

S B

77

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred: March 15, 1993

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/7/94

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

CSSB 77(RES)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77(RES)

INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF GAME RESOURCES

"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."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with _____

HCS CS SB 77 (RES)

the same title

a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): _____ (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: _____ (Dept/Date)

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note _____

zero fiscal note(s) ADF#G / 2-25-93

SIGNING <u>DO</u> PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Colon Hill</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bell Hudson</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		<i>Monette James</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		<i>John Hubert</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
		<i>W. R. Williams</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

W. R. Williams
CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/9/94
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Frank, Taylor, Miller
REPRESENTATIVES Therriault, James

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive
2 management of big game to achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest."

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

4 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that providing for high
5 levels of harvest for human consumptive use in accordance with the sustained yield principle
6 is the highest and best use of identified big game prey populations in most areas of the state
7 and that the big game prey populations in these areas should be managed accordingly.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.255 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

9 (e) The Board of Game shall adopt regulations to provide for intensive
10 management programs to restore the abundance or productivity of identified big game
11 prey populations as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals of the board
12 in an area where the board has determined that

13 (1) consumptive use of the big game prey population is a preferred use;

14 (2) depletion of the big game prey population or reduction of the

1 productivity of the big game prey population has occurred and may result in a
2 significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population; and

3 (3) enhancement of abundance or productivity of the big game prey
4 population is feasibly achievable utilizing recognized and prudent active management
5 techniques.

6 (f) The Board of Game may not significantly reduce the taking of an identified
7 big game prey population by adopting regulations relating to restrictions on harvest or
8 access to the population, or to management of the population by customary
9 adjustments in seasons, bag limits, open and closed areas, methods and means, or by
10 other customary means authorized under (a) of this section, unless the board has
11 adopted regulations providing for intensive management to increase the take of the
12 population for human harvest consistent with (e) of this section. This subsection does
13 not apply if the board

- 14 (1) determines that intensive management would be
15 (A) ineffective, based on scientific information; or
16 (B) inappropriate due to land ownership patterns; or
17 (2) declares that a biological emergency exists and takes immediate
18 action to protect or maintain the big game prey population in conjunction with the
19 scheduling for adoption of those regulations that are necessary to implement (e) of this
20 section.

21 (g) In this section,
22 (1) "identified big game prey population" means a population of
23 ungulates that is identified by the Board of Game and that is important for providing
24 high levels of harvest for human consumptive use;
25 (2) "intensive management" means management of an identified big
26 game prey population to enhance, extend, and develop the population to maintain high
27 levels or provide for higher levels of human harvest, including control of predation and
28 prescribed or planned use of fire and other habitat improvement techniques.

8-LS0276W
Utermohle
3/5/94

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Frank, Taylor, Miller

REPRESENTATIVES Therriault, James

A BILL

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28 prescribed or planned use of fire and other habitat improvement techniques.

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE FINKELSTEIN

TO: HCS CSSB 77() "V" version

Page 1, line ~~8~~ 9

Delete "shall [MAY]"

Insert "may"

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE FINKELSTEIN

TO: HCS CSSB 77() "V" version

Page ²~~4~~, lines ~~2-15~~: 21

Delete all material and insert: Add ~~new~~ new section:

new (f) (f) "(e) The Board of Game may not adopt regulations requiring the department to conduct intensive management programs, notwithstanding (a)(11) of this section, unless the board has taken all reasonable measures under (a)(1) - (10) of this section to reduce the take of the identified big game population."

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCS CSSB 77(RES)

Revision Date: 3/8/94
 Title: An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive management of big game
 Sponsor: Senator Sharp
 Requestor: House Resources

Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 BRU: Wildlife Conservation
 Component: Wildlife Conservation
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this bill will not result in additional costs initially because action by the department will be required at an indeterminate time in the future. The actual costs of implementing any given "intensive management" project would depend upon the nature and scope of the project. See attached sheets for examples of costs of past and current intensive management programs.

Prepared By: David G. Kelleyhouse, Director *DKK*
 Division: Wildlife Conservation
 Approved by Commissioner: *Chad Z. Rasmussen*
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4190
 Date: 3/8/94
 Date: 3/8/94

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Without knowing which big game population may be "identified" as requiring "intensive management," the length of time over which the management program must be implemented, the type of habitat where the big game population occurs, the size and location of the population within the state, and other complicating factors (e.g., annual weather variations and harvest levels allowed by the Board of Game), the costs to the department of implementing programs authorized by this legislation cannot be predicted.

