emily Kathy Perry	Box 110	Craig
Vicki Sleasman	Dr 442	Craig AK 99921
T. Peterson	Box 372	Craig AK 99921
Drick Wilson	Box 447	Craig
Lyle Gates	Box 395	CRAIG
Michael Horn	Box 251	Craig, AK
Vicki Horn	Box 434	CRAIG
Richard Hansen	"	"
	Box 317	CRAIG

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

C

May 29, 1992



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



Name	Address	City
Stephen E. Whner	PO Box 257	Craig
Tom Dawson	POB 356	Craig
Dennis Umick	Box 88	Craig
Tracy Jency	Box 58	Craig
Lyle Waples	Box 147	Craig
Joe W. Gonsky	Box 59	Craig
Joe Thompson	Box 347	Craig
John Smith	Alaska Wildlife	Craig
Tom Burch	Box 18	Craig

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

5/29/92



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



Name	Address	City
Francine Schuur	Bx 144	Klawock AK 99925
<del>Michael Schuur</del>	<del>Bx 144</del>	<del>Klawock AK 99925</del>
Valores Lanties	PO Box WWP	KTIU, AK 99950
Go Chicham	P.O. Box 1221P	Whale Pass AK 99950
AA. KO. RYON	Box 25 C	Craig
Br. He Wasserman	Box 153	Thorne Bay
<del>W. S. ...</del>	<del>...</del>	<del>...</del>
Robert Young JR	Kasaan Box KXA	Kasaan
Annice Bink	Box KXA	Kasaan
Ad. H. Whit	1510 Fritz Cove Rd	Ganeri, Ak.
Kurt Kuehl	6061 So. Tongass	Ketchikan AK.
Elena James	P.O. BOX 457	Craig AK
H. A. Old Sampson	Box 187	Craig
D. H. C. CARRADA	Gen. Del. Craig	876-2244
TONY COSENTINO	PO 269 Klawock	755-2484
Keith Wagon	PO Box 853	Nakat
Chaine Price	312 Harbor Ave	Coffman Cove -
Frank Berge	Box 383	Hydaburg
<del>Jeff ...</del>	<del>...</del>	<del>...</del>
Jeff Sinclair	PO BOX 327	Klawock AK
Lee Whitney	PO Box 9814	Coffman Cove AK
Charley A Lane	P.O. Box 307	Klawock AK

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

5/29/92





We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to, help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.

Name	Address	City
Charley Alane	PO Box 307	Klawock AK
Ann Williams	Box 350	Klawock AK
Dave Wick	Bx 240	Klawock
Larry Howell	242	Craig
Darius Howell	242	Craig
Megan Quintan	234 <small>III equal 26</small>	Klawock
Cheryl Duffitts	82	Klawock
Wade & Marcia Wadley	Gen Del	Craig
Louise White	GEN DEL	CRAIG
Debbie White	GEN DEL	CRAIG
K C W	Gen DEL	Klawock
Keith Sticker	Box 102	KFW
Frank [unclear]	Box 141	Klawock ALASKA (PO)
Ann Reed	Box 162	Klawock AK 99925
Jon Bowman	Box 51	Klawock AK 99925
James Bowman	Box 261	Klawock AK 99925
Donit	Do It. [unclear]	[unclear]
Yvesse 259		
Larry D. Lemons	Box 102	Craig, AK, 99921
Sonnie Anderson	Box 83	Craig, AK, 99921
Joyce [unclear]	[unclear]	
H. Abel	259	
Darwin B. Kingway	Box 124	Craig
Colbey Curtis	Box 9813 Ktn	Calder Bay

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

29/92

107



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



Name	Address	City
Remonda Lloyd	Po Box 19422	TNB
Earl Nash	Po Box 207	TNB
Thonda Spang	PO Box 19104	TNB
Harold M. Kitcher	PO Box 19206	TNB
Earl Kuehn	PO 40	Meyers Chuck
Sista J.	PO 156	TNB
W.M. Lewis	P.O. Box 19290	Thorne Bay
<del>Steve Timmer</del>	<del>PO Box 303</del>	
<del>Wanda Spink</del>	<del>PO Box 100</del>	
Judne Spink	PO Box 100	
Taron Bluhbaum	PO Box 101	
Steve Garland	PO Box 100	
Gene & Mitauf	Po Box 19488	Thorne Bay
Elyse Olenison	Box TH1	Tokun PB 99950
James B. Mchalen	P.O. Box 456	Thorne Bay
Jimmy Wilson	P.O. Box 19426	Thorne Bay
Barbara Beck	P.O. Box 19328	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Paul Clasen	PO Box 19397	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Dixie Grant	P.O. Box 19318	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Kathie Cook	PO. Box 19121	Thorne Bay, AK 99919
Yvonne Ackerman	Gen. Del	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Jim Heller	Gen. Del	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Laura Holt	Box 446	TNB, AK
Mark Mann	Box 19215	THORNE BAY ALASKA
Lynda Nicholson	Box 19442	Thorne Bay, AK 99919

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!







We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



name	Address	City
John W. Smith	Box 19	CRAIG AK
MARK M. JONES	Box 14	NAKATI
PEGGY STEVENS	Box 247	CRAIG AK
G. WENTWORTH	Box 101	CRAIG AK
Ben A. Cole	P.O. Box 312	Craig AK
Robert Hall	Box 7921	Ketchikan, AK
<del>XXXXXXXXXXXX</del>		
Rick Jones	204	Craig
ERNEST W STILLER	PO Box 494 <del>CRAIG</del>	CRAIG
JOHN C SCHIEMANN	Box TRT	KETCHIKAN
U. ...	General Delivery	CRAIG
Lennine White	General Delivery	Craig
Rebecca White	General Delivery	Craig
Norma White	General Delivery	Craig
Bernie White	General Delivery	Craig
Maldie Decker	General Delivery	Craig
Dw. Beck	Box 379	Craig
Terry Lutton	Box 405	Craig
Charlie Kissell	Gen DEL	CRAIG
Dick Wagon	Gen Del	CRAIG
Juan Patton		
Neil Chamberlain	Box 218	Craig
Gemma Buder	Box 487	Craig
Cathy Uzogorine	Gen Del	Craig
Carl ...	Gen Del	Craig

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

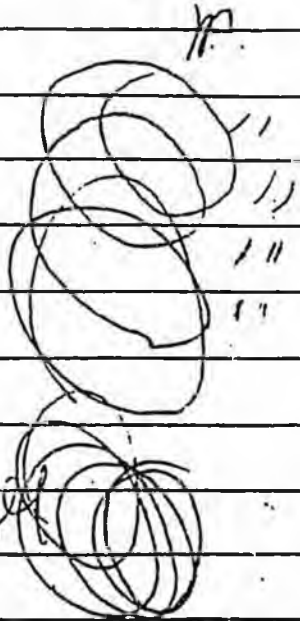
5/29/92



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



Name	Address	City
George A. Woods	Box 292 Bayview Blvd	Klawock, 99925
Ron [unclear]	P.O. Box 249 Craig	99921
Alma Cook		
Pete [unclear]	P.O. Box 69 Craig	
Dorell [unclear]	Box 309 Klawock AK	99925
Jeremy O'Houll	" " "	" "
Randy Dobbins	" " "	" "
Andy Howell	" " "	" "
Kristi Howell	" " "	" "
Deborah Richards	Gen Del Craig AK	99921
Angie Strobel	Gen. Del Craig, AK	
Amelia A. Wood	Box 141B KIU AK 99920	LAB. BAY
Thomas Mills	Box 100 CRAIG AK	99921
Jode Blea	522 Craig	Craig
Quent Jones	Box 108 Cr	Craig
<del>[unclear]</del>		<del>[unclear]</del>
Kelli [unclear]	Box 282	Klawock
[unclear]	Box 282	Klawock
James L. Fessan	P.O. Box 111	Craig
Mike [unclear]	P.O. Box WWP	Whale Pass AK
[unclear]	PO Box WWI?	Whale Pass AK



THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

5/29/92

*[Handwritten mark]*



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



Name	Address	City
Cherilyn Halter -Devin Mason	PO Box 21 P.O. 267	Hydaburg Craig
L R HALL	Box 181	CRAIG
Gerald White	Box 1111 Ketchikan	WHALE PASS
Patricia F. Welch	Box 1111 Ketchikan	Whale Pass
Fred Turpin	Box 37A	Craig
Ira Perdikis	Box 37A	Craig
LARRY LEMONS	Box 102	CRAIG, AK. 99921
Tony Jones	P.O. Box 193	Craig, AK
Kevin Haines	P.O. Box 254	Klawock AK
Garry Adams	P.O. Box 493	Craig
Pat Linneman	P.O. Box 493	CRAIG
DALE YOUNG	P.O. BOX 569	CRAIG
Junior Barrera	P.O. Box 569	CRAIG
James Barnes	Box 45	ii
Jim Lutz	Box 405	Craig
Donald Parsons	Box 204	CRAIG
Randy King	Box 41	ii
Jeff Cain	P.O. Box 362	Hydaburg
Jim Mason	P.O. Box 477	Craig
Bison Halter	P.O. Box 800	Craig

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

Aug 11, 92

~~Aug 11, 92~~

TO: SENATOR TAYLOR

4/1/93

FAX 465-3922

FROM: PETER HALLGREN + JOE GARRISON

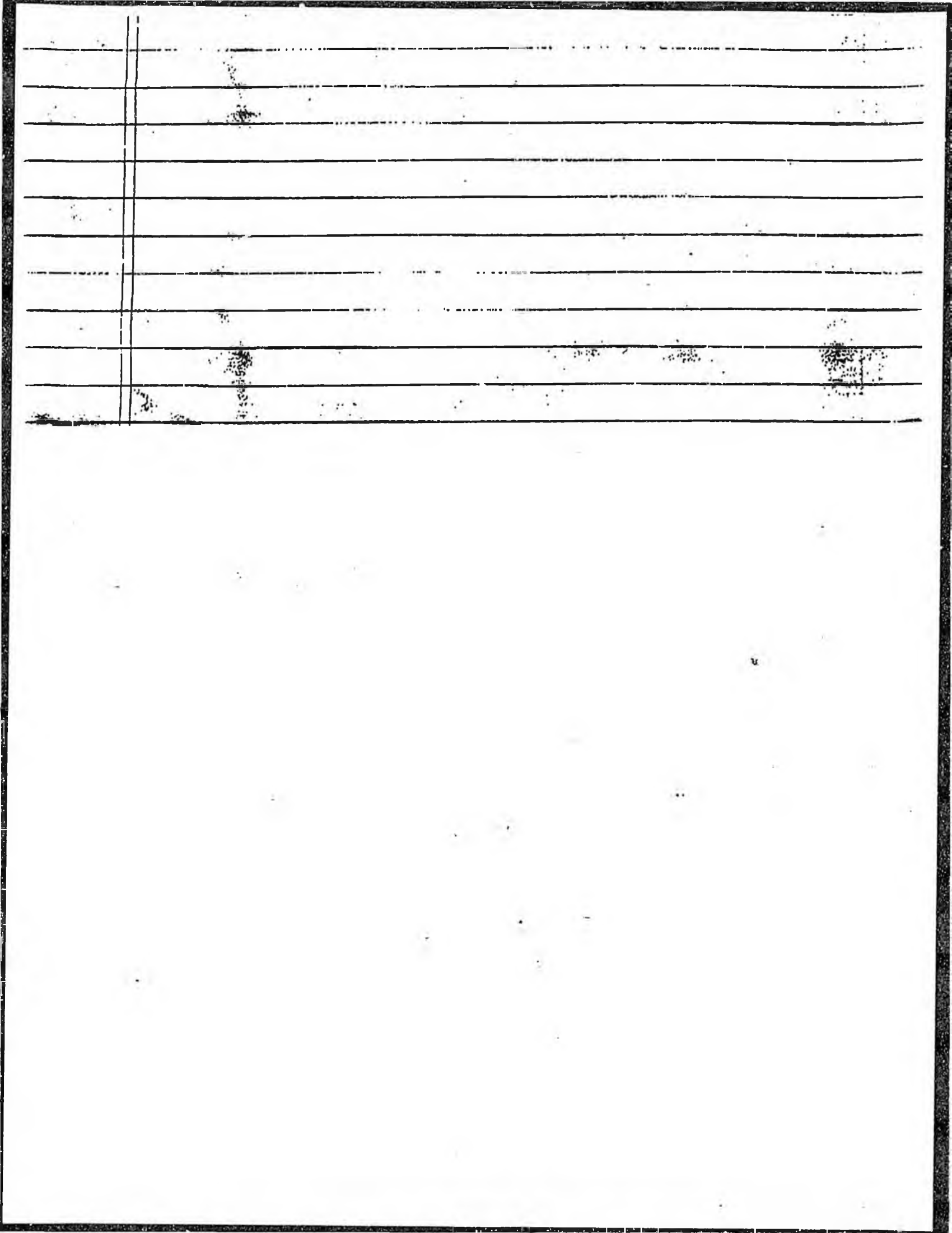
RE: ELK TO EAT

— HERE ARE COPIES OF THE CURRENT  
POSITION CIRCULATING IN SITKA TO  
GIVE THE F&G ADVISORY CO. MEETING  
4/8/93

— THERE ARE ORDERS STILL OUT, THESE ARE  
ALL WE HAVE NOW

145 YES  
29 NO

Robin - SITKA ELK  
SUPPORT SO FAR !!



Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Krutzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
PETRO, STEVE	Box 2084	747-6209	AK NATIVE	YES
JOE GRANVAL	Box 1995	747-5497	YES	YES
FRAN HALLGREN	Box 1203	747-5076	YES	YES
YIP HALLGREN	Box 1203	7-5076	YES	YES
HOLJA HANSEN	Box 2861	7-5489	YES	YES

# Would you like to see ETK Transplanted to Kratoch Island

NAME	Address	Are you a resident of this town	Ph.	Yes or No
John Bell	Po Box 913	YES 32 yrs	747-5421	YES
Frank Underwood	607 Estlin St	yes 22 yrs	747-5476	YES
Ed Smith	Box 2166	yes 45	866-2223	YES
Clayton Bowen	3107 maine	yes 26	747-8649	Yes
George Kim	4256 14th	yes 29 yrs	747-8700	yes
Will Jones Jr	Box 73 Klauock	yes 23 yrs	755-2227	YES
Al White	1303 west 46th Ave	Yes 5 yrs	562-0490	YES
Paul Cadiente	1800 Marshall	yes 30 yrs	—	yes
James P. Moore	Box 240433	yes 26 yrs	—	yes
GREG Bowen	JURIN, AK.	YES 35 years	467-3204	YES
Jim Z. Dutcher		YES	7-1468	NO
Jeff Stewart	1507 Edgemoor	yes 31	747-4890	YES
Stan Edwards		33	747-1474	yes
Korey Peters		yes 4 yrs	747-4729	YES
Harold Conroy	Fullerton	yes 64 yrs	747-4729	yes
Robert Reese		YES 5 yrs	747-3657	YES
Andrew Keene		Yes 4 yrs	—	Yes



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ELK

TRANSPLANTED TO KRUZOFF ISLAND?

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE#	AK RESIDENT	YES OR NO ? would like to participate
Stump D. Cor	Box 2404	7-5421	Yes	YES
Steve Clayton	Box 2426	7-8236	Yes	NO
Sp & Stahl	207 Lakewood #3	7-0572	Yes	YES
Terry Matthews	Box 1015	7-8930	Yes	Yes
Anthony McElyre	Box 1333	7-6421	YES	YES
Glenia Mitchell	Box 1371	7-3141	Yes	Yes
Monte McFarland		7-6911	Yes	NO
MIKE KERNIN			<del>Yes</del>	NO
John Ballou		7-5829	Yes	NO
DON KOPPEL		7-8103	Yes	NO
LARRY KONKOL	Box 2316	7-8157	Yes	Yes
Royce R. Roth	3912A	7-8731	Yes	Yes
St. Vincent	606 Lake	7-8286	Yes	Yes
Steve Dan Harder	411 Curtman	7-9506	Yes	NO
Rich Sigmund	POB 2163	7-5676	Yes	Yes
Mike Annelle	105 Shaler	747-8911	Yes	Yes
MARTY II MARTIN	Box 2752	7-3815	Yes	NO
John Miller	Box 2856		Yes	Yes
Phil Ross		7-6721	Yes	Yes
Chris Traversick	Box 458	7-9200	Yes	NO
Brian Rezek	571 Lakewood	7-8059	Yes	HUNTING YES THEN

Would you like to See ELK

Transplanted to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Ernie Berahardt	707 SMC	747-3907	37 yrs	NO
Russell Anderson	1619 SMC	747-8517	2 yrs	Yes
JM Boyce	Po 3107-SITKA	7-3934	8 yrs	YES
Bruce Parker	Po-Box 6990	7-6006	8 yrs	YES
Tony Verscha	P.O. Box 963	7-6782	1 1/2 yrs	YES
Bob Peed	Box 855	7-8176	18 yrs	Yes
Eric Oa	Box 2026	749-5667	29	NO
Troy Baume	Bx 1541	747-6770	13	YES
Bob Johnson	Bx 2846	747-6573	10	NO
Todd Miller	Box 856	747-4702	24	yes
Ally Lee	Bx 756	747-3854	24	YES
Jul Hall	Box 2214	7-6976	24	Yes
MITCH COWAN	605 DEGRoff	7-7416	18	YES
Rusty Williams	104 Eagle Way	7-5905	4	Yes
Red Beck	619 DEGRoff	7-6120	37	YES
Patricia H. Haff	Box 472	7-8021	31	YES
<del>                    </del>				
Don Sams	611 Etolin ST	7-8067	12 yrs	NO
WM STORTZ	299 Observer	7-3916	10 yr	NO
Kristen Mitchell	Box 891	7-5428	9 yrs	NO

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruxoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Paul Addie	3208 HPR #6	6723	SITKA	NO
RICK RADHUN	P.O. Box 1324	6605	SITKA	Yes
MILTON HUNT	P.O. BOX 2355	747-8492	SITKA	Yes
George R. Howard Sr.	PO Box 1833	747-1022	SITKA	Yes
Louis R. Howard Sr.	119 New Archangel		SITKA	Yes
Lenny Leonard	PO Box 2008	747-9907	SITKA	NO
Lee Lente	1801A Block Wy	747-8594	SITKA	Yes
Jack Livingston	Box 995	747-5434	SITKA, AK	Yes
Glenn P. Johnson	PO Box 1033	747-1022	SITKA	NO
Allen M. Larson Sr.	General Delivery 288-3401	ANCHORAGE		NO
William E. Larson	Box Del Sitka	998305		NO
Al G. Du Bois	6229	8821	SITKA	YES
Allen I. Van Horn	HPR - PH	747-6581	SITKA	Yes
Maryellen C. Wayne	2716 HPR #4	747-6488	SITKA	Yes
Norman E. King	2410 HPR	747-6407	SITKA	Yes
Roy W. Krawinkel	Ocean Side #18	747-1079	SITKA	Yes
Jamie L. Anderson	P.O. Box 6084		SITKA	Yes

Would you like to see ELK

TRACK PLANTED to KRUZOFF ISLAND

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Dennis Romine	PO BOX 2183 SITKA AK.	747-8881	yes	YES
Jana Romine	"	"	"	YES
Al Stacher	Box 2457	7-5110	Yes	Yes
John [unclear]	2308 HPR	747-1000	30 years	Yes
Melvin [unclear]	Box 2402	7-3871	Yes	Yes
B. Knight	211 SMCR	7-3741	YES	YES
Scott Saline	Bx 3183	7 7889	Yes	NO

X10!!! Do Not transport Elk to Kruzoff or anywhere else on Barrow Chukot Island Group.

This Money should be spent wisely i.e. Education etc NOT TAKE MEAT (DEER) OUT OF SUBSTANCE FREEZERS

Don Mitchell  
103 Dawson  
Sitka  
747-5909 88 AK.  
28 yr. resident

We don't need another permit hunt in AK.

No! We don't need to make it harder for deer. AK do compete with deer for clove food in hard winters.

Scott Brinsky	Box 17	4777	Yes	NO
---------------	--------	------	-----	----

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruxoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	YES or NO
Ted THOMASSEN	702 FALCON	7-8417	52 yrs	yes
Larry Nelson	C-LADY		4	yes
Charles (Mud)	Fisherman	7-8294	40 yrs	yes
Alvin C. Lund	precinct 514 #1 231 KATHLAN ST 2-25		11 yrs	yes
MURF WALLER	3514 REIDSTONE RD North Pole, AK 4884551		21 yrs	YES
Del Childress	207 CRABAPPLE		25 yrs	YES
Rich Olson	704 LAKE ST	7-8628	29 yrs	YES
Larry Smith	102 Kincaid way	7-6425	28 yrs	YES
Shelley Frank	Box 1722	7-3594	was	yes
Kate Leland	Box 455	7-8345	1 yrs	yes
David Wilson	Box 455	7-7800	was	yes
Steve McBRAY	Box 1974	NONE	46 yrs	YES
Ken J. Behrman	Box 2565	5158	2 yrs	Yes
Christine Steneh	3201 #624PR	3729	21 yrs	sure
Mark H. Jenkins	P.O. Box 6166	7-5360	1	yes
David Mearns	P.O. Box 6356	747-3117	18 yrs	yes
David Mearns	P.O. Box 57	747-8909	yes	yes
Don Miller	231 KATHLAN 1-20	747-3718	6 YEARS YES	YES
HENRY OKSVO	11 P.O. 2045		40 YEARS YES	YES
Paul Larson	406 Marine St #1	7-2424	22 yrs	yes
GARY EATON	234 LAKEVIEW DR.	7-3648	31 yrs	YES
Pat Anderson	1901 5th St	747-8787	33 yrs	yes
Hal Taylor	1603 DAVIROFF ST.	747-5324	42 yrs	YES

Would you like to See ELK

TRANSPLANTED to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Rita Ledbetter	Box 2832 Sitka	747-3059	154FS	Yes
Beut E. Kihnen	Box 6075	747-6143	150FS	Yes
Lampine Bell	410 Hallowland	747-8336		Yes
D. Van Noy	P.O. 8013 PA.	AK 508-2266	✓	Yes
Sam J.	PO 6393		YES	Yes
Burn J. Dan	P.O. 2724	Sitka		No
William E. Sykes	P.O. 6224	SITKA, AK.	Yes	Yes
Mark Petraro	231 KATLIAN ST. 3-16	SITKA AK.	Yes	Yes
Dick DeLoe	PO Box 6044	SITKA AK	Yes	Yes
William Church	PO Box 1466	SITKA AK	Yes	Yes
Bob King	PO Box 6298	SITKA AK	"Yes"	Yes
Choshy Chubba	PO 101 Overhart	PO. 7-41#	YES	Yes
Del-Cara	Box 6328	SITKA AK.	yes	No
Parves Dozier	1709 HPR. #31	7-3321	Yes	Yes
Kevin Vance	Box 2516		yes	yes
Donald M. Duncan	Box 373	SITKA 76554	YES	Yes
Donald M. Duncan	Box 373	SITKA 7-6554	YES	Yes
Matthew J. Lonoke	Box 1782	SITKA 7-8343	✓	yes
Dan Williams	1782	SITKA 7-6405	yes	No
Tom Over	231 KATLIAN ST.		yes?	
Mark Reid	Box 1201		6 months	No
Red A. M...	1709 HPR		Yes	Yes
Ken Meade	131 SHELKOFF		YES	YES

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	vs AK Resident	Yrs	Yes No
Tea Smith	8044 Water St Port Alexander AK	588-2356		5 yrs	Yes
Reggie Ozawa	Box 2223 Sitka AK	747-7443		40 yrs	Yes
David Turner	Box 624 Sitka	747-3775		6 yrs	Yes
Jon Sorensen	Box 2074 Wrangell	874-5827		6 yrs	Yes
Oliver Becken	Box 1017 Sitka	747-8469		32 yrs	Yes
JAMES J. NIELSEN JR	Box 1753 SITKA	7-5478		39	Yes
Robert J. Kirkman	Box 2716 SITKA AK	7-5073			Yes
Ernest W. Barnes	P.O. Box 673 SITKA, AK				Yes
EAN CAVLAN	8023 TRACT B PORT ALEXANDER AK	99836	Yes		Yes
Ian Coulter	8023 Tract B Port Alexander AK	99836			Yes
Bob Fazel	163 Harvest Oregon city Oregon	97045			Yes
Clarence Peterson	1707 Klagenfurt Ave.	947-5029		6 yrs	Yes
Perry Nelson	8020 Port Alexander AK	99836	Yes		Yes
Roger NESS	326 Lincoln St Sitka AK	99855		15 yrs	Yes
Jim Brightman	409 Etolin Way Sitka AK			20 yrs	Yes
Pamela Austin	429 Kathleen Sitka	1039		7 yrs	Yes
Jim Thompson	PO Box 493 CRAIG AK	99921		6	Yes
Richard Aky	Box 2316 SITKA AK			15 yrs	Yes
Bill Ball	10734 N Tobias St Ketchikan AK			8	Yes
Pete Reddy	Box 6436 SITKA			17 yrs	Yes
Max Taylor	Box 6207 SITKA, AK			30 yrs	Yes
Charles Engel	609 Etolin Sitka AK			11	Yes
Jim Moran	507 Kathleen Sitka			8	Yes
Bob Phillips	P.O. Box 2670 Sitka			8	Yes
Joy Bayard	P.O. Box 1541 Sitka			30	Yes
MIKE BROOKS	2306 H.P.R. Sitka			24 yrs	Yes
Robin Truman	704 #13 Sitka			25 yrs	Yes

MIKE BROOKS	2306 H.P.R.	SITKA	24 YRS	YES
Robin Truman	704 #13	SITKA	25 YRS	YES
Wynne Phillips	P.O. Bx 2670	SITKA	8	YES

END FAX

145-400  
29 10

4-6-93

Senator Robin Taylor:

As you CAN see from the enclosed form the major majority of the folks in Edna Bay are in favor of transplanting of Elk on Prince of Wales and Kosciusko Is.

Hopefully you can help us.

Thank you

&  
God Bless

Kuss Bartlett

We, the undersigned people of Edna Bay, support the transplanting of Elk to Island and Prince of Wales Island. With the remote setting of our location, various mountain peaks, areas of old growth timber, also many areas of clear cuts and a low populated area we feel Kosciusko Island and Prince of Wales Island would be a prime place to transplant.

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Bob SMART	Robert Smart	3/30/93
Kathryn Flemings	Kathryn Flemings	3/30/93
Mary Lou Smart	Mary Lou Smart	3/30/93
Russ Bartels	Russ BARTELS	3/30/93
Sharon Widmyer	Sharon Widmyer	3/30/93
Judy K. Slattery	Judy Slattery	3/30/93
Ronald F. Slattery	RONALD F. SKATTERY	3/30/93
Henry P. Ford		
Charleen Bartels	Charleen Bartels	3/30-93
Bert Bergman	BERT BERGMAN	3/30/93
Marietta Bergman	Marietta Bergman	3/30/93
David E. Otte		4/1/93
Ralph C. Slattery		4/1/93
Sarah Daniels		4/1/93
Steve Schallberger		4/1/93

OVER

NAME

DATE

Cindy May

4/1/93

Robert J. Morgan

4/1/93

LOIS MORGAN

Lois M. Morgan 4.1.93

Janice Cline

4-1-93

~~Jeff Richter~~

4/1/93

Camille Richter

4/1/93

Bill Richter

4/1/93

~~Jeff Richter~~

4/1/93

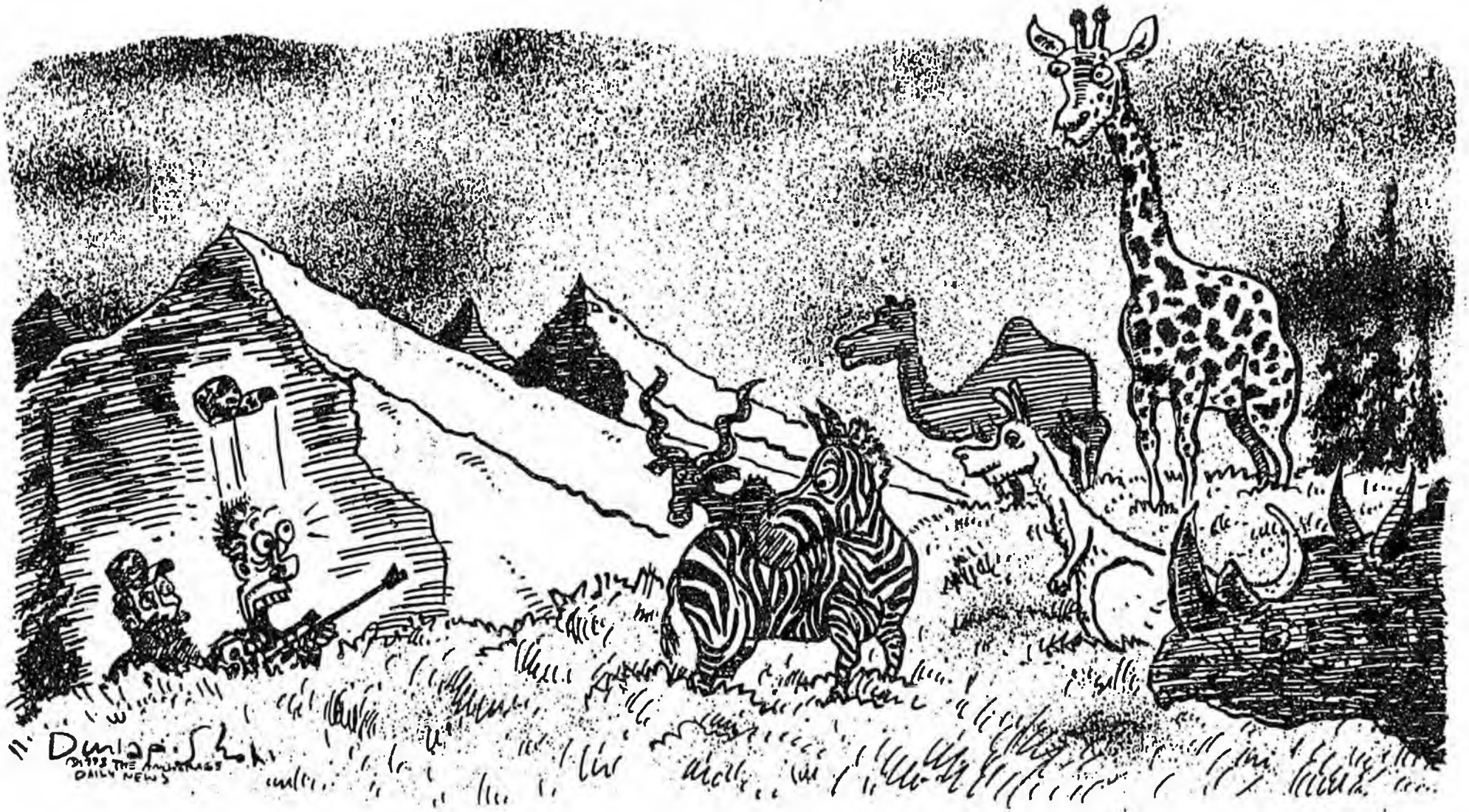
Skip Richter

4/1/93

Buni Wortman

4/1/93

# OPINION



EVER SINCE HE GOT HIS WAY ON THE ELK TRANSPLANTS, THERE'S BEEN NO STOPPING ROBIN TAYLOR

**D** In California the canopy has alerted the miners

## Wapiti

The North American wapiti (*Cervus elaphus*), or elk as it is often called in North America, is the second largest member of the deer family. Wapiti bulls grow to nearly 5 feet (1.5 meters) in height at the shoulders and may weigh more than 750 pounds (340 kilograms). The cows are smaller. Wapiti are dark brown in the head and chest region and light brown on the rest of the body with a large white patch on the rump. They have huge antlers that may spread 5 feet across. Wapiti were once found throughout most of the United States but are now restricted to the western states and southern Canada. Their range includes Europe (where they are called red deer), central Asia, Siberia, and northern and western China.

Wapiti roam in herds, moving from the mountains to the valleys in winter. During the mating season in the fall, fights between males are common. They challenge one another with a loud bellow. Two animals face each other from a distance of about 20 feet (6 meters), paw the ground, and then charge and crash their antlers together. Bellowing as they fight, they continue the struggle until one goes down. The loser usually survives but leaves the area. Occasionally the antlers of the fighters lock together so that neither can eat, and both animals die from starvation. (This also sometimes happens with other fighting species of deer.) In March the bulls lose their antlers, but they can still ward off predators with their sharp front hooves. In early summer each cow gives birth to one or two white-spotted calves.

Senator Robin Taylor  
Room 30  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

4/2/93

Robin,

This letter is to confirm our commitment to fund the transplant of elk in the Ketchikan area. This does not mean that we will fund any research or other funding to the ADF&G. The time window needs to be large enough for fund raising. Keep up the good work.

Lee Putman  
Vice-President KSWC  
PO Box 5122  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

F.

P.O. Box 20994  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-0994  
14 April 1993

Representative Bill Hudson  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

re: SB 43 -- Elk introductions to southeastern Alaska

Dear Bill:

I'm writing to you about SB 43 (elk introductions) because I believe it has some very serious ecological implications that have not been considered by anyone in the legislature and you should be aware of them. I am a research wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station (Forestry Sciences Laboratory here in Juneau) and have been studying black-tailed deer and elk for the past 16 years. I DO NOT SPEAK FOR THE FOREST SERVICE IN THIS LETTER, HOWEVER; I'M WRITING AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. But I'm very familiar with the potential ecological problems and scientific theory involved in this issue. My Ph.D. research at the University of Washington (1977-80) focused on the comparative ecology of elk and black-tailed deer, and my subsequent research here in southeastern Alaska (1980-present) has focused on forest habitats and the ecology of black-tailed deer with a continuation of comparative nutritional ecology of deer and elk. I have authored and coauthored 32 papers in the primary scientific literature dealing with both deer and elk, forest habitats, and the effects of both species on their habitats. I have no personal interest in the elk introduction to southeastern Alaska, but I do see it as a significant ecological problem.

There are major implications of both an ecological and political nature in the pending legislation. The ecological consequences of the elk introduction involve damage or loss of rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants, lowered carrying capacities of habitats for black-tailed deer, and major changes in community structure of habitats favored by elk. Political implications include effects on threatened and endangered species, aggravated subsistence problems with deer production and hunting, and conflict with wilderness management policies aimed at maintaining wilderness in a natural state. There is far too extensive a history of problems throughout the world involving effects of introduced species, especially to island faunas, to plead naive to this problem. The example of the introduction of red deer (same species as elk, Cervus elaphus) to New Zealand, alone, is compelling evidence of the potential of elk to create major, unwanted ecological change to their new habitat. Additionally, a political (and logistical) reality is that preventative measures are usually much easier to effect than are corrective measures (in this case, "depopulation").

As you are well aware, elk already have been introduced to southeastern Alaska in the late 1980s -- to the south end of Etolin Island and to Zarembo Island. I voiced no concern at that time because of three reasons: (1) I believed the original plan stated that the elk would be limited to those two islands, that there would be an open hunting season on any elk moving to any other island; (2) I expected that the elk would survive but would be limited to only a slow reproductive rate because of a relative lack of abundant, high-quality, herbaceous forage in southeastern Alaska (the summer forage base is much heavier in shrubs and small herbs than in large herbs and high-quality grasses favored by elk); and (3) because of the first two reasons, I simply did not consider the greater ecological consequences; I thought of the introduction as a local political issue that would resolve itself. Now, however, it is apparent that all three of those reasons are wrong: (1) the elk are spreading to other islands, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) attempt to open the hunting season on the emigrants has been stopped politically; (2) I apparently underestimated the ability of the elk to exploit the vegetation of southeastern Alaska, and the population appears to be increasing rapidly rather than slowly [this, however, may need closer observation to confirm]; and (3) the political issue is heating up rather than resolving itself. SB 43 is a major escalation of the political issue.

If elk do well (survival and reproduction) in southeastern Alaska, then they will most definitely have a major effect on the vegetation of the habitats they favor. Vegetation biomass will be greatly reduced through a combination of both consumption and trampling. Elk are large animals, and the trampling effects in wet habitats can exceed the effects of grazing and browsing. The fact that elk exert major structural and compositional change in the vegetation of their habitats is well established in the scientific literature. The change should be expected to be much greater (intensity) and broader than that of overgrazing by black-tailed deer because elk are more catholic in their food selection than are deer and their trampling effects are much greater. Alpine and subalpine habitats (especially lush herb communities -- the same communities most important to black-tailed deer and bears in summer) and preferred winter ranges will be most severely depleted. Those effects have widespread ecological implications because the structure and composition of the entire vegetation will be greatly changed. The change will not be simple reductions in preferred forage species; it will be major compositional and structural change.

Dietary overlap between black-tailed deer and elk should be expected to be very high in southeastern Alaska -- much higher than anywhere else the two species coexist. The major ecological differences between elk and black-tailed deer stem from the differences in body size and relative rumen capacities (elk being the larger in both factors): (1) elk need to eat more forage per day and cannot be as selective about what they eat as can deer; (2) elk can meet their requirements with a lower quality of forage than can deer; and (3) deer are better adapted to a diet high in browse and small-leaved herbs than are elk; while elk are better adapted to a diet of high-quality grasses (not muskeg

sedges) than are deer; both species do well on herbs (forbs). Where elk and mule or black-tailed deer coexist, they commonly have a high degree of ecological overlap but also differ importantly in the elk's preference for herbaceous-rich (herb and grass) forages and habitats. Southeastern Alaska, on the other hand, is relatively poor in herbaceous forages (compared to other regions of elk range -- including both Vancouver Island and Afognak Island), except for skunkcabbage patches, riparian habitats, and especially, lush herb communities in some subalpine habitats (very rare on Etolin and Zarembo Islands but much more common and important on several other islands). There is less opportunity, therefore, for dietary divergence between black-tailed deer and elk in southeastern Alaska than elsewhere in their overlapping ranges. Elk will rely heavily on major forages that are very important to black-tailed deer. Furthermore, although elk are more likely to benefit from young clearcuts than are black-tailed deer, their preferences for winter range will be very similar to those of black-tailed deer during periods of snow accumulation -- snow-free, southerly exposures under old-growth forest. The combination of dietary and habitat overlap at such times will reduce carrying capacities for deer to a disproportionate degree relative to the total land area occupied. Elk browsing of blueberry (to a much larger twig diameter than that taken by deer) will leave very little suitable browse for deer on shared winter ranges.

I am certain that elk cannot competitively eliminate black-tailed deer from ranges where overlap occurs. Small-leaved herbs and forage-sparse habitats will provide black-tailed deer with "refugia" that elk simply cannot afford to exploit. Those forages and habitats, however, contribute in only small ways to landscape carrying capacities, and black-tailed deer populations will be food-limited to much lower densities and productivity than would be the case without elk. The introduction of elk, therefore, would greatly exacerbate rather than reduce the conflicts between clearcut logging and deer carrying capacities -- especially as increasingly greater proportions of the landscape change into closed-canopy, second-growth forest in the near future. It is only in the very short term that elk can be added to the system at low ecological and political cost.

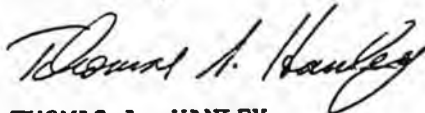
If, indeed, the current elk populations are reproducing well and increasing, then we should expect them to exhibit a colonization pattern that is characteristic of ungulates successfully introduced into new habitat: population increase and dispersal that moves in a wave-like fashion from the site of introduction to new habitat, the population increasing as new habitat is exploited and decreasing locally as exploited habitat is depleted. Elk population densities should be expected to reach much higher levels during such a wave than can be maintained by the long-term carrying capacity of the habitat. Vegetation changes are likely to be abrupt.

I don't want to be an alarmist: the above warnings are predicated on the assumption that the already introduced elk are, indeed, doing well -- surviving and reproducing successfully. ADF&G biologists believe that is the case, but nobody has really monitored the situation closely recently. In any case, however, several important points are very obvious: (1) the initial monitoring of the introduction has dropped-off in recent years to a level where current status is not well known; (2) the elk are expanding their range, and ADF&G is politically hamstrung and unable to control the emigrants through hunting; (3) SB 43 acts to speed and expand the whole process; and (4) successful introductions and population expansion pose a very significant threat to plant (and subsequently animal) communities of southeastern Alaska. It seems to me that at the very least, it is in the interest of the State of Alaska to ensure that the current expansion of range to islands other than Etolin and Zarembo be stopped (emigrants killed, as per the original plan), that no new introductions be added to the situation, and that the status of elk and habitat on Etolin and Zarembo Islands be monitored sufficiently to know how successful the introduction was (population density and rate of increase) and to document the effects on the local vegetation. That is my recommendation even if the elk are not doing well.

SB 43 is exactly the opposite of what is needed for a constructive and long-term resolution of this question and the successful introduction of elk to southeastern Alaska in a responsible manner for the best interests of the State of Alaska. If the legislature wants to improve the situation, it would be far better to limit the current population to the two "study islands" of Etolin and Zarembo and to ensure funding for monitoring its dynamics and interaction with the habitat. The latter would actually be in Senator Robin Taylor's long-term best interests too.

I hope you will find these considerations helpful. I would be happy to meet personally with you or any of the legislative staff to discuss them more fully.

Sincerely,



THOMAS A. HANLEY

cc: Maria Gladziszewski, Legislative Research Agency



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Northwest  
Research  
Station

Forestry Sciences Laboratory  
2770 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A  
Juneau Alaska 99801-8545

(907) 586-8811 • FAX (907) 586-7848

Reply to: 4000

Date: April 15, 1993

To: Ms. Maria Gladziszewski, Alaska Legislative Research Agency

re: Claus Svendsen dissertation and the subject of elk-deer competition

I've had a chance to review Claus' dissertation now and would like to respond directly to your call yesterday concerning questions about his Chapter 4 and the more general subject of elk-deer competition. I'm also enclosing copies of several other pages of the dissertation to help you see it in a broader context than just Chapter 4. I was a member of Claus' graduate committee that oversaw his research and approved the dissertation, but I was unable to attend the final defense (schedule conflict) and only now have been able to read the final copy of the dissertation itself.

It's important to keep in mind that Claus' research really centered on the phytochemical response of plants to clipping and its relation to the so-called carbon/nutrient balance theory of plant response to herbivory (Chapters 2 and 3). Chapter 4 was a very minor part of the research and of minor concern to the graduate committee; the dissertation could easily have been defended without the inclusion of Chapter 4 at all. Also keep in mind that dissertations are not considered "published scientific literature." Graduate committees frequently allow the student a bit more room for speculation about nonessential ideas in the dissertation than is allowed for the main ideas or would be allowed in a refereed journal article.

There are two major kinds of competition recognized in ecology: interference competition and exploitative competition. Interference competition occurs through behavioral aggression and dominance of one individual (or species) over another. In other words, it is a direct behavioral interaction where one individual socially interferes with another's access to some limiting resource. An example is male competition for mates within either elk, deer, or any of many other species. Another example could be African lions excluding a cheetah from the cheetah's recent kill. Exploitative competition, on the other hand, is much more subtle and occurs when two or more individuals (or species) utilize a common resource that is in short supply and limiting to their growth or reproduction. It can occur with absolutely no behavioral aggression taking place. An example is density-dependent food limitations within any species (e.g., domestic cows running out of food when 100 cows are put in a pasture that produces only enough grass to maintain 10 cows). Another example is exactly the situation that is of concern with the elk introduction to southeastern Alaska: elk and deer depleting the same, limiting food resources and thereby decreasing the amount of food that would be available in the absence of the other species -- and, *importantly*,





decreasing the population size, body size (or condition -- fat, etc.), or reproductive rate of one or both species. The latter point is important, because dietary and/or habitat overlap in itself is not competition; competition requires a measurable physiological or population effect resulting from the shared use of a limiting resource. It is this last point that makes exploitative competition a difficult phenomenon to prove in a field situation with large, wild animals.

Claus clearly explained the difference between the two kinds of competition (p. 11), and clearly stated that Chapter 4 was an analysis of *interference* competition. As he said, exploitative competition between elk and deer is the subject of much concern; (though it has been mostly inferential because of the logistical difficulties involved in actually proving its occurrence -- requiring the removal of one species from shared range and measuring the physiological response of the other species, while simultaneously controlling for variation in weather, etc.). He also clearly explained that interference competition, on the other hand, had not been studied specifically for elk and deer, and therefore he hoped to shed some light on that subject. *Interference competition is not the major concern when biologists talk about competition between elk and deer.* Even so, Claus' analysis of interference competition was, in my opinion, quite ambiguous. His data do indicate no major behavioral displacement of deer by elk, and in that sense are consistent with the idea of lack of interference competition. That part is reasonably clear, and that is the major conclusion of the chapter. The positive association that he prefers to interpret in a beneficial, predator-detection sense, however, can be equally interpreted in quite an opposite manner -- that both species were choosing the same microhabitat patches while foraging (and thereby potentially increasing the probability of exploitative competition). Claus acknowledges that problem (last paragraph of page 73) but remained more fascinated about the possibility of some beneficial aspect re predator avoidance. The committee let him speculate about the latter; it really isn't an important matter. Yet unfortunately, it is a few sentences that have been pulled out of context from this minor chapter that seem to be the substance of much debate in the Alaska legislature. (Now *that* is interesting!)

Finally, it is important to keep in mind that literature searches for empirical proofs of exploitative competition between elk and deer are essentially fruitless. First, because of the logistical difficulties of actual proof in the case of these two large, wide-ranging, wild animals, you'll find that most of the conclusions are inferential. More importantly, however, no matter what has happened elsewhere, it will not be the same circumstances that occur here (or elsewhere). Far more important than a search for empirical case studies is an analysis of the mechanistic processes involved in niche overlap (resulting in competition) and the nature of the interaction between elk





and deer here in this environment of southeastern Alaska. That was the subject of yesterday's letter to Bill Hudson.

I hope this helps. Best wishes with your research.

THOMAS A. HANLEY  
Principal Wildlife Biologist



Rep. Bill Williams, Ch.  
House Resources Committee  
April 15, 1993

Enclosed are two letters to the editor of the Sitka Daily Sentinel which I prepared concerning the bill by Sen. Taylor to transplant elk to Southeastern Alaska. I understand your committee will be taking testimony on the bill soon. Please use my letters in your deliberations. CSSB 43 is an extremely poor idea which I urge your committee to reject.

Since preparing the letters to the editor I have found that there are currently no surplus elk in North America that would be available for transplant except for some from Yellowstone Park and some from game farms in Canada. Both those sources are heavily infected with two very virulent diseases which are transmissible to both man and other wild animals, TB and brucellosis, as well as a liver fluke which is also transmissible to other species of wildlife. We do not need or want these diseases and parasites introduced into our deer and other game herds.

I urge you all to use your good judgement and responsibilities and reject CSSB 43.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Loyal Johnson  
4320 Vallhalla Drive  
Sitka, AK 99835  
747-3664



Editor  
Daily Sitka Sentinel  
112 Barracks Street  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Editor:

The proposed transplant of elk to Kruzof Island merits comment.

The wildlife literature adequately describes the history of introducing various forms of flora and fauna over the face of the earth. An easy to read book titled THE ALIEN ANIMALS, by George Laycock, summarizes many of the world-wide introductions. A publication of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game titled GAME TRANSPLANTS IN ALASKA describes the known transplants in Alaska. This publication is available for review at the Sitka Fish and Game office. Anyone who is interested in the amount of time, effort and money that has been spent on transplants should review these documents. These documents will provide insight as to why most wildlife professionals are opposed to transplants.

The reasoning behind wildlife introductions often boggle the mind. For instance, the European starling, a noxious bird that now occurs in all the United States (yes here in Sitka too) was released in New York by an admirer of Shakespeare who attempted to establish in America all the species of birds mentioned by Shakespeare. One of the more common rationales for transplants is simply that a species doesn't occur in an area. Another favorite is the desire for transplanted people to bring something along to remind them of home. Transplants for political gain are particularly perplexing to wildlife managers. Whatever the inspiration, most introductions have been failures or have resulted in adverse impacts to native flora and fauna. Unfortunately, there have been enough genuine successes to keep people inspired.

The idea of transplanting elk to Alaska dates back the dark ages of wildlife management when it was thought that the way to wildlife abundance was to kill off all the predators, not allow any consumptive use of females of most species, apprehend violators and, above all, transplant. A 1925 law enacted by the Alaska Territorial Legislature outlined a dazzling array of transplants that was to be conducted. Fortunately, that law has been repealed or we might still be trying to establish Siberian Blue Squirrels to the Seward Peninsula or mule deer to the Tanana Valley. However, many of the mandated transplants were undertaken and most failed.

There have been at least 8 releases of elk in Alaska. Only the one to Afognak Island succeeded in establishing a population. That transplant took place in 1929, and the animals flourished for some years, reaching an estimated population of 1200-1500 animals by 1935. A major die-off reduced the herd to an estimated 450 in 1972. The herd rebounded from the lows of the early 1970s but in 1980 another downward trend began, which continues today. Was that transplant a success? Who knows! It is still too early to predict the success or failure of the more recent transplant to Etolin Island, and it is still too early to know what competition might develop between the exotic elk and the native Sitka black-tailed deer. One thing is known about that transplant however, and that is how much money and man-hours it cost, money and man-hours that could well have been spent on more rewarding activities.

As a wildlife biologist with over 30-years experience in Alaska, with the last 20 of those years being here in Sitka, I will readily admit that I do not know whether or not elk would compete with Sitka Black-tailed deer on Kruzof Island. The published reports show that competition is a distinct possibility. An adult elk out weighs a deer by several hundred pounds so in times of nutritional stress when push comes to shove, a 100 pound deer would stand little chance when competing with an animal of similar food requirements 6-8 times its size. I know of no one in this area who is qualified to make a knowledgeable judgement regarding competition between elk and Sitka black-tailed deer either!

Competition can come in a variety of guises. Deer in the Sitka area are remarkably free of debilitating parasites and diseases. Being herd animals, which enhances transmission of diseases and parasites, elk are known to harbor a variety of parasites and diseases which might well be transmitted to our deer, even if the elk transplant is a failure. These conditions may or may not be detected by a cursory health examination.

While I can't offer learned observations on competition between elk and Sitka black-tailed deer, I do know that here in the Sitka area we are blessed with a favorable set of circumstances which provide us with the opportunity to enjoy one of the world's greatest big game animals, the Sitka black-tailed deer. Kruzof Island, together with remaining old-growth forest areas of Hoonah Sound comprise some of the finest Sitka black-tailed deer habitat in existence. These areas are easily accessible. Because of high deer densities and ease of access, these areas are heavily utilized by Sitkans as well as residents of other communities.

I think it would be a biological irresponsibility of the greatest magnitude to transplant elk to Kruzof Island.

We have a known quantity in the black-tailed deer and it would be sheer folly to take any actions that might jeopardize this magnificent resource. I only hope the responsible managers of the wildlife (Alaska Department of Fish and Game), the habitat (U.S. Forest Service), and the good citizens of Alaska, will exercise their professional responsibilities and good judgement to not allow this transplant to take place.

I further hope that Sen. Robin Taylor will stick to those issues which an elected legislator should be dealing with. Frittering away money from a dwindling state coffers, while burdening the Department of Fish and Game with an ill advised game transplant, is not one of those issues.

I urge those who are getting caught up in this issue to objectively review the history of transplanting plants, mammals, birds, and fish over the face of the earth and the dismal record of failures it has produced. It is far better to maximize opportunities with those species nature has presented us with than it is to continue searching for something exotic that is hoped to be bigger and better. It is my hope that those persons who are promoting elk transplants would redirect their efforts to a more meaningful cause, such as attempting to discourage clear-cut logging on the remaining areas of outstanding Sitka black-tailed deer habitat, areas which will be receiving increasing interest for timber cutting in the next few years.

In the mean time I will be happy knowing there is an outstanding and secure resource of Sitka black-tailed deer on Kruszof Island. If the urge strikes me to want to enjoy elk or mule deer or antelope or what have you, I will go to where those species occur.

Loyal J. Johnson  
Sitka

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Page 2, Daily Sitka Sentinel, Sitka, Alaska, Wednesday, March 10, 1993

## Elk Transplant

Dear Editor: This is a follow-up to my recent letter concerning Robin Taylor's bill (SB 43) to transplant elk to Kruszof Island. That bill has now come out of committee and with considerable modification. The bill now would require the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to release up to 100 elk at four specific locations in Southeast Alaska, including Kruszof Island and now stipulates that the project would be fully funded by the state of Alaska.

The elk transplant to Eklon Island in 1987 cost about \$5,000 per elk. Thus, if the full 400 elk are transplanted we are looking at an expenditure of about \$2,000,000 of state funds for a project that is in all likelihood doomed to failure, and which might indeed have some serious impacts on our Sitka black-tailed deer herds. I urge you to contact Sen. Taylor and express your objections at such a nonsensical project.

Loyal J. Johnson, Sitka

Carol A. Jensen  
8451 Greenhill Way  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502  
(907) 344-7078

April 16, 1993

House Resources Committee  
Alaska State House of Representatives  
Juneau, Alaska

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages > 3	
To	Rep. Williams	From	C. Jensen
Co.		Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	
Fax #	465-3743	Fax #	

Dear Members:

RE: SB 43, Elk Introduction

I will not be able to attend the teleconference on this bill, so I am faxing you my views.

I am strongly opposed to passage of this bill, for the following reasons:

1. Transportation of any wild animal is traumatic and physically dangerous to the animal. Adaptation to a new area is difficult, and certain death awaits many, if they survive the rigors of tranquilization and transportation. The trauma, injury and death to wildlife increases when unskilled, inexperienced volunteers do the work (which is proposed here).

2. With our without volunteers, this will be an expensive project and will "benefit" only a very few people. It will add another project for the already overburdened Fish & Game Dept. to manage, with less money. I am opposed to the relocation of wildlife only to be killed mainly for their heads to hang on the walls of a few hunters.

3. Habitat on some of these islands is being logged cut. Not only are we looking at a "Hagemeister Island" starvation problem for the deer, but also the elk in the long run. Why don't legislators learn from past mistakes? It is biologically, scientifically and environmentally unsound to introduce non-native species to areas with a finite amount of useable habitat. Eventually the food supplies on these islands will be exhausted (and how many elk die enroute to these other island?)

4. I am not alone in my opposition. I'm joined by a majority of the public, many legislators, the Fish & Game Dept., many Fish & Game Advisory Boards, and even "The Republican's Friend", The Anchorage Times (see enclosed 3/23/93 column by Jenkins). The concensus is that the legislature has no business passing laws such as this.

Senator Taylor's meddling and pressuring of the Game Board has put him at the top of many peoples' list as being one of the biggest jerks in Juneau. He is at the top of my "Jerk" list for this bill and many other statements, bills and actions. Please don't condone and approve his bills such as this one, just because he is a Republican and so are you.

4-16-93

5. This bill, along with SB 77 and SB 46 (Moose ranching) makes the Alaska Legislature look like a bunch of idiots in the eyes of not just Alaskans, but the rest of the country. This WILL have negative impacts for many years, on our tourism industry (which should be a strong, viable alternative from the oil industry), and the way in which the Federal Government deals with us on environmental and wildlife issues. Like it or not, we are the appointed caretakers of much of the State, which belongs to ALL OF THE U.S. If we are poor caretakers, plan to have much of the control taken away, and deservedly so.

6. MOST REGISTERED VOTERS IN ALASKA ARE NON-PARTISAN. You are doing a great disservice to the public everytime you vote merely "Along Party Lines". That is not why you were elected. Ramona Barnes has stated that, while "the Senate is voting that way, the House is not". I contend that the House so far has been just as guilty as the Senate. THIS NEEDS TO STOP!! You all need to start basing your vote on public input, your own reasonable judgement of each bill, your conscience, and the long-term ramifications of each bill. Thank you for this opportunity to address you.

Sincerely,



Carol Jensen  
Daytime phone #800-478-2234  
Encl-1

# Elk today, Wart Hogs R Us tomorrow

By PAUL JENKINS

3/23/93

Cheap political meddling and bureaucratic cowardice have no place in wildlife management anywhere, but they're alive and well in Alaska. And the elk fiasco in Southeast Alaska is a good example.

Because state Sen. Robin Taylor has decided he wants to import elk for hunters in his district, the Alaska Board of Game is slip-flopping like a fish out of water and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's biologists mostly are ignored in favor of politics.

The biologists cannot talk about it, mind you, because of a directive from Fish and Game Commissioner Carl Rosier that all questions about the elk mess be directed to him.

Taylor is the guy who in 1987, over the vehement objections of state biologists, got the boneheads in the Legislature to order 50 elk transplanted from Oregon to 343 square-mile Etolin Island near Wrangell. At state expense.

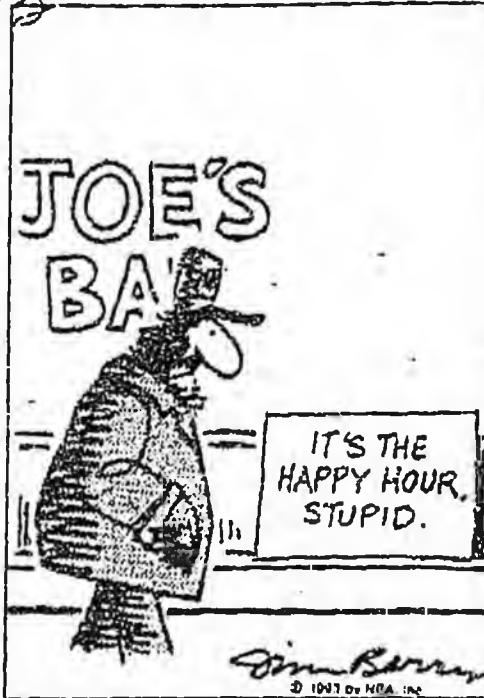
The biologists objected because elk can make life rough for Sitka blacktail deer, a native species with numbers so low in the Etolin Island area that hunting has been curtailed for years.

Elk also can carry diseases and they wander in herds, eating the deer out of house and home as they go. Of the five previous attempts to introduce elk to Alaska, only one, on Afognak Island in 1928, has been successful.

But the Wrangell Republican's elk were hauled onto Etolin Island, and then, as elk are wont to do, they scattered. About half initially were lost to wolves, bears and other factors.

Now they number somewhere between 75 and 100 and have gotten onto Mitkof, Shrubby and Brushy islands, and, under the elk management plan, they are not to be hunted until their population reaches about 250. And when that happens — in 40 to 50 years — biologists have projected a sustainable harvest of 20 or so animals each year.

The plan also called for containment of the elk to Etolin and Zarembo islands because nobody really knows what they will do to native deer if they spread to other islands or the mainland. Under the



plan, if they meandered off — as they have — the department would either live trap them and return them to Etolin or eliminate them through an open hunting season.

So the Game Board guys, appointed by the governor and allegedly working for the public to set policy for state game management, decided early last week, on Tuesday, to open a hunting season year-round on stray elk found anywhere in Southeast Alaska other than Etolin and nearby Zarembo islands.

But, whoops, Taylor has yet another bill in the Legislature to import up to 400 more elk, despite the same old, ignored objections. He told The Associated Press that elk, because of their nifty big antlers, are a favorite of hunters in his area. It's unclear how that can be, as none of the herd is supposed to be hunted yet.

What actually went on during the few days after the board's decision is unclear, but the Fish and Game's Rosier advised the board to reverse its decision after hearing from Taylor. What Rosier heard to make him roll over is anybody's guess. When I asked him if he had spoken to Taylor about the issue, he first indicated he had not; then that he had.

"He said he was unhappy with the Game Board's action, and unhappy with my staff," was all Rosier would say about his chat with Taylor.

"The board made the right decision. On the other hand they were taking an

action in opposition of a legislative. It doesn't do any good to be at war on these issues. Certainly the fact that the senator was unhappy had to be weighed."

The board, ever mindful of an unhappy Taylor, on Thursday dutifully reversed itself and canceled the hunt.

That decision was lousy public policy. We have elk spreading in all directions from the first wrong-headed transplant to Etolin Island. We have a board charged with setting game policy in Alaska hamstrung on the issue. We have Legislature toying with the notion of bringing in 400 more elk. If you believe Taylor and his friends that will be done free. If you believe anybody else it'll likely cost \$1.5 million.

And of course, we have a defanged and largely ignored Department of Fish and Game. Who needs their biologists? They just keep coming up with facts that run contrary to what politicians want to do.

To its credit, the board on Friday rightly went on record opposing any more elk transplants. But who cares? Taylor apparently wants them and that seems to be good enough for some people.

Now, if you think any of this is good news for Alaska, you probably live in Taylor's district and are lusting after big antlers.

Or you're like me. I see a tremendous opportunity to get rich in a state dumb enough to even consider the notion of farming moose, importing foreign species or leaving the fate of its native species in the hands of politicians.

Here it is.

Wart Hogs R Us. That's right, a ranch right here in Alaska for those who dream of hunting the wily, toothy African critters, but get airsick or sore fannies on long plane rides.

We can bring the beasts in by the dozens, at state expense, of course, turn them loose in Southeast Alaska and offer a great hunt for the aerially impaired.

I figure all I have to do is get a legislator willing to set wildlife policy for the Department of Fish and Game and the Game Board to approve the whole deal. And from this elk hunt fiasco in Southeast Alaska, it doesn't look like it should be much of a problem.

All we have to do is get Taylor on our side, and, voila, we're in pigs up to our pokes.

Paul Jenkins is an editor of The Anchorage Times.



Jenkins

House Resources Chairman  
Bill Williams

March, 21, 1993

MAR 24 1993

I am opposed to transplanting elk into Southeast Alaska. I feel that if elk were meant to be here than they would already be here. I live in Sitka and look forward to going hunting each fall. My family eats very little meat other than venison and fish. Due to various circumstances (hard winters and logging) the deer population in the Sitka area has dropped severely in the last few years. This has caused a reduction in the number of deer tags allowed each hunter to try to help the deer population here recover. Why would anyone want to introduce a competing specie, not native to the area, that has been proven to out compete deer here? The deer are building up again and we KNOW that they thrive here naturally. There are a lot of people who deer hunt in Southeast. There will not be elk to satisfy all the people nor will the deer be as abundant once the elk are introduced and there might not be either once this all shakes out so what is the point of this idea? So a few can look at the elk and marvel at their beauty? Beauty will not fill my stomach. I think that those individuals' that want to see elk so badly that they are willing to mess up the ecosystem around here should go to where the elk naturally live to see them and not mess this area up for everyone else.

For the Alaska Legislature to override the unanimous disapproval of the wildlife biologists and be even thinking about trying to force Fish and Game to transplant elk is, in my opinion, out of line for the legislature. The state hires wildlife biologists for a reason and that reason is that they have been trained in their fields and are more knowledgeable than those trained in different fields. Since when has the legislature been made up of wildlife biologists? Why does the State of Alaska even have a Fish And Game Department if the legislature feels it is their privilege to demand things that a few shortsighted people untrained in the subject desire? For that matter maybe the Department of Fish and Game should then be put to making up the state budget. Robin Taylor says the people in his district want elk here. He never asked me, nor anyone that I have talked to, so just who is in this district he presides over? Maybe he should take an official vote on this subject before he makes such bald statements and tries to force the introduction of competing non native species into this area along with the real chance of introducing diseases into the local deer population and spending lots of the states money for his own personal desires.

The state of Alaska is considering a state income tax. State

revenues are down. The legislature is cutting back money for many things including education. How can the legislature ever justify spending a large amount of money on a foolish frivolous and dangerous thing like transplanting elk as they cut spending in so many places. Maybe the money would better be spent on educating the legislature on the dangers of playing God with ALL of ours environment.

I urge you to throw out SB43. It will only lead to the demise of the deer and the wonderful recreational and subsistence hunting that we are so lucky to have while wasting the States money.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Nichols  
305 Islander Drive  
Sitka AK 99835

*Carolyn Nichols*

cc  
House Finance Committee  
House Resources Committee  
Carl Rosier  
Robin Taylor  
Governor Hickel  
Ben Grussendorf

*Please give a copy to everyone in the Resources Committee.*



March 24, 1993

MAR 28 1993

Representative Bill Williams, Chairman  
House Resources Committee  
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Response to Senate Bills 43, 46, & 77

Dear Representative Williams:

Shaan Seet opposes SB 77: An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive management of big game to achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest. This bill does not acknowledge the subsistence priority for the use of fish and wildlife resources within the State of Alaska, and will be detrimental to Native subsistence users.

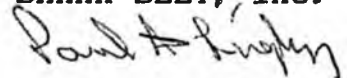
Additionally, Shaan Seet opposes the elk transplantation proposal as contained in Senate Bill 43. This plan is not complete and until the possibility of harm to indigenous game stocks is removed from it, it should not be attempted. The State should maintain a conservative attitude about such proposals and should err on the side of conservation rather than taking a chance that could cause irreparable harm.

Representative Bill Williams, Chairman  
March 24, 1993

Page Two

Please let us know what your views are on these bills. We  
would appreciate it!

Sincerely,  
SHAAN SEET, INC.



Paul A. Lingley  
President

Peter Branson  
P.O. Box 2073  
Wrangell, AK 99929

Senator Robin Taylor  
Alaska State Legislature  
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99811

March 26, 1993

Dear Senator Taylor:

We request that you seriously reconsider your bill (SB 43) to have the state subsidize the introduction of up to 100 more elk into Southeast Alaska. A better proposal would be to defer this transplant and fund research to determine what effects the existing elk on Etolin and Zarembo Islands have had on the environment and Sitka Black-tail deer.

The publicity surrounding this bill has brought to light many possible negative aspects of introducing exotic species:

1. DISEASE: Animals imported from other parts of the country can bring with them diseases and parasites not found in Alaska. Diseases associated with elk include brucellosis, chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis. Many diseases can be transmitted to other species including the Sitka black-tail deer and humans. Diagnostic tests do not exist or are not accurate enough to ensure a healthy animal for all diseases known to be carried by elk. The danger of disease and the difficulty in detecting a diseased animal have lead many other states and Canadian provinces to tighten their import and export regulations on game animals.

2. COMPETITION WITH SITKA BLACK-TAIL DEER: The long-term impact elk may have on deer in S.E. is unknown. Both species utilize similar forage and HABITAT, however, elk outweigh deer by several hundred pounds. During times of food shortage, it is likely that the deer will be pushed into more marginal areas. Because of their size, elk have more food sources available to them. They can reach higher and dig through deeper snow to forage and consequently are more likely to survive harsh weather. Deer tend to range vertically, grazing in alpine areas in the summer and moving down to the relatively snow-free low elevation old-growth forest in the winter. Elk, on the other hand, tend to stay in the lower elevations year-round, depleting deer forage critical to winter survival.

This problem is exacerbated by the fact that elk have been shown to degrade entire shrubs because of their ability to tear off and digest large woody stems. Deer, on the other hand, feed on smaller stems, which allows the integrity of

the shrubs to be maintained and the useful life of the shrubs prolonged.

Deer are more likely to be successfully hunted than elk (when and if a season is opened). Deer disperse in large areas singly or in pairs increasing the likelihood of being found whereas elk tend to herd. Over many generations, elk are likely to replace deer as the predominate ungulate in S.E. Alaska.

3. ELK TRANSPLANT IS A BAD USE OF STATE MONEY: During a session when rural school districts, senior centers, health clinics, child-support enforcement, public radio and a litany of other important state services are facing budget cuts, spending over \$1 million to transplant elk to benefit a few hunters seems frivolous at best.

Had we known these facts when elk were first brought to Etolin we would have opposed it then. No credible biologist has endorsed this plan -- in fact, AKF&G and the game board opposes it and has recommended keeping the Etolin and Zarembo population from spreading by allowing hunting on all other areas -- an idea we endorse.

Thank you for your consideration.

NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
Peter Branson	<i>P. Branson</i>	Po Box 2073, Wrangell Al
Jude Nutter	<i>J. Nutter</i>	P.O. Box 1618, Wrangell, Ak 99929
Alice Hanson	<i>Alice Hanson</i>	P.O. Box 1783, Wrangell, Ak 99924
Nel S Ellis	<i>Nel S Ellis</i>	Box 462, Craig, AK
Noah Hanson	<i>Noah Hanson</i>	Box 1783, Wrangell, AK
Burrell Brown	<i>Burrell Brown</i>	Box 231, Wrangell AK
Margaret R. Ford	<i>Margaret R. Ford</i>	Box 231, Wrangell, AK
STEVE REED	<i>Steve Reed</i>	Box 2035, Wrangell, AK
Teresa Reed	<i>Teresa Reed</i>	Box 2035, Wrangell, Ak.
Joel H. Hanson	<i>Joel H. Hanson</i>	Box 1783, WRANGELL, AK

## Alaska State Legislature

According to Robin Taylor there is no evidence supporting the claim that elk and deer will compete for the same food source, nor will the elk introduce any diseases to resident wildlife populations of Southeast Alaska. Mr. Taylor has not taken the time to contact the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game where in fact there is well documented evidence supporting why we should NOT introduce elk to Prince of Wales Island.

Biologists documented the movements and feeding behavior of elk on Etolin Island for a two year period. During this time the majority of the elk were found in the coastal fringes where the researchers found extensive browsing on blueberry bushes, plants which are very critical to winter deer survival. Elk also show high plasticity, which means they will eat anything from shrubs to conifers. On the other hand deer are much more selective and require much higher nutrient plants found in the forbes and sedges. When elk move through an area they will eat everything, this means a 71% overlap on food sources which causes a very severe food competition with the resident deer.

The potential for introducing devastating disease is enormous. The meningeal worm parasite is found in resident elk populations throughout the Western United States. This parasite targets the brain, and even though proponents claim each elk will be given a clean bill of health we have only a 50% probability of detecting the parasite. Even bovine

tuberculosis which is found in elk is not 100% detectable. The giant liver fluke is a flatworm which occurs in deer, elk, and moose. Although deer and elk can survive this infestation, moose do not. The flatworm will destroy the liver of a moose and eventually cause death. Elk can introduce this parasite. Do we wish to destroy the mainland moose populations?

On Vancouver Island, British Columbia elk were introduced to the endemic deer and wolf populations. Obviously the wolves prey on the smaller prey, the deer. However, as deer populations decline due to wolf predation the wolves turn to elk as an alternative food source. The wolf population remained stable and even increased, the last few remaining deer are taken along with the elk and finally the wolves starve.

Because of this evidence Alberta and British Columbia have installed moratoriums on any elk transplants. Do we have to make the same mistakes? I would think that any rational person can understand why we do not want elk on Prince of Wales Island.

Lewis Hiatt

P.O. Box 92

Crais, Alaska

99921

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER - TWS ON IMPORTING, TRANSPLANTING, AND RANCHING GAME IN ALASKA - PLEASE READ AND VOTE

DRAFT PROPOSAL - NOT YET VOTED ON BY MEMBER SHIP

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is dedicated to wise management of wildlife resources and their habitats. Alaska is unique in supporting native wildlife populations at historic levels over much of the state. These populations have great economic and cultural value to the state and its people as sources of food, fur, and revenue. Much of this value derives from wildlife being in its original, free-ranging condition where both consumptive and nonconsumptive users have access to this public resource.

English common law gave ownership of wildlife species to the ruler to be held in trust for the people. In reality, the only group that benefitted from this arrangement was the privileged class. In North America, free-ranging wildlife species traditionally have been held in common by the public. Private ownership of wildlife thus can only occur as authorized by government acting in the best interest of the people.

The Alaska Legislature has authorized private ownership of bison, muskoxen, and elk. Bison and elk are exotic (i.e., non-native) species that have been imported to Alaska and established as wild populations in several locations. Muskoxen were extirpated in Alaska in the 19th century and re-established in the wild with imported stock. Alaska also has an existing reindeer herding industry. Ownership of reindeer herds in Alaska is restricted to Alaska Natives by federal law, although non-Natives have challenged the law by importing reindeer from Canada. Recently, persons promoting game ranching as business ventures have proposed legislation authorizing private ownership of additional wildlife species, including moose.

Game ranching may have a place in some countries or regions of the world based on their unique conditions and institutions. In such situations, game ranching can provide an alternative to domestic livestock and may to some extent preserve the diversity and abundance of native ungulates. Alaska, however, has the opportunity to maintain its historic abundance of free-ranging wildlife species for the benefit of all its citizens without resorting to game ranching.