There are 12 big game species in Alaska consisting of innumerable distinct populations. A given moose population, for example, may benefit from control of wolves, brown bears, or black bears, improvement of browse using manual crushing techniques, a prescribed burn, or some other type of "intensive management," such as timber management. It is not feasible to prepare cost estimates for every potential intensive management proposal for every big game population in every part of the state.

The following examples are costs (uncorrected for inflation) of selected management programs:

1983-84 Moose Habitat Improvement Projects

\$42.0 was appropriated for browse management in the Moose Creek Management Area in the Matanuska Valley. With that funding, 150 acres of timber were "chained." 75 acres of previously cut areas were scarified, and trails were built to afford access for personal and commercial wood cutting programs, including 2300 acres for timber harvest.

\$155.0 was allocated for Kenai Peninsula work, including purchase of one used 40-ton Le Tourneau tree crusher, machine repairs and maintenance, personnel costs, fuel, and miscellaneous costs. Approximately 3,000 acres were treated annually for 25 years at a cost of \$32/acre with post-crushing burning.

Tok Habitat Rehabilitation Programs

\$25.0 was allocated for the Tok River Moose Habitat Improvement Project in 1983 for crushing of 400 acres of riparian willow, increasing browse supplies by 800,000 to 1,200,000 lbs annually by fall 1985. Effects were expected to last until 1995.

\$14.0 was spent preparing for the Tok River prescribed fire in 1984. An area of 500 acres was to be burned at a relatively high cost because the fire was adjacent to private property, utility lines, and the state highway, requiring added control capabilities. A timber sale resulted in the harvesting of about 250 mmbf from the area. Where road systems allow, blading and crushing of decadent willow-dominated winter range (i.e., stand rejuvenation rather than stand conversion) also can be cost effective for relatively small areas, and browse can be produced for about \$.10/moose/day. Costs to totally feed a population of 900 Tok River moose over winter would be about \$11.0 annually.

Delta Junction Habitat Improvement

FY84 estimated costs for various phases of the bison habitat improvement programs are as follows: Delta River prescription burn (12.0); helitorch, parts and supplies (7.0); clearing (12.0); bison depredation control (5.0); personnel (24.0); fertilization (18.0); TOTAL (78.0). The objectives were to provide winter range for approximately 400 bison and reduce bison depredation on agricultural crops in the area.

Wolf Control

Estimated costs of reducing wolf predation on depressed moose and caribou populations in Alaska for fiscal years 1976-1984, as reported to the Board of Game in March 1984: operational costs include wolf survey and population estimates; trapping and collaring; analysis, reporting, and administration; wolf reduction and recovery. The FY94 costs for the reduction effort in GMU 20A are based upon preliminary assessments.

<u>GMU</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Operating Costs</u>	<u>Personnel Costs</u>
19A & 19B	1979-80	13.0	30.0
20A	1976-83	150.9	120.0
	1993-94	100.0	85.0
20B	1981-84	118.8	113.0
20D	1981-83	25.6	31.0
20E	1982-84	112.9	87.0
23 & 24	1977-78	9.4	12.6

This does not include costs that may be incurred in the planning process, holding public meetings, responding to public inquiries or objections related to predator control programs, and additional expenses to the Boards Support Section, Division of Administration.

SB 77 Draft Version "W" and
Sectional analysis prepared by
Sen. Sharp

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS
of Draft # Version/W
of HCSCSSB-77

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings: Providing for high levels of harvest for human consumption is the highest and best use of the game resources of most areas of the state.

SECTION 2. AS.16.05.255 is amended by adding new subsections (e), (f), (g) to read:

Subsection(e) the Board shall adopt regulations to provide for intensive management programs to restore the abundance or productivity of a big game prey population where the Board determines that:

(e)(1) consumptive use of big game prey population is a preferred use;

(e)(2) big game prey populations are declining and would, or are, resulting in the reduction of human harvest of the game population;

(e)(3) it is feasible to attain enhancement of abundance of big game prey populations.

Subsection(f) requires the Board of Game to initiate intensive management at the time they take action to reduce the human harvest levels via reducing or eliminating open seasons, restrictive methods and means, etc.

(f)(1) Exceptions: intensive management would not be required where the Board determines it would be ineffective based on;

(A) scientific information; or

(B) inappropriate due to land ownership patterns.

(f)(2) allows for emergency closures or restrictions.

Subsection(g)(1) defines "identified big game prey population."

Subsection(g)(2) defines "intensive management."

8-LS0276B
Utermohle
2/22/94

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77() .
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY .

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Frank, Taylor, Miller
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A BILL

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5 levels of harvest for human consumptive use in accordance with the sustained yield principle
6 is the highest and best use of identified big game resources in most areas of the state and that
7 the identified big game resources in these areas should be managed accordingly.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.255(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) The Board of Game shall [MAY] adopt regulations under [IT
10 CONSIDERS ADVISABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH] AS 44.62 (Administrative
11 Procedure Act) to provide for the management of game, and for intensive
12 management of identified big game populations to maintain or restore high levels
13 of sustained yield for human harvest where the board has determined that
14 consumptive use of those big game populations is a preferred use, by [FOR]

1 (1) setting apart game reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the
2 water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to the approval
3 of the legislature;

4 (2) establishing open and closed seasons and areas for the taking of
5 game;

6 (3) establishing the means and methods employed in the pursuit,
7 capture, and transport of game, including regulations, consistent with resource
8 conservation and development goals, establishing means and methods that may be
9 employed by persons with physical disabilities;

10 (4) setting quotas, bag limits, harvest levels, and sex, age, and size
11 limitations on the taking of game;

12 (5) classifying game as game birds, song birds, big game animals, fur
13 bearing animals, predators, or other categories;

14 (6) methods, means, and harvest levels necessary to control predation
15 and competition among game in the state;

16 (7) watershed and habitat improvement, and management, conservation,
17 protection, use, disposal, propagation, and stocking of game;

18 (8) prohibiting the live capture, possession, transport, or release of
19 native or exotic game or their eggs;

20 (9) establishing the times and dates during which the issuance of game
21 licenses, permits, and registrations and the transfer of permits and registrations between
22 registration areas and game management units or subunits is allowed;

23 (10) regulating sport hunting and subsistence hunting as needed for the
24 conservation, development, and utilization of game;

25 (11) requiring the department, within the department's ability, to
26 conduct intensive management programs to restore the abundance or productivity
27 of a big game population as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals
28 of the board in an area where the board has determined that

29 (A) depletion of the big game population or reduction of the
30 productivity of the big game population has occurred and may result in a
31 significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the big game

1 population; and

2 (B) enhancement of abundance or productivity of the big
3 game population is feasible.

4 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05.255 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

5 (e) The Board of Game may not significantly reduce the taking of an identified
6 big game population by adopting regulations relating to restrictions on harvest or
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17 action to protect or maintain a big game population in conjunction with the scheduling
18 for adoption of regulations necessary to implement (a)(11) of this section.

19 (f) In this section,

20 (1) "intensive management" means management of a big game
21 population to enhance, extend, and develop the big game population to maintain high
22 levels or provide for higher levels of human harvest in accordance with the sustained
23 yield principle, including control of predation and prescribed or planned use of fire and
24 other habitat improvement techniques;

25 (2) "sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in
26 perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular human harvest of game resources of the
27 state at harvest levels that do not significantly impair the productivity of the game
28 resource or game habitat.

8-LS0276V

Utermohle

2/10/94

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77()
 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
 EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Frank, Taylor, Miller

REPRESENTATIVES Therriault, James

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 11 of sustained yield for human harvest where the board has determined that
 12 consumptive use of those big game populations is a preferred use. by [FOR]

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 14 water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to the approval

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14 section, the board declares that a biological emergency exists and takes immediate
15 action to protect or maintain a viable big game population.

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Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT P

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES



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SESSION ADDRESS

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 511
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
(907) 465-3004/4921

Senate

FROM: Senator Bert Sharp

DATE: February 11, 1994

RE: SB 77, Board of Game - Intensive Management of Game

1. Establishes legislative intent and direction for the Board of Game.

2. Requires intensive management of an identified big game whose population is in decline and not at a "maximum sustained yield level.

3. Article 8, Section 4 of the Constitution mandates use of maximum sustained yield in resource management. This bill defines maximum sustained yield for the first time as it is applied to game.

4. If the level of game is such to require reduction on human harvested numbers, intensive management must be initiated to minimize the "time of scarcity." Human harvest historically accounts for only 3-5% of total harvest.

5. Curtailing human harvest without curtailment of the predator factor which is responsible for over 80% of the annual harvest only results in a reallocation of the reduction of human harvest over to that available for predation harvest. After all, they hunt 365 days a year compared to 5 - 20 day hunting seasons for people.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

CSSB - 77(Res)

By: Senator Bert Sharp

SECTION 1. AS 16.05.255(c): is amended to provide for game management, and to include intensive management of identified big game populations to achieve higher yield for human harvest. This would target areas where the Board determined that consumptive use was a preferred use of that area.