Game ranching or other private ownership of wildlife species threatens to diminish the abundance and quality of Alaska's wildlife resources. Wildlife species occupy the landscape regardless of land ownership, yet remain public property. It is common knowledge that commercial development of land often alters or eliminates wildlife habitat thereby reducing wildlife populations. The public may not realize that ranching or herding privately held wildlife may similarly reduce native wildlife populations through displacement, competition, disease, hybridization, poaching, and elimination of large predators.

Land occupied by ranches or herded game is land from which native wildlife species are excluded by fences or competition for resources. Habitat available for occupancy by free-ranging native wildlife is thus reduced, with concomitant reductions in their populations. Wild ungulates attracted to captive animals during the rut have been destroyed in several instances in other jurisdictions. In addition, there is no assurance that public lands would not be leased and fenced for game ranching. Public access to wildlife species for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses would be restricted by fenced ranges.

Importation and transportation of wildlife species poses the risk of spreading disease to free-ranging populations. Problems with disease have included bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in elk, bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) in elk, rangitenne brucellosis (*Brucella suis* biotype 4) in reindeer, and bluetongue in elk. Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis are transmissible to humans as well as to native wildlife. Other diseases and parasites potentially present in imported wildlife include anaplasmosis (*Anaplasma marginale*), meningeal worm (*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*), carotid artery worm (*Elaeophora schneideri*), and giant liver flukes (*Fascioloides magna*). Quarantine and/or veterinary treatment of imported, transplanted, and ranches game can reduce the risk of disease transmission to native wildlife, but these measures can fail if animals escape quarantine, if tests for disease are not foolproof, or if unscrupulous or lax individuals fail to adhere to proper procedures. Introduced parasites and diseases could diminish Alaska's wildlife populations.

Individual animals or groups of animals that are ranches or herded eventually will escape captivity through accidents or inadequate fencing or herd husbandry. For example, ranches elk have escaped captivity in Alberta, as have African ungulates in Texas and bison and reindeer in Alaska. Wildlife that escapes captivity poses the risk of contaminating the genetic integrity and fitness of Alaska's wildlife species.

through hybridization. Native wildlife populations exhibit particular genetic adaptations to their environments. For instance, Alaskan caribou have significantly longer legs than reindeer, an adaptation having important implications for escape from predators, energy costs of locomotion, and ability to move and forage in deep snow.

An established commercial market for game meat introduces an incentive for large-scale poaching of free-ranging wildlife species and for illegal sale of game meat. A poacher could sell poached meat to an unscrupulous game rancher to mingle with ranched meat from the same species or could sell directly to an unscrupulous retailer. Unauthorized live capture of wild ungulates to supplement ranched breeding stock could also occur. A very large regulatory network and force of inspectors for tracking the origin of game meat in the commercial market would be necessary to reduce the incentive for illegal take and sale of game. The resources to adequately accomplish this level of oversight of game ranching are unlikely to be available in Alaska.

Game ranching would jeopardize populations of large predators. In North America, large predators such as bears and wolves have been eliminated from most areas supporting significant concentrations of domestic livestock. Persons engaged in game ranching almost certainly would view predators as threats to their economic livelihood and would generate pressure to eliminate large predators from areas in which game ranching occurred.

In addition to considering the risks to Alaska's wildlife species posed by game herding or ranching, or by resource-management agencies importing or transplanting exotic wildlife, the public should contemplate the philosophical implications of reducing species currently held in common to the status of privately-owned domestic livestock. Traditionally, consumptive users of wildlife have had a strong vested interest in maintaining healthy, abundant, free-ranging wildlife populations. More recently, nonconsumptive users also have supported legislation and policies that maintain wildlife habitats. Although captive wildlife may serve an educational role by providing highly managed viewing opportunities to the public, ranched game is unlikely to generate the incentive for maintaining large, relatively unmodified ecosystems currently engendered by free-ranging, native wildlife species. Alaska's wildlife has local, statewide, national, and international importance. In recognition of this, and in the interest of maintaining these valuable resources for the enjoyment and use of future generations, the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society finds that:

1. Skillful, professional management is required to assure the future of wildlife resources in North America;
2. Wildlife species in North America have traditionally been considered common property of the people, and public ownership of wildlife has benefitted both the public and the wildlife resources;
3. Reindeer herding by Alaska Natives is an economic benefit to those communities where herding has traditionally and continually been practiced since inception of the industry;
4. Private ownership of wildlife has led to unfair chase harvesting, inhumane treatment of captive wildlife, illegal commercial trade in wildlife and wildlife body parts, and escape of captive wildlife and potentially will reduce habitat for wild ungulates, impair public access to wildlife, decrease numbers of ungulates in a wild setting, disrupt the genetic integrity of native wildlife populations, and cause extirpation of large predators;
5. Exotic wildlife species, and to some extent native wildlife from non-Alaska stocks, imported to Alaska and subsequently transplanted within Alaska by resource-management agencies, pose many of the risks identified for ranched game;
6. Commerce in wildlife without a uniform system of disease inspection has facilitated introduction and transmission of non-native diseases and parasites, including bovine tuberculosis and bovine and rangeliferine brucellosis; and
7. The presence of free-ranging, native wildlife species has strongly contributed to the maintenance and protection of large, relatively undisturbed natural ecosystems.

In support of the preceding findings, the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society specifically recommends that:

1. Reindeer herding be limited to ranges traditionally and frequently grazed since inception of Native herding in Alaska and not be expanded to other areas of the state;
2. Research on range management, veterinary medicine, nutrition, animal husbandry, meat processing, and marketing be applied to enhance the value and productivity of reindeer herds as an alternative to expanding the distribution of reindeer to additional areas of the state;
3. Private ownership of elk, bison, and muskoxen for game ranching currently authorized by Alaska law be

repealed, with provisions for protecting the interests of persons currently ranching or herding these species;

4. Private ownership of wildlife species be prohibited with the exception of zoos, research institutions, and educational facilities authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the purposes of public education, protection and propagation of endangered species, and scientific study, and with the exception that individuals authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may possess raptors for the purpose of falconry;

5. Pending repeal of Alaska law authorizing private ownership of wildlife species for game ranching, the industry should be fully regulated, including testing and certification of disease-free status to control interstate and intrastate spread of animal pathogens and minimize the potential of disease transmission to free-ranging wildlife populations, licensing of persons engaging in game ranching, mandatory tracing of animals and animal products in commercial trade, and comprehensive monitoring and enforcement of all relevant regulations;

6. Importation of exotic wildlife to Alaska, and transplantation of exotic wildlife within Alaska, by resource-management agencies for purposes of establishing free-ranging populations be prohibited; and

7. Transplantation of native species (e.g., muskox) within Alaska for wildlife management purposes be accomplished with stocks already present in the state rather than with imported stocks.

**Vote on Game Ranching Policy Statement**

\_\_\_\_\_ **SUPPORT** Policy Statement

\_\_\_\_\_ **DO NOT Support** Policy Statement

Comments:

Mail your vote along with your conference registration to Ellen Campbell, 9399 Rivercourt Way, Juneau, AK 99801. If there is overwhelming support for the position, it will be provided to key individuals in the Alaska Legislature, given that the issue is currently before them.

**DUES**

Dues for membership in the Alaska Chapter are a real bargain - only \$5.00. The mailing label on the front of this newsletter shows the last year for which your dues are "paid up." If your label shows "92," please send your dues (payable to Alaska Chapter, TWS) to Ellen Campbell, 9399 Rivercourt Way, Juneau AK 99801, or - better yet - pay when you send your registration for the annual meeting.



United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Resources, Community, and  
Economic Development Division

B-248037

October 21, 1992

The Honorable Alan Cranston  
United States Senate

Dear Senator Cranston:

As you requested, we examined the wildlife-cattle controversy taking place in the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park. This controversy centers on the possible transmission of the Brucella abortus organism from Yellowstone's free-roaming bison and elk herds to cattle grazing on lands outside the park boundary. The Brucella abortus organism causes brucellosis, a contagious disease that can cause abortions and infertility in domestic cattle.

Montana succeeded in eradicating brucellosis from its cattle herds in 1985, which allows Montana ranchers to transport their cattle to other states without first testing them for the disease. Ranchers who graze cattle near the Yellowstone Park boundary are concerned that brucellosis-infected bison and elk will transmit the organism to their cattle when the wildlife migrate outside the park boundary, thereby jeopardizing Montana's ability to freely transport cattle across state lines. The National Park Service's (NPS) policy is to not restrict the movement of the park's bison and elk populations. However, to reduce the risk of brucellosis transmission, the state of Montana has, since 1984, killed more than 1,000 bison that migrated across park boundaries into the state.

Concerned about the killing of bison, you requested that we gather information on (1) the scientific evidence that brucellosis can be transmitted from bison and elk to domestic cattle, (2) the economic damage that might be caused by such a transmission, and (3) the management alternatives for preventing or reducing the likelihood of such transmission.

## Results in Brief

Resolving this controversy is difficult because many questions remain unanswered about the actual risk that brucellosis transmission will occur. Although research has proven that the Brucella abortus organism can be transmitted from bison and elk to cattle in experimental conditions, the likelihood of transmission occurring in the wild is not clear. Several factors indicate that the risk of transmission in the northwest area of Yellowstone Park may be low. For example, the most recent study of

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Yellowstone bison showed that the Brucella abortus organism was found in about only 12 percent of the bison killed in the area. A study of 151 Yellowstone elk showed that the organism was found in none of them. Furthermore, NPS and Montana wildlife officials are unaware of any documented cases of brucellosis transmission from wildlife, including bison and elk, to livestock in the wild.

If, however, the organism is transmitted to cattle, several costs will be incurred, and the economic impact on Montana ranchers could be significant. According to federal rules, if a single cattle herd in a state that is free of brucellosis becomes infected with brucellosis, the herd must be slaughtered, and herds in the surrounding area must be tested to ensure the disease did not spread. If more than one herd is found to be infected, the state must implement a brucellosis testing program for certain cattle being sold within or outside the state. The test costs about \$2.50 per head, excluding the cost of roundup and handling. The Montana State Veterinarian estimates that the cost of testing cattle exported from Montana would have been \$438,000 in 1989.

Seven alternatives for managing the bison-cattle controversy are being developed by state and federal agencies. Alternatives being considered include establishing bison management areas outside the park (from which cattle would be prohibited) to provide winter range for bison; preventing bison from migrating from the park through various methods, including shooting; and attempting to eradicate the Brucella abortus organism, which would require trapping and testing bison, as well as slaughtering, neutering, or temporarily sterilizing them. A final bison management plan is expected to be available for public comment early in 1993.

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## Background

Yellowstone National Park, comprising 2.2 million acres of federal park land located in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, was established as the world's first national park in 1872. Surrounded by land managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service and some small, privately owned pockets of land, the park is part of the largest and most nearly intact ecosystem in the contiguous United States.

NPS, the Forest Service, and Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) are responsible for the management of the northwestern area of this ecosystem in which both bison and elk reside. NPS is responsible for resources located within park boundaries; the Forest

Service manages the habitat within forest boundaries; and MDFWP is responsible for supervising Montana's wildlife, fish, birds, waterfowl, and game and fur-bearing animals.

NPS operates the park under a policy of natural regulation that relies on natural processes to control wildlife populations to the greatest extent possible. In the fall of 1991, NPS estimated the bison population in Yellowstone to be approximately 3,000 head divided into three herds—the Lamar Valley, or northern, herd, consisting of about 500 bison; the Mary Mountain herd, consisting of about 2,000 bison; and the Pelican Valley herd, consisting of about 500 bison. According to an NPS official, about 30,000 elk reside in the park. Approximately 20,000 are in the northern range. Some of these bison and elk are known to be infected with brucellosis, which was first detected in Yellowstone bison in 1917 and in Yellowstone elk between 1931 and 1933.

Bison and elk are migratory animals that sometimes cross the park boundary. In recent winters, bison migrated from the park, primarily onto Montana's private and Forest Service land that borders the park on the north and west. Beginning in an exceptionally severe winter in 1975-76, the northern movement peaked during the winter of 1988-89, with most of the 900 bison then known in the northern range either leaving the park or foraging near the boundary. The bison migration to the west has occurred since the winter of 1981-82 but has been less extensive than the northern migration. Park officials are concerned that, as man's winter activities—such as snowmobiling—continue in the park, bison from the Pelican Valley herd will travel westward along snowmobile trails, thus increasing the number of bison migrating out of the western boundary. Reasons for the migration include the bison's natural gregariousness or herding instinct, acquired knowledge of new foraging areas, and increased population. Several maps showing bison migration patterns appear in appendix I. The northern elk herd also migrates from the park, generally following the same direction as the bison but at higher elevations. Also, elk are more likely to travel farther from the park.

Montana's livestock industry is concerned about the migration of bison—and, to a lesser extent, elk—across park boundaries because of the risk that the Brucella abortus organism will be transmitted to and infect the cattle grazing on land outside the park. In cattle, brucellosis can cause abortions of the first calf after infection, although subsequent pregnancies can be carried to full term. The disease may also cause the birth of unhealthy calves and infertility in both sexes. Natural transmission of the

Brucella abortus organism in cattle is primarily through ingestion of the organisms present in large numbers in aborted fetuses, membranes, and uterine discharge. Transmission can also occur when a cow comes in contact with feed or straw that has been contaminated by infected fetal tissues and fluids. The Brucella abortus organism can be transmitted to humans, most likely as they handle infected material when helping with the delivery of a calf. Brucellosis in humans is called undulant fever. It is characterized by severe and often chronic flu-like symptoms, including high fever, chills, joint pains, backache, and loss of weight and appetite. The disease can recur but is curable with antibiotics. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, fewer than 100 human cases of brucellosis are reported each year.

Brucellosis concerns cattle ranchers not only because of abortion, unhealthy calves, and infertility but also because USDA and the states regulate the transport of cattle and bison infected with or exposed to<sup>1</sup> the Brucella abortus organism, which can restrict the ranchers' ability to sell livestock. Since a national brucellosis control program was first instituted in 1934, more than \$3 billion in federal, state, and industry funds have been spent trying to eradicate the disease. As part of the eradication effort, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with state animal health authorities and the livestock industry, has developed uniform rules for controlling and eradicating brucellosis in cattle and bison. (These rules, however, do not currently apply to elk.) Under these rules, states are classified as class-free, class A, class B, or class C, primarily depending on the rate of brucellosis infection in livestock in that state. Interstate movement of cattle is restricted in all but the class-free states. In class A states, which have an infection rate of no more than 0.25 percent, exported cattle must be tested before interstate shipment. In class B states, which have an infection rate of no more than 1.5 percent, exported cattle must be tested both before and after interstate shipment. In class C states, which can have infection rates greater than 1.5 percent, exported cattle must be tested twice before and once after interstate shipment. As of May 1992, 29 states, including Montana, were class-free; 19 states were class A; 2 were class B; and none was class C.

NPS began efforts to reduce the likelihood of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle more than 20 years ago. Under various plans, NPS personnel have shot bison inside the park that approached specified boundary areas, hazed or herded bison back into the park; placed cattleguards and fences

<sup>1</sup>Exposed cattle and bison are those that are part of a herd known to be infected with brucellosis or that have been in contact with animals that are infected with brucellosis.

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526  
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

January 26, 1993

The Honorable Robin L. Taylor  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

FEB 00 4 1993

Dear Senator Taylor:

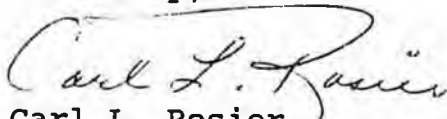
I am sorry for not getting back to Mr. DeWitt or you sooner, but the controversy which has developed since the fall meeting of the Board of Game has demanded constant attention. I had planned a meeting in November with Dave Kelleyhouse on the topic of additional elk introductions, but the wolf control controversy took center stage. That meeting has now been rescheduled.

I have recently been made aware of problems that have developed in southern coastal British Columbia as a result of elk introductions. These problems involve wolf-deer-elk predation which has driven deer populations to lower densities than had occurred previously in the absence of elk. Deer hunting opportunities have been lost and elk hunting opportunities have failed to compensate.

The original elk introduction to Etolin Island in Alaska has already resulted in inadvertent introduction to Zarembo Island. There may also have been inadvertent introduction of elk to Prince of Wales Island, but that has not been verified yet. In view of the undesirable situation in Canada and the relatively short time since the Etolin introduction, additional elk introductions should be approached cautiously.

I suggest that you, Dave Kelleyhouse, and I get together to discuss the topic soon.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier  
Commissioner

cc: Senator Fred Zharoff  
Representative Jerry Mackie  
Representative Bill Williams  
Rom Somerville  
Dave Kelleyhouse  
Dave Anderson  
Bob Dewitt

To: Alaska Legislators  
Re: Elk Transplants

The Sitka Conservation Society cannot support elk transplants, both for fiscal and biological reasons. There are many better uses for the money; the cost conceivably being over half a million dollars (based on the previous elk transplant expenses). We need to deal with the problems we have, rather than introducing new problems.

Biologically, there is too much potential for competition which will adversely affect deer, as well as potential disease introduction. Many transplants of new species worldwide have ended up with disasters so biological caution is well-justified. Evidence from Afognak Island that competition from elk is adversely affecting deer, plus the knowledge that elk and deer will eat the same food sources, should be heeded.

There seems to be a grave potential that ADF&G will have to make this project #1 in their budget, at great cost to their other operations, since their budget is inadequate anyway.

As a suggestion for better uses of the money: Many developing fisheries in Alaska are hampered by the lack of research money to answer even such basic questions as how many fish are there in the population. Until this question is answered appropriate quotas cannot be established, management must be conservative to protect the resource, and capital cannot be attracted to the fishery with an uncertain future. It seems to be the vogue in political circles to blame ADF&G for problems in the fisheries and to cut their budget. No one seems to realize that unless fisheries are well-managed, based on good biological research, the likelihood of a crash is high, which means everyone loses the capital they've invested in the fishery. Good management is the gateway to continued development.

Defeat this bill and support ADF&G in researching existing problems.

Sincerely,

*Page V. Else*

Page V. Else, President  
Sitka Conservation Society

*And since this is such an emotional issue  
we would like a teleconference on this issue.*

Juneau, Alaska  
March 28, 1993

Rep. Bill Williams  
Alaska Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Williams:

I hope you will not support the foolish initiatives that would have the Legislature manage game in Alaska. Of specific concerns are SB 43, requiring elk transplants on four more islands including Prince of Wales Is., and SB 77, promoting predator control.

Since statehood Alaska has developed a substantial tradition of good fish and game management. Part of that tradition is that the legislature does not do the managing. These new moves, if successful, combined with Hickel's often poor appointments to the Fish and Game boards, will have a destructive effect on that tradition. Fish and game management in Alaska is always a hot issue. If these bills pass, management by the legislature may become the rage, with Anchorage legislators leading the way and rural people and the natural scheme of things falling aside.

Sitka blacktail deer are a wonderful part of Southeast Alaska. I have lived in various parts of Southeast Alaska all my life, and I hunt deer, as do my husband and son. They can withstand considerable hunting pressure (witness Douglas Island) as long as their habitat is intact and roads are kept to a minimum.

Unfortunately, new Forest Service EISs for major timber projects predict a 75% decline in deer habitat in parts of Southeast Alaska, including Prince of Wales Island, as a result of logging (e.g. the Draft EIS for the Central Prince of Wales timber project). To that must be added the effects of very extensive roading, which increases hunter access to the remaining deer. It is incredible that the very legislators who support this mass destruction of wildlife habitat and more roads (e.g. Senator Robin Taylor) also favor introducing a competitor species. Robin Taylor wrote a column for the Juneau Empire in which he stated it is a "fact that elk, deer and moose appear to thrive in the logged areas of Southeast Alaska" (Juneau Empire 3/26/93). I have no information about the adaption of elk and moose, but numerous studies have shown that clearcuts are harmful to deer, as the Forest Service itself now recognizes. Clearcutting immediately reduces winter habitat, which is the critical point for maintenance of deer populations. Clearcuts do initially provide summer forage, but once the forest canopy closes in, perhaps 20 years after the cutting, even summer forage disappears. The forest is a thick mass of small trees and almost nothing grows on the forest floor for a century or more. Unfortunately, even tree thinning has proved to provide little improvement in the habitat quality of even-age second growth forests.

Although I am not opposed to predator control in all cases, I believe the predator control bill is also misguided, another bill sponsored by people who have no sense of the land and no idea of how our ecosystems work. It is also a program for urban and out-of-state hunters. Two unfortunate effects of its passage are likely to be further interference in Alaska game management by the Federal government and more boycotts of Alaska travel by tourists.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

*Judy Brakel*  
Judy Brakel

# Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

April 2, 1993

Representative William K. Williams  
Chair, Game Resources Committee  
State Capital Building  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

RurAL CAP is concerned about negative impacts to subsistence by the introduction of elk into Alaskan Coastal forests, which Senate Bill 43 would authorize. We see several possible adverse impacts to subsistence users.

First, biological and historical evidence warns that the introduction of species into areas where they are not or have not been indigenous poses extreme risks of introduction of diseases, such as brucellosis, and bovine tuberculosis, which could infect the native Sitka black tailed deer.

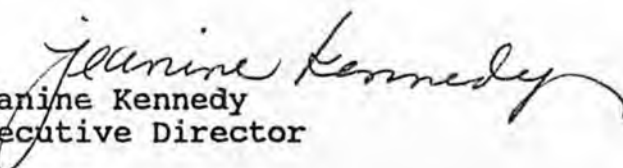
Second, the introduction of elk would cause competition with indigenous species with consequences of decreased populations of species dependent upon by subsistence users, in particular Sitka black tailed deer.

Third, if elk were introduced in Southeast, they would not be available for subsistence priority hunting since they are not a traditional subsistence species. This would create an unfair advantage to other users. There would be increased hunters in the field, coupled with diminishing numbers of indigenous species because of increased habitat competition.

Finally, transplanting elk could cost up to 1.25 million dollars. At a time when the legislature is contemplating large cuts to the ADF&G budget we cannot afford such costly and risk ventures.

We sincerely hope you and members of the committee will give careful consideration to the negative impacts Senate Bill 43 would have on subsistence users in Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

  
Jeanine Kennedy  
Executive Director

RESOLUTION NO. 93-12  
CITY OF CRAIG

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT FURTHER STUDIES BE  
CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF ELK TRANSPLANT  
ON INDIGENOUS SPECIES BEFORE ANY TRANSPLANTS ARE  
AUTHORIZED

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 43 as proposed by the Alaska legislature, mandates the transplanting of elk on Prince of Wales Island; and

WHEREAS, the transplanting of elk on Prince of Wales Island has not been studied to determine the effect that the introduction of a non-indigenous species would have on resident game populations, especially the Sitka Blacktail Deer; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Blacktail Deer is a subsistence animal for both residents and non-residents of Prince of Wales Island and has been an essential element to the subsistence lifestyle for centuries and continues to be essential to this day; and

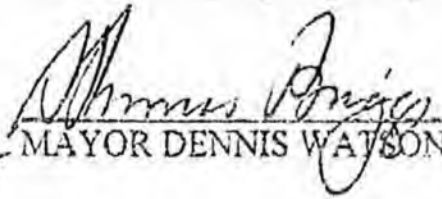
WHEREAS, it is not known whether the introduction of elk to Prince of Wales Island will have a long term negative effect on the Sitka Blacktail Deer population by reducing habitat through competitive browsing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the City of Craig requests that before any elk are transplanted on Prince of Wales Island, studies be conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to show conclusively that the introduction of elk will have no effect on the indigenous deer populations of Prince of Wales Island.

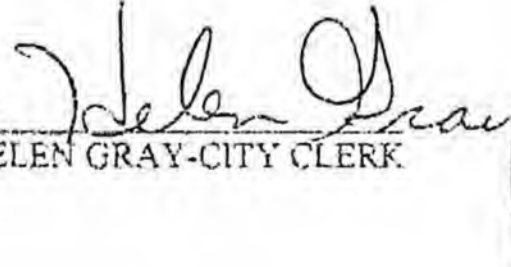
BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislature amend any legislation calling for the transplanting of elk on Prince of Wales Island to require the above mentioned studies and that transplanting is enabled to take place, not mandated, only after these studies conclusively show that the indigenous deer population on the Island is not placed at risk.

APPROVED

4-1-93

*for*   
MAYOR DENNIS WATSON

ATTEST

  
HELEN GRAY-CITY CLERK

93-67-BOG

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
RESOLUTION ON ELK IN SOUTHEAST**

WHEREAS elk are not native to Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS the introduction of exotics has resulted in serious wildlife problems throughout the world; and

WHEREAS studies in the Pacific Northwest have indicated that deer and elk use many of the same food plants, many of which are important for Sitka black-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS elk are larger than deer and have a relatively larger rumen, they are capable of utilizing lower quality food plants than Sitka black-tailed deer; additionally elk browsing can eliminate plants otherwise available to and necessary for deer; and

WHEREAS insufficient time and research have occurred to evaluate the implications of the 1987 Etolin Island elk transplant; and

WHEREAS elk on Afognak Island provide lower hunter opportunity and success and lower yield of meat than Sitka black-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS all exotic elk introductions to deer range in North America have resulted in habitat degradation and/or substantial reductions in deer numbers; and

WHEREAS disease and parasite transmission from introduced elk to native wildlife species has occurred elsewhere and is difficult to prevent or reverse; and

WHEREAS costs and staff time necessary for additional elk transplants reduce division opportunities for management of important native species; and

WHEREAS Department of Fish and Game management plans require that elk introduced to Etolin and Zarembo Islands be confined to those islands; and

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Alaska Board of Game opposes additional elk transplants into Southeast Alaska.



Richard Burley, Chair  
Alaska Board of Game

Adopted March 19, 1993  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Vote: 7 Favor and 0 Oppose

Carl L. Foster, Commissioner

Public Communications  
Box 3-2000  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2000  
(907) 465-4112



# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## NEWS

March 16, 1993

Contact: Bruce Dinnford 465-4369

ANCHORAGE -- In an effort to stem the spread of transplanted elk in Southeast Alaska, the Board of Game on Tuesday established a liberal hunting season in areas surrounding the transplant site.

Board members and Division of Wildlife Conservation biologists expressed concern that the spreading elk population could out compete the Sitka blacktail deer native to the deer.

Fifty Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain elk from Oregon were transplanted, by legislative edict, to Etolin Island in 1987. Almost immediately, some of the elk moved to adjacent Zarembo Island. About half of the transplanted elk died, most of them killed by wolves or bears. But the population rallied and has grown to an estimated 75-100 animals.

As the elk increased, they began moving to other nearby islands. Elk have been seen on Mitkof, Shrubby and Brushy islands. Under the management plan developed in conjunction with the transplant, any elk which left Etolin or Zarembo was to be eliminated or removed.

The hunting season approved by the board will be open year-round for either sex everywhere except Etolin and Zarembo. The regulation will go into effect July 1.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO  
 TO: Mandi @ (H) 225  
 DEPT: F&G FAX #: 2332  
 FROM: D. O'Shane PHONE: 6140  
 CO: FAX #: 3793  
 NO. OF PAGES: 2  
 7-17

The management plan calls for hunting to be allowed on Etolin and Zarembo when the population reaches 250.

Research in the Pacific Northwest indicates that elk and deer eat many of the same plants and that elk browsing leaves little for deer.

Because the elk are hard animals, they offer less hunting opportunity than deer which tend to be more evenly distributed. Afognak and Raspberry Islands, north of Kodiak, are the only other places in Alaska where elk exist. Elk hunting on Afognak and Raspberry is by permit only and the success rate runs about 16 percent. For deer, the two islands are open to general hunting and the success rate is about 85 percent.

In other action, the board expanded a one-buck registration deer hunt on Mitkof Island to include the Lindenburg Peninsula near Petersburg. Kuiu Island and the remainder of Kupreanof Island were opened for two bucks, the same bag limit in effect for Game Management Unit 3 south of Sumner Straits. The area was closed to deer hunting nearly two decades ago because of low deer numbers. But biologists say deer densities now are comparable to those on nearby islands and the mainland where hunting is allowed.

And the board authorized a registration permit goat hunt on part of Revillagigedo Island. No mountain goats existed on the island prior to 1981 when about 20 were moved there from elsewhere in Southeast Alaska. The population now numbers about 170. Twenty more goats were moved to a different part of the island in 1991, but they will not be subject to hunting.

10

# Elk

## Transplants from Oregon wandering wider than expected

By NIKKI MURRAY JONES  
Daily News Staff Writer

An elk carcass found on Farm Island in October 1993 shows the animals are spreading out from their Etolin Island home.

The cow carcass was located by Doug Larsen of the Ketchikan Alaska Fish and Game, who tracked its radio collar.

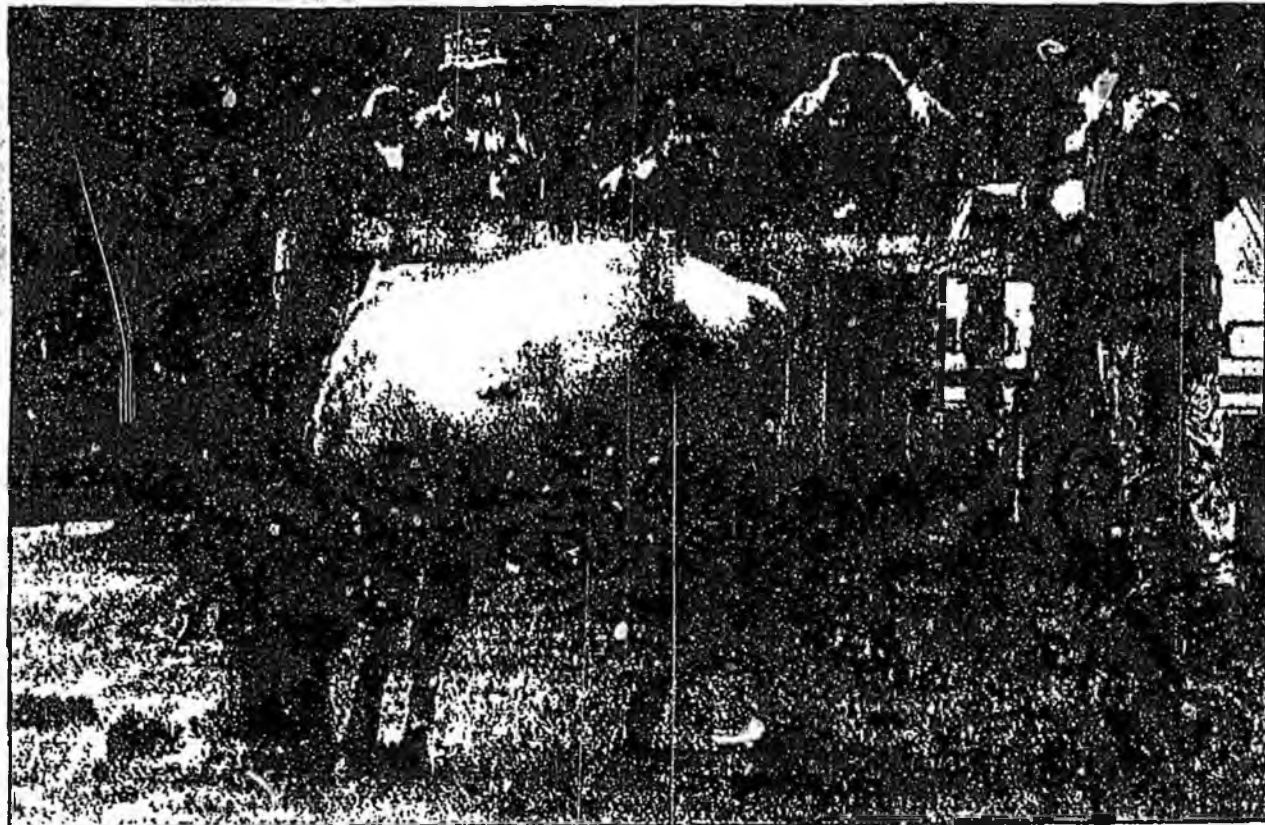
Petersburg biologist Charlie Land investigated and said it was a Roosevelt elk from the original transplant in 1987, according to Larsen, who is the Ketchikan Area wildlife biologist.

The find on Farm Island, at the mouth of the Stikine River, indicates the elk could be dispersing more widely than expected, he said.

Larsen said biologists aren't hearing any more collar signals because the life expectancy for the devices is four years.

"It's getting more and more difficult to locate the elk as radio collars go off the air," Larsen said.

The department transplanted 33 Roosevelt elk and 17 Rocky Mountain elk from the Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area in Oregon to Etolin to establish an



Roosevelt elk like this one presently at Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area in Jewell, Ore., were transported to Etolin Island in 1987.

Photo by The Associated Press

elk population in Southeast, said Larsen.

Ten elk wore radio collars, and three of the collars were operating as of October. He estimates the elk population is 100 to 150 animals.

Biologists tried to put three refurbished collars on the animals in January, but were unable to get to the elk, said Larsen.

He and Juneau biologist Vern Beier flew with Ketchikan Pulp Co. pilot

Allen Zink to Etolin.

They located a herd on the west side of the island, but the animals were in a heavily forested area. Biologists weren't able to bring the animals into the open to tranquilize them with darts, said Larsen.

Biologists also collected deer and elk pellets in January and will return to Etolin to collect more in February, March and April, said Larsen. The

pellets will be sent to Washington State University in Pullman for an analysis of animal diets.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, which provided 1993 funding for refurbishing the radio collars, is interested in the pellet study, said Larsen.

Representatives from Montana attending the North American Wildlife Conference in Anchorage, will stop off in Southeast to join biologists in March.

THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENTS  
ARE  
POOR  
ORIGINAL  
COPIES

## Elk Transplant

Dear Editor: The proposed transplant of elk to Kruzof Island merits comment.

The wildlife literature adequately describes the history of introducing various forms of flora and fauna over the face of the earth. An easy to read book titled "The Alien Animals," by George Laycock, summarizes many of the world-wide introductions. A publication of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game titled "Game Transplants in Alaska" describes the known transplants in Alaska. This publication is available for review at the Sitka Fish and Game office. Anyone who is interested in the amount of time, effort and money that has been spent on transplants should review these documents. These documents will provide insight as to why most wildlife professionals are opposed to transplants.

The reasoning behind wildlife introductions often boggle the mind. For instance, the European starling, a noxious bird that now occurs in all the United States (yes, here in Sitka, too) was released in New York by an admirer of Shakespeare who attempted to establish in America all the species of birds mentioned by Shakespeare. One of the more common rationales for transplants is simply that a species doesn't occur in an area. Another favorite is the desire for transplanted people to bring something along to remind them of home. Transplants for political gain are particularly perplexing to wildlife managers. Whatever the inspiration, most introductions have been failures or have resulted in adverse impacts to native flora and fauna. Unfortunately, there have been genuine successes to keep people inspired.

The idea of transplanting elk to Alaska dates back to the dark ages of wildlife management when it was thought that the way to wildlife abun-

dance was to kill off all the predators, not allow any consumptive use of females of most species, apprehend violators and, above all, transplant. A 1925 law enacted by the Alaska Territorial Legislature outlined a dazzling array of transplants that was to be conducted. Fortunately, that law has been repealed or we might still be trying to establish Siberian blue squirrels to the Seward Peninsula or mule deer to the Tanana Valley. However, many of the mandated transplants were undertaken and most failed.

There have been at least eight releases of elk in Alaska. Only the one to Afognak Island succeeded in establishing a population. That transplant took place in 1929, and the animals flourished for some years, reaching an estimated population of 1200-1500 animals by 1965. A major die-off reduced the herd to an estimated 450 in 1972. The herd rebounded from the lows of the early 1970s but in 1980 another downward trend began, which continues today. Was that transplant a success? Who knows! It is still too early to predict the success or failure of the more recent transplant to Etolin Island, and it is still too early to know what competition might develop between the exotic elk and the native Sitka black-tailed deer. One thing is known about that transplant however, and that is how much money and man-hours it cost, money and man-hours that could well have been spent on more rewarding activities.

As a wildlife biologist with over 30 years experience in Alaska, with the last 20 of those years being here in Sitka, I will readily admit that I do not know whether or not elk would compete with Sitka black-tailed deer on Kruzof Island. The published reports show that competition is a distinct possibility. An adult elk outweighs a deer by several hundred pounds so in times of nutritional stress when push comes to shove, a 100-pound deer would stand little chance when competing with an animal of similar food requirements 6-8 times its size. I know of no one in this area who is qualified to make a knowledgeable judgment regarding competition between elk and Sitka black-tailed deer either!

Competition can come in a variety of guises. Deer in the Sitka area are remarkably free of debilitating parasites and diseases. Being herd animals, which enhances transmission of diseases and parasite, elk are known to harbor a variety of parasites and diseases which might well be transmitted to our deer, even if the elk transplant is a failure. These conditions may or may not be detected by a cursory health examination.

While I can't offer learned observations on competition between elk and Sitka black-tailed deer, I do know that here in the Sitka area we are blessed with a favorable set of circumstances which provide us with the opportunity to enjoy one of the world's greatest big game animals, the Sitka black-tailed deer. Kruzof Island, together with remaining old-growth forest areas of Hoonah Sound comprise some of the finest Sitka black-tailed deer habitat in existence. These areas are easily accessible. Because of the high deer densities and ease of access, these areas are heavily utilized by Sitkans as well as residents of other communities.

I think it would be a biological irresponsibility of the greatest magnitude to transplant elk to Kruzof Island.

We have a known quantity on the black-tailed deer and it would be sheer folly to take any actions that might jeopardize this magnificent resource. I only hope the responsible managers of the wildlife (Alaska Department of Fish and Game), the habitat (U.S. Forest Service), and the good citizens of Alaska, will exercise their professional responsibilities and good judgment to not allow this transplant to take place.

I further hope that Sen. Robin Taylor will stick to those issues which an elected legislator should be dealing with. Frittering away money from a dwindling state coffer, while burdening the Department of Fish and Game with an ill-advised game transplant, is not one of those issues.

I urge those who are getting caught up in this issue to objectively review the history of transplanting plants, mammals, birds and fish over the face of the earth and the dismal record of failures it has produced. It is far better to maximize opportunities with those species nature has presented us with than it is to continue searching for something exotic that is hoped to be bigger and better. It is my hope that those persons who are promoting elk transplants would redirect their efforts to a more meaningful cause, such as attempting to discourage clear-cut logging on the remaining areas of outstanding Sitka black-tailed deer habitat, areas which will be receiving increasing interest for timber cutting in the next few years.

In the meantime, I will be happy knowing there is an outstanding and secure resource of Sitka black-tailed deer on Kruzof Island. If the urge strikes me to want to enjoy elk or mule deer or antelope or what have you, I will go to where those species occur.

Loyal J. Johnson, Sitka

# MY TURN

Juneau Empire  
3-16-93

## Elk transplant a bad use of state money

By LOYAL J. JOHNSON

I have learned that Sen. Robin Taylor is pursuing having 75 to 100 elk introduced to each of four locations in Southeast Alaska - Kruzof, Gravina and Prince of Wales islands and the Cleveland Peninsula. As a 20-year resident of Southeast with 30 years experience as a wildlife biologist, I would like to offer a few thoughts on this issue.

The reasoning behind wildlife transplants or introductions is often mind-boggling. For instance, the European starling, a noxious bird that now occurs in all of the United States, including Southeast Alaska, was released in New York by an admirer of Shakespeare who attempted to establish in America all the species of birds mentioned by Shakespeare.

One of the more common rationales for transplants is simply that a species doesn't occur in an area.

Transplants for political gain are particularly perplexing to wildlife managers. Whatever the inspiration, most introductions have been failures or have resulted in adverse impacts to native flora and fauna. Unfortunately, there have been some genuine successes to keep at least some people inspired.

The idea of transplanting elk to Alaska dates back to the dark ages of wildlife management when it was thought that the way to enhance wildlife abundance was to kill off the predators, apprehend violators and above all, transplant.

Transplants for political gain are particularly perplexing to wildlife managers. The idea of transplanting elk to Alaska dates back to the dark ages of wildlife management.

A 1925 law enacted by the territorial Legislature outlined a dazzling array of transplants that were to be conducted. Fortunately, the law was repealed or we might still be trying to introduce Siberian blue squirrels into the Seward Peninsula or mule deer to the Tanana Valley.

There have been at least eight releases of elk in Alaska. Only the one on Afognak Island in 1929 succeeded in establishing a population. Was that transplant a success? Well, in terms of establishing a population, it was. But if it was and is such a success, why are Kodiak biologists opposed to moving Afognak elk to Kodiak Island? I understand that it's at least partly because of concerns over direct competition with the established Kodiak deer population.

And what about the 1987 introduction of elk into Etolin Island? Is it considered a success? Well, following six years of monitoring the herd's status, biologists have concluded that elk have indeed become established on the island and have even dispersed to adjacent islands.

Does this establishment of elk equate with success? I would con-

clude that it's too early to say.

Based on Fish and Game's reported radio-tracking information and sightings, 75 to 100 elk are estimated to reside on and adjacent to Etolin Island. These few elk on more than 900 square miles of habitat would not be expected to result in noticeable conflict at present. However, as elk numbers increase, competition between elk and deer could become a concern.

Competition between elk and deer has been reported from areas where elk and deer coexist. An adult elk outweighs a deer by several hundred pounds, so during times of nutritional stress, a 100-pound deer would be at a distinct disadvantage for limited food.

This problem is exacerbated by the fact that elk have been shown to degrade entire shrubs because of their ability to tear off and digest large woody stems. Deer, on the other hand, feed on smaller stems, which allows the integrity of the shrubs to be maintained and the useful life of the shrubs prolonged.

I think it would be biological irresponsibility of the highest magnitude to transplant additional elk into Southeast when we don't even

know what the impacts associated with the Etolin transplant will ultimately be. We are fortunate in having a known quantity of Sitka black-tailed deer, and it would be sheer folly to take any actions that might jeopardize this magnificent resource.

It is far better to maximize opportunities with those species nature has provided us with than to continue searching for something exotic that is hoped to be bigger and better.

I wish that Taylor would stick to issues that an elected legislator should be dealing with and leave biological issues in the hands of professionals who have the training to make the best judgments about anticipated impacts.

I further urge members of the public to look into this issue and evaluate the legitimacy of spending ever-dwindling state dollars on ill-advised transplants that are opposed by wildlife professionals.

If there is a desire to spend money on elk, why not channel it into obtaining information about the existing elk on Etolin Island? Wouldn't it be better to spend a fraction of the anticipated transplant costs to obtain some insights about deer and elk interactions now than to look back 50 to 100 years from now and see just how good we really had it, or wish we'd been a little less zealous in our efforts to extend elk range in Alaska?

□□□□

Loyal J. Johnson of Sitka is a retired wildlife biologist.

# Senate OKs elk, moose, wolf bills

By IAN MADER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Senate has approved three bills that would tinker with nature to increase the amount of game available in Alaska for hunting, eating and viewing.

The bills would allow moose ranching, order state officials to import more wild elk into the state, and give the Game Board more authority to increase game stocks through "intensive management."

The latter measure does not mention wolves, but critics say it is a mandate for the board to order wolf kills to increase caribou and moose populations.

The bills passed Thursday largely on majority-minority lines and were to be sent to the House, pending possible reconsideration votes today. House Speaker Ramona Barnes, R-Anchorage, said it was too early to gauge House support for the measures.

Sen. Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell and sponsor of the elk bill, said the measures would add to the state's quality of life.

"Ask any Alaskan why he came to Alaska, and he'll say he came to hunt and fish," Taylor said. "You can't hunt if you don't have anything to hunt."

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'Ask any Alaskan why he came to Alaska, and he'll say he came to hunt and fish. You can't hunt if you don't have anything to hunt.'

— Sen. Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell

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'When you start getting into ranching animals, it definitely takes away from the characteristics that make Alaska unique.'

— Stephen Wells, Alaska Wildlife Alliance

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Recent declines in caribou in Interior Alaska prompted state officials to propose aerially killing some wolves, which prey on caribou. The idea was dropped after an international outcry and tourism boycott.

Many discouraged hunters said the state caved in to pressure from environmental and animal-rights groups in the Lower 48 states.

"I view all these bills as kind of a reaction to the state not having actively managed game," said David Kelleyhouse, director of the

state Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Conservation Division.

Kelleyhouse said the department supports the concept of intensive management contained in Senate Bill 77, but is opposed to some details in the bill. The department dislikes the elk and moose proposals, he said. SB 77 passed 11-8.

"I would much rather support the intensive management of our native species rather than bringing in exotic species or penning

and farming moose," Kelleyhouse said.

Elk are not native to Alaska and could seriously harm deer populations; bringing too many moose together in close quarters could breed diseases that could spread to the wild, Kelleyhouse said.

Manipulating the state's game stocks ought to be left up to experts, he said.

Elk already have been brought to Afognak and Kodiak islands in the Gulf of Alaska, and to Etolin Island in Southeast Alaska.

Taylor's bill, SB43, would require state officials to bring between 75 and 100 elk to each of four islands in Southeast: Kruzof, Gravina, Cleveland and Prince of Wales. It passed 12-7.

The moose-ranching bill, SB46, would allow moose to be corralled, raised and slaughtered commercially. Doug Welton, a Fairbanks-area man who has lobbied for the bill for the past two years, has said he would like to have live moose at his gift shop as a tourist attraction.

A similar bill passed the Senate last year and died in the House.

During lengthy Senate debates Wednesday and Thursday, Democratic senators tried unsuccessfully to amend the bills to limit their effects.

# JUNEAU EMPIRE

FRIDAY  
March 19, 1993

'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'

PERS CORP.

JUNEAU, ALASKA

20 PAGES, 3 SECTIONS

## Game Board relents, protects elk

By IAN MADER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After an appeal by a state senator, the Board of Game has reversed its decision to allow hunters a shot at transplanted elk that have strayed from Etolin Island in Southeast Alaska.

The state board on Tuesday had unanimously authorized the elk hunting season to protect Sitka blacktail deer, which compete with the elk for food.

On Thursday the board voted 4-3 to reverse that decision after an appeal to Fish and Game Commissioner Carl Rosier by Sen. Rob-

in Taylor, R-Wrangell, who wants the state to move more elk to the region.

Rosier said today he advised board members to reverse their decision after hearing from Taylor.

The board's earlier decision would have provided an elk season for any areas of the region except Etolin and Zarembo islands. Board members were concerned that the spreading elk population would displace the native deer. The estimated 75 to 100 elk in Southeast are not native to Alaska.

The earlier announcement was

seen as politically damaging to a bill of Taylor's that would force the state to import up to 400 more elk to four other islands in Southeast.

"He felt that the board basically was deciding state policy in competition with the Legislature," Rosier said. "Several of the board members were upright about this.

"The Game Board should certainly be part of that process. But on the other hand nobody wants to get crosswise with the Legislature."

Taylor says elk, with their majestic antlers, are a favorite

among hunters who live in his district. The Senate passed the elk transplant bill last week and sent it to the House.

Rosier said the board decided to wait and see what kind of support the elk bill has in the House before making any further decisions on elk hunting.

The state Department of Fish and Game adamantly opposes bringing any more elk into the state until long-term studies determine whether they are a serious threat to deer and the region's ecology.

Board members were meeting

at an Anchorage hotel and could not immediately be reached for comment.

Taylor said he was pleased with the reversal. He said the original decision was based on bad information supplied by Fish and Game biologists. Taylor said biologists have been feeding the board biased information to pursue their own agendas.

"The same people who led the board down the primrose path on the elk, they're the same people who led the board down the path on the wolves," he said.

Please turn to Elk, back page

### Cleanup OK'd at oil tank



### Senate OKs control over car brokers

be addressed," Duncan said.

But Senate Majority Leader Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell, said it's difficult to get anything done in a legislative session that's been marked by so much name-calling and mistrust.

"Things have been so strident down here from Day 1 that there has been very little communication between the majority and the minority," Taylor said.

The Hickel administration is staying out of the debate.

"We are waiting to see what the Legislature comes up with, and also want to see what President Clinton does on a national basis," said state Health and Social

ward writing their own plans rather than wait for federal action.

Last week, the Washington state Senate approved one of the nation's most ambitious programs to control costs and guarantee medical care for everyone.

Some Alaska legislators want action here, too. They contend home-grown plans will do the best job of solving the state's problems. And they argue that Clinton is unlikely to impose any federal solution on a state making an honest effort at reform.

Others argue that if the state moves too fast, Alaska might be out of step with national changes.

The Legislature is expected to have two plans from which to choose. The first, developed by the state task

force, would negotiate discounted services from doctors and hospitals, then extend coverage to all Americans.

The task force plan would guarantee coverage to all Alaskans through a state system that probably would contract with a single private insurer and would limit payment to doctors and hospitals, in effect rationing health care.

The second plan comes from Alaska doctors, hospitals and others involved in providing health care.

Their plan calls for a "pay or play" system where employers either provide insurance or pay a penalty tax to the state to finance universal coverage. Doctors, hospitals and insurers would be forced to limit their fee increases.

## Elk...

Continued from Page 1

The Game Board, whose members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature, sets policy for state game management.

"They realized there was probably some educational information they needed and didn't have when they made the first decision," Taylor said.

The Legislature in 1986 approved a Taylor bill to transplant 50 elk from Oregon to Etolin Island near Wrangell, over the objections

of state biologists. At first many of the elk were killed by wolves and bears. But now they are thriving and migrating across shallow waters to other islands.

Taylor says deer and elk coexist fruitfully on Afognak and Raspberry islands near Kodiak, the only other places in Alaska where elk live. Federal officials brought elk and deer there in the 1920s.

But Bruce Dinneford, a manager with the Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Conservation

Division, said those islands are different cases because both species were transplanted there. The area has been closed to deer hunting for nearly two decades because of low deer numbers.

Studies by Canadian officials have shown that elk regularly out-compete deer for food on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Dinneford said. Fish and Game is also concerned that any new transplants could bring disease and parasites to Alaska, he said.

"She has such a calming effect on the children and a genuine caring. She would work one-on-one with children who wanted to do a special game or special reading," Wilbur says.

Janes would often go to the library to pick out books that would be of interest to a particular child, Wilbur says. "She always went the extra mile to show caring toward the individual child."

Schelle says she, too, is impressed by Janes' ability to tune in to the needs and interests of young people.

"She is concerned with more than just helping (Mark) with academics. She is looking toward his future and thinking of how to nurture his interests and abilities.

"That is a rare gift."

And going the extra mile is a gift that seems to keep Janes not only looking young, but highly energetic.

She went back to college to get her teaching credentials at age 40, after raising her three children. Janes majored in history — a subject she still enjoys teaching to Mark.

"I stop a lot to discuss things with him," she says of her teaching style. "Mark is very interested in American history. Sometimes we also talk about the different problems people have in the world today."

Janes admires her foster grandson's interest in architecture and his observations of color and art. "He has a lot of talents."

And Mark's admiration for Janes is clearly evident in the way he describes what he most admires about his tutor. "She is more active than a lot of people her age. She skis, hikes, goes boating. She is a real active outdoors person."

Ginny Gerber also admires Janes' energy and involvement as a teacher.

"I work, take care of my family, and I teach Mark and I sleep," Gerber says, "but Peggy makes sure she exercises every day and she has her church activities."

## Tank...

Continued from Page 1

"We can take whatever actions are necessary to remove the threat of a pollution incident in the waters of the U.S.," he said.

A contractor is expected to re-

move the water that lies on top of the heavier fuel oil, then mix the oil with wood chips to make it easier to take out and burn. Rome said the tank will be steam-cleaned after it is empty and soil around the tank will also be re-

moved.

Keen had offered several proposals to clean up the property, and Rome said it would be preferable for the owner to do the work but that Keen's proposals were inadequate.

## Health...

Continued from Page 1

Everything above that point would be covered; everything below would not.

"In an ideal world you'd like to cover everything," Wyden said today, adding that the state plan would "concentrate on keeping people well."

income of \$991 for a family of three. Single men and women without children also would be covered for the first time.

Critics say the plan amounts to health rationing for the poor. But advocates say too many deserving residents living below the poverty level receive no Medicaid cover-

tended to try to block the program in Congress.

Waxman, chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees Medicaid, said he would not oppose the plan as long as the state comes up with enough money so that further reductions in benefits can be avoided.

## Bible ban asked

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — A book lover raised Cain when he tried banning the Bible from public library shelves.

James Petersen says he has no complaint with the Good Book. He chose it to make a point that banning books is bad — period.

"My intentions were not to hurt, to insult or to degrade anyone's faith," Petersen said Wednesday at the Fairbanks North Star Borough library advisory commission unanimously voted to keep the Bible.

A security guard was hired specially for the meeting after officials reported some threatening phone calls. There were no disturbances.

Petersen said he filed the complaint, which called the book obscene and pornographic, after some residents last year supported banning a comic book that depicted violence and sex.

The library board retained "Billy Budd, KGB" but urged limited access. Patrons must request the book from the reserve desk.

## Yukon mines get support

JUNEAU (AP) — The Yukon government has offered to back a \$29 million loan to Toronto-based Curragh Resources to keep two mines operating and nearly 800 miners working.

The loan guarantee would go toward developing a new ore deposit at one of the company's two Yukon mines, which export the ore through the port at Skagway in Southeast Alaska.

The loan would be worth about \$23 million in U.S. dollars.

Curragh has temporarily laid off almost 600 of 800 employees at the zinc and lead mines near Faro and Watson Lake, Yukon. The mines represent the largest non-government employer in the Yukon.

Conditions for the loan guarantee include that the money only be used for the Faro mine, that the company close one of its

mines in British Columbia, and that its headquarters be moved to Whitehorse, Yukon.

Lyle Drown, a spokesman for the Yukon government, said that some conditions were negotiable.

The loan guarantee is a major risk for the 30,000 residents of the Yukon, Drown said. "We are talking enormous dollars for a government of our size."

Curragh, whose officials did not return a phone call for comment, has said it is seeking up to \$50 million for the Yukon mines.

Low zinc and lead prices were a primary factor in the financial troubles of Curragh. They also have claimed the Greens Creek mine on Admiralty Island, which plans an indefinite shutdown in April.

The Greens Creek closure will put 230 miners out of a job.

## Rules won't impact mines

JUNEAU (AP) — The Clinton administration's proposed reforms of the Mining Act of 1872 probably would not affect the Alaska-Juneau or Kensington gold mines, government and industry officials say.

If Congress follows recommendations of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, gold extracted from federal lands would be taxed at a royalty rate as high as 12.5 percent.

The A-J mine is on private, city and state land. Some of the Kensington mine would be on U.S. Forest Service land. But the ore is on land patented at the turn of the century, which means it is privately controlled and would not be affected, said John Kato of the federal Bureau of Mines.

Babbitt also has urged an end to patenting fees as low as \$2.50 an acre.

The changes would apply only to lands patented in recent years.

Miners say a 12.5 percent royalty would hobble the industry, while reformers say the

industry would only be paying its fair share for public resources.

Steve Borrel, executive director of the Alaska Miners Association, said the Clinton administration bills would make it unfeasible to mine about 40 percent of the proven mineral reserves on federal land. U.S. investment would flee to other countries more receptive to mining, Borrel said this week.

Minerals recovered from federal lands are not taxed under the mining law, though companies pay corporate income taxes on profits associated with those minerals.

David Stone, spokesman for Kensington partner Echo Bay Alaska Inc., said other proposed reforms to the mining law may change the way the company does some things, but will not significantly affect the project.

Borrel said the two Juneau projects should not see any major effects unless the developer finds their ore extends into unpatented, federal land.

# Board of Game reverses itself, will not allow longer elk season

By SCOTT HOWLEN  
Daily News Staff Writer

By a 4-3 vote Thursday, the Alaska Board of Game rescinded its Tuesday establishment of a liberal hunting season for elk in the Sitka area near the original Southeast Alaska Wildlife Refuge.

Fifty elk were originally transplanted to Sitka Island in 1987 by legislative action. Some elk moved to Zarembo Island, adjacent to Sitka.

After the original number was almost halved by predators, the population grew to the present estimated 75 to 100 animals. Elk have been seen on Mitkof, Shrobbly and Busby islands.

On Tuesday, the game board voted

7-0 to approve an open, year-round hunting season for elk of either sex on any Southeast island except Sitka and Zarembo.

Reasons given for the action by board members and Division of Wildlife Conservation biologists was that the elk population was spreading and could out-compete the Sitka Blacktail Deer already native to the islands for food.

But the game board reversed itself during its meeting in Anchorage Thursday morning. The board first voted 6-1 to reconsider the elk hunt, according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game spokesman Michelle Syteman. The board then voted 4-3 to rescind the hunt.

Syteman and other Fish and Game spokespersons were unable to give detail as to why the issue was reconsidered. Fish and Game Commissioner Carl L. Rosier could not be contacted for comment.

However, Sen. Robin Taylor R-Wrangel, said that public comment after Tuesday's announcement was "incredible" and played a part in the reversal.

"People were absolutely aghast," he said.

Taylor, an outspoken critic of the elk hunt, said that the purpose of the hunt was "the complete and total eradication" of elk from the area. He also said that the concept of competition for

forage between elk and deer was unfounded.

The Department of Fish and Game press release announcing Tuesday's elk-hunt decision cited Pacific Northwest research indicating that elk and deer do share common foods and that elk browsing leaves less for deer.

But Taylor said that elk and black-tailed deer have co-existed on Alaska's Afognak Island since 1927. The elk eat different things at different elevations than the deer, he said.

"There are 10 times more Sitka black-tailed deer on Afognak than elk," Taylor said.

A combination of information and public comment brought the board to

rescind the hunt, Taylor said. They at last had the information they had to consider.

## Alaska brief

### Far 'local' bidder?

FAIRBANKS (AP) — The city's definition of "local bidder" may allow a bidder with headquarters in Anchorage

contract if officials declared Gaston a local vendor.

BRC officials say Gaston has three temporary office at work sites in the

win the contract to build the hospital, despite the slightly higher bid.

The preference rule allows the city

to pay as much as 5 percent or \$50,000 more for a contract if the winning bidder isn't a local business.



## Adopt-A-Pet

# ANIMAL PROTECTION

### Ketchikan Gateway Borough

**Cats**

1. 6 year old declawed neutered male grey short hair named Smokey.
2. 6 month old male short hair orange Tabby named Terrance
3. Adult female long hair Calico.
4. Adult female short hair Calico.
5. 5 month old female grey short hair.

languishes  
mainstream  
neighbors

March 9

# Letters to the editor

KDAI 3/19/93

## Longevity

EDITOR, Daily News:

Cutting off the Longevity Bonus would be a disaster to many. Mostly the hand the wields that are legislators, the governor's administrative workers have no worry about their future. They will draw retirement pay and Social Security and other stipends for being been employed by the State government. Quite a few senior citizens do not earn retirement benefits. In fact, we are barely surviving because of the rapidly rising cost of living. Dear Governor and Legislators, find a way to continue to give the longevity Bonus to people who dearly depend on it!

In the national arena, they are propping to swing the ax on Social Security beneficiaries. Those beneficiaries have earned their Social Security and need it for existence.

Why don't we look at waste in big government spending. Aide to foreign countries alone is a sickening project. These aides are supposed to help foreign countries develop. Fraud and mishandling takes over, losing billions of U. S. taxpayers' accumulated funds.

In my own small program funding, I have to produce evidence that I have produced something using the first half of funds received, before I can get remaining funds for my Cultural Education Program.

A few years ago I applied for funds to build a canoe — don't laugh. My grandfather did not ask for funds to build the canoe he used to paddle to Alaska. Anyway, the builder of the canoe for Tsimshian Cultural Education in 1980 had to show proof that he had completed one-third of the structure and only then could he draw one-third of his contract earnings. When he was two-thirds done he drew the

other one-third when finished he was given the entire contract funds. Why can't the big U. S. government do the same thing? For each million dollars spent by foreign countries, they should show proof that said million was used for the purpose intended!

The surest way to show faith in campaign promises by President Clinton, of course, is to cut his own salary and advise Congress to do likewise. That way people wielding axes will show proof that "I have cut my own income; I can cut spending even if it hurts you."

The cutter should show that he can take the cut before others suffer.

Amen.

RUSSELL HAYWARD  
Metlakatla

## Whose failure?

EDITOR, Daily News.

As (1) the loving parent of a very sincere hospital employee and (2) as a member of the hospital's governing board my motive in questioning the general tenor of your recent Publisher's Corner column about the deplorable drug tampering problem at Ketchikan General Hospital may well make you consider my views doubly suspect. Further, I am well aware of the old cliché about the futility of arguing with anyone who buys ink by the barrel. Nonetheless what's fair is fair.

Your Publisher's Corner article was headed "The failure to disclose" and goes on to state that the Daily News' former publisher serves as a member of the hospital's advisory board. I understand that at its regular meeting following the hospital administration's gaining knowledge of the tampering problem, this matter was brought to

the attention of the advisory board and it was discussed openly and at length. Either the former publisher did not attend that meeting of the advisory board in which case your column might more aptly have been headed "The failure to attend" or, if he were there and missed the importance of what was being discussed, the column could have been headed "The failure to listen."

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace recognize the importance of serving well the medical needs of each community in which they have a presence. The Sisters place great reliance on input from their advisory boards and attempt to obtain members in a manner that represents a good cross-section of each community. By their very nature, the advisory board members represent their community. There is plenty of blame to hand out over this catastrophe. I do not believe you are being fair to heap all of it on the administration of Ketchikan General Hospital.

There are a thousand things that quietly go right at KGH for even one thing that goes wrong. Perhaps your future reporting will recognize this positive ratio of one thousand to one. Your good article in this morning's paper about the arrival of Dr. Herron would represent a fine start.

Very truly yours,  
WALTER M. SHUHAM  
Ketchikan

## Bias, biology

EDITOR, Daily News:

Surprise, Surprise, the ADF&G biologists are against transplanting elk. Your Wavemaker article on March 11,

1993 regarding elk transplants once again displays the illogical and preservationist bias of our ADF&G biologists. In this particular instance the so-called "expert" states that ADF&G doesn't recommend transplants and vaguely threatens that, depending on how old we are, we may see the results in our lifetime! He then rambles on to say that wolves kill deer more than they kill elk, and that the habitat couldn't support both elk and deer in high numbers.

Let's not forget that deer and elk have lived together over most of the Western United States for many centuries. And thanks to a transplant program that took place many years ago, elk and deer have lived together on Afognak Island for more than 60 years. Elk hunters are limited on Afognak by a permit system. If elk numbers rise to undesirable levels they can easily be controlled by hunting, especially since elk are herd animals.

One would hope that ADF&G would offer scientific advice on "what areas would be best suited for elk transplant," or perhaps even something about "what habitat conditions are preferable to sustain a healthy, viable herd while sustaining and enhancing the biological diversity of the area." Dream on.

The real point of this letter is that once again we have been shown that the ADF&G biologists have a preservationist bias and prefer to block or discourage any development or management of our natural resources. Why do we keep funding those obstructionists, and reducing funding for hatcheries and other enhancement projects?

Sincerely,  
DONALD C. HARBOUR  
KETCHIKAN

uk's war novel  
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March 18, 1993

Senator Robin Taylor  
Room 30  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Senator Taylor,

To follow up my phone call to your office on March 16th concerning S.B. 43.

First I am wondering where the public input supporting this Bill came from. I have, myself, just recently been made aware of the Bill at a Prince of Wales Advisory Council meeting. The P.O.W. Advisory Council represents all the communities on Prince of Wales Island. Only one of the representatives at this meeting was aware of S.B.43, and all of the membership present were flabbergasted that this measure had passed through the Senate without our comments. (Also notable, those present were opposed to introducing elk to Prince of Wales).

Since learning of S.B.43 I have questioned sport and personal use hunters in Craig and have yet to find any support for the Bill. All those I have talked with firmly believe that the addition of elk to this area can only bring harm to native deer population.

I also see no fiscal note attached to this legislation, it would no doubt be substantial. Senator, there are many on going and proposed projects and programs in this area where this kind of money would be a lot better spent. I strongly urge that S.B.43 be reconsidered and at the very least that Prince of Wales Island be deleted from its text.

Sincerely,

Dennis Watson, Mayor  
City of Craig

cc: Senator Zharoff  
Representative Mackie  
Representative Williams  
Senator Halford  
Representative Barnes

Mary  
I'd can not tell you how surprised  
(not pleasantly) that P.O.W. residents were  
that this Bill passed through the  
Senate.

If the Senate chooses not to reconsider  
it is my hope that the House will take  
a more serious look at this issue before  
taking any action.

The biological and environmental implications  
of this Bill are extremely far reaching  
and deserve more consideration than they  
have been given.

Please pass these concerns along to the  
Representative. Also you might try and  
dig up some info on what happened to  
Afganah deer paper and when elk were  
introduced.

Thanks  
Cindy

# Just whose Alaska is this, anyway?

JOHN BALZAR  
ANCHORAGE TIMES

**F** AIRBANKS - In their own rendition of the age-old wheeze about there being two kinds of people in the world, Alaskans tend to make the life this way: There are Alaskans, God love their hardy souls, and there are the Outsiders. For the most part, this is a carefree tradition. Visit Alaska and people here will try to tell you, ha ha, moose droppings glued onto your souvenir swizzle sticks. But they remain respectful enough to capitalize the description "outsiders" in their newspaper columns and letter correspondence.

Which was fine as long as Outsiders remained docile. But some of them haven't been, and Alaskans have grown plenty edgy about it this winter.

There was, for example, the reaction by Outsiders when the state said it wanted to kill some of its wild wolves, thus increasing its moose and caribou herds, which in turn could be shot by Alaska hunters. State officials might as well have suggested igniting an A-bomb over a national forest to help Alaskans down firewood, so

popular was the idea in the Lower 48.

To its shock, the state found the furor was so great that it felt obligated to postpone the wolf kill for further study. In the process, many Alaskans felt their grip weaken on one of their most prideful prerogatives, the management of Alaska's wild animals and lands.

Some Alaska leaders believe the episode has altered the terms of the debate over a broad, basic question: Who will chart the future for America's last unplundered wild? And for what end? Will it be the nation acting for all Americans? Or Alaska on behalf of Alaskans?

Because federal taxpayers hold deed to 60 percent of Alaska's territory, this kind of us-vs.-them friction has put heat to public policy debates here before. But not with the intensity of the wolf-kill and certainly not with the resulting split in Alaska's mighty business and development interests.

Alaska has spent years pursuing expansion of its basic commercial industries: tourism, logging, mining, fishing and energy production. Generally, the leading politicians and institutions of Alaska seemed in agreement that expansion in all these areas was compatible and in the state's best interest.

But the plan to kill 300 to 500 wolves each year for five years did something that nothing else has: The \$1.1 billion travel business, Alaska's No. 3 employer after government and seafood, suddenly broke ranks and said it may no longer share the same vision of Alaska's future as the natural resource industries.

Not only that, tourism leaders demanded a say in wildlands management decisions from now on. Why? Because thousands of Americans heard of the wolf kill and wrote, telephoned and faxed their protest and many of them promised not to travel to Alaska. Animal rights groups followed with an organized call for a tourism boycott.

Gov. Walter J. Hickel said that his office received calls and correspondence from 20,000 Americans, virtually all with the same point of view.

Don't kill the wolves, the Outsiders pleaded. Don't play God and favor one animal over another. Can't one place be left wild? We're going to New Zealand, bye.

Hickel responded by suspending the wolf kill for 1993. The state Game Board will meet again in June, hoping the furor will have cooled.

Please see Alaska, back page

## Alaska...

Continued from Page 1

that time, the whole idea of what Alaskans call "predator control" will be brought to a vote again.

At a recent state-sponsored "wolf summit" in Fairbanks, Tom Garrett, a backcountry guide and member of the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association explained the impact of Outsider protests on the travel industry:

"Whenever people talk about developing or exporting Alaska's resources, they talk only about mining, oil and gas, timber and fisheries. Everyone involved with managing Alaska's resources needs to realize that the resources they are managing are the critical elements of Alaska's tourism industry.

"And altering the resource, whether it is by cutting trees, hunting the bears, mining the land or shooting the wolves, will - I don't say might - will have some impact on tourism."

The big steamship and tour bus companies joined in the outcry.

Environmentalists called it a watershed in modern Alaska.

"What you see happening is the tourism business coming to life as never before as players in the management of natural resources. And the reason is simple: It has a direct bearing on the success of the industry," says Allen E. Smith, Alaska regional director of the Wilderness Society.

But countervailing pressures within the state - pressures to thin out the wolf packs and to develop the wild for the sake of Alaskans - run powerful and deep. And protests from wolf fanciers, environmentalists and the tourism industry seemed only to fuel this rage.

Indeed, the dispute highlights what is undoubtedly one of the greatest cultural gulfs in America - that between space-squeezed urbanites in the Lower 48 and sub-Arctic sourdoughs and natives who live close to the land here in the Last Frontier. So far, it is worth noting, these two divergent sides have almost no sympathy, patience or understanding for each other.

"We have the right to care for this land according to our knowledge of the north. That right must not be trampled, or there will be trouble," the governor told Alaskans recently.

## Elk transplant legislation is a bad idea for Southeast

Dear editor:

I would like to voice my agreement with Loyal Johnson's recent My Turn column regarding the inappropriateness of the elk transplant to Southeast.

Elk are not indigenous game and require abundant grass and leafy plants for survival. Large numbers of the first batch brought

to Etolin Island died of starvation. They were almost domesticated, being from Jewell Wildlife Meadows, where I grew up in Oregon - they were on a protected refuge and fed hay. One of the biologists involved in the transplant couldn't understand why the elk just stood there after being released until I explained to him they were waiting to be fed.

Since there is minimal feed here for these large animals, they compete with the deer - and together neither can be successful.

Another concern is the cost. \$250,000 per year for five years with three additional employees is not a wise use of state funds. This is not necessary spending. It is only for the hunting pleasure of a few in Wrangell Sen. Robin Taylor's district.

I urge people to request that this bill not go any further.

L.K. Larsen

Douglas

JE 3/23/92

## Elk transplant legislation bad for Alaska and the elk

Dear editor:

I am compelled to inform Sen. Robin Taylor that my attraction to Alaska is in no way related to hunting and fishing. He could assume that wildlife, wilderness and exquisite mountains lure me to explore this state. I am in good company and enjoy the friendship of many people in Southeast who do not hunt or fish.

My home before Alaska was the Olympic Peninsula of Washington. I have observed elk herds there hundreds of times and have hand-raised them at a wild animal reserve. They frequent grassy meadows along rivers.

Years ago, the Rocky Mountain goat was introduced to the Olympics and quickly began to thrive. In time, the peninsula's revenues from the logging industry waned and tourism dollars were courted. The mountain goats accommodated most visitors with the close-up pose for a wide-angle lens. People loved to see them.

But the goats foraged on a rare plant and park officials pronounced sentence upon the goats to save the plants. Surely the tourists would still visit without the goats and in spite of the clear-cuts. Several thousands of dollars were spent on research, goat sterilization, goat transportation by helicopter and in final frustration, hunting of the goats by park rangers was allowed. The ultimate fate of an introduced species - death.

Loyal Johnson wrote a sound letter to the editor based on 30 years as a wildlife biologist. Taylor could learn from Loyal's wisdom.

My questions to Taylor are: What are the catch, cage and transportation costs to Alaskans? What is the budget for this project? Where do the funds come from? What do the elk cost? Who owns them? What is the emotional, psychological and physical payment the elk must pay? Will they be drugged for the journey? If so, what are the recurring effects of

the drug?

What mortality rate do you expect for the massive stress endured by the elk? What parasites and other diseases will the elk introduce? How will the eating habits of the elk affect their new neighborhood? How many deer will be displaced?

I worked at a wild-animal establishment for eight years and am familiar with captive wild and their stress tolerances. It is a sad day when we subject a magnificent animal to human manipulation for the purpose of putting a

# Lawmakers' animal legislation i

Sometimes, all of Alaska seems to be an animal story.

This is one of those times. Right now, ruthless mushers are forcing our non-human animal friends to pull heavy loads over treacherous trails, all in the name of so-called sport. Gaia only knows how many of our canine companions will be killed or maimed before the last of the sledding specialists reaches Nome.



**MIKE DOOGAN**

But can our elected officials be bothered to end this senseless degradation of our fellow oxygen breathers? No. They don't care that "dog" is "god" spelled backward. They're too busy with one of their favorite pastimes: messing around with the natural order of things through legislation.

Last week, the state Senate passed bills to kill wolves, transplant elk and ranch moose.

Well, they've got to do something to keep

their minds off their ethics problems. Everybody else's minds, too.