SECTION 1. AS 16.05.255(a)(11): is added to require the Department of Fish and Game to conduct intensive management programs to restore the productivity of a game population necessary to achieve human consumptive goals of the Board in areas where the Board has determined;

(A) game populations are declining and would, or are, resulting in the reduction of human harvest of the game population;

(B) it is feasible to restore the abundance or productivity of game populations; and

SECTION 2. AS 16.05.255(e): is added to require the Board of Game to provide for intensive management implementation where beneficial to achieve sustained yield goals prior to or simultaneous with any Board action which would significantly reduce the human consumptive use harvest level.

SECTION 2. AS 16.05.255(f)(1): is added to define the term "intensive management."

"SUSTAINED YIELD"

A Constitutional Based Definition

Article 8, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution provides that:

Fish, forest, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

Unfortunately, however, a definition of "sustained yield" as applied to wildlife, is not found in the Alaska Constitution nor Alaska Statute or case law.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game have with regularity indicated that their mandate is to manage Alaska's wildlife and fisheries consistent with the sustained yield principle. However, to date the Board has not defined this term of art nor provided the Department with a working definition which could be invaluable in developing and maintaining management philosophies consistent with this phrase's meaning.

The definition which should be adopted is as follows:

"Sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular periodic human harvest of Alaska's wildlife resources consistent at levels where significant impairment to the productivity of wildlife and wildlife habitat does not occur.

This proffered definition has legal basis found in both federal and Alaska statute.

The "Sustained Yield Act of 1944," 58 Stat. 146., P.L. 78-283, defines sustained yield as follows: "Sustained yield" of the several products and services means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land. (16 U.S.C. 583.)

The multiple-use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, 16 U.S.C. 528, adopted this same definition.

The Alaska legislature has borrowed the federal definition and in the Alaska Forest Practices Act found at A.S. 41.17.950(17), provides that: "Sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of forest land and water without significant impairment of the productivity of the land and water, . . .

In statute promulgated by Alaska's Department of Natural Resources the following definition of sustained yield is provided:

". . . The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the State lands consistent with multiple use; . . ." A.S. 38.04.910(10).

The proffered definition also finds broad support in the proceedings of the Alaska Constitutional Convention. While it may be argued that the majority and members of the Constitutional Convention had in mind no set definition of "sustained yield," it is clear that the members of the Committee on Natural Resources intended a "conscious application, insofar as practicable, [of the] principles of management intended to sustain the yield of the resource being managed." Alaska Constitutional Convention Proceedings, page 2457.

The constitutional concept of sustained yield found in Article VIII, Subsection 4, must be construed along with the clause that follows it, "subject to preferences among beneficial uses."

The framers of our constitution understood that, without that modifying language to "steer" the sustained yield principle, sustained

yield itself would be "meaningless" and "ineffective." Alaska Constitutional Convention Proceedings, page 3054.

In fact, in the commentary which accompanied the final word of the Alaska Constitution, the Committee on Natural Resources states that:

"Sustained yield" is recognized as a principle applicable to the administration of plant and animal life subject to the immediate authority of the State. The provision applies generally to wildlife and fisheries anywhere in the "highest beneficial public use" in recognition of its not being in the public interest to preserve certain parasitic or predatory organisms destructive of more beneficial plant and animal life." Alaska Constitutional Convention, volume 7, page 98.

Elsewhere in the commentary the framers of the Alaska Constitution indicated that they were not satisfied with U.S. Forest Service's narrow interpretation of "sustained yield."

"We have in mind no narrow definition of 'sustained yield' as is used, for example, in forestry, but the broad premise that insofar as possible a principle of sustained yield shall be used with respect to the administration of those resources which are susceptible of sustained yield, and where it is desirable. For example, predators would not be maintained on a sustained yield basis." (Emphasis added.) Alaska Constitutional Convention Proceedings, page 2451.

Once adopted, this definition would withstand judicial review and most likely be followed by the Alaska Supreme Court.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Georgianna Lincoln



State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3732
Fax (907) 465-2652

Committees:
Transportation
Labor and Commerce
Administrative Regulation Review

Minority Whip
Bush Caucus Chair

DISTRICT R

Alaina
Allakusset
Aniak
Anvik
Arctic Village
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Bettles
Big Delta
Birch Creek
Canyon Village
Central
Chalkyitsik
Chenega Bay
Chickaloon
Chicken
Chistochina
Chitina
Chuathbaluk
Circle
Copper Center
Copperville
Cordova
Crossed Creek
Delta Junction
Doe Lake
Dry Creek
Eagle
Evanville
Fort Greely
Fort Yukon
Galena
Galeana
Glenallen
Gravling
Gulkana
Healy Lake
Holy Cross
Hughes
Hullia

TO: ALL LEGISLATORS
FROM: SENATOR GEORGIANNA LINCOLN *gl*
DATE: APRIL 5, 1993
RE: PREDATOR CONTROL

I believe the attached two letters and graphic picture are most timely in light of suggested cuts in wolf control and the discussions surrounding predator control.