The wolf-killing bill is a response to the death of the plan to have state biologists kill wolves from helicopters in the Interior. State Sen. Bert Sharp, who is guilty of false advertising every time he signs his name, decided to force the state to increase the number of moose and caribou available for human hunters through "intensive management." What does "intensive management" mean? Well, a wolf that's been shot dead has been about as intensively managed as it's possible to be.

This is nothing less than genocide against the wild cousins of our friends that bark and shed. But it could actually mean more moose and caribou for road hunters to kill, good news for flesh-eaters.

Transplanting elk is a much iffier deal. In 1987, then-Rep. Robin Taylor forced the state to transplant 50 elk from Oregon to Etolin Island. The program cost \$50,000 and required us to swap mountain goats and sea otter for the elk. Wolves and bears promptly ate two-thirds of them, and Taylor acquired the nickname "Dead Elk."

## turning Alaska into a real zoo

But the elk have rallied, and probably number around 75. Some swam to a nearby island and set up shop. One was reported to have made it as far as the island that Petersburg's on. Nobody's sure what happened to that one. Maybe it's still there. Maybe it swam back. Maybe it died suddenly and some kind soul decided to preserve its remains in his freezer.

State biologists still don't know how the elk will fare, or what they're doing to the local deer, but Taylor, who is a senator now, is not waiting. His bill would require the state to transplant 300 more elk to four other spots in Southeast.

By my math, that'd cost \$300,000. A small price for letting a handful of hunters kill really big animals, especially when the legislature can make it up easily by cutting welfare payments. The real drawback is finding Alaska animals to swap. That'd be a lot easier if we could get Oregon to accept state senators.

The daffiest of the bills, sponsored by Sen. Mike Miller, would allow moose to be tamed and turned into slaves. They call that

moose ranching, but the most likely result would be a flea-bitten critter chained up at every gas station and gift shoppe from Fairbanks to the Canadian border.

Now, real moose-ranching might have something going for it. The moose is Nature's all-terrain vehicle, with high clearance and go-anywhere hooves. Many parts of the state would be best seen from mooseback, provided you had a good saddle and a stepladder for mounting. It could open up a new chapter in inter-species cooperation.

So maybe killing the wolves and penning the moose isn't all bad. It would leave lots of room for the elk to expand. And if their numbers get out of hand, we can always import Komodo dragons to hunt them.

I know that sounds dopey, but I'll bet I could find a state senator to sponsor the bill.

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□ Mike Doogan's opinion column appears in the Daily News each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. You can hear more of Mike Doogan on the Daily Newsline. Call 277-1500 and enter code 2205.

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# JUNEAU EMPIRE

THURSDAY  
March 25, 1993

*'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'*

PAPERS CORP.

JUNEAU, ALASKA

16 PAGES, 2 SECTIONS

## Elk flap drives off board member

By DIRK MILLER

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

A member of the state Game Board said today he is resigning from the panel because he cannot stomach the political maneuvering that led to the board's canceling of a first-ever elk-hunting season in Southeast Alaska.

Kenneth Johns of Copper Center said last week's vote to cancel the season, which had just been approved by the board two days earlier, was driven by politics not biology.

Dick Burley, Game Board chairman, said Sen. Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell, had talked to him about chipping away at the Game

Board's authority if the panel did not rescind its decision to allow a hunting season on transplanted elk near Taylor's hometown.

Last week, the board reversed its vote, 4-3, with members Johns, Jack Didrickson and Roger Huntington voting to keep the season in place.

"Sen. Taylor did mention the possibility of introducing legislation that would take away the board's ability to manage elk," Burley said. "That was probably out of line."

Taylor said that is not how he recalls the conversation.

"I think what I said was I wondered why they hadn't addressed

elk at any other time in the 33-year history of the board," said the Senate majority leader.

Johns said Burley told other board members his version of the conversation with Taylor, and that was likely the reason the elk season was canceled.

"That was a threat," Johns said. "Those were reasons why some of the board members reconsidered the proposal before us. It's the worst form of management I've ever seen in my life."

The board's earlier proposal would have provided a Southeast elk season except on Etolin and Zarembo islands. Board members were concerned that the spreading

elk population could displace native deer.

Didrickson and Johns said the biological information never changed between the vote to allow hunting and the vote to cancel the hunt. That's why he decided to resign, Johns said.

"That vote. That one decision, where the senator got involved in management of game," Johns said in a telephone interview today from Anchorage, where the Game Board is meeting. "I just felt that I'm really just wasting my time ...

"That really, really upset me. I was angry all day."

Johns said he told Fish and Game Commissioner Carl Rosier

of his intentions and also has told other board members. He has yet to send a resignation letter to Gov. Walter J. Hickel. His term was to expire in 1995.

"Immediately after the vote," Johns said, "I got up and talked with the commissioner. I told him I'm done with this, I'm out of here."

Taylor said Johns' decision might be the right thing to do.

"If, in fact, they did what I think they did, he ought to resign," Taylor said. "They're supposed to be up there representing the people of Alaska. I have a hard time believing it's good stewardship to,

Turn to Elk, back page

## Quake

airborne hunting restrictions," DeFazio said.

Carl Rosier, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said today, "emotionalism" was driving the legislation.

"It's just not based on real understanding of what's going on," he said.

"There's an awful lot of people that feel that it is their business. It's misguided.

The state Board of Game last year proposed killing some gray wolves in the Interior to enlarge moose and caribou herds.

The idea touched off an international outcry and a threatened tourism of boycott of the state.

Critics specifically rejected airborne hunts, saying it is poor sport because pilots can chase animals to exhaustion.

"The Alaska Board of Game figures fewer wolves mean more big game and big game hunters," DeFazio said.

## Elk...

Continued from Page 1 say, only eliminate a portion of wolves in some areas, (but) eliminate all the elk in another area."

Taylor said the politics at play with the elk hunt decision originally came from state biologists. The same is true of a bill he has sponsored this session that calls for the transplant of 400 more elk in Southeast, Taylor said.

The board last week came out with a resolution opposing further elk transplants and opposing another bill that would allow moose farming in Alaska. The board resolution says transplanted elk could compete with native Sitka black-tailed deer for food.

"I think this is the specific activities of biologists who were paid to attend and work at the meeting," Taylor said. "It's a misuse of the board process, by people who should be advising the board on technical matters, taking their political opinions to the board."

Despite opposition from the Department of Fish and Game, both measures have passed the Senate and are being considered in the House.

The original elk transplant several years ago on Etolin Island, across from Wrangell, came at the direction of a bill introduced by Taylor while serving in the House.

Rosier said he also talked with Taylor before the board's elk hunting reversal, and heard no political threats. "It was just that he was extremely upset with the board and department staff over our opposition to the transplant

10,000 to 11,000 years ago.

"It's nice in Alaska to have something a little bit older," said Paul Martin, a University of Arizona emeritus professor of geoscience. Martin said the discovery fits with theories that early Alaskans moved into the American Southwest in as little as 500 years.

The BLM, however, said more sites in Alaska are needed to bolster conclusions about human migration. And Wilson said more ex-

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Rosier said he has ordered the Division of Wildlife Conservation to study the transplanted elk population to determine if it is spreading to other islands in the Wrangell area. The elk were transplanted from Oregon to Etolin Island in 1987 by the state and the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club.

Taylor said there have been no studies of the Etolin Island elk, but a doctoral dissertation from Washington state concludes that elk and deer "may have positive behavioral interactions."

Johns' resignation could help resolve another board question. Currently, the Legislature is considering the confirmation of five appointees to four Game Board seats. A Juneau resident, former mayor Ernie Polley, was nominated in January by Gov. Walter J. Hickel. But another hopeful, Jack Didrickson of Palmer, is refusing to give the seat up.

Didrickson had been appointed by Hickel last year, but the governor's office decided to replace him.

John Manly, Hickel's spokesman, said the governor could decide to appoint one of the men to Johns' seat.

"As far as Didrickson, I think our stand is pretty clear, we haven't submitted his name," Manly said. "If (Johns) does submit a resignation, I guess we'll take a look at it."

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# Transplanting wild animals can bring trouble

By TOM KIZZIA

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

**HOMER** — Alaska's experience with wild-animal experiments provides plenty of cautionary examples and a little encouragement to legislators debating the merits of elk transplants and moose farms.

Freelance efforts to release domestic rabbits, foxes and northern pike have thrown natural systems into disarray. On the other hand, state efforts to transplant native species such as moose, caribou and deer to new regions some-

times have expanded hunting opportunities without threatening an existing balance.

One apparent success is on the Kenai Peninsula, where a caribou herd introduced in the mid-1960s has grown to the point where the state decided this month to allow hunting for the first time.

Manipulation of fish and game species is restricted by the state, which fears damage to existing wildlife through predation, disease or competition for food.

A private release of pike into a

lake in the 1970s has introduced the voracious predators into the Kenai River system, with its world-class trout and salmon fisheries. Pike have been spreading even more swiftly through the Susitna River drainage.

Along the Kenai, the pike have moved only slowly into the Moose River, a major tributary, and seem to use the main stem of the river only for transit.

But in the Soldotna creek drainage where they were first introduced, pike now outnumber trout,

said Dave Nelson, a biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Ring-necked pheasants have been raised and released into the grass country of Homer where they have survived the recent mild winters. So far, the main problem with pheasants has been one of aesthetics, at least for people who know that the colorful birds aren't natural to Alaska.

But disease is always a concern when domesticated animals are released into the wild, said Fish

and Game biologist Ted Spraker.

"Alaska is pretty much disease-free compared to the lesser 48," Spraker said. "We'd like to keep it that way."

Earlier this year, the state filed criminal charges against a Seward man for releasing domestic rabbits on Montague Island in Prince William Sound. Biologists feared a repeat of the rabbit boom on Middleton Island, outside the Sound, where rabbits were released by residents of a former communica-

Please see Game, back page

Juneau Empire 3/29/93

## Game...

Continued from Page 1

tions station.

Don Coisman, 60, told authorities he wanted to hunt New Zealand white rabbits on Montague when he couldn't find blacktail deer — which themselves were introduced in 1916 by the Cordova Chamber of Commerce. The charges of unlawful release of game were dropped this week after surveys indicated the 32 rabbits probably were gobbled up by mink and eagles.

"We're convinced that he understands he shouldn't be doing this and wouldn't be doing it again," said Assistant District Attorney Richard Maki. "He was an Alaskan old-timer, and I don't think he perceived the gravity of the situation."

"It's very unwise," said Cordova Fish and Game biologist Roy Nowlin. "I don't think we have to look very far to find disasters re-

sulting from the introduction of exotics."

Nowlin mentioned Australia, where introduced rabbits were able to spread unchecked by predators and provided one of the world's textbook examples of ecological disaster, stripping the land of vegetation.

Alaska's oldest exotic-species problem may still be its most serious.

Foxes brought by Russians appeared in the Aleutians within a decade of Vitus Bering's 1741 voyage of discovery, and despite eradication efforts foxes still prey on bird rookeries in many remote islands.

A recent debacle involved a government slaughter this winter of reindeer on Hagemester Island in Bristol Bay where a transplanted herd had devoured all natural food on the island and faced starvation.

A new problem may be posed by people who raise hybrid wolves,

according to Spraker. The Soldotna-based biologist said one of his biggest worries is that hybrids will be released and mongrelize the Peninsula's timber wolves, leaving them less well-suited to survive in the wilds.

Some wildlife experiments have been successful, such as the introduction of the Killey River caribou herd on the Kenai Peninsula in 1985 and 1986.

The state moved 80 caribou from the Nelchina herd to a region where caribou disappeared early this century, probably because of commercial hunting. The Killey River animals now number 222 — enough for the state to grant 25 hunting permits this year, Spraker said.

Other successes cited by the state include moose moved to the Copper River Delta and grayling planted in mountain lakes near Cooper Landing.

The transfer of blacktail deer early in the century from South-

east Alaska to similar coastal ranges in Prince William Sound and Kodiak has been popular with hunters.

But even deer transplants have been controversial, as when the state suggested introducing deer to the Kenai Peninsula mainland several years ago. One opponent was Kenai Fjords National Park, where officials said their mission was to maintain natural systems.

In Juneau, the state Senate has passed legislation this year requiring the state to expand a program moving elk to Southeast from the Lower 48.

Fish and Game opposes the idea, saying it is expensive and would hurt existing deer populations. A second Senate bill would legalize moose farming, which opens another sensitive subject in Alaska.

"The primary controversy in Alaska is that putting an indigenous game animal behind a fence reduces its majesty and mystique.

There's a certain merit to that," said Bill Ward, the state's only operating elk farmer.

Elk are not indigenous to Alaska, although wild herds now exist on Afognak Island as well as in Southeast.

Ward has 56 tattooed and ear-tagged elk on his 160-acre farm south of Soldotna, where he has operated since 1990. He makes money selling velvet elk antlers to Asia markets, and said that as his herd expands he plans to sell meat as well.

Ward said moose are less social than elk and are harder to domesticate. In addition, he said, there is no market for moose meat or antlers.

"My personal opinion is the moose doesn't have the market value, but I'm not going to challenge someone else's business rationale," he said.

Fish and Game biologists say domesticated moose would be sus-

ceptible to disease that could be transmitted to wild moose. State officials also say it would be harder to make cases against out-of-season moose hunters if moose meat were available commercially.

But proponents of the legislation say moose farming has been successful in Scandinavia and Russia. A leading backer of the bill, Doug Welton of Fairbanks, has said he would like live moose at his gift shop as a tourist attraction.

Apart from the questions about moose, Ward said the proposed legislation provides needed regulation of game farming, putting animals such as domesticated reindeer or buffalo under authority of the Division of Agriculture.

"Fish and Game are just philosophically opposed to the private ownership of game animals," Ward said. "I don't want to be regulated by an agency that's trying to put me out of business."

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By R.T. SKIP WALLEN

I am concerned about the bill to translocate elk to four different areas in Southeast Alaska. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game warned that problems may develop between this exotic species and native Sitka blacktail deer.

Introduced elk have displaced native deer in several areas of British Columbia. Introduction of exotic species sometimes succeeds, but is more often a disaster for native wildlife through the spread of disease, competition for food or space by impacting habitat, or other unanticipated reasons. It's not sensible to risk our highly prized, culturally essential Sitka deer for the doubtful benefits of an exotic species.

Beyond this, there are far more serious concerns for wildlife in the Tongass National Forest, paramount of which is loss of habitat through extensive clear-cut logging. During my time on the Board of Game, we had contact with Southeast area biologists and took expert testimony in the Tongass

### Introduction of exotic species sometimes succeeds, but is more often a disaster for native wildlife through the spread of disease, competition for food or by impacting habitat.

We were presented information that under the present 420 million board-feet-per-year logging plans for the Tongass, we can expect a 35 percent loss of sustainable deer harvest forest-wide, with losses more than double that in some areas.

Compared to the magnitude and importance of addressing this issue, introducing elk is a misguided direction for wildlife management and a needless additional pressure on deer.

The fact that elk eat devil's club has been advanced as a point in favor of the introductions. Such superficial reasons do not give assurance of a well-studied plan. Devil's club, however unpleasant to the touch, is an integral part of the range, a plant that is eaten by

deer, black bears and brown bears.

Then there is the argument that elk will provide a variety of prey for hunters. Even if you buy that line, it is perhaps not widely known that moose from the mainland river valleys are, on their own, with no department tune or money, pioneering some of the islands. They have swum across from the mainland river valleys and established populations in places they have never been before, such that on both Mitkof and Wrangell islands the board recently opened moose seasons.

Neither moose nor deer will survive here beyond a certain stage of forest regeneration, but for now, moose are available to hunters.

The department has been criti-

cized for not doing research to prove its contention that elk may harm deer populations. The department is already short of funds to do vital and overdue research and to deal with pressing management issues. The burden of proof for such an unnecessary venture as this should not be added to the department's burden at this time.

The moose farming-roadside zoo bill which has just passed the Senate is not a good idea either. The Board of Game, acting with the strong support of the department, twice defeated similar proposals during the past three years.


Here is another case of doubtful gains to a few, at the price of great risk to the public wildlife resource.

Greater benefits accrue to all from protecting our wild, native ecosystems and foregoing the introduction of exotics and the farming of wildlife, until there is compelling reason to do otherwise.

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R.T. Skip Wallen of Juneau is a former member of the state Board of Game.

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# Biologist sounds warning on elk transplant plan

## Captive elk can carry, pass on tuberculosis, other human diseases

**PETERSBURG** — Proposals to transplant elk into southeast Alaska have become a bone of contention now that SB 43 (a bill to encourage the transplants) has moved to within striking distance of becoming law. Proponents of the bill cite Alaska Department of Fish and Game resistance as a major obstacle toward the bill's passage. *F&H News* called Charlie Land in the Petersburg office to discover why ADF&G would oppose transplanting elk. While Land's opinions do not represent the department as a whole, he is one of the most qualified to speak on the subject.

Land's objections to transplanting elk base themselves in experiences in other parts of the globe. "I worked with exotics down in Texas so I have more experience than just reading about it," says Land. "What has happened with (domestic or ranched) elk is that elk have contracted bovine tuberculosis from domestic livestock." "New Zealand had a bad experience with it and in Alberta (Canada) they have 4,000 elk that are supposed to be domestic and they're having to destroy 50 to 80 percent of their captive elk (because of bovine TB.)"

The danger isn't only to elk — humans can contract bovine TB. A study reports that 40 people currently under medical treatment or observation for bovine TB contracted it from dead or living ranched elk. Land reports the disease causes enough problems in humans that veterinarians in

Alberta have refused to work on domestic elk for fear of contracting the disease.

"I just think it's a bad idea," he says. "Bovine TB is very real in the captive elk and it has also been found in free-ranging elk in the Yellowstone National Park area."

Elk can be tested for bovine TB, brucellosis, and a host of other disorders. Unfortunately, Land reports, the tests don't always work.

"Some animals don't test positive when in fact they should. They develop the disease when they are placed under stress such as captivity or long distance transportation.

"Brucellosis is another very serious sort of thing that can pass the screening test and not test positive. Parasites are also sometimes not detected . . . when you start working with ranched elk, you don't know where they came from.

"As a person who has worked with exotics before, in Texas we tested for everything we knew. Now I find out that some of the animals may have slipped by . . . people can honestly represent animals as clean when in fact they aren't."

Land also supports more study of existing herds of transplanted elk in other areas of Alaska before bringing in more animals. "I think it would be very prudent to continue to watch those elk on Etolin (Island) and be sure we didn't bring in anything we didn't want.

"This is not something that we're opposing just to be

contrary," Land adds. "Shoot, I'm a life member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and I have a pretty nice bull hanging on my wall."

Another item that has raised the hackles of pro-elk activists in Southeast has been concerns over possible competition between elk and deer.

The activists report seeing deer running with the elk, (for protection from the wolves, they contend) and eating different types of foliage. They feel the elk do not compete with the deer, and in fact might even help protect them from predators.

Land disagrees. While he admits that the issue is not well studied, he has gone through most of the available literature. While no one knows just how much elk and deer compete for the same range, he says some competition exists.

"Everything that I've been able to find out says there is some level of competition between the deer and elk."

While Land, and others high in the ADF&G bureaucracy oppose the introduction of elk into Southeast, Land made sure to point out ADF&G's public service role. While he personally may not want elk transplants, he says "it all comes down to what the public wants."

People interested in promoting one side or the other of this issue can contact the ADF&G's legislative liaison Geron Bruce at 465-4100.



### ACROSS THE NATION

**CITIZENS MONITOR WATER QUALITY: LAKE OF THE OZARKS, Mo.** — The Missouri Departments of Natural Resources and Conservation has signed a three year agreement to train public volunteers to monitor water quality in streams, rivers and lakes. The goal of the agreement with the state agencies is to keep the general public informed about the quality of

1993, Game and Parks wildlife biologists have released antelope south of Rushville in Sheridan County. Thirty-nine pronghorns have been released so far. The animals were all trapped in Colorado and transported by truck to Sheridan County. Game and Parks was able to secure a 250,000-acre release area with the cooperation of landowners in the county. The Sheridan County release



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## Point of view

# ADF&G's transplant ideas aren't factual

By ROBIN TAYLOR

It seems appropriate to make a statement regarding the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's efforts to generate hysteria regarding the existing elk transplants and the transplants proposed in Senate Bill 43.

In the late 1920s the federal government transplanted elk and deer on Afognak Island. Six decades later, both species survive in strong numbers and today the deer outnumber elk by a ratio of ten-to-one. I believe the Afognak Island experience clearly shows that elk and deer can live together and do not compete for food.

Unfortunately, in the 66 years since the initial introduction of elk and deer to Afognak, no studies have been conducted to determine the interactions of

these animals.

In 1987, ADF&G and the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club transplanted elk from the Pacific Northwest to Stolu Island. This was done after much foot dragging by the department along with statements that the elk would not survive and the entire project was a waste of money. The Biolin transplant was conducted with the assistance of the wildlife agencies from two other states and included the participation of biologists and veterinarians to assure the elk captured for release were disease free. After the anticipated first winter die off, the Biolin elk have rebounded and now number between 100 and 150.

Unfortunately, in the six years since the Biolin experience the ADF&G

not conducted the studies needed to determine the interaction between the transplanted elk and native Sitka Black-tail deer.

Instead, the department is raising all of the old arguments and predicting the worse case scenario. They claim Canadian studies indicated that elk and deer compete, to the detriment of the deer. My staff contacted the Ministry of the Environment in Victoria British Columbia and the game management in Nunavut. Neither agency had a level edge of any studies conducted in the province demonstrating deer/elk food conflicts.

A doctoral thesis written by Claus R. Swenson at the University of Washington in 1992 concludes that the original assumption that the elk were so

cially dominant over deer could not be confirmed. Instead it appeared that elk and deer may have positive behavioral interactions. I suspect that one of the reasons ADF&G biologists object to elk transplants is the fact that elk, deer and moose appear to thrive in the logged areas of Southeast Alaska.

In short, ADF&G has done no studies of its own and has based its rhetoric on preconceived conclusions reached in other studies that used inference, not fact.

If only the deer on Afognak could talk! They'd tell that 66 years of "competition" ain't bad. After all, the deer are ahead ten-to-one.

(Robin Taylor of Wrangell is a senator in the state legislature.)

## Letter to the editor

### Not new story

EDITOR, Daily News.

The ecological balance is being upset! How many times have you heard those words in the last 10 years? Well guess what, it's been getting upset since the world began, in the last 66 years the whole state of Alaska was covered with ice. Boy she was upset!

At one time Alaska had wild horses, elk, giant moose, mammoths, huge cats, and short-faced bears like the one (sketch) found in the caves near Whale Pass.

Apparently the group of people who monitor the "upset" business decided the elk on Stolu and Zarembo islands had to go or the balance would teeter again.

A lot of money and effort went into getting these elk started on the islands, and now I see they are going to get it back by there is not

righteous about his elk transplant bill. He helped pass it out of the Senate with the Department of Fish and Game adamantly opposed. The he appealed (preserved?) Commissioner Rosen to advise the Board of Game to reverse its decision to open elk hunting on surrounding islands around Stolu and Zarembo. Why? Maybe because it was seen as politically damaging to Taylor's bill.

To quote Commissioner Fowler, "He (Taylor) felt that the board basically was deciding state policy in competition with the Legislature." I don't see it that way. I see the Legislature (Taylor) deciding Board of Game policy for state game management in competition to the board's policy/provisions.

I trust the board process the Fish and Game expertise, the advisory board process and public testimony a lot more than I trust political maneuvering by hot-shot politicians trying to drive their agenda right smack over the top.

there are only two areas in southeast capable of supporting any kind of herring fishery anymore.

I feel the recent allocation squabble over the Kah Shakes/Cat Island herring quota is an example of misdirected concern. This allocation issue between Metlakatla and the Kah Shakes permit holders would not even be an issue if we had healthy herring stocks throughout Southeast. It appears we're fighting over the crumbs.

Sincerely,  
ANDREA HERNANDEZ  
Point Baker

P.S. If you are concerned about herring management you can contact The Herring Coalition 7942 S. Tongass Hwy., Ketchikan, Ala: a 99801

### Stocks declining

EDITOR, Daily News:

I have noted the alarming decline of herring in the Narrows and the effort of

walk over to Peacock on the backs of millions of dumplings? Where are those fish today?

Management of herring and salmon plays a big part in the decline of those stocks locally. Management policies have resulted in historically high returns statewide, yet their effect of the Narrows has been negative. A comprehensive review is necessary.

It is stupid and shortsighted to harvest herring just as they are about to spawn (ever, a fifth grader can figure that out). Why do we do it with salmon? A more sensible policy would be to only fish salmon when they're not getting ready to spawn - say Oct. 15 until April 14. (Coincidentally, coinciding with the winter troll seasons. Have the trolls been right all along?)

I call for the herring coalition, Tongass Conservation Society, and Historic Ketchikan to join with me in a area-wide effort to reconstruct the Narrows to 1960s levels, restrict harvest



March 18, 1993

Senator Robin Taylor  
Room 30  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Senator Taylor,

To follow up my phone call to your office on March 16th concerning S.B. 43.

First I am wondering where the public input supporting this Bill came from. I have, myself, just recently been made aware of the Bill at a Prince of Wales Advisory Council meeting. The P.O.W. Advisory Council represents all the communities on Prince of Wales Island. Only one of the representatives at this meeting was aware of S.B.43, and all of the membership present were flabbergasted that this measure had passed through the Senate without our comments. (Also notable, those present were opposed to introducing elk to Prince of Wales).

Since learning of S.B.43 I have questioned sport and personal use hunters in Craig and have yet to find any support for the Bill. All those I have talked with firmly believe that the addition of elk to this area can only bring harm to native deer population.

I also see no fiscal note attached to this legislation, it would no doubt be substantial. Senator, there are many on going and proposed projects and programs in this area where this kind of money would be a lot better spent. I strongly urge that S.B.43 be reconsidered and at the very least that Prince of Wales Island be deleted from its text.

Sincerely,

Dennis Watson, Mayor  
City of Craig

cc: Senator Zharoff  
Representative Mackie  
Representative Williams  
Senator Halford  
Representative Barnes

2509 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Ketchikan AK 99901  
15 January 1994

The Hon. Bill Williams  
Representative from Ketchikan  
State House of Representatives      Re: SB 43  
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182

Dear Bill,

I am upset that, in a time of shrinking income to the state, ADF&G wants to spend over a million dollars to bring more elk to SE Alaska, to do who knows what to the Sitka deer habitat. At least ADF&G should wait until the impact of the elk already here has been evaluated. I've heard that the elk are out-competing the deer for food. Isn't there a possibility that these larger animals will eat themselves out of habitat as they multiply? Deer are in balance with available food here in South Southeast. Will elk be?

What effect will introduced elk have on a viable subsistence lifestyle? Will they bring diseases local game may not be able to withstand? Bill, this bill is July scary. Will there availability to predators, i.e. wolves, boost predator populations unacceptably? ~~JD~~

Given the cost of importing an alien species to an area that has been really good for a healthy subsistence life-style, and possibly wrecking that good balance, take heed! Please hold off on this until the facts are in.

Remember what imported pigs did to Hawaii? There are other horror stories that give me pause. The more I think of the damage more imported elk could do to our beautiful land, the more I think SB 43 should not be rushed through. Trophy hunters may think it great. Should we sacrifice our life-style so some trophy hunter can get an elk rack?

Keep SB 43 in committee for a lot of scrutiny, please.

Yours sincerely  
Connie

Constance F. Griffith

Mr. Mike Brown

934 Monroe St.

Ketchikan AK 99901 225-7974

CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: PLEASE VOTE AGAINST ANY BILL CALLING FOR THE  
INTRODUCTION OF ELK OR ANY OTHER NON-NATIVE SPECIES INTO OUR  
FORESTS. THERE ARE ENOUGH ISSUES WITH WILDLIFE AS IT IS:  
SPORT, SUBSISTENCE, AND HABITAT LOSS. PLEASE DO NOT WASTE  
MY TAX DOLLARS ON ELK INTRODUCTION (STATE OR FEDERAL).

THANKS.

DISTRIBUTION 02

DISTRIBUTION 20

FROM: Mrs. Carol Jensen  
8451 Greenhill Wy.

Anchorage AK 99502 344-7078  
NON-CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: NOTE PAGE B2 OF MARCH 18TH ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS  
REGARDING ELK DEPLETING THE ISLAND DEER'S FOOD SUPPLY.  
THIS IS ONE EXAMPLE OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF ELK ISLAND  
INTRODUCTION. YEAR AROUND HUNTS KILL YOUNG (THROUGH  
STARVATION/ORPHAN) AND PREGNANT FEMALES.  
DISTRIBUTION 09

FROM: Mr. Elroy Young  
Box 6161

Sitka A.K 99835 747-5155

NON-CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: I OPPOSE SB 43. ELK CAN LOWER DEER NUMBERS IN  
ALASKA AND WE CAN'T AFFORD THE PROJECT FINANCIALLY OR  
ECOLOGICALLY.

FROM: Mr. Bill Davidson  
304 Lake St. Rm 104

Sitka AK 99835 NONE  
NON-CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: AS A HUNTER OF SITKA BLACK TAIL DEER IN THE SITKA  
AREA, I OPPOSE TRANSPLANTING OF ELK TO KRUZOF IS.. I  
TYPICALLY TAKE ONE OR SOMETIMES TWO OF MY DEER FROM THIS  
AREA, AND I RELY ON THIS AREA AS A CONSISTENT RELATIVELY EASY  
PLACE TO HUNT. AN ELK TRANSPLANT COULD RUIN DEER HUNTING ON  
KRUZOF IS.. WITH INCREASED LOGGING PLANNED CLOSE TO SITKA,  
GOOD DEER HUNTING PLACES WILL BE INCREASINGLY MORE  
VALUABLE TO PRESERVE MOST TRANSPLANTS OF EXOTIC FISH OR  
GAME

DISTRIBUTION 20

FROM: Ms Diane Farren  
PO Box 9526

Ketchikan AK 99901 225-4206  
CONSTITUENT

SUBJECT: FISH & GAME (GAME)

MESSAGE: I THINK SPENDING \$300,000 OR ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY ON IMPORTING ELK IS A RIDICULOUS ABUSE OF POLITICAL POWER. OUR MONEY NEEDS TO BE SPENT ON EDUCATION AND HEALTH RELATED PROGRAMS. DON'T ABUSE YOUR POSITION WITH THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY.  
DISTRIBUTION 60

FROM: Mr. Robert Ellis  
Box 2966

Sitka AK 99835 747-8950

NON-CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: PLESAE VOTE AGIANST THE ELK TRANSPLANT BILL. WE  
HAVE GOOD POPULATIONS OF DEER WHICH ARE USING ALL THE  
AVAILABLE FOOD. ELK COULD ONLY REDUCE THE PRESENT DEER  
HERDS. THIS PROJECT IS BIOLOGICALLY, FISCALLY AND POLITICALLY  
IRRESPONSIBLE. PLEASE HOLD PUBLIC TELECONFERENCED HEARINGS  
AND INVOLVE STATE GAME BIOLOGISTS.  
DISTRIBUTION 21

FROM: Mr. Earl Mossburg  
1450 Tongass Ave.

Ketchikan AK 99901 225-9330  
CONSTITUENT  
BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
SUPPORTS

MESSAGE: I AM 100 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL. FISH AND GAME  
ISN'T AS EFFICIENT AS THEY WISH THEY WERE IN THEIR BIOLOGY  
AND THEIR ETHICS.  
DISTRIBUTION 10

FROM: Mr. Verne Albright  
612 Anderson Drive

Ketchikan AK 99901 225-4785  
CONSTITUENT  
BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
SUPPORTS

MESSAGE: I SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE TO GET ADDITIONAL ELK TO  
TRANSPLANT IN ALASKA.  
DISTRIBUTION 10

FROM: Ms. Megan Garvey  
Box 6215

Sitka AK 99835 747-5832

NON-CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: AM ADAMENTLY OPPOSED TO INTRODUCING ELK TO ALASKA.  
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE LEFT TO PROFESSIONAL  
BIOLOGISTS. I APPRECIATE THAT THE ADF&G IS CAUTIOUSLY  
EXAMINING PREVIOUS ELK INTRODUCTION AREAS. NUMEROUS  
PROBLEMS OCCUR WHEN EXOTIC SPECIES ARE INTRODUCED INTO AN  
ECOSYSTEM. MOST VISITORS COME TO SEE ALASKA'S NATURAL  
INTACT ECOSYSTEMS.

DISTRIBUTION 10

FROM: Mrs. Johanna Fagen  
9084 Sheiye Way

Juneau AK 99801 789-4608

NON-CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: I THINK IT IS A RIDICULOUS WASTE OF MONEY. I AM  
CONCERNED A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE SO SEVERE ON THE PART OF THE  
LEGISLATURE ON THE CONCEPT OF BIODIVERSITY WILL LEAD TO  
FEDERAL INTERVENTION. UNDER THE NATIONAL FOREST  
MANAGEMENT ACT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS MANDATED TO  
PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND THIS WOULD CERTAINLY GIVE  
THEM AN EXCUSE TO INTERVENE WITH STATE MANAGEMENT OF GAME  
ON FEDERAL LAND.  
DISTRIBUTION 06

FROM: Ms. Cheryl Pritchard  
Box 6209

Sitka AK 99835 NONE  
NON-CONSTITUENT  
BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME IS NOT KEEPING UP  
WITH MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING REVENUE PRODUCING FISHERIES.  
MANAGE THE RESOURCES HERE FIRST. BRINGING IN ELK IS A PET  
PROJECT FOR A SELECT FEW AT THE EXPENSE OF THE RESOURCES  
THAT ARE HERE  
DISTRIBUTION 60

FROM: Mr. Ken Bare  
Box 6209

Sitka AK 99835 NONE  
NON-CONSTITUENT  
BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: PLEASE VOTE AGAINST SB 43 THE IMPORTING OF ELK TO  
SOUTHEAST ALASKA. MOST STATE BIOLOGISTS ARE AGAINST IT FOR  
SOUND REASONS. THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME IS ILL FUNDED  
AS IS.  
DISTRIBUTION 60

FROM: Mr. Lewis Sharman  
Box 21

Gustavus AK 99826 NONE  
NON-CONSTITUENT  
BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: IT SEEMS TO BE A WASTE OF MONEY TO SPEND 1.5 MILLION  
ON SOMETHING THAT HAS RARELY WORKED ANYWHERE ELSE. AS A  
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, I RECOGNIZE CLEARLY THE RISKS INVOLVED  
WITH TRANSPLANTING ANY EXOTIC SPECIES INTO A HABITAT IT  
DOESN'T NATURALLY OCCUR IN.  
DISTRIBUTION 07

FROM: Mr. Kenneth Merrill  
379 W. Katmai

Soldotna AK 99669 262-1261  
NON-CONSTITUENT

SUBJECT: FISH & GAME (GAME)

MESSAGE: I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT FUNDING FOR THE 'MOOSE  
PENS' RESEARCH CENTER HAS BEEN DELETED FROM THE SENATE'S  
VERSION OF FISH & GAMES'94 BUDGET. THIS APPEARS TO BE SOME  
KIND OF POLITICAL POSTURING ON SEN. TAYLOR'S PART, DUE TO LACK  
OF SUPPORT FOR HIS MOOSE FARMING AND ELK TRANSPLANT BILLS. IF  
THIS IS THE CASE, I WOULD HOPE THE MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES  
HAVE THE PRESENTS OF MIND TO CORRECT THIS INJUSTICE AND  
REINSTATE THE NEEDED FUNDING. THANK YOU.  
DISTRIBUTION 60

FROM: Mr. Frank Keim  
Box 54

Fortuna Ledge AK 99585 679-6114  
NON-CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 43 GRANTS TO TRANSPLANT ELK  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: PLEASE VOTE AGAINST SB 43.  
DISTRIBUTION 60

FROM: Mr. Frank Keim  
Box 54

Fortuna Ledge AK 99585 679-6114  
NON-CONSTITUENT

BILL#: SB 77 INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF GAME RESOURCES  
OPPOSES

MESSAGE: PLEASE VOTE AGAINST SB 77.  
DISTRIBUTION 60

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#### Alaska State Legislature

According to Robin Taylor there is no evidence supporting the claim that elk and deer will compete for the same food source, nor will the elk introduce any diseases to resident wildlife populations of Southeast Alaska. Mr. Taylor has not taken the time to contact the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game where in fact there is well documented evidence supporting why he should NOT introduce elk to Prince of Wales Island.

Biologists documented the movements and feeding behavior of elk on Etolin Island for a two year period. During this time the majority of the elk were found in the coastal fringe where the researchers found extensive browsing on blueberry bushes, plants which are very critical to winter deer survival. Elk also show high plasticity, which means they will eat anything from shrubs to conifers. On the other hand deer are much more selective and require such higher nutrient plants found in the forbes and sedges. When elk move through an area they will eat everything, this means a 71% overlap in food sources which causes a very severe food competition with the resident deer.

The potential for introducing diseases and parasites is enormous. The neurological worm parasite is found in resident elk populations throughout the Western United States. This parasite targets the brain, and even though proponents claim each elk will be given a clean bill of health or have only a 50% probability of detecting the parasite. Even having

tuberculosis which is found in elk is not 100% detectable. The giant liver fluke is a flatworm which occurs in deer, elk, and moose. Although deer and elk can survive this infestation, moose do not. The flatworm will destroy the liver of a moose and eventually cause death. Elk can introduce this parasite. Do we wish to destroy the mainland moose populations?

On Vancouver Island, British Columbia elk were introduced to the endemic caribou and wolf populations. Obviously the wolves prey on the smaller prey, the deer. However, as deer populations decline due to wolf predation the wolves turn to elk as an alternative food source. The wolf population remained stable and even increased, the last few remaining deer are taken along with the elk and finally the wolves starve.

Because of this evidence Alberta and British Columbia have installed moratoriums on any elk transplants. Do we have to make the same mistakes? I would think that any rational person can understand why we do not want elk on Prince of Wales Island.

Lewis Hlatt  
P.O. Box 92  
Lena, Alaska  
99921



March 24, 1993

MAR 26 1993

Representative Bill Williams, Chairman  
House Resources Committee  
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Response to Senate ~~BILLS~~ 43, 46, & 77

Dear Representative Williams:

~~Shaan Seet opposes SB 77~~: An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to ~~intensive management of big game to~~ achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest. This bill does not acknowledge the subsistence priority for the use of fish and wildlife resources within the State of Alaska, and will be detrimental to Native subsistence users.

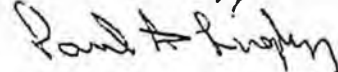
Additionally, ~~Shaan Seet opposes the elk transplantation~~ proposal as contained in Senate Bill 43. This plan is not complete and until the possibility of harm to indigenous game stocks is removed from it, it should not be attempted. The State should maintain a conservative attitude about such proposals and should err on the side of conservation rather than taking a chance that could cause irreparable harm.

Representative Bill Williams, Chairman  
March 24, 1993

Page Two

~~Please let us know what your views are on these bills.~~ We  
would appreciate it!

Sincerely,  
SHAAN SEET, INC.



Paul A. Lingley  
President



March 24, 1993

The Honorable Jerry Mackie  
Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

MAR 25 1993

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 1993, concerning intensive game management, transportation of elk, and moose farming.

Please be assured that Sealaska does intend to provide testimony on these issues as actions contemplated by the Bills would have direct adverse impact on Sealaska lands not only in terms of subsistence management but also in terms of forest regeneration and silvaculture.

The Sealaska Natural Resources Department will contact the House Resources Committee to schedule testimony.

I enjoyed our conversation yesterday. If there is anything we can do to be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

SEALASKA CORPORATION

Leo H. Barlow  
President & CEO

cc: Honorable William K. Williams ✓  
Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
House Resources Committee

Alan L. Williams, Sealaska Chairman

Robert W. Loescher, Exec. V.P.,  
Sealaska Natural Resource Mgt.

LoAnn Swanson  
P.O. Box 1161  
Ward Cou. Ak 99928

1-22-94

Representative W. Williams

State Capitol

Juneau Ak 99801

I am writing to express my opposition to  
S.B. #43. As a 30 year resident of Ketchikan,  
I have lived a subsistence life style & raised my family  
in that fashion. I believe that transplanting elk in  
south-east Alaska would severely threaten the habitat  
of the <sup>sika</sup> black tailed deer & therefore adversely effect the  
many people who depend on these deer for their food.

Please listen to the needs of the people who live  
here

Thank you  
LoAnn Swanson



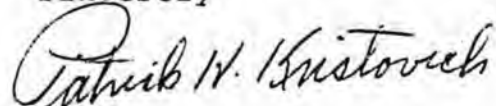
January 18, 1994

Representative Bill Williams  
352 Front  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Honorable Williams:

I am an Alaska Native, born and raised in the Ketchikan area and I would like to express my opinion of Robin Taylor's pet Bill SB 43. In these days of declining revenues I feel it is totally frivolous to spend a million or a million and a half on transporting elk to Alaska. Also in my estimation it has been that every time people transplant one species of thing to a new and different place, something bad happens. I would hate to see the Sitka black tailed deer either wiped out from an imported disease. or crowded out of their forage areas. Anyway I am against this transplanting of elk. Thank you.

Sincerely



Patrick H. Kristovich

PO 3038

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

1/18/94

Rep. W. Williams  
State Capital  
Juneau, Ak

Dear Mr. Williams,

I recently heard about SB 43, the elk bill. I would like to request that you vote against this bill.

① It is too expensive & will take money away from other valuable fish & game functions. Please don't waste our money!

② It is unnecessary and poor management to import species. New species may negatively affect other species. I don't want this to happen.

Thank you for your attention to ~~go~~ this issue.

Sincerely,

Margaret Clabby  
2968 S. Tongass  
Ketchikan AK 99901

# Elk today, Wart Hogs R Us tomorrow

By PAUL JENKINS

3/23/93

Cheap political meddling and bureaucratic cowardice have no place in wildlife management anywhere, but they're alive and well in Alaska. And the elk fiasco in Southeast Alaska is a good example.

Because state Sen. Robin Taylor has decided he wants to import elk for hunters in his district, the Alaska Board of Game is flip-flopping like a fish out of water and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's biologists mostly are ignored in favor of politics.

The biologists cannot talk about it, mind you, because of a directive from Fish and Game Commissioner Carl Rosier that all questions about the elk mess be directed to him.

Taylor is the guy who in 1987, over the vehement objections of state biologists, got the boneheads in the Legislature to order 50 elk transplanted from Oregon to 343 square-mile Etolin Island near Wrangell. At state expense.

The biologists objected because elk can make life rough for Sitka blacktail deer, a native species with numbers so low in the Etolin Island area that hunting has been curtailed for years.



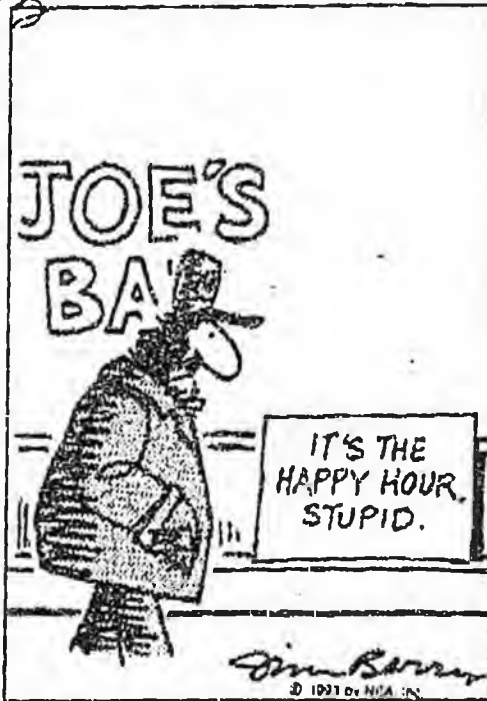
Jenkins

Elk also can carry diseases and they wander in herds, eating the deer out of house and home as they go. Of the five previous attempts to introduce elk to Alaska, only one, on Afognak Island in 1928, has been successful.

But the Wrangell Republican's elk were hauled onto Etolin Island, and then, as elk are wont to do, they scattered. About half initially were lost to wolves, bears and other factors.

Now they number somewhere between 75 and 100 and have gotten onto Mitkof, Shrubby and Brushy islands, and, under the elk management plan, they are not to be hunted until their population reaches about 250. And when that happens — in 40 to 50 years — biologists have projected a sustainable harvest of 20 or so animals each year.

The plan also called for containment of the elk to Etolin and Zarembo islands because nobody really knows what they will do to native deer if they spread to other islands or the mainland. Under the



plan, if they meandered off — as they have — the department would either live trap them and return them to Etolin or eliminate them through an open hunting season.

So the Game Board guys, appointed by the governor and allegedly working for the public to set policy for state game management, decided early last week, on Tuesday, to open a hunting season year-round on stray elk found anywhere in Southeast Alaska other than Etolin and nearby Zarembo islands.

But, whoops, Taylor has yet another bill in the Legislature to import up to 400 more elk, despite the same old, ignored objections. He told The Associated Press that elk, because of their nifty big antlers, are a favorite of hunters in his area. It's unclear how that can be, as none of the herd is supposed to be hunted yet.

What actually went on during the few days after the board's decision is unclear, but the Fish and Game's Rosier advised the board to reverse its decision after hearing from Taylor. What Rosier heard to make him roll over is anybody's guess. When I asked him if he had spoken to Taylor about the issue, he first indicated he had not; then that he had.

"He said he was unhappy with the Game Board's action, and unhappy with my staff," was all Rosier would say about his chat with Taylor.

"The board made the right decision. On the other hand they were taking an

action in opposition of a legislator. It doesn't do any good to be at war on these issues. Certainly the fact that the senator was unhappy had to be weighed."

The board, ever mindful of an unhappy Taylor, on Thursday dutifully reversed itself and canceled the hunt.

That decision was lousy public policy.

We have elk spreading in all directions from the first wrong-headed transplant to Etolin Island. We have a board charged with setting game policy in Alaska hamstrung on the issue. We have Legislature toying with the notion of bringing in 400 more elk. If you believe Taylor and his friends that will be done free. If you believe anybody else it'll likely cost \$1.5 million.

And of course, we have a defanged and largely ignored Department of Fish and Game. Who needs their biologists? They just keep coming up with facts that run contrary to what politicians want to do.

To its credit, the board on Friday rightly went on record opposing any more elk transplants. But who cares? Taylor apparently wants them and that seems to be good enough for some people.

Now, if you think any of this is good news for Alaska, you probably live in Taylor's district and are lusting after big antlers.

Or you're like me. I see a tremendous opportunity to get rich in a state dumb enough to even consider the notion of farming moose, importing foreign species or leaving the fate of its native species in the hands of politicians.

Here it is.

Wart Hogs R Us. That's right, a rancor right here in Alaska for those who dream of hunting the wily, toothy African critters, but get airsick or sore fannies on long plane rides.

We can bring the beasts in by the dozens, at state expense, of course, and let them loose in Southeast Alaska and off a great hunt for the aerially impaired.

I figure all I have to do is get a legislator willing to set wildlife policy for the Department of Fish and Game and the Game Board to approve the whole deal. And from this elk hunt fiasco in Southeast Alaska, it doesn't look like it should be much of a problem.

All we have to do is get Taylor on the side, and, voila, we're in pigs up to the pokes.

Paul Jenkins is an editor of The Anchorage Times.

Would you like to see ELK

TRANSPLANTED to KRUYOFF ISLAND?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
PETRO, STEVE	Box 2004	747-6209	AK NATIVE	YES
JOE GRANSON	Box 1995	747-5497	YES	YES
FRAN HALLGREN	Box 1203	747-5076	yes	yes
KEE HALLGREN	Box 1203	7-5076	YES	YES
HOLGA HANSEN	Box 2861	7-5487	yes	yes

# Would you like to see ETK Transplanted to Kruzott Island

NAME	Address	Are you a resident?	How long	Ph.	Yes or No
John Bell	PO Box 913	YES	32 yrs	747-5421	YES
Frank Nelson	607 Ethel St	yes	22 yrs	747-5476	YES
Ed Smith	Box 2166	yes	45	966-2243	YES
Clayton Brown	310 Manie	yes	36	747-8649	Yes
George Kim	4256 14th	yes	29 yrs	747-8700	yes
Will Jones Jr	Box 72 Klawock	yes	23 yrs	755-2227	yes
Al White	1303 West 46th Ave.	Yes	5 yrs	562-0490	yes
Paul Cadiente	1810 Marshall	yes	30 yrs	—	yes
James R. Moore	Box 240438	yes	26 yrs	—	yes
GREG Brown	JUNEAU, AK.	YES	25 yrs	463-7204	YES
Tom Z. Antekoff		YES		7-1468	No
Jeff Stewart	1507 Edgemoor	yes	31	747-4890	YES
Stan Edmunds			33	747-1474	yes
Korey Peters		yes	4 yrs	747-4729	yes
Kenneth Gray	Fullerton	yes	6 yrs	747-4739	yes
Robert Reese		yes	5 yrs	747-3457	YES
Andrew Keene		yes	4 yrs	—	Yes

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Krutzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
KEN JUSTIN	Box 634	747-1074	YES	YES
mike Fox	Box 2716 HPR	7 5557	YES	NO
Trent Bayre	Box 2800	7-3714	Yes	Yes
Dick Parneberg	405 Hemlock	7-3461	Yes	Yes
Nark N. Young	Box 2016	7-3518	YES	YES
Bill Paden	610 Etolin	7-8376	YES	NO
John M. Catear	2026-C HPR	7-3176	Yes	NO
David A. Chutkan	103 Birch St #E36	7-3603	Yes	Yes
David M. Hill	506 Hurstville St.	7-3912	NO	NO NO NO NO
Steve Skiff	315 Seward St	7-6721	Yes	Yes
Robert K. Mang	315 PETERSON	7-8544	Yes	Yes
Pete J. Orens	320 Kogwinton	7-3978	YES	YES
Rabe Hammer	1722 HPR	7-3498	YES	YES
JOHN LITFIELD	4102 HPR	7-6866	YES	NONON
Roy T. Anderson	Box 721	7-6179	Yes	Yes
Donald's Alka	336 Regent	7-3785	Yes	Yes
Dale Wagner	Box 6285	7-0560	Yes	Yes
Doger S.	305 Walker Ave.	7-6747	Yes	Yes

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ELK

TRANSPLANTED TO KRUZOFF ISLAND?

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE#	AK RESIDENT	YES OR NO ? would like information
Steven D Cox	Box 2404	7-5421	Yes	NO
Steve Clark	Box 2476	7-8236	Yes	NO
Sp & Stahlg	207 lower rd #3	7-0572	Yes	NO YES
Terry Matthews	Box 1016	7-8930	Yes	Yes
Anthony M. Stryke	Box 1533	7-6421	YES	YES
GLEN A Mitchell	Box 1371	7-3141	YES	YES
MONTY McFARLAND		7-6911	YES	NO
MIKE KERNIN			YES	NO
Don Ballou		7-5829	yes	NO
DON KORPELA		7-8103	YES	NO
LARRY KONKOL	Box 1316	7-8157	yes	yes
Royce R. Rath	3912A	7-8731	yes	yes
St. Neenan	606 Lake	7-8286	yes	yes
Steve Dan Herder	411 avonman	7-9506	Yes	NO OPINION
Rich Sigmund	POB 2163	7-5676	Yes	Yes
Will Wmalle	105 Shaker	747-8091	YES	YES
MARTY J MARTIN	box 2752	7-3815	YES	NO
John Miller	Boarsb		Yes	YES
King Penn		7-6721	Yes	YES
Chris Tricsofield	Box 458	7-9200	Yes	NO BUT NO HUNTING YET THEM
Brian Regis	571 Lakeview	7-8059	YES	YES

Would you like to see Elk

Transplanted to Krutzoff Island?

NAME	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Emre Benharahit	707 SMC	747-3407	37 yrs	NO
Russell Dumas	1619 SMC	747-8517	2 yrs	YES
JM Boyce	Po 3107 SITHA	7-3934	8 yrs	YES
Bruce Langer	Po-Box 6890	7-6086	8 yrs	YES
TONY VERSCHA	P.O. Box 9103	7-6782	1/2 yrs	YES
Bob Poed	Box 855	7-8176	18 yrs	YES
Eric Oa	Box 2026	749-5669	22	NO
Troy Bayne	Bx 1541	747-6720	13	YES
Rob Lawson	Bx 2846	747-6573	10	No
Todd Miller	Box 856	747-4702	24	YES
Mike-Joe	Box 756	747-3858	24	YES
Will Gall	Box 2214	7-6970	24	YES
LITHCOWAN	605 DEGROFF	7-7416	18	YES
Rusty Williams	104 Eagle Way	7-5905	4	YES
Bob Esca	619 DEGROFF	7-6120	32	YES
Patrick Krutzoff	Box 472	7-8021	31	YES
<del>Patrick Krutzoff</del>				
Don Starns	611 ETOIN ST	7-8067	12 yrs	NO
WIM STARTZ	209 OBSERVATOR	7-5816	10 yrs	NO
Kristen Mitchell	Box 891	7-5428	9 yrs	No

Would you like to see ELK

TRANK PLANTED to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Paul Addie	3208 HPR #6	6723	SITKA	NO
Rick Raphun	P.O. Box 1324	6605	SITKA	Yes
Milton Hunt	P.O. Box 2355	747-8492	SITKA	Yes
George R. Howard Sr	PM Box 1833	742-1032	SITKA	Yes
Louis R. Howard Sr	113 New Archangel		SITKA	Yes
Lanny Leonard	PO Box 2108	747-9900	SITKA	NO
Lee Lantz	1801A Alcor Wy	747-8594	SITKA	Yes
Jake Livingston	Box 995	747-5434	SITKA, AK	NO
Norm Howard	PO Box 1033	747-4022	SITKA	NO
Ally M. Larson Sr	General Delivery 288-3401	ANCHORAGE		NO
William E. [unclear]	Box Del Sitka	99835		NO
A.G. Du Bois	6229	8821	SITKA	YES
Allen Irm Van Hum	HPR - PH	747-6581	SITKA	Yes
Mary Jean C. Wayne	2716 HPR #40	747-6490	SITKA	Yes
Norman E. [unclear]	2410 HPR	747-6407	SITKA	YES
Roy W. Howard	Ocean Side #18	747-1072	SITKA	Yes
Jannet L. [unclear]	P.O. Box 6084		SITKA	Yes

Would you like to see ELK

TRANSPLANTED to KRUZOFF ISLAND?

Name	Address	PHONE	AK Resident	Yes or No
Dennis Romine	PO BOX 2483 SITKA AK.	747-8881	yes	YES
Jana Romine	"	"	"	YES
<del>Al Starcher</del>	Box 2457	7-5110	Yes	Yes
<del>John A. ...</del>	2308 APR	747-1000	30 YRS	Yes
M. ...	Box 2402	7-3871	Yes	Yes
B. Knight	711 SMCR	7-3741	YES	YES
Scott Saline	Bx 3183	77889	Yes	NO

X10!!! Do Not transplant Elk  
to Kruzoff or anywhere else  
on Barrow Chief of Island Group.

Don Mitchell  
103 Darwin  
Sitka  
747-5909 85 AK.  
28 yr. resident

This Money  
should be spent  
wisely IF Education  
etc NOT TAKE  
MEAT (DEER) OUT OF  
SUSTAINANCE RESERVES

We don't need another permit hunt in AK.

No! We don't need to make it harder for deer. AK do compete  
with deer for clove food in hard winters.

Scott Brylinski Box 17 4777 Yes No

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Krusoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Fred THOMASSEN	702 FALIN	7-8417	52 yrs	NO
Larry Nelson	C-LADY		4	NO
Bruce White	Farm	7-8294	40 YRS	Yes
Alvin C. Lund	PRECINCT ST #1 231 KATHIAN ST 2-25		11 yrs	Yes
NUDE WALLER	3514 REDSTONE RD North Pole, AK 98551		21 YRS	YES
Del Childress	207 CRABAPPLE		25 YRS	YES
Dick Olson	704 LAKE ST	7-8628	29 YRS	YES
Larry Smith	102 Kincaid wy	7-6425	28 YRS	YES
Shelley Frank	Box 1722	7-3594	was	yes
Kate Sullivan	Box 455	7-8345	was	yes
Wesley Wilson	Box 455	7-7800	was	yes
Steve McGraw	Box 1974	NONE	46 YRS	YES
Ken J. Behrman	Box 2565	5158	2 yrs	Yes
Christine French	3201 #1021PR	3729	21 yrs	Sure
Mark H. Jorgensen	P.O. Box 6166	7-5360	1	YRS
David Messner	P.O. Box 6356	747-3117	18 yrs	yes
David Messner	P.O. Box 57	747-8909	yes	yes
Don Miller	231 KATHIAN 1-20	747-3718	6 YEARS YES	YES
HENRY OKSVO	11 P.O. 2845		40 YEARS YES	YES
Rick Larson	406 Main St #C	7-2424	22 yrs	YES
GARY EATON	234 LAKEVIEW DR	7-3648	31 yrs	YES
Tom Anderson	1008 5th St	747-8287	33 yrs	yes
Hal Taylor	1603 DAVIROFF ST	747-524	42 yrs	YES

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	AK Resident	Yes or No
Rita Ledbetter	Box 2822 Sitka	747-3059	15 yrs	Yes
Beal E. Kibben	Box 6075	747-6143	50 yrs	Yes
Lorraine Bell	410 Hallowood	747-8336		Yes
D. J. Van Noy	P.O. 8013 Pt. A.	AK 508-2266	✓	Yes
Sammy J.	P.O. 6393		YES	Yes
Bryan Adams	P.O. 2724	Sitka		No
William E. Sykes	P.O. 6224	Sitka, AK	Yes	Yes
Mark Ferraro	231 MATWAN ST. 3-16	SITKA AK	Yes	Yes
Dick Wolfe	P.O. Box 1044	Sitka AK	Yes	Yes
William Chinn	P.O. Box 1466	SITKA AK	Yes	Yes
Bob King	P.O. Box 6298	SITKA AK	"Yes"	"Yes"
Choshikubun	P.O. 101 Duffhart Dr. F-41#		YES	Yes
Del Carr	Box 6328	Sitka AK	yes	No
Parves Dozier	1709 HPR. #31	7-3321	✓	Yes
Kevin Lance	Box 2516		yes	Yes
Donald M. Duncan	Box 373	Sitka 76554	YES	Yes
Dorinda M. Duncan	Box 373	Sitka 7-6554	YES	Yes
Matthew J. Loncke	Box 1782	Sitka 7-8343	✓	Yes
Dan Williams	1782	Sitka 7-6405	yes	No
Tom Nyer	231 MATWAN ST.		YES?	
Mark Reid	Box 1201		6 months	NO
Beal E. Kibben	1709 HPR		Yes	Yes
Ken Meule	131 SHECKOFF		YES	YES

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruzoff Island?

Name	Address	Phone	vsAK Resident	yes or no
Ira Smith	8044 Wab St Port Alexander AK	568-2256	5 yrs	yes
Regis Ozawa	Box 2223 Sitka AK	747-7443	40 yrs	yes
David Turner	Box 624 Sitka	747-3775	6 yrs	yes
Jon Sore	Box 2074 Wrangell	511-5827	6 yrs	yes
Oliver Bickner	Box 1017 Sitka	797-8469	32 yrs	yes
JAMES J. NIELSEN JR	Box 1753 SITKA	7-5478	39	yes
Robert J. Kirkman	Box 2716 Sitka AK	7-5073		YES
Ernest W Barnes	P.O. Box 673 Sitka AK			yes
EAN CAULAN	8023 TRACT B PORT ALEXANDER AK	998-9236	1983	YES
Ian Caulan	8023 Tract B Port Alexander AK	998-56		yes
Rob Fazel	163 Hobst Oregon city Oregon	97045		yes
Clarence Peterson	1707 Alagambien	947-5929		yes
Perry Nelson	9020 Port Alexander AK	99836	yes	yes
Roger NESS	326 Lincoln St. Sitka AK	99855	14 yrs	yes
Jim Brightman	409 Etolin Way Sitka		all 80's	yes
Jandra Aertsen	429 KATHIAN Sitka	1039	7 yrs	yes
Jim Simpson	PO Box 493 CRAIG AK	99921	6	yes
Rickard Aky	POB 2316 SITKA AK		15 yrs	yes
Bill Ball	19734 N Tanbess Ketchikan AK		8	yes
Pete Reddy	Box 6436 SITKA		17 yrs	NO
Marj Taylor	Box 6207 Sitka, AK		30 yrs	YES
Charlie Engel	609 Etolin Sitka		11	YES
Jim Moran	507 KATHIAN Sitka		8	yes
Bob Phillips	P.O. Box 2670 Sitka		8	Yes 76
Tray Bayne	P.O. Box 1541 Sitka		30	yes
MIKE BROOKS	2306 H.P.R. Sitka		24 yrs	yes
Robin Trunaw	704 #13 Sitka		25 yrs	YES

MIKE BROOKS	2306 H.P.R.	SITKA	24 yrs	YES
Robin Truman	704 #13	SITKA	25 yrs	YES
Maryanne Phillips	P.O. BX 2670	SITKA	8	YES

END FAX

195-942  
25 NO

# KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

## PROPOSAL

### MOOSE INTRODUCTION, REVILLA ISLAND

#### INTRODUCTION

MAR.14, 1993

To establish a self supporting population of Moose to Revilla island. That, up to 25 moose be introduced to a area that will support the objectives of this introduction. The Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club membership believes that the introduction of Moose to this area would be a benefit to the residents of Southern Southeast Alaska. That, by introducing Moose to this area, a more diversified population of Wildlife will be established.

#### JUSTIFICATION

Alaska State Statute, Title 16, Fish and Game Chapter 25 Section 16.25.010, Stocking of Public Lands.

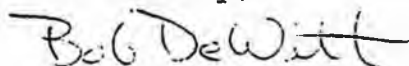
#### PROSPECTIVE COOPERATORS

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

U.S. Forest Service

Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club

Sincerely,



Bob DeWitt  
President  
K.S.W.C.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF ELK TO SOUTHEAST ALASKA: AN ASSESSMENT**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Division of Wildlife Conservation

December 1993

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## INTRODUCTION

For decades there has been interest among some groups and individuals to introduce elk (*Cervus elaphus*) into Southeast Alaska. The colonization of elk across Afognak Island following the 1929 introduction has undoubtedly contributed to this interest. Prior to 1987, attempts to introduce 45 elk to various parts of Southeast Alaska were unsuccessful.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's species management policies allow for the introduction of nonindigenous species if four minimum requirements are met: 1) the proposed transplant site provides sufficient and suitable habitat to support a viable population of the species as determined by comprehensive study; 2) prior study establishes that the introduction of the species will not significantly adversely affect the numbers, health, or utilization of resident species; 3) protection of the proposed transplant population from incompatible land use is assured; and 4) future public use of the resource is guaranteed.

When these four minimum requirements are met, as they were prior to the 1983 and 1991 mountain goat introductions to Revilla Island and the 1989 reintroduction of goats to Mt. Juneau, the department has been willing to endorse and assist in transplant efforts. However, when there are questions about whether any one of these requirements can be met, the department has felt a responsibility to express its concerns. In the case of elk introductions, wildlife managers have repeatedly expressed concerns about the impacts elk can have on native deer populations.

Our concerns are based on information regarding deer and elk relationships in other parts of North America and staff observations on Etolin Island. This paper is organized by specific concerns under three headings: direct competition for food between deer and elk; predation and its role in the relationship between deer and elk; and disease and parasite considerations.

## BACKGROUND

A state law passed in 1985 required the introduction of 50 elk (33 of the Roosevelt and 17 of the Rocky Mountain subspecies) to Etolin Island in 1987. Although many died immediately following the introduction, recent monitoring reports from department staff indicate that the elk adjusted to their new surroundings and established themselves on Etolin and Zarembo islands. Elk have been documented on the Kashevarof islands off of northeastern Prince of Wales Island and on Mitkof Island. Elk have also been reported by the public to be on Deer Island, adjacent to the Cleveland Peninsula.

The Department lacks any specially appropriated funds with which to study the interactions between elk and deer on Etolin and adjacent islands; we have been limited to occasional, cursory ground observations and periodic tracking of radio-collared elk made possible by helicopter time donated by Ketchikan Pulp Company. In an effort to secure funding for possible future studies on Etolin Island, the department submitted grant requests to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Safari Club International.

#### DIRECT COMPETITION FOR FOOD

In the book "The Elk of North America," biologist Olaus Murie points out that elk have been known to compete with mountain sheep, antelope, deer, and moose, particularly on winter range. Murie goes on to point out that in planning for deer and elk it is necessary to keep in mind that while elk will utilize practically any type of vegetation present on winter range, deer can be confined to browse, although forbs and cool-season grasses may also be important. Deer are the first to suffer in serious competition, and the range suffers to the detriment of both species by the combined pressure on available forage.

Radio-tracking of elk from the 1987 Etolin Island transplant indicates that elk regularly inhabit the coastal fringe of forested habitat on Etolin and Zarembo islands. This same beach fringe is where deer often concentrate during deep-snow winters. The fact that elk use these areas during relatively mild winters suggests that they are utilizing and impacting plants which are important and necessary for winter deer survival. In fact, through on-the-ground evaluations, department staff have found extensive elk use of blueberry shrubs, an important winter food for deer. In 1989 staff biologists observed that on Marsh Island (a small island near the Rocky Mountain elk release site) elk severely browsed blueberry shrubs only two years after the release date. Similarly in 1991, staff found severe browsing of blueberry shrubs by elk near McHenry Anchorage on Etolin.

Extensive research has been done on the feeding habits of Sitka black-tailed deer in Southeast Alaska and on elk in other areas where they are native. Although forbs are considered critical to the survival and reproductive success of deer, shrubs are important in maintaining sufficient energy levels during winter months when forbs are covered by snow and thus unavailable. The well-documented starvation of deer which periodically occurs as a result of severe winter weather illustrates that competition among deer for limited food can occur even in the absence of an introduced exotic such as elk. Elk can maintain themselves on diets consisting of low-nutrient plants, whereas deer require diets complete with specific high-nutrient plants in order to survive. The fact that elk can, and will, utilize the high-nutrient plants in addition to low-nutrient plants, results in fewer high-nutrient plants being available to sustain deer.

Thus, adding elk, with their greater size and foraging capabilities likely increases competition. The expected result is an even greater loss of deer during severe winters, which would either prolong the time necessary for deer populations to recover or they would stay depressed.

Food competition has been well-documented throughout the Pacific Northwest. British Columbia biologists found that elk on Vancouver Island feed extensively on blueberry shrubs as well as important high-nutrient forbs including bunchberry, twinflower, and deer fern. The use of these forbs is especially noteworthy because they are among the same plants which deer in Southeast Alaska require for protein assimilation and fat deposition.

In Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, biologists have found that elk, which are generally grazers (grass eaters), will utilize browse (shrubs) extensively, particularly in winter. Where browse is the major forage type (as it is during winters in Southeast Alaska), Idaho and Washington biologists have determined direct competition between deer and elk. In northwestern Montana and western Washington, researchers found that dietary overlap between elk and white-tailed deer ranging from 70 to 90 percent with the greatest overlap during the winter. Former Idaho Fish and Game Director Joseph Greenley has concluded that a winter range being used heavily by elk has virtually no carrying capacity for deer. And in Oregon, internationally-recognized deer and elk expert Jack Ward Thomas found that as elk moved into their range, mule deer numbers and distribution decreased.

Earlier proposed elk transplants to Southeast Alaska bogged down on the question of elk/deer competition. In a 1970 report assessing the advisability of introducing elk to Kruzof Island, wildlife biologists A. Courtright and H. Merriam noted that elk would likely compete with deer and, at least during severe winters, a reduction in the deer population would be a probable result. Because of this concern, which was shared by several biologists, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew funding for the proposed transplant.

During May 1972, former Washington State Regional Game Director and elk specialist, E. Reade Brown, visited Ketchikan after receiving an invitation to do so from the Alaska Sports and Wildlife Club (now the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club). After spending time looking at habitat on Revilla Island, Mr. Brown concluded that in his opinion elk could be established in the area, but that the elk would compete quite closely with the existing deer population for the winter food supply. In fact, he went on to conclude that he felt the deer population would probably decline as a result of this competition.

Recent articles and editorials have pointed to Afognak Island as proof that elk and deer can coexist in Alaska. It is true that since their introduction in 1929 elk have coexisted with deer on

Afognak and Raspberry islands. The status of this sympatry is unclear.

Kodiak area wildlife biologist Roger Smith noted that even in years when deer numbers were exceptionally high on Kodiak Island and parts of Afognak Island, the elk-inhabited northwestern part of Afognak Island provided relatively poor deer hunting. Smith is convinced that competition with elk was the reason. Also, elk appeared to have overgrazed their range in the parts of Afognak inaccessible to hunters and those herds suffered the greatest losses during recent population declines. These observations from Afognak have made ADF&G skeptical about introducing elk to Kodiak Island. Notably, there is concern that elk will degrade Kodiak Island's historical ability to support some of the state's highest densities of deer, and thereby reduce public use opportunities.

#### PREDATION AND ITS ROLE IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEER AND ELK

In addition to the concerns about direct competition for food, there is the question of the role wolf predation plays in the relationship between deer and elk. On Vancouver Island, where elk, deer, and wolves occur together, observations have shown that deer populations on some parts of the island have declined substantially as a result of high predation rates. Byron Mason, a former predator-control agent with the British Columbia government, has noted that predation pressure on deer is most severe in wolf territories that have concentrations of elk. This has been attributed to the fact that elk provide a source of alternate prey which enables wolves to continue exerting intense pressure on declining deer populations in elk-occupied areas. British Columbia wildlife biologist D. M. Hebert reported in 1981 that as wolves recolonized the northern half of Vancouver Island they nearly exterminated deer before significantly affecting elk numbers.

#### DISEASE AND PARASITE CONCERNS

Numerous articles and publications have been written about problems and concerns associated with the spread of diseases and parasites through the translocation of wild animals. Regulations generally require that transplanted animals be quarantined and tested for diseases prior to being translocated. The ability of most current tests to confirm particular diseases and parasites is largely unknown when used on native and exotic wild ungulates (hoofed animals) and some diseases and parasites can only be identified from carcasses. Most diagnostic disease and parasite tests were developed for domestic livestock. Most current tests have not been evaluated for their effectiveness in confirming problems in wildlife. Some wild animals which showed no sign of disease when tested in quarantine have developed diseases after being stressed in the wild.

In dealing with elk, specific diseases and parasites of concern include meningeal worms, bovine tuberculosis, giant liver flukes, and bovine brucellosis.

The white-tailed deer is the natural host for the meningeal worm. Adult worms live on the surface of the brain. Although the worm rarely causes problems in white-tails, it can be fatal to other members of the deer family. Translocated elk containing undetected meningeal worms or their larvae could transmit the parasites to native black-tailed deer or even moose, with ensuing catastrophic potential for resident species. Alberta now has a moratorium on the import of wild ungulates. British Columbia also banned the importation of moose, elk, white-tailed deer, and mule deer because of concerns about the meningeal worm.

The geographic range of the meningeal worm has historically been limited to eastern North America. It does not occur in Alaska. In recent years, wildlife management agencies in western North America have become more diligent about keeping this parasite out of their state or province. Researchers have reported that meningeal worms are detected in only 50 percent of live, infected animals. In addition, Canadian biologists have proven that elk can become long-term carriers and transmitters of the worm, and are not the dead-end host as previously believed.

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is a serious disease affecting wild animals. Infection localizes in the lungs, with often fatal results. TB also poses human health risks, resulting in a debilitating disease called undulant fever. At least one veterinarian and several wildlife technicians in Canada have been exposed and infected with TB after working with diseased elk.

Diagnostic test procedures for TB are often unreliable. Testing a recently infected elk may incorrectly indicate that the animal is not infected. Similarly, animals in advanced stages of the disease may not be detected by current test procedures.

TB bacterium is difficult to control once established in the wild because it is resistant to most environmental conditions. The transplanting of just two elk with TB from a menagerie in Iowa created significant health and economic problems in South Dakota in the early 1980s.

There is no effective treatment for TB in wild animals. At present, the only successful method of human intervention into an outbreak is to slaughter all animals which have come into contact with the infected animal. The chief veterinarian of the USDA in Washington, D.C. has said that bovine TB will be impossible to eradicate if it becomes established in free-ranging elk and deer populations of North America.