Mr. Wilmarth from Red Devil sent five pictures of similar wolf kills from five different locations. His letters are self-explanatory.

Julian Creek M. W. W. S.
343 Skills



Dear Mr. Linsden,

On March 7-10, 93 my son and I flew out to our mining camp in the Iditarod District, and then into Anchorage via Laine Pass, we counted more than 80 kills by wolves, of moose and Caribou, about 1 in 10 kills were fairly well eaten, most had rib cage intact many were gutted and the noses eaten, all had the faces (noses) eaten off and the VITAL ORGANS, ENTRAILS, GONE.

We watched from the air as 6 wolves took a cow moose and her calf apart in a few minutes.

I enclose picture of a typical kill, there were many like this.

I recently flew a friend around the Talkeetna Mountains East of Talkeetna and North of Palmer and saw the same sort of kills although not as many.

In Western Alaska I've seen cases where moose meat was the sole means of survival. The quality of life has a lot to do with moose meat.

P.S.
I believe you are doing a good job. Keep up the good work.
Thank You

Sincerely
Richard Wilworth
Red Devil, Alaska 99656

March 19 93

Dear Mr. Lincoln,

I have lived and worked in Western Interior Alaska as a miner and Pilot for 33 years. I know well the area west of the Alcha Range to the Yukon River - and south around the Tikchik Lakes, Dillingham - area up to Fairbanks -

For the past 10 years the Wolf population has increased rapidly, the last couple years packs of 30-35 are not uncommon, we have way to many wolves.

The wolf is born to kill, he is a almost perfect killing machine, and he lives for it to kill, he kills to live and lives to kill, until he dies he kills.

I have written letters thru the years to the Fish + Game, I am convinced they are dropped in the trash.

To preserve the Food Chain for your constituents, should be your first duty.

Yours Very Truly,

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
POSITION PAPER

Bill No: SB 77 (1/29/93)

Sponsor: Senators Sharp, Frank, Taylor

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Bill Title: An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive game management to achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest.

Department Position: Neutral pending significant amendments.

Background/Legislative Intent: The purpose of this bill is to mandate intensive management of declining game populations to enhance consumptive use opportunities.

Analysis of Bill/Program Effects: As written, this bill would direct the board and require the department to undertake intensive management programs, even when such programs are not needed or desirable. Currently, both the board and department already have the authority and discretion to use intensive management to enhance game populations. By statutorily eliminating flexibility, this bill could compromise the biological basis for decision-making and make the board process extremely cumbersome.

Amendments Proposed:

Sec. 1. (page 1, lines 5-10)

(a) The Board of Game shall adopt regulations it considers advisable in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to provide for the management of game, and for intensive management of identified big game populations [SPECIES] to maintain or restore high levels of [GAME POPULATIONS TO ACHIEVE HIGHER] sustained yield for human harvest where the board has determined that consumptive use of those big game populations [SPECIES] is the preferred use....

(This amendment alters wording to parallel that suggested elsewhere in the bill and clarifies the intent to focus intensive management on identified populations of big game rather than species on a statewide basis.)

Sec. 2. (page 3, lines 3-11)

(e) The Board of Game may not significantly reduce the taking of an identified big game population under this section unless the board has previously considered [ADOPTED REGULATIONS] providing for the use of intensive management to increase the take of the identified big game population for human harvest consistent with (a)(11) of this section. After considering [ADOPTING REGULATIONS] providing for intensive management of an identified big game population subject to this subsection, the board may consider and adopt regulations relating to development or regulation of access to the population


and to management of the population by customary adjustments in seasons, bag limits, open and closed areas, methods and means, or by other customary means authorized under (a) of this section.

(Unless this bill is amended, hundreds of regulatory proposals sent to the board annually will not be able to be considered or adopted unless a companion proposal is also submitted dealing with intensive management. The resulting burden on the board, public and department would overload the regulatory process. This amendment would require the Board of Game to consider, rather than adopt, intensive management before a significant restriction in harvest of a big game population is imposed. This amendment would also preserve the flexibility of the board and department in making customary adjustments in seasons, bag limits, open and closed areas, methods and means, access, etc. in those cases where "intensive management" of a game population would be inappropriate, ineffective, or restricted by a federal or private landowner.)

Example 1: On Admiralty Island, the habitat is prime and there is no significant predation on black-tailed deer. If the deer population crashed due to a severe winter, the only appropriate action to speed recovery may be to significantly reduce human harvest. As written, however, SB 77 would prevent a reduction in season or bag limit to aid recovery.

Example 2: Game populations of many species (e.g., caribou, ptarmigan, grouse, hares, lynx, muskrats) are cyclic and not always clearly driven by food availability or predation. Some of these populations are managed primarily by monitoring them and regulating human harvest. As written, SB 77 would prevent regulation of harvest until regulations for "intensive management" are adopted, even though no "intensive management" technique may be effective or appropriate.)

Commissioner's Signature


for

Date

2/10/93

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 77(RES)

Revision Date: 12/16/93
 Title: An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive game management
 Sponsor: Senator Sharp
 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	*	*	*	*	*	*
TRAVEL	*	*	*	*	*	*
CONTRACTUAL	*	*	*	*	*	*
SUPPLIES	*	*	*	*	*	*
EQUIPMENT	*	*	*	*	*	*
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL OPERATING	*	*	*	*	*	*
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	*	*	*	*	*	*
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	*	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
FULL-TIME	*	*	*	*	*	*
PART-TIME	*	*	*	*	*	*
TEMPORARY	*	*	*	*	*	*

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

*Actual costs of implementing a given "intensive management" program will be considerable and cannot be estimated in advance. See attached sheet for examples of costs of intensive management programs.

Prepared By: David G. Kellehouse, Director *DK* Phone: 465-4190
 Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: 12/16/93
 Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]* Date: 12/20/93
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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Without knowing which big game population may be identified as requiring "intensive management," the length of time over which the management program must be implemented, the type of habitat where the big game population occurs, the size and location of the population within the state, and other complicating factors (e.g., annual weather variations and harvest levels allowed by the Board of Game), the costs to the department of implementing this legislation cannot be predicted.

There are 12 big game species in Alaska consisting of innumerable distinct populations. A given moose population, for example, may benefit from control of wolves, brown bears, or black bears, improvement of browse using manual crushing techniques, a prescribed burn, or some other type of "intensive management," such as timber management. It is not feasible to prepare cost estimates for every potential intensive management proposal for every big game population in every part of the state.

The following examples are costs (uncorrected for inflation) of selected past management programs:

1983-84 Moose Habitat Improvement Projects

\$42.0 was appropriated for browse management in the Moose Creek Management Area in the Matanuska Valley. With that funding, 150 acres of timber were "chained," 75 acres of previously cut areas were scarified, and trails were built to afford access for personal and commercial wood cutting programs, including 2300 acres for timber harvest.

\$155.0 was allocated for Kenai Peninsula work, including purchase of one used 40-ton Le Tourneau tree crusher, machine repairs and maintenance, personnel costs, fuel, and miscellaneous costs. Based on 3,000 acres treated annually for 25 years and on costs of \$32/acre with post-crushing burning, the cost per additional moose created by crushing and burning is expected to be \$145 over a 25-year period.

Tok Habitat Rehabilitation Programs

\$25.0 was allocated for the Tok River Drainage project in 1983 for crushing of 400 acres of riparian willow, increasing browse supplies in the river by 800,000 to 1,200,000 lbs annually by fall 1985. Effects were expected to last until 1995.

\$14.0 was spent preparing for the Tok River prescribed fire in 1984. An area of 500 acres was to be burned at a relatively high cost because the fire was adjacent to private property, utility lines, and the state highway, requiring added control capabilities. Where road systems allow, blading and crushing of decarient willow-dominated winter range (i.e., stand rejuvenation rather than stand conversion) can be more cost effective for relatively small areas than intensive fire management, and browse can be produced for about \$.10/moose/day. Costs to totally feed a population of 900 Tok River moose over winter would be about \$11.0 annually.

Delta Junction Habitat Improvement

FY84 estimated costs for various phases of the bison habitat improvement programs are as follows: Delta River prescription burn (12.0); helitorch, parts and supplies (7.0); clearing (12.0); bison depredation control (5.0); personnel (24.0); fertilization (18.0); TOTAL (78.0).

Wolf Control

Estimated costs of wolf control programs in Alaska for fiscal years 1976-1984, as reported to the Board of Game in March 1984: operational costs include wolf survey and population estimates; trapping and collaring; analysis, reporting, and administration; wolf reduction and recovery.