The natural host for liver flukes in North America is the domestic sheep. Although they cause few problems in that species, flukes can be transmitted to several members of the deer family. Transmission requires a snail as an intermediate host and is favored by wet or boggy environments. At present, specific elk ranges in the Pacific Northwest are considered hot spots for the giant liver fluke.

Scientific literature suggests that the fluke will not kill deer, moose, or elk. However, recent evidence has documented fatal infections in both moose and elk. Giant liver flukes have become a major concern in British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba. A recently-planned relocation of elk from the Kootenai to the Caribou Hills of British Columbia has been suspended because of the risk of spreading this parasite to other ungulates.

Bovine brucellosis is a bacterial disease normally associated with domestic cattle. Abortion, lowered production, and lameness result from the disease. It was transmitted to elk near Yellowstone Park near the turn of the century. Humans are susceptible. Diagnostic tests for brucellosis are not 100% accurate and drug treatment of infected animals is not an effective option. Attempts to eradicate brucellosis from free-ranging elk have only made limited progress. The effort has been hampered by limited funding, intense political debate, and logistics.

#### ANTICIPATED COSTS OF INTRODUCTION

Costs associated with the proposed implementation of CSSB43(FIN) were estimated by extrapolation of costs incurred during the 1987 introduction of 50 elk to Etolin Island. The cost of procuring and releasing 350 elk was estimated at \$955,100, excluding any monitoring of movements and mortality. Inclusion of a modest monitoring program (which would likely be required by the Forest Service NEPA process) increased the total cost to \$1,532,200. Additionally, four new full-time positions would be required during the three-year transplant period, and one position would be required for monitoring for two additional years. Because of concerns over competition and disease transmission, it is highly unlikely that any Pittman-Robertson federal matching funds could be used for elk introductions. Consequently, the primary funding source would be the general fund.

*Tanner reported that in an area of overpopulation, elk competed for food with deer on wintering areas.*

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**Troyer, W.A. 1960.** Roosevelt elk on Afognak Island, Alaska. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 24:15-21.

*Toyer found that during fall and winter, elk on Afognak Island decreased their consumption of grasses and annual forbs and increased their consumption of browse (shrub) species.*

### HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

**Nyberg, J.B. 1990.** Interactions of timber management with deer and elk. Pages 99-131 in *Deer and elk habitats in coastal forests of southern British Columbia.* J.B. Nyberg and D.W. Janz, ed. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Environment, Victoria, B.C. 310pp.

*Deer and elk on Vancouver Island require mature, old-growth coniferous forests for food and cover during winters. Heterogeneous stands of old trees make the best winter ranges because they provide the optimum combination of characteristics that intercept snow and supply forage in the form of shrubs, herbs, and arboreal lichen litterfall. Where elk occur on northern and western Vancouver Island, their most heavily used winter ranges are often stands of old-growth western hemlock and Sitka spruce.*

*Deer make extensive use of logged areas for feeding except when snow is deep and soft. Elk on Vancouver Island use clearcuts less than deer do, but like deer, elk make heaviest use of areas near cover. Thus, the value of an open foraging area for deer and elk habitat will be higher if the logged area is kept narrow and sufficient growth of shrubs and young conifers has occurred in adjacent units to provide security cover close at hand.*

*Logging slash, depending on depth and density, can pose a serious barrier to deer and elk use by preventing or discouraging them from moving through the logged areas. Slash less than 12 inches has little effect on deer unless it covers more than 50% of the ground, but at slash depths greater than 12 inches, deer expend large amounts of extra energy in moving about because they must jump over obstacles. Because of their longer legs, elk can more easily negotiate greater debris depths, but the extra energy costs as debris becomes denser are still dramatic.*

*Forest canopies close in about 20-25 years following logging. With the development of closed canopies, thermal and snow interception cover begin to form. At the same time, dense lower branches conceal animals well, providing some of the best security cover to be found in any habitat. However, as crowns close, a period of poor forage production begins. This condition may persist for several decades if the stand remains dense, resulting in substantial decreases in forage plants for both deer and elk.*

Nelson, J.R., and T.A. Leege. 1982 Nutritional requirements and food habits. Pages 323-367 in J.W. Thomas and D.E. Towell, eds. Elk of North America, ecology and management. Wildl. Manage. Inst. 698pp.

*In Washington, elk were found to feed primarily on grasses, sedges, and forbs during most of the year; however, during winter they turned almost exclusively to woody browse (shrubs).*

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Nyberg, J.B., D.W. Janz, R.B. Addison, R.D. Forbes, and E.L. Richardson. 1990. Introduction. Pages 1-29 in Deer and elk habitats in coastal forests of southern British Columbia. J.B. Nyberg and D.W. Janz, ed. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Environment, Victoria, B.C. 310pp.

*The effects of hunting are of greater management concern for elk than for deer because of the social behavior and lower productivity of elk compared to deer. Elk harvests will continue to be controlled by limited entry hunts on Vancouver Island.*

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Schwartz, J.E., and G.E. Mitchell. 1945. The Roosevelt elk of the Olympic Peninsula, Washington. J. Wildl. Manage. 9:295-319.

*These authors found that elk in Washington browsed on shrubs as well as grazed on grasses and forbs. During the winter, when all herbaceous plants were buried by snow, the elk used browse exclusively, resulting in extensive use of huckleberry, an important winter deer food. The authors observed that elk are more damaging to a range than deer, and sometimes even more so than domestic livestock.*

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Short, H.L. 1981. Nutrition and metabolism. Pages 99-127 in Mule and Black-tailed deer of North America. O.C. Wallmo, ed. Wildl. Manage. Inst. Univ. of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. 605pp.

*Deer require over 7% digestible protein in their diets in order to successfully grow and reproduce. This is over 20% higher than the 5.5% minimum requirement for elk (see Brunt 1990). The author explains in detail the physiological components of deer digestive processes and describes the need for high-nutrient forage in deer diets. He indicates that diets consisting of 15-16% digestible protein are necessary for optimum growth and reproduction. Foods with high cell content and low lignocellulose levels provide much more digestible protein than mature woody twigs, dead and withered leaves, or dormant grasses.*

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Tanner, D.L. 1957. The Soldier Mountain elk herd. Idaho Fish and Game Dept. Pages 8-11.

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. 1988. Resource partitioning and competition among cervids in the northern Rocky Mountains. *J. Appl. Ecol.* 25:11-24.

*In their studies, Jenkins and his colleagues found that a high degree of overlap in spatial, habitat, and dietary patterns occurred between elk, moose, and white-tailed deer in northwestern Montana. Indices of overlap suggested that the greatest potential for interspecific competition occurred between elk and white-tailed deer; the effects of which appeared to be greatest for white-tailed deer because of their low foraging reach and limited tolerance of snow.*

*Jenkins and Wright (1987) found 71-81% dietary overlap between elk and white-tailed deer during mild and snowy winters, respectively. Variable snowpack and forage availabilities promoted opportunistic rather than specialized winter foraging behavior. Low evergreen shrubs, grasses, and forbs were not available during periods of deep snow to permit high levels of food specialization and partitioning between cervids. Jenkins and Wright (1987) believe that adverse effects of forage competition would be most pronounced during consecutive severe winters when cervids are energetically stressed.*

Leslie, D.M., E.E. Starkey, and M. Vavra. 1984. Elk and deer diets in old growth forests in western Washington. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 48:762-775.

*In their study conducted in western Washington, these researchers found that high (78-93%) dietary overlap between elk and black-tailed deer suggested competitive interactions for food, especially during winter when forage resources were least available. Predominant forages in fall and winter diets seemed to afford little opportunity for cervids to select different plant parts.*

Murie, O.J. 1951. The elk of North America. The Stackpole Co. Harrisburg, PA. and the Wildl. Manage. Inst. Washington, D.C. 376pp.

*Murie conducted over 35 years of study on elk in Wyoming. He points out that elk are generalized in their food requirements, while deer on winter range are specialized and hence suffer more directly from malnutrition. In the absence of sufficient browse, Murie found deer which had died on diets which allowed elk to thrive. Murie indicates that food habits of big game are not sufficiently specialized to prevent competition among species, and elk being the most omnivorous big game animal, is the most likely to bring on harmful rivalry. Elk have been known to compete with mountain sheep, antelope, deer, and moose, particularly on winter range. In planning for deer and elk, Murie points out that it is necessary to keep in mind that while elk will utilize practically any type of vegetation present on winter range, deer are confined to browse. Deer are the first to suffer in serious competition, and the range suffers to the detriment of both species by a too drastic combined onslaught on its forage resource.*

*Because the rumen:body-weight ratio is higher in elk than in deer, elk are able to digest relatively larger amounts of coarse forage without running short of incoming energy. They can therefore eat more low-energy foods than deer. Winter diets of elk overlap deer diets on Vancouver Island, and consist of many of the same forage species eaten by deer in Southeast Alaska (see below, Bunnell 1990). Minimum digestible protein required for pregnant elk cows to successfully produce a surviving calf is about 5.5%, compared with just over 7% required by pregnant does.*

*Elk cows generally conceive for the first time in their third year of life and give birth to a single calf. Twin calves have not been reported on Vancouver Island. Predation can strongly affect elk population levels, particularly on poor ranges where elk condition is low.*

*Because of their low reproductive rates relative to deer, elk hunting on Vancouver Island is by limited entry drawing. Between 1977-1988, annual harvests have varied from about 50 to 150 elk on the approximately 15,000 mi<sup>2</sup> island.*

**Bunnell, F.L. 1990. Ecology of Black-tailed deer. Pages 31-63 in Deer and elk habitats in coastal forests of southern British Columbia. J.B. Nyberg and D.W. Janz, ed. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Environment, Victoria, B.C. 310pp.**

*Deer have rumens which are 60% smaller than those of elk. This physiological difference makes it critically important for deer to obtain sufficient quantities of high-nutrient forage species in order to survive and reproduce. This is especially important during winters when energetic costs for deer to move through two feet of snow is over four times greater than what is required for elk.*

*Deer on Vancouver Island feed on many of the same plant species as elk and Southeast Alaska deer. Among the plant species which are utilized by both deer and elk are high-nutrient forbs including bunchberry, five-leaf bramble, deer fern, and skunk cabbage. Both species also feed on blueberry (an important winter food) and salmonberry shrubs, and on western hemlock and western red cedar.*

*Does generally reproduce for the first time at age 2 and on good ranges twinning is common. However, the high growth potential of deer populations is reduced by mortality, which can be substantial during severe winters or when predators are abundant.*

**Jenkins, K.J. 1985. Winter habitat and niche relationships of sympatric cervids along the North Fork of the Flathead River, Montana. Ph.D. thesis, University of Idaho, Moscow.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ and R.G. Wright. 1987. Dietary niche relationships among cervids relative to winter snowpack in northwestern Montana. Can. J. Zool. 65:1397-1401.**

*Several relocations of animals resulted in the establishment of new diseases in populations of native ungulates, with devastating and prolonged consequences. Examples given by Welch et al. include rinderpest into Africa, brucellosis and tuberculosis into Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada, and the giant liver fluke into Europe (Tessaro 1986). The giant liver fluke, the carotid artery worm and the meningeal worm, could be transported in infected hosts and become established in previously uninfected wild populations (Samuel 1987). Welch et al. gave probability of detecting parasite infections in fecal samples and decided that examination of multiple fecal samples is not a reliable diagnostic tool for detecting infections of meningeal worm in all infected elk.*

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Worley, D.E. 1990. The role of internal parasites in management of free-ranging and captive North American elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*). Pages 304-307 in A. G. Christensen, L. J. Lyon and T. N. Lonner, comps., Proc. Elk Vulnerability Symp., Montana State Univ., Bozeman. 330pp.

*Worley said at least 23 species of internal parasites have been reported from wild elk on native ranges in the western United States and Canada. Four are most frequently associated with clinical disease: the intra-arterial nematode, Elaeophora schneideri; the meningeal worm, Paralaphostrongylus tenuis; the thread lungworm, Dictyocaulus viviparus and the giant liver fluke, Fascioloides magna. Expansion of the range of the giant liver fluke via translocation of infected animals has been attributed to movement of both free-ranging and captive elk.*

#### DEER AND ELK FEEDING ECOLOGY, NUTRITION, REPRODUCTION, ENERGY EXPENDITURE, AND COMPETITION

Batchelor, R.F. 1963. Elk investigations-Elk range studies. Alaska Dep. Fish and Game. Proj. W-6-R-3. Job 1-B. Juneau. 65pp.

*Reporting on range conditions on a portion of the Litnik Lake Game Range of southeastern Afognak Island, Batchelor indicated that 95% of all elderberry and 54% of all willows were classified as retrogressives, being unable to maintain the present state of health. He concluded that this was caused either by elk browsing or successional changes in the plant community or both.*

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Brunt, K.R. 1990. Ecology of Roosevelt elk. Pages 65-98 in Deer and elk habitats in coastal forests of southern British Columbia. J.B. Nyberg and D.W. Janz, ed. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Environment, Victoria, B.C. 310pp.

*and tuberculosis into Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada through animal transplants.*

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Thorne, E.T., J.K. Morton, and W.C. Ray. 1979. Brucellosis, its effect and impact on elk in western Wyoming. North American elk; ecology, behavior and management; U. WY, Laramie. M. S. Boyce and L. O. Wing, Eds., pp. 212-220.

*Premature calves are often an effect of brucellosis in elk. Reduced reproductive success of brucellosis-infected females is shown in abortion, premature birth, and birth of non-viable calves.*

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Thorne, E.T. and J.K. Morton. 1975. The incidence and importance of brucellosis in elk in northwestern Wyoming. Job. Compl. Rep., Fed. Aid in Wildl. Rest., Proj. FW-3-R-21, pp 12-16. Wyoming Game and Fish Comm. Laramie. cited in Kistner (1982).

Thorne, E.T., J.D. Herriges, Jr., and A.D. Reese. 1991. Bovine brucellosis in elk: conflicts in the greater Yellowstone area. Pages 296-303. in A. G. Christensen, L. J. Lyon and T. N. Lonner, comps., Proc. Elk Vulnerability Symp., Montana State Univ., Bozeman. 330pp.

*Thorne and Morton (1975) related Brucellosis and tuberculosis are two feared diseases that are contracted by elk and which are infectious to human beings. Brucella abortus, the etiologic agent of bovine brucellosis (undulant fever in humans) occurs in both bison and supplementally fed elk within 27,000 square miles of Yellowstone National Park and the adjacent National Forests. The disease in elk appears to be associated with feedground elk in Wyoming and Montana. Researchers say there is little opportunity for transmission of brucellosis among non-feedground elk.*

*Thorne et al. (1990) said brucellosis is prevalent in elk of northwestern Wyoming. Occurrence of brucellosis is a consequence of supplemental winter feeding as a substitute for natural winter ranges. Presence of the disease in northern Yellowstone elk may reflect their association with infected bison and interchange with fed elk populations. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) vaccinates fed elk with a vaccine called "strain 19", tries to reduce reliance on supplemental feed through habitat improvement and acquisition and tries to separate cattle and elk during high risk transmission periods. About 50% of infected elk abort their first pregnancy following infection. Chronic brucellosis frequently causes lameness. WGFD spends \$100,000 per year on the elk vaccination program.*

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Welch, D.A., M.J. Pybus, W.M. Samuel, and C.J. Wilke. 1991. Reliability of fecal examination for detecting infections of meningeal worm in elk. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 19:326-331.

Oldemeyer, J.L., R.L. Robbins, and B.L. Smith. 1993. Effect of feeding level on elk weights and reproductive success at the national elk refuge. Pages 64-68 in R. L. Callas, D. B. Koch, and E. R. Loft, eds. Proc. Western States and Provinces Elk Workshop, Eureka, California.

*Reproductive success (calves surviving until August) of brucellosis-negative adult females was 66.7% vs. 54.2% for brucellosis-positive adult females.*

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Pybus, M.J. 1990. Survey of hepatic and pulmonary helminths of wild cervids in Alberta, Canada. Jour. Wildl. Diseases. 26(4), pp. 453-459.

Pybus, M.J., D.K. Onderka, and N. Cool. 1991. Efficacy of triclabendazole against natural infections of *Fascioloides magna* in wapiti. Jour. Wildl. Diseases 27(4), pp. 599-605.

*Direct and indirect mortality has been associated with giant liver fluke (Fascioloides magna) infections in moose (Alces alces). The giant liver fluke was found in 18 of 27 adult wapiti in alpine or montane habitat. Pybus (1990) found several other parasites in elk during the survey: Taenia hydatigena, Dictyocaulus viviparus, Echinococcus granulosus, and Thysanosoma actinoides.*

*The giant liver fluke is a relatively benign parasite in the liver of white-tailed deer and elk, but it can cause extensive hepatic damage in moose, elk, and Columbian black-tailed deer (Odocoileus hemionus columbianus). The fluke is translocated easily by infected wapiti into areas suitable for its life cycle (Pybus et al. 1991)*

*Pybus (pers comm.) relates that the giant liver fluke causes problems with moose, and that just a few flukes can kill a moose. In most ungulates, the flukes in the liver seek a mate by tunneling. When they find a mate, they stop and the body's defense mechanism forms a capsule around the two flukes. In moose, the sensory mechanism of the fluke is disrupted and the flukes continue tunneling without locating a mate, causing severe liver damage.*

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Schwartz, J.E. 1943. Range conditions and management of the Roosevelt elk on the Olympic Peninsula. U.S. Dept. of Agric. 65pp. (Cited by Murie 1951).

*Tapeworms (Thysanosoma actinoides) were reported in Washington in 7 out of 32 Roosevelt elk examined by Schwartz.*

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Tessaro, S.V. 1986. Existing and potential importance of brucellosis and tuberculosis in Canadian wildlife: a review. Can. Vet. J. 27:119-224.

*Welch et al. (1991) cited Tessaro as the source for information on the introduction of brucellosis*

*Investigations revealed extensive bovine tuberculosis infection in a herd of 50 elk. Eleven of eighteen elk responded to a tuberculin skin test. Ten of the eleven responders were classified as bovine TB reactors using a comparative skin test four days later. Tuberculous lesions were observed in lungs or lymph nodes in seven of the ten reactors. The entire herd was ordered destroyed. At depopulation, 19 of 26 (73%) elk at least two years old had tuberculous lesions, including one animal which had tested negative; overall, 69% of elk at least two years old examined during the course of investigations were infected with bovine tuberculosis. The apparent duration and severity of TB in this herd suggest game ranches throughout the U.S. represent potential reservoirs for the disease that may threaten the success of national eradication efforts.*

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Murie, O.J. 1951. The elk of North America. The Stackpole Co. Harrisburg, PA and the Wildl. Mgmt. Inst. Wash., D.C. 376pp.

*The winter tick (Dermacentor albipictus) was seen by Murie as a "scourge" that visits the elk each spring. He stated that the ticks usually are attached in large numbers on the neck, back, and about the tail where bare skin occurs, and on the inside of the thigh. Murie went on to say that elk bite at the ticks and he felt that engorged ticks were palatable to elk.*

*Murie reported that Psoroptes communis var. cervinae is the causative mite of scabies in elk. Murie found an old cow elk in the Olympic Mountains to be covered with lice (Bovicula americanum) shortly after death.*

*Murie (1951) said that lungworms (Dictyocaulus hadweni = D. viviparus) were found in elk in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Schwartz (1943) examined 32 Roosevelt elk and found lungworm in 23 elk. He also reported bloodworms (Cysticercus tenuicollis) in the liver of a number of elk. Tapeworms (Thysanosoma actinoides) were reported in Wyoming Rocky Mountain elk by Murie.*

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Neiland, K.A. 1975. Further observations on rangiferine brucellosis in Alaska carnivores. J. Wildl. Dis. 11:45-53

Neiland, K.A., A.J. King, B.E. Huntley, and R. Skoog. 1968. The diseases and parasites of Alaskan wildlife populations. Part I. Some observations on brucellosis in caribou. Bull. Wildl. Dis. Assoc. 4:27-37.

*Quoted by V. Geist (1990, see previous reference) as detailing transmission of diseases of ranched game to carnivores, caribou, dogs and people in Alaska.*

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**Geist, V. 1990.** Game-ranching: menace to the survival of the North American elk. Pages 292-295 in A. G. Christensen, L. J. Lyon and T. N. Lonner, comps., Proc. Elk Vulnerability Symp., Montana State Univ., Bozeman. 330pp.

*Geist decried game ranching as potentially causing the "end" of native elk through genetic pollution, diseases and competition with uncontrollable feral populations of exotics. Game ranching leads to the escape of reportable livestock diseases into wild populations because of technical shortcomings in detecting diseases, inadequate quarantine regulations, the flouting of import and export regulations and the inevitability of ranched wildlife escaping into the wilds. Geist cited authorities (Neiland et al. 1968, Neiland 1975, Broughton et al. 1970, see references) who reported that game ranching passed on swine brucellosis from reindeer to caribou, native carnivores, dogs and native people.*

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**Jessup, D.A. 1993.** Monitoring health parameters in California's elk herds. Pages 92-97 R. J. Callas, D. B. Koch, and E. R. Loft, eds. Proc. of the Western States and Provinces Elk Workshop, Eureka, California.

*Eighteen new Tule elk herds have resulted from moving about 1,000 animals throughout California. All recent relocations have originated from one captive herd and one free-ranging herd. Some populations have had significant disease problems subsequent to relocation.*

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**Kistner, T.P. 1982.** Diseases and parasites. Pages 181-217 in J. W. Thomas and D. E. Toweill, eds. Elk of North America, Ecology and Management. Wildl. Manage. Inst. 698pp.

*Elk are normally healthy when their numbers are kept within the carrying capacity of the range, but they are susceptible to many pathological conditions. These include bacterial diseases, fungal diseases, parasitic diseases, rickettsial diseases, viral diseases, toxicological diseases, internal and external parasites, and tumors. Some diseases of elk listed by Kistner were actinomycosis, anthrax, arthritis, brucellosis, clostridia, leptospirosis, necrotic stomatitis, and coccidiomycosis. Kistner said that lungworm has frequently been reported in Roosevelt elk, Rocky Mountain elk, and Tule elk. Kistner cited Thorne and Morton (1975) as authorities on brucellosis in elk. See citation below. Kistner listed mites, ticks, botflies, lice, flukes, tapeworms, protozoans, filarial worms, lungworms, threadworms, and whipworms as being found in elk.*

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**Miller, M.W., J.M. Williams, T.J. Schiefer, and J.W. Seidel. 1991.** Bovine tuberculosis in a captive elk herd in Colorado: epizootiology, diagnosis, and management. Proc. 95th Annual Meeting of U.S. Animal Health Association, San Diego, California, pp 533-542.

*numbers declined, wolf densities could be maintained temporarily at relatively high levels as a result of available alternate prey, including moose and beaver.*

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**Weaver, J.L. 1980.** Wolf predation upon elk in the Rocky Mountains parks of North America: a review. Pages 29-33 in M.S. Boyce and L. D. Hayden-Wing, eds. North American Elk: Ecology Behavior and Management. Univ. of Wyoming. 293pp.

*Weaver reviewed wolf predation on elk in the literature and stated "In Jasper Park December 1946 and in Banff Park January 1947, biologist E. W. Pfeiffer determined that two separate packs of 5-6 wolves each were killing 3 elk every 2 weeks...If three elk--1 calf, 1 cow and 1 bull--were killed every two weeks, this represents 6.2 kg (13.6 lb.) to 7.5 kg (16.5 lb.) elk per wolf per day, 0.17-0.20 kg elk per kg wolf per day." Weaver also reported that Vernon Bailey collected wolf droppings in central Yellowstone Park in July 1915 which were made up entirely of elk hair.*

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**Young, E.L., C.R. Land, and D.D. James. 1993.** Mortality and movement of transplanted Rocky Mountain and Roosevelt elk in southeast Alaska. Pages 69-74 in R. L. Callas, D. B. Kock=h, and E. R. Loft, eds. Proc. Western States and Provinces Elk Workshop. Eureka, California. Eureka. May 1990. In press.

*Radio-collared elk were subjected to predation by wolves from the inception of the 1987 elk transplant to Etolin Island. Black bears cached elk carcasses and were thought to have been responsible for some adult elk mortality on Etolin Island.*

#### PARASITES AND DISEASES OF ELK

**Broughton, E., L.P.E. Choquette, J.G. Cousineau, and F.L. Miller. 1970.** Brucellosis in reindeer (*R. tarandus* and the migratory barren-ground caribou, *R. t. groenlandicus* (L.) in Canada. Can. J. Zool. 48:1023-1027.

*Quoted by V. Geist (1990) as discussing transmission of diseases of ranched reindeer to caribou. See Geist reference below.*

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**Erhardova-Kotrla, B. 1971.** The occurrence of *Fascioloides magna* in Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovak Acad. Sci., Prague. 155pp.

*According to Welch et al. (1991), this paper discusses the introduction of the giant liver fluke into Europe by translocated exotics from North America.*

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Schlegel, M. 1976. Factors affecting calf elk survival in north-central Idaho—a progress report. Proc. West. Assoc. State Game and Fish Comm. 56:342-355

*Schlegel reported losses of around 50% from black bear predation in an Idaho elk herd.*

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Taber, R.D. and K.J. Raedeke. 1980. Roosevelt Elk of the Olympic National Forest. Status Report. Wildl. Sci. Group. Univ. of Wash. Seattle. 107pp.

*Taber and Raedeke discounted predation as an "important mortality agent" in the Olympic peninsula, and pointed out that the wolf (Canis lupus) "is now extinct and that the puma's (Felis concolor) numbers are very reduced. They did not mention the black bear (Euarctos americanus) as being present or as a possible predator. These authors stated, "The recovery of the elk population after the turn of the century resulted not only from the control of predators and the restriction of hunting, but also from changes in the habitat."*

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Van Ballenberghe, V., A.W. Erickson, and D. Byman. 1975. Ecology of the timber wolf in northeastern Minnesota. Wildl. Monogr. No. 43.

*This study showed that deer were the primary food item of wolves in Minnesota, while moose and beaver contributed secondarily to the diets of wolves.*

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Van Ballenberghe, V. and T.A. Hanley. 1982. Predation on deer in relation to old-growth forest management in southeastern Alaska. Pages 291-296 in W. R. Meehan, T. R. Merrel, Jr. And T.A. Hanley, eds. Fish and Wildlife Relationships in Old-Growth Forests. Amer Inst. Fish. Res. Biol. 425pp.

*Van Ballenberghe and Hanley discussed the problem of wolf predation on deer in southeast Alaska. They stated that some factors which improve the efficiency of wolves as predators in this area are: periodic winters of deep snow that can result in surplus killing by wolves, patchiness of deer winter habitat which reduces search time for wolves, relatively constant sources of food for wolves from the ocean which prevents wolves from declining in concert with deer, and reductions in buffer zones between wolf pack territories as a result of the island nature of the area. They concluded, "These factors, along with high annual kill rates by wolves due to the small body size of black-tailed deer, suggest that predation may be more of a management problem in southeastern Alaska than elsewhere."*

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Voight, D.R., G.B. Kolenosky, and D.H. Pimlott. 1976. Changes in summer foods of wolves in central Ontario. J. Wildl. Manage. 40:663-668.

*This study showed that wolves preyed on deer substantially more than moose. However, as deer*

*and elk may readily be maintained on the same range, with a surplus of each for the sportsman."*

*Murie cited I. McT. Cowan as saying that wolves in Canada commonly prey on elk, both on calves and adults, and that a single wolf can kill an elk, which is seized by the throat or flank. He stated that elk may escape wolves by taking to water or deep, soft snow. According to Murie, Cowan also said, "It is concluded that under existing circumstances the wolves are not detrimental to the park game herds, that their influence is definitely secondary, in the survival of game, to the welfare factors, of which the absence of suitable winter forage is the most important." Dr. Cowan was referring to an area where 50 percent of the elk were considered surplus because of range conditions (Murie 1951).*

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**Oosenburg, S.M. and L.N. Carbyn. 1982. Winter predation of bison and activity patterns of a wolf pack in Wood Buffalo National Park. Pages 43-53 in F. C. Harrington and Paquet, eds. Wolves of the World. Noyes Publ. Parkhurst, N.J. 474pp.**

*In Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park, where wolves prey primarily on bison, data indicated that each wolf ate 5.3 kg/day, or an average of one bison every 78 days per wolf (Oosenbrug and Carbyn 1982).*

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**Potvin, F. 1988. Wolf movements and population dynamics in Papineau-Labelle Reserve, Quebec. Can. J. Zool. 66:1266-1273.**

**\_\_\_\_\_, H. Jollcoeur, and J. Huot. 1988. Wolf diet and prey selectivity during two periods for deer in Quebec: decline versus expansion. Can. J. Zool. 66:1274-1279.**

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*Wolves feed primarily on deer on Vancouver Island; however, when deer densities decline, wolves switch to other prey, including elk. Predation can strongly affect elk population levels, particularly on poor ranges where elk condition is low.*

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Carbyn, L.N. 1974. Wolf predation and behavior interactions with elk and other ungulates in an area of high prey diversity. Canad. Wildl. Serv. Rept. Edmonton, Alberta. 233pp.

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## **ANNOTATED ELK BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
Southeast Region**

**Prepared by Division of Wildlife Conservation, Region I**

**September 1993**

# State of Alaska



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# **ANNOTATED ELK BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Division of Wildlife Conservation  
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**Prepared by E.L. Young, Area Wildlife Biologist, Sitka,  
D. Larsen, Area Wildlife Biologist, Ketchikan, &  
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**April 1993**

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*Murie stated that both grizzly and black bears prey on calves in Wyoming and in the Olympic Mountains of Washington but doubted that "bears ever kill adult elk except under very unusual circumstances". Murie stated "In the Olympic Mountain region...the indications are that bears*

*and elk may readily be maintained on the same range, with a surplus of each for the sportsman."*

*Murie cited I. McT. Cowan as saying that wolves in Canada commonly prey on elk, both on calves and adults, and that a single wolf can kill an elk, which is seized by the throat or flank. He stated that elk may escape wolves by taking to water or deep, soft snow. According to Murie, Cowan also said, "It is concluded that under existing circumstances the wolves are not detrimental to the park game herds, that their influence is definitely secondary, in the survival of game, to the welfare factors, of which the absence of suitable winter forage is the most important." Dr. Cowan was referring to an area where 50 percent of the elk were considered surplus because of range conditions (Murie 1951).*

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**Oosenburg, S. M. and L. N. Carbyn. 1982.** Winter predation of bison and activity patterns of a wolf pack in Wood Buffalo National Park. Pages 43-53 in F. C. Harrington and Paquet, eds. *Wolves of the World*. Noyes Publ. Parkhurst, N.J. 474pp.

*In Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park, where wolves prey primarily on bison, data indicated that each wolf ate 5.3 kg/day, or an average of one bison every 78 days per wolf (Oosenbrug and Carbyn 1982).*

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**Potvin, F. 1988.** Wolf movements and population dynamics in Papineau-Labelle Reserve, Quebec. *Can. J. Zool.* 66:1266-1273.

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Schlegel, M. 1976. Factors affecting calf elk survival in north-central Idaho—a progress report. Proc. West. Assoc. State Game and Fish Comm. 56:342-355

*Schlegel reported losses of around 50% from black bear predation in an Idaho elk herd.*

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Taber, R. D. and K. J. Raedeke. 1980. Roosevelt Elk of the Olympic National Forest. Status Report. Wildl. Sci. Group. Univ. of Wash. Seattle. 107pp.

*Taber and Raedeke discounted predation as an "important mortality agent" in the Olympic peninsula, and pointed out that the wolf (Canis lupus) "is now extinct and that the puma's (Felis concolor) numbers are very reduced. They did not mention the black bear (Euarctos americanus) as being present or as a possible predator. These authors stated, "The recovery of the elk population after the turn of the century resulted not only from the control of predators and the restriction of hunting, but also from changes in the habitat."*

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Van Ballenberghe, V., A.W. Erickson, and D. Byman. 1975. Ecology of the timber wolf in northeastern Minnesota. Wildl. Monogr. No. 47.

*This study showed that deer were the primary food item of wolves in Minnesota, while moose and beaver contributed secondarily to the diets of wolves.*

---

Van Ballenberghe, V. and T. A. Hanley. 1982. Predation on deer in relation to old-growth forest management in southeastern Alaska. Pages 291-296 in W. R. Meehan, T. R. Merrel, Jr. and T.A. Hanley, eds. Fish and Wildlife Relationships in Old-Growth Forests. Amer Inst. Fish. Res. Biol. 425pp.

*Van Ballenberghe and Hanley discussed the problem of wolf predation on deer in southeast Alaska. They stated that some factors which improve the efficiency of wolves as predators in this area are: periodic winters of deep snow that can result in surplus killing by wolves, patchiness of deer winter habitat which reduces search time for wolves, relatively constant sources of food for wolves from the ocean which prevents wolves from declining in concert with deer, and reductions in buffer zones between wolf pack territories as a result of the island nature of the area. They concluded, "These factors, along with high annual kill rates by wolves due to the small body size of black-tailed deer, suggest that predation may be more of a management problem in southeastern Alaska than elsewhere."*

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Voight, D.R., G.B. Kolenosky, and D.H. Pimlott. 1976. Changes in summer foods of wolves in central Ontario. J. Wildl. Manage. 40:663-668.

*This study showed that wolves preyed on deer substantially more than moose. However, as deer*

numbers declined, wolf densities could be maintained temporarily at relatively high levels as a result of available alternate prey, including moose and beaver.

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Weaver, J. L. 1980. Wolf predation upon elk in the Rocky Mountains parks of North America: a review. Pages 29-33 in M.S. Boyce and L. D. Hayden-Wing, eds. North American Elk: Ecology Behavior and Management. Univ. of Wyoming. 293pp.

*Weaver reviewed wolf predation on elk in the literature and stated "In Jasper Park December 1946 and in Banff Park January 1947, biologist E. W. Pfeiffer determined that two separate packs of 5-6 wolves each were killing 3 elk every 2 weeks...If three elk--1 calf, 1 cow and 1 bull--were killed every two weeks, this represents 6.2 kg (13.6 lb.) to 7.5 kg (16.5 lb.) elk per wolf per day, 0.17-0.20 kg elk per.kg wolf per day." Weaver also reported that Vernon Bailey collected wolf droppings in central Yellowstone Park in July 1915 which were made up entirely of elk hair.*

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Young, E. L., C. R. Land, and D. D. James. 1993. Mortality and movement of transplanted Rocky Mountain and Roosevelt elk in southeast Alaska. Proc. Western States and Provinces Elk Workshop. Cal. Dept. of Fish and Game. Eureka. May 1990. In press.

*Radio-collared elk were subjected to predation by wolves from the inception of the 1987 elk transplant to Etolin Island. Black bears cached elk carcasses and were thought to have been responsible for some adult elk mortality on Etolin Island.*

#### PARASITES AND DISEASES OF ELK

Broughton, E., L. P. E. Choquette, J. G. Cousineau, and F. L. Miller. 1970. Brucellosis in reindeer (*R. tarandus* and the migratory barren-ground caribou, *R. t. groenlandicus* (L.) in Canada. Can. J. Zool. 48:1023-1027.

*Quoted by V. Geist (1990) as discussing transmission of diseases of ranched reindeer to caribou. See Geist reference below.*

---

Erhardova-Kotrla, B. 1971. The occurrence of *Fascioloides magna* in Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovak Acad. Sci., Prague. 155pp.

*According to Welch et al. (1991), this paper discusses the introduction of the giant liver fluke into Europe by translocated exotics from North America.*

---

Geist, V. 1990. Game-ranching: menace to the survival of the North American elk. Pages 292-295 in A. G. Christensen, L. J. Lyon and T. N. Lonner, comps., Proc. Elk Vulnerability Symp., Montana State Univ., Bozeman. 330pp.

*Geist decried game ranching as potentially causing the "end" of native elk through genetic pollution, diseases and competition with uncontrollable feral populations of exotics. Game ranching leads to the escape of reportable livestock diseases into wild populations because of technical shortcomings in detecting diseases, inadequate quarantine regulations, the flouting of import and export regulations and the inevitability of ranched wildlife escaping into the wilds. Geist cited authorities (Neiland et al. 1968, Neiland 1975, Broughton et al. 1970, see references) who reported that game ranching passed on swine brucellosis from reindeer to caribou, native carnivores, dogs and native people.*

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Kistner, T. P. 1982. Diseases and parasites. Pages 181-217 in J. W. Thomas and D. E. Towell, eds. Elk of North America, Ecology and Management. Wildl. Manage. Inst. 698pp.