<u>GMU</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Operating Costs</u>	<u>Personnel Costs</u>
19A & 19B	1979-80	13.0	30.0
20A	1976-83	150.9	120.0
20B	1981-84	118.8	113.0
20D	1981-83	25.6	31.0
20E	1982-84	112.9	87.0
23 & 24	1977-78	9.4	12.6

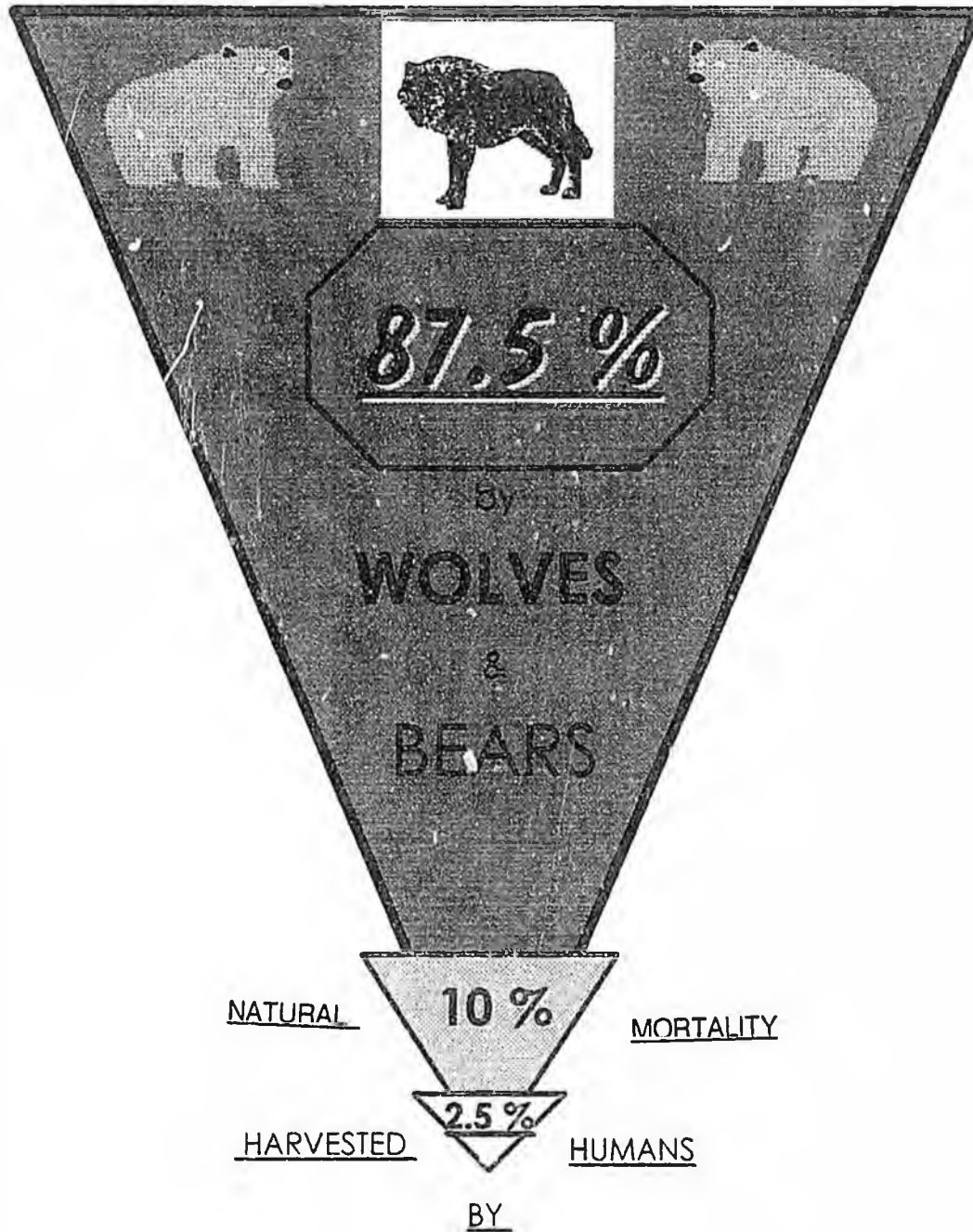
This does not include costs that may be incurred in the planning process, holding public meetings, responding to public inquiries or objections related to predator control programs, and additional expenses to the Boards Support Section, Division of Administration.