*Elk are normally healthy when their numbers are kept within the carrying capacity of the range, but they are susceptible to many pathological conditions. These include bacterial diseases, fungal diseases, parasitic diseases, rickettsial diseases, viral diseases, toxicological diseases, internal and external parasites, and tumors. Some diseases of elk listed by Kistner were actinomycosis, anthrax, arthritis, brucellosis, clostridia, leptospirosis, necrotic stomatitis, and coccidiomycosis. Kistner said that lungworm has frequently been reported in Roosevelt elk, Rocky Mountain elk, and Tule elk. Kistner cited Thorne and Morton (1975) as authorities on brucellosis in elk. See citation below. Kistner listed mites, ticks, botflies, lice, flukes, tapeworms, protozoans, filarial worms, lungworms, threadworms, and whipworms as being found in elk.*

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Murie, O. J. 1951. The elk of North America. The Stackpole Co. Harrisburg, PA and the Wildl. Mgmt. Inst. Wash., D.C. 376pp.

*The winter tick (Dermacentor albipictus) was seen by Murie as a "scourge" that visits the elk each spring. He stated that the ticks usually are attached in large numbers on the neck, back, and about the tail where bare skin occurs, and on the inside of the thigh. Murie went on to say that elk bite at the ticks and he felt that engorged ticks were palatable to elk.*

*Murie reported that Psoroptes communis var. cervinae is the causative mite of scabies in elk. Murie found an old cow elk in the Olympic Mountains to be covered with lice (Bovicula americanum) shortly after death.*

*Murie (1951) said that lungworms (Dictyocaulus haaweni = D. viviparus) were found in elk in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Schwartz (1943) examined 32 Roosevelt elk and found lungworm in*

23 elk. He also reported bloodworms (*Cysticercus tenuicollis*) in the liver of a number of elk. Tapeworms (*Thysanosoma actinoides*) were reported in Wyoming Rocky Mountain elk by Murie.

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Neiland, K. A. 1975. Further observations on rangiferine brucellosis in Alaska carnivores. J. Wildl. Dis. 11:45-53

Neiland, K. A., A. J. King, B. E. Huntley, and R. S. Hoog. 1968. The diseases and parasites of Alaskan wildlife populations. Part I. Some observations on brucellosis in caribou. Bull. Wildl. Dis. Assoc. 4:27-37.

Quoted by V. Geist (1990, see previous reference) as detailing transmission of diseases of ranched game to carnivores, caribou, dogs and people in Alaska.

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Pybus, M. J. 1990. Survey of hepatic and pulmonary helminths of wild cervids in Alberta, Canada. Jour. Wildl. Diseases. 26(4), pp. 453-459.

Pybus, M. J., D. K. Onderka, and N. Cool. 1991. Efficacy of triclabendazole against natural infections of *Fascioloides magna* in wapiti. Jour. Wildl. Diseases 27(4), pp. 599-605.

Direct and indirect mortality has been associated with giant liver fluke (*Fascioloides magna*) infections in moose (*Alces alces*). The giant liver fluke was found in 18 of 27 adult wapiti in alpine or montane habitat. Pybus (1990) found several other parasites in elk during the survey: *Taenia hydatigena*, *Dictyocaulus viviparus*, *Echinococcus granulosus*, and *Thysanosoma actinoides*.

The giant liver fluke is a relatively benign parasite in the liver of white-tailed deer and elk, but it can cause extensive hepatic damage in moose, elk, and Columbian black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*). The fluke is translocated easily by infected wapiti into areas suitable for its life cycle (Pybus et al. 1991)

Pybus (pers comm.) relates that the giant liver fluke causes problems with moose, and that just a few flukes can kill a moose. In most ungulates, the flukes in the liver seek a mate by tunneling. When they find a mate, they stop and the body's defense mechanism forms a capsule around the two flukes. In moose, the sensory mechanism of the fluke is disrupted and the flukes continue tunneling without locating a mate, causing severe liver damage.

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Schwartz, J. E. 1943. Range conditions and management of the Roosevelt elk on the Olympic Peninsula. U.S. Dept. of Agric. 65pp. (Cited by Murie 1951).

Tapeworms (*Thysanosoma actinoides*) were reported in Washington in 7 out of 32 Roosevelt elk examined by Schwartz.

Tessaro, S. V. 1986. Existing and potential importance of brucellosis and tuberculosis in Canadian wildlife: a review. *Can. Vet. J.* 27:119-224.

*Welch et al. (1991) cited Tessaro as the source for information on the introduction of brucellosis and tuberculosis into Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada through animal transplants.*

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Thorne, E. T. and J. K. Morton. 1975. The incidence and importance of brucellosis in elk in northwestern Wyoming. *Job. Compl. Rep., Fed. Aid in Wildl. Rest., Proj. FW-3-R-21*, pp 12-16. Wyoming Game and Fish Comm. Laramie. cited in Kistner (1982).

Thorne, E. T., J. D. Herriges, Jr., and A. D. Reese. 1991. Bovine brucellosis in elk: conflicts in the greater Yellowstone area. Pages 296-303. *in* A. G. Christensen, L. J. Lyon and T. N. Lonner, comps., *Proc. Elk Vulnerability Symp.*, Montana State Univ., Bozeman. 330pp.

*Thorne and Morton (1975) related Brucellosis and tuberculosis are two feared diseases that are contracted by elk and which are infectious to human beings. Brucella abortus, the etiologic agent of bovine brucellosis (undulant fever in humans) occurs in both bison and supplementally fed elk within 27,000 square miles of Yellowstone National Park and the adjacent National Forests. The disease in elk appears to be associated with feedground elk in Wyoming and Montana. Researchers say there is little opportunity for transmission of brucellosis among non-feedground elk.*

*Thorne et al. (1990) said brucellosis is prevalent in elk of northwestern Wyoming. Occurrence of brucellosis is a consequence of supplemental winter feeding as a substitute for natural winter ranges. Presence of the disease in northern Yellowstone elk may reflect their association with infected bison and interchange with fed elk populations. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) vaccinates fed elk with a vaccine called "strain 19", tries to reduce reliance on supplemental feed through habitat improvement and acquisition and tries to separate cattle and elk during high risk transmission periods. About 50% of infected elk abort their first pregnancy following infection. Chronic brucellosis frequently causes lameness. WGFD spends \$100,000 per year on the elk vaccination program.*

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Welch, D. A., M. J. Pybus, W. M. Samuel, and C. J. Wilke. 1991. Reliability of fecal examination for detecting infections of meningeal worm in elk. *Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 19:326-331.

*Several relocations of animals resulted in the establishment of new diseases in populations of native ungulates, with devastating and prolonged consequences. Examples given by Welch et al. include rinderpest into Africa, brucellosis and tuberculosis into Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada, and the giant liver fluke into Europe (Tessaro 1986). The giant liver fluke, the*

carotid artery worm and the meningeal worm, could be transported in infected hosts and become established in previously uninfected wild populations (Samuel 1987). Welch et al. gave probability of detecting parasite infections in fecal samples and decided that examination of multiple fecal samples is not a reliable diagnostic tool for detecting infections of meningeal worm in all infected elk.

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Worley, D. E. 1990. The role of internal parasites in management of free-ranging and captive North American elk (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*). Pages 304-307 in A. G. Christensen, L. J. Lyon and T. N. Lonner, comps., Proc. Elk Vulnerability Symp., Montana State Univ., Bozeman. 330pp.

Worley said at least 23 species of internal parasites have been reported from wild elk on native ranges in the western United States and Canada. Four are most frequently associated with clinical disease: the intra-arterial nematode, *Elaeophora schneideri*; the meningeal worm, *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*; the thread lungworm, *Dictyocaulus viviparus* and the giant liver fluke, *Fascioloides magna*. Expansion of the range of the giant liver fluke via translocation of infected animals has been attributed to movement of both free-ranging and captive elk.

#### DEER AND ELK FEEDING ECOLOGY, NUTRITION, REPRODUCTION, ENERGY EXPENDITURE, AND COMPETITION

Batchelor, R.F. 1963. Elk investigations-Elk range studies. Alaska Dep. Fish and Game. Proj. W-6-R-3. Job 1-B. Juneau. 65pp.

Reporting on range conditions on a portion of the Litnik Lake Game Range of southeastern Afognak Island, Batchelor indicated that 95% of all elderberry and 54% of all willows were classified as retrogressives, being unable to maintain the present state of health. He concluded that this was caused either by elk browsing or successional changes in the plant community or both.

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Brunt, K.R. 1990. Ecology of Roosevelt elk. Pages 65-98 in Deer and elk habitats in coastal forests of southern British Columbia. J.B. Nyberg and D.W. Janz, ed. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Environment, Victoria, B.C. 310pp.

Because the rumen:body-weight ratio is higher in elk than in deer, elk are able to digest relatively larger amounts of coarse forage without running short of incoming energy. They can therefore eat more low-energy foods than deer. Winter diets of elk overlap deer diets on Vancouver

*Island, and consist of many of the same forage species eaten by deer in Southeast Alaska (see below, Eunnell 1990). Minimum digestible protein required for pregnant elk cows to successfully produce a surviving calf is about 5.5%, compared with just over 7% required by pregnant does.*

*Elk cows generally conceive for the first time in their third year of life and give birth to a single calf. Twin calves have not been reported on Vancouver Island. Predation can strongly affect elk population levels, particularly on poor ranges where elk condition is low.*

*Because of their low reproductive rates relative to deer, elk hunting on Vancouver Island is by limited entry drawing. Between 1977-1988, annual harvests have varied from about 50 to 150 elk on the approximately 15,000 mi<sup>2</sup> island.*

---

**Bunnell, F.L. 1990.** Ecology of Black-tailed deer. Pages 31-63 in Deer and elk habitats in coastal forests of southern British Columbia. J.B. Nyberg and D.W. Janz, ed. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Environment, Victoria, B.C. 310pp.

*Deer have rumens which are 60% smaller than those of elk. This physiological difference makes it critically important for deer to obtain sufficient quantities of high-nutrient forage species in order to survive and reproduce. This is especially important during winters when energetic costs for deer to move through two feet of snow is over four times greater than what is required for elk.*

Deer on Vancouver Island feed on many of the same plant species as elk and Southeast Alaska deer. Among the plant species which are utilized by both deer and elk are high-nutrient forbs including bunchberry, five-leaf bramble, deer fern, and skunk cabbage. Both species also feed on blueberry (an important winter food) and salmonberry shrubs, and on western hemlock and western red cedar.

Does generally reproduce for the first time at age 2 and on good ranges twinning is common. However, the high growth potential of deer populations is reduced by mortality, which can be substantial during severe winters or when predators are abundant.

---

**Jenkins, K.J. 1985.** Winter habitat and niche relationships of sympatric cervids along the North Fork of the Flathead River, Montana. Ph.D. thesis, University of Idaho, Moscow.

\_\_\_\_\_, and R.G. Wright. 1987. Dietary niche relationships among cervids relative to winter snowpack in northwestern Montana. *Can. J. Zool.* 65:1397-1401.

\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. 1988. Resource partitioning and competition among cervids in the northern Rocky Mountains. *J. Appl. Ecol.* 25:11-24.

*In their studies, Jenkins and his colleagues found that a high degree of overlap in spatial, habitat, and dietary patterns occurred between elk, moose, and white-tailed deer in northwestern Montana. Indices of overlap suggested that the greatest potential for interspecific competition occurred between elk and white-tailed deer; the effects of which appeared to be greatest for white-tailed deer because of their low foraging reach and limited tolerance of snow.*

*Jenkins and Wright (1987) found 71-81% dietary overlap between elk and white-tailed deer during mild and snowy winters, respectively. Variable snowpack and forage availabilities promoted opportunistic rather than specialized winter foraging behavior. Low evergreen shrubs, grasses, and forbs were not available during periods of deep snow to permit high levels of food specialization and partitioning between cervids. Jenkins and Wright (1987) believe that adverse effects of forage competition would be most pronounced during consecutive severe winters when cervids are energetically stressed.*

---

**Leslie, D.M., E.E. Starkey, and M. Vavra. 1984.** Elk and deer diets in old growth forests in western Washington. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 48:762-775.

*In their study conducted in western Washington, these researchers found that high (78-93%) dietary overlap between elk and black-tailed deer suggested competitive interactions for food, especially during winter when forage resources were least available. Predominant forages in fall and winter diets seemed to afford little opportunity for cervids to select different plant parts.*

---

**Murie, O.J. 1951.** The elk of North America. The Stackpole Co. Harrisburg, PA. and the Wildl. Manage. Inst. Washington, D.C. 376pp.

*Murie conducted over 35 years of study on elk in Wyoming. He points out that elk are generalized in their food requirements, while deer on winter range are specialized and hence suffer more directly from malnutrition. In the absence of sufficient browse, Murie found deer which had died on diets which allowed elk to thrive. Murie indicates that food habits of big game are not sufficiently specialized to prevent competition among species, and elk being the most omnivorous big game animal, is the most likely to bring on harmful rivalry. Elk have been known to compete with mountain sheep, antelope, deer, and moose, particularly on winter range. In planning for deer and elk, Murie points out that it is necessary to keep in mind that while elk will utilize practically any type of vegetation present on winter range, deer are confined to browse. Deer are the first to suffer in serious competition, and the range suffers to the detriment of both species by a too drastic combined onslaught on its forage resource.*

---

**Nelson, J.R., and T.A. Leege. 1982** Nutritional requirements and food habits. Pages 323-367 in J.W. Thomas and D.E. Toweill, eds. Elk of North America, ecology and management. *Wildl. Manage. Inst.* 698pp.

*In Washington, elk were found to feed primarily on grasses, sedges, and forbs during most of the year; however, during winter they turned almost exclusively to woody browse (shrubs).*

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Nyberg, J.B., D.W. Janz, R.B. Addison, R.D. Forbes, and E.L. Richardson. 1990. Introduction. Pages 1-29 in Deer and elk habitats in coastal forests of southern British Columbia. J.B. Nyberg and D.W. Janz, ed. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Environment, Victoria, B.C. 310pp.

*The effects of hunting are of greater management concern for elk than for deer because of the social behavior and lower productivity of elk compared to deer. Elk harvests will continue to be controlled by limited entry hunts on Vancouver Island.*

---

Schwartz, J.E., and G.E. Mitchell. 1945. The Roosevelt elk of the Olympic Peninsula, Washington. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 9:295-319.

*These authors found that elk in Washington browsed on shrubs as well as grazed on grasses and forbs. During the winter, when all herbaceous plants were buried by snow, the elk used browse exclusively, resulting in extensive use of huckleberry, an important winter deer food. The authors observed that elk are more damaging to a range than deer, and sometimes even more so than domestic livestock.*

---

Short, H.L. 1981. Nutrition and metabolism. Pages 99-127 in Mule and Black-tailed deer of North America. O.C. Wallmo, ed. *Wildl. Manage. Inst.* Univ. of Nebraska Press, Lincoln. 605pp.

*Deer require over 7% digestible protein in their diets in order to successfully grow and reproduce. This is over 20% higher than the 5.5% minimum requirement for elk (see Brunt 1990). The author explains in detail the physiological components of deer digestive processes and describes the need for high-nutrient forage in deer diets. He indicates that diets consisting of 15-16% digestible protein are necessary for optimum growth and reproduction. Foods with high cell content and low lignocellulose levels provide much more digestible protein than mature woody twigs, dead and withered leaves, or dormant grasses.*

---

Tanner, D.L. 1957. The Soldier Mountain elk herd. Idaho Fish and Game Dept. Pages 8-11.

*Tanner reported that in an area of overpopulation, elk competed for food with deer on wintering areas.*

---

Troyer, W.A. 1960. Roosevelt elk on Afognak Island, Alaska. *J. Wildl. Manage.* 24:15-21.

*Troyer found that during fall and winter, elk on Afognak Island decreased their consumption of grasses and annual forbs and increased their consumption of browse (shrub) species.*

## HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Nyberg, J.B. 1990. Interactions of timber management with deer and elk. Pages 99-131 in *Deer and elk habitats in coastal forests of southern British Columbia*. J.B. Nyberg and D.W. Janz, ed. British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Environment, Victoria, B.C. 310pp.

*Deer and elk on Vancouver Island require mature, old-growth coniferous forests for food and cover during winters. Heterogeneous stands of old trees make the best winter ranges because they provide the optimum combination of characteristics that intercept snow and supply forage in the form of shrubs, herbs, and arboreal lichen litterfall. Where elk occur on northern and western Vancouver Island, their most heavily used winter ranges are often stands of old-growth western hemlock and Sitka spruce.*

*Deer make extensive use of logged areas for feeding except when snow is deep and soft. Elk on Vancouver Island use clearcuts less than deer do, but like deer, elk make heaviest use of areas near cover. Thus, the value of an open foraging area for deer and elk habitat will be higher if the logged area is kept narrow and sufficient growth of shrubs and young conifers has occurred in adjacent units to provide security cover close at hand.*

*Logging slash, depending on depth and density, can pose a serious barrier to deer and elk use by preventing or discouraging them from moving through the logged areas. Slash less than 12 inches has little effect on deer unless it covers more than 50% of the ground, but at slash depths greater than 12 inches, deer expend large amounts of extra energy in moving about because they must jump over obstacles. Because of their longer legs, elk can more easily negotiate greater debris depths, but the extra energy costs as debris becomes denser are still dramatic.*

*Forest canopies close in about 20-25 years following logging. With the development of closed canopies, thermal and snow interception cover begin to form. At the same time, dense lower branches conceal animals well, providing some of the best security cover to be found in any habitat. However, as crowns close, a period of poor forage production begins. This condition may persist for several decades if the stand remains dense, resulting in substantial decreases in forage plants for both deer and elk.*

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## CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Andrew P. Hope Building

320 West Willoughby Avenue • Suite 300

Juneau, Alaska 99801-9983

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Fifty-Eighth Annual General Assembly  
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  
April 15-17, 1993  
Sitka, Alaska

Resolution 93-39

**Title: OPPOSE SENATE BILL NO. 43, ELK TRANSPLANT**

Submitted by: T&H Community of Hoonah  
(Resolution Committee Substitute)

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 43 would direct the Department of Fish and Game to transplant 75-100 elk each to Groving, Prince of Wales Island, Kruzof Island and Cleveland peninsula; and

WHEREAS, Elk will be in direct competition for food with the Native game such as deer; and

WHEREAS, transplanted game such as Elk could introduce disease to the Native game populations; and

WHEREAS, this transplanting of Elk will cost the State of Alaska money, money that could be used to fund the Schools of Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the management of big game animal should be best left in the hands of the Alaska Board of Fish and Game, their biologist; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 43 does not have any public input nor does it have any impact statements of the habitat of the transplanted Elk; and

WHEREAS, this bill would undermine the authority of the Alaska Board of Fish and Game, set precedence for all other lawmakers to use the House of Representatives and the Senate as their own game management plan; and

WHEREAS, we believe that State funds should not be spent implementing SB 43 while the rural communities of Southeast Alaska lack the funds for its schools to function and the educational needs of rural residents are not being met;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska in session this date, that Central Council oppose in the strongest possible terms the introduction of any exotic or otherwise foreign species to the Southeastern region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no bills regarding the transplant of game animals or other animals be allowed to pass the House and Senate without public input and the completion of an environmental impact statement.

ADOPTED, this \_\_\_th day of April 1993, by the fifty-eighth General Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, in regular session at Sitka, Alaska.

CERTIFY

  
President.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tribal Secretary

Larry Holmes  
Chairman Anchorage  
Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
P.O. Box 454  
Girdwood, AK 99587

March 31, 1993

The Honorable Rick Halford  
President of the Senate  
Room 111  
State Capitol  
Juneau 99801-1182

Dear Senator Halford:

The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee opposes unanimously:

- 1) SB 43, requiring elk to be transplanted to certain Southeast Alaska islands where they are not indigenous;
- 2) SB 46, to allow moose farming; and
- 3) SB 77 and HB 141, to require intensive management of game species.

The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee is an elected body that represents Anchorage hunters, anglers, and many other types of wildlife users of a consumptive and non consumptive nature; in fact we have more than a dozen user interests represented on our committee.

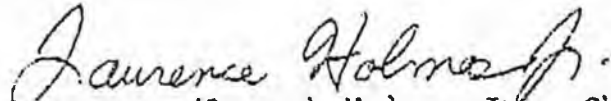
We are unanimous in opposing these bills because they all share the common error of bringing the legislature into issues of fish and wildlife management at a level best left to the Department of Fish and Game. We believe the legislature's role in fish and game is best one of general guidance rather than specific direction. Historically, the legislature has wisely left such specific issues as these to the agencies with the necessary expertise. In fact, the need for such expertise is the very reason the legislature established such agencies in the first place.

Each bill raises concerns best left to departmental discretion. Regarding SB 43, the impact of elk on deer has been of concern to Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists. The potential for disease transmission to and displacement of the indigenous black tail deer by elk needs to be studied further before we expand elk herds in southeast Alaska. From a user's perspective, certainly many Southeast Alaskans value deer in the freezer each winter more than an occasional shot at an elk.

Regarding SB 46, we think moose farming raises concerns of disease, and in our opinion, has no place in Alaska in that it abuses Alaska's native species and diminishes appreciation of wild stocks. Good hunting will only survive with good ethics. It won't survive if we turn our game stocks into merely wild versions of farm animals.

Regarding SB 77 and HB 141, we think this is the worst of bills. It guts the discretion that is wisely placed in the Board of Game to rely on agency expertise and instead directs the board to pursue intensive management of certain species for consumptive use to the detriment of other species and other uses. As hunters, fishers and other users we appreciate Alaska as a wild place. We don't want it turned into a game farm.

Sincerely,



Laurence (Larry) Holmes Jr., Chairman  
Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

LH:rlj

cc: Members of the Senate  
Members of the House



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources  
committee name  
committee on SB 43 Elk, dated 19 APRIL 1993.  
bill/subject

It seems to me that this issue has been taking up a lot of time of a lot of people and since this is not a life & death issue nor a necessary issue, I find it curious to me that the Alaska legislators are spending so much time on it to prove to me <sup>that it's okay</sup> to put Elk on Kruzot Island. I may add that a Dept. of this State has gone on record as saying it may not be prudent to pass this bill so fast. Why the rush? This is the same body of legislators who lived itemed out a library for the blind, who cut movies for some schools, libraries, public radio, senior citizen programs to name a few. Who is benefiting from this bill? Have you lost sight of your jobs? I want to go on record opposed to this bill. ~~Ward~~

Signed: Jane E. Edl  
Testifier  
Self  
Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 1673 Sitka  
Address  
747-5354  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Comm.  
 committee name  
 committee on Elk transplants, dated 4/19/93  
 bill/subject

I am opposed to the elk transfer. I think the advice of the Fish and Game Dept. should be followed. I feel at this time when we're cutting budgets of needed social services we can ill afford to transplant elk.

Historically animal transplants has been extremely unsuccessful - remember the "7th. Cut fish transplant"?

Signed: Cliffhille Bahovec  
 Testifier

Self  
 Representing (Optional)

627 De Kroy St. Sitka, Ak. 99835  
 Address

747-8185  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources  
committee name

committee on SB 43 Transplantation Elk, dated 19 April, 1993  
bill/subject

Statements by legislators regarding our  
fine F and G bird guests are disgusting and regretful!  
These people have been chosen for their outstanding  
qualifications and they are definitely more qualified  
to make the decisions on this Act than any of the  
legislators.

Bison once ranged over entire North America  
and were native to the area, much of also. Native elders  
in Sitka describe hunting techniques for hunting goats, eggoot  
would first be stunned and drop to its knees, then a follow-  
up arrow designed to kill it in place & not fall from  
high above & be lost. They too must have been native  
at the time. Goat introduction to Olympic Peninsula has  
been described as a disaster.

As a former health worker in many Alaskan communities, I know  
there are health and social needs which are crying for the  
attention of the legislature. Money and time spent on this  
Act is a luxury we cannot and should not afford.

Signed: Helen Hooper Drew  
Testifier

Myself  
Representing (Optional)

1011 Halibut Point Rd, Sitka 99835  
Address

747-8019  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Natural Resources  
 committee name  
 committee on Elk Transplant, dated 4-19-93  
 bill/subject

It is fiscally irresponsible to mandate Fish & Game to transplant Elk to S.E. AK in light of the budget cuts that are being implemented state wide. This project will be expensive.

In addition we have a viable deer herd in S.E. Alaska and nothing should be done to threaten it.

Finally, game management should not be done by decree.

Signed: Wm. A. Stortz  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
PO Box 6199 Sitka 99835  
 Address  
747-5916  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources  
 committee name  
 committee on Senate Bill #43, dated April 19, 1993.  
 bill/subject  
Elk Transplant

I oppose Senate Bill # 43.  
 I recommend you oppose passage of this bill.  
 I recommend that the legislature restrain itself  
 from the temptation to micromanage introduction  
 & management of fish & game species.  
 I also recommend severe state dollars be  
 utilized for higher priority projects in the fish &  
 wildlife department.  
 If you must pass this bill then I recommend  
 the following amendments over

Signed: Eric W. Jaden  
 Testifier  
Self  
 Representing (Optional)  
103 Gibson, S. Hwy, AK 99835  
 Address  
(907) 747-6743  
 Phone No.

Suggest line 3 shall be amended  
to MAY.

Suggest line 4 read

Transplant a disease free population  
of elk sufficient to establish a genetically  
viable population to each . . . .

Suggest line 5 be amended to delete  
Kruzof Island.

If line 5 is not amended to delete  
Kruzof Island then amend to put  
Kruzof after Prince of Wales.

By proposing these Amendments, I do not mean  
to support the transplant in any way. These amendments  
will serve only to make the bill less onerous.

Thankyou Eric J. L



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources  
committee name

committee on ELK SB43, dated April 19, 1993  
bill/subject

I am opposed to Elk in S.E. Alaska. Why spend a lot of money on this project while cutting money to Fish+Games budget education, etc... when we DO NOT NEED elk? The deer hunting in S.E. is good. To many people deer are a subsistence food. To think of jepordizing the health & strength of the deer by transplanting a competing species here seems ~~really~~ stupid to me. The deer in SE had several hard winters & numbers are down in the Sitka area from this and from there being less winter range due to logging. As logging continues

Signed: Carolyn Nichols  
Testifier

self  
Representing (Optional)

305 Islander Drive Sitka  
Address

747-3146  
Phone No.

the winter range will decline more and  
will result in more + more competition for  
food. Adding elk will only enlarge this  
problem. I think the legislative should follow  
Fish + Game's advice not to do this. The whim  
of a few people desiring elk should not be  
rammed thru against most peoples rational  
thinking and all the biologists advice. Do not  
+ transplant elk.



# Anchorage Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 101161 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • (907) 278-3007

Representative Bill Williams  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Williams,

The Anchorage Audubon Society is concerned about bills under consideration in the House regarding elk introductions (SB 43) and moose farming (SB 46). Our membership is dedicated to the maintenance of a natural diversity of wildlife in Alaska; these two bills clearly are contradictory to this goal.

Introductions of non-native species have a long history of serious, disruptive consequences for natural habitats and native wildlife species. There is no compelling reason to jeopardize Alaska's native wildlife by introducing elk to areas in which they do not naturally occur and which currently support a full complement of native wildlife. Furthermore, it seems difficult to justify such a costly proposal in light of budget constraints currently affecting the state.

Moose ranching also is an inappropriate direction for the state of Alaska. Private ownership of wildlife could lead to numerous problems, including reductions in natural wildlife populations through competition, disease, predator control, and increased poaching.

We urge you to help defeat these bills. They threaten the integrity of one of Alaska's most valuable public resources, our free-ranging, native wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Esler  
Conservation Committee



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources committee name:

committee on Senate Bill #43, dated 4/19/93  
bill/subject

To Whom It May Concern,

I support this Bill whole heartedly. I was born and raised here in Sitka and intend to live out my life here. I am one of the third generations of Kimbergs who homesteaded Kruzof Island at Iris Meadows. Almost every summer about thirty or forty of us get together and visit the old homestead for a couple of weeks. I've traveled by plane, bike, boat, and foot over, across, around and through the Islands trails, roads, waterways, and mountain passes more times than most people here in Sitka. I truly believe the Island will support a large population of Elk with little, if any, threat to the Deer inhabiting it. The major concern I have is with the possible mismanagement of this transplant by our State Fish and Game Department. If they open the season on Elk migrating to Baranof, Chichagof, or other adjacent Islands this in effect would be opening the season on the protected herd due to the fact they don't police and protect transplanted stocks. As evident in the Etolin herd's migration. I also truly believe Elk would be a perfect addition and is an excellent choice to add to our wildlife throughout Southeast Alaska. The Elk is a majestic and beautiful animal, so doesn't it seem fitting that they should roam freely here in majestic and beautiful Southeast Alaska. I believe so and according to an independant pole taken here in Sitka so do approx. two-thirds of the people poled in shopping centers and offices. Lets let the majority rule - lets see democracy in action - lets see Elk in Southeast!

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,  
*Jeff C. Wheeler*  
Lineman

Signed: *Jeff C. Wheeler*  
Testifier

Jeffrey Conrad Wheeler  
Representing (Optional)

2616 Halibut Point Road Sitka, Ak 99835  
Address

747-6633 wk 747-6185 Hm & msg.  
Phone No.



TELECOPY COVER SHEET  
Sitka Legislative Information Office  
Office - (907) 747-6276 Fax - (907) 747-5807

TO: Shineau LIO

ATTN: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS: Written testimony for TC 30547 (4/19/94)  
House Resources Committee 8-10 AM

SB H3 Transplant FTK

SENT: Date 4/19/93 Time \_\_\_\_\_

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard \_\_\_\_\_ Hold for Pickup \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PAGES: 8 (NOT counting cover sheet)

TRANSMITTED BY: es



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources  
committee name

committee on ELK SB43, dated April 19, 1993  
bill/subject

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Signed: Carolyn Nichols  
Testifier

self  
Representing (Optional)

305 Islander Drive Sitka  
Address

747-3146  
Phone No.

the winter range will decline more and will result in more + more competition for food. Adding elk will only enlarge this problem. I think the legislative should follow Fish+Games advice not to do this. The whim of a few people desiring elk should not be rammed thru against most peoples rational thinking and all the biologists advice. Do not transplant elk.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources  
committee name  
 committee on Senate Bill #43, dated April 19, 1993.  
bill/subject  
Elk Transplant

I oppose Senate Bill # 43.

I recommend you oppose passage of this bill.

I recommend that the legislature restrain itself from the temptation to micro manage introduction & management of fish & game species.

I also recommend severe state dollars be utilized for higher priority projects in the fish & wildlife department.

If you must pass this bill then I recommend the following amendments over

Signed: Eric W. Jorden  
Testifier

Self  
Representing (Optional)

103 Gibson, Sitka, AK 99835  
Address

(907) 747-6743  
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Derekson Eric L L



# Alaska State Legislature

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 committee on Elk Transplant, dated 4-19-93  
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It is Fiscally irresponsible to mandate Fish & Game to transplant Elk to S.E. AK in light of the budget cuts that are being implemented statewide. This project will be expensive.

In addition we have a viable deer herd in S.E. Alaska and nothing should be done to threaten it.

Finally, game management should not be done by decree.

Signed: Wm. A. Stutz  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
PO Box 6199 Sitka 99835  
 Address  
747-5916  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

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 committee on SB 43 Transplantation Elk, dated 19 April, 1993  
 bill/subject

Statements by legislators regarding some  
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 These people have been chosen for their outstanding  
 qualifications and they are definitely well qualified  
 to make the decisions on this Act than any of the  
 legislators.

Bison once ranged over entire North America  
 and were hunted to the near, near of extinction. Native legends  
 in Alaska describe hunting techniques for hunting goats - goats  
 would first be stunned and drop to its knees, then a follow-  
 up arrow designed to kill it in place & not fall from  
 high places & be lost. They too must have been hunted  
 at one time. Goat introductions to Olympic Peninsula have  
 been described as a disaster.

As a former health worker in many Alaskan communities I know  
 there are health and social needs which are crying for the  
 attention of the legislature. Money and time spent on this  
 Act is a luxury we cannot and should not afford.

Signed: Helen Hooper Drury  
 Testifier

Myself

Representing (Optional)

1011 Halibut Point Rd, Sitka 99835  
 Address

747 - 8019  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources  
committee name

committee on SB 43 Elk, dated 19 APRIL 1993.  
bill/subject

It seems to me that this issue has been taking up a lot of time of a lot of people and since this is not a life & death issue nor a necessary issue, I find it curious to me that the Alaska legislators are spending so much time on it to prove to me <sup>that it's okay</sup> to put Elk on Kruzof Island. I may add that a Dept. of this State has gone on record as saying it may not be prudent to pass this bill so fast. Why the rush? This is the same body of legislators who lined itemed out a library for the blind, who cut movies for some schools, libraries, public radio, senior citizen programs to name a few. Who is benefiting from this bill? Have you lost sight of your jobs? I want to go on record opposed to this bill. ~~W. W. W.~~

Signed: Jane E. Edl  
Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1673 Sitka

Address

747-5354

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Comm.  
 committee name  
 committee on Elk transplants, dated 4/19/93  
 bill/subject

I am opposed to the elk transfer.  
 I think the advice of the Fish and  
 Game Dept. should be followed.  
 I feel at this time when we're  
 cutting budgets of needed social  
 services we can ill afford to trans-  
 plant elk.

Historically animal transplants  
 has been extremely unsuccessful - rem-  
 ember the ? Fla. Cat fish transplant?

Signed: Cecil B. Above  
 Testifier

Sees  
 Representing (Optional)

627 101 Cross St. Sitka, Ak. 99835  
 Address

747-8185  
 Phone No.

MAR 24 1993

P.O. 1159  
Ward Cove, Alaska 99928  
March 22, 1993

Editor Daily News,

I would like to voice my opposition to Senator Taylor's Elk Transplant Bill as presently written. I would hate to see Elk moved to so many areas near Ketchikan when the effects on the deer population are unknown. Some people say the Elk wouldn't have any effect on the deer while others say they could be a disaster. I have heard of a study on Vancouver Island that said Elk caused a drastic decrease in deer numbers. I have also heard that the game biologist for Kodiak sent copies of a letter to several people in Ketchikan stating that deer were extremely scarce on the parts of Afognak Island where the Elk live. I support putting Elk on several islands but I am whole heartedly opposed to putting them on Cleveland Peninsula and Prince of Wales Island where deer numbers are high, when nobody can say for sure what the outcome would be. Why take a chance on hurting the deer population on such a large percentage of the area around Ketchikan.

Thank you,

*Dennis Northrup*  
Dennis Northrup

c.c. Senator Taylor  
Representative Williams  
Representative Mackie  
Senator Zharoff

April 8, 1993

Representative Bill Williams  
State Capital  
Juneau AK 99801

Re: SB 43

Please give serious consideration to the opposition of this bill which would introduce elk into additional sites in Southeast Alaska. Neither Southeast, nor any other area of Alaska, needs non-native species inserted into it. It is most presumptuous of us to think we can move animals to an area where they do not naturally occur and expect them to fit into the environment in a manner that we find acceptable. If they thrive, we shoot them. Does this really seem sensible?

This bill was created strictly for the personal interest of Robin Taylor and his associates. The state game biologists, employed at taxpayers expense, have recommended that this introduction of elk not take place; it is not a sound biological move. In addition, it would be a costly project. In the view of the current economy, we really do have better things to spend our money on. I cannot believe that the majority of your constituents support this bill. Please protect our best interests and see that it is defeated. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Deanna Mac Phail  
P.O. Box 32422  
Juneau AK 99803

April 8, 1993

Dear Sirs,

As a resident of Prince of Wales Island I would like to express my feelings on the proposed funding of an elk transplant to our island. In these days of tight budgets and limited operations for the State of Alaska, the money could be better spent in other areas of the Department of Fish and Game. There is the threat of parasites and habitat competition for our deer population that must be thoroughly evaluated. Why not have the people interested in this transplant provide all the money for a study before this plan is pushed through. Please listen to your own professionals in Fish & Game who are saying wait a minute.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ellen Hannan  
Box 243  
Craig, Alaska 99921  
826-3489