SHEEP

MOOSE

CARIBOU

HARVEST RATIO



Data from ADFG 1991

LTN1100-R01
03/07/94

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK

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TCN: 40446

DATE & TIME: 03/07/94 08:15 TO 10:00

STATUS:5 IN PROG.

**** ORDER SUMMARY ****

SPONSOR: HRES HOUSE RESOURCES

CHAIRS: WILLIAMS

PURPOSE: PUB PUBLIC HEARING

LEGISLATIVE

CONTACT: MARY McDOWELL

TEL#: (907)465-3715

CHAIRING SITE: JUNEAU

CAPITOL

CAP124

SPONSOR REMARKS(PUB): TESTIMONY:Y ALLOWED
TESTIMONY WILL BE TAKEN.

99 MINUTE LIMIT

TCN REQUESTED ON 03/07/94 AND HAS 12 UPDATES

**** AGENDA ****

- 1 HB 404 NATIVE ALLOTMENTS IN STATE PARKS
- 2 HB 448 WASTE & USE OF SALMON; HATCHERIES
- 3 HJR 17 MAGNUSON FISHERY CONSRV & MGT ACT
- 4 SB 77 INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF GAME RESOURCES
- 5 **** ORDER OF BILLS ****
- 6 HJR 17
- 7 HB 404
- 8 HB 448
- 9 SB 77

**** PARTICIPATING LIOS ****

ANC ANCHORAGE	716 W 4TH, #200	LOCATION STAFF
BAR BARROW	COURTHOUSE #305	LOCATION STAFF
COR CORDOVA	705 2ND STREET	LOCATION STAFF
DJT DELTA JCT.	JARVIS CTR. #210	LOCATION STAFF
DLG DILLINGHAM	KANGIIGUTAQ BLDG	LOCATION STAFF
FBX FAIRBANKS	119 N CUSHMAN ST	LOCATION STAFF
GLN GLENNALLEN	COMMUNITY LIR.	LOCATION STAFF
HOZ HOMER LTC	126 W PIONEER #4	LOCATION STAFF
* JNU JUNEAU	CAPITOL	LOCATION STAFF
KOD KODIAK	112 MILL BAY RD.	LOCATION STAFF
KOT KOTZEBUE	333 FRONT STREET	LOCATION STAFF
KTN KETCHIKAN	352 FRONT STREET	LOCATION STAFF
NAT NATSU	165 E PARKS HWY.	LOCATION STAFF
SEW SEWARD	2001 SEWARD HWY	LOCATION STAFF
STT SITKA	210 LAKE STREET	LOCATION STAFF
SOL KEN/SOL	34824 KALIFONSKY	LOCATION STAFF
TOK TOK	MP 1314 AK. HWY	LOCATION STAFF
VAL VALDEZ	STATE BLDG. #13	LOCATION STAFF

**** VOLUNTEER & OFFNET SITES ****

ZZZ OFF1 OFFNET 1

MCGRATH

WINCHELL TICKNOR (907)524-3005

PARTICIPANTS IN: ANCHORAGE

ANC

1	PETE	PANARESE	AK STATE PARKS	TSFY. HB 404
	PO BOX 107001		ANCHORAGE	AK 99510 (907)762-2603
2	SANDRA	ARNOLD		TSFY. SB 77
	PO BOX 200606		ANCHORAGE	AK 99520 (907)276-3670
3	DAN	HOURIHAN	AK STATE PARKS	TSFY. HB 404
	PO BOX 107001		ANCHORAGE	AK 99510 (907)762-2614
4	CHRIS	MAACH	ANCH AUDUBON	TSFY. SB 77
	PO BOX 101161		ANCHORAGE	AK 99510 (907)278-4265
5	TRACY	ABELL	SIERRA CLUB	TSFY. SB 77

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03/07/94

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK

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TCN: 40446

DATE & TIME: 03/07/94 08:15 TO 10:00

STATUS:5 IN PROG.

PARTICIPANTS IN: ANCHORAGE

ANC

6	13030 BATES CIRCLE	ANCHORAGE	AK 99515 (907)345-0132
	GEORGE MATZ		TSFY. SB 77
		ANCHORAGE	AK 99516 (907)345-3135

1 MR.	JOHN	MCMULLEN	FWSAC	TSFY. HB 448
	PO BOX 1110		CORDOVA	AK 99574 (907)424-7511
PARTICIPANTS IN: DELTA JCT. DJT				
1 MR.	DONALD	QUARBERG		OBSV. SB 77
	PO BOX 349		DELTA JCT.	AK 99737 (907)895-4215
2 MS.	CHEYENNE	WALKER		OBSV. SB 77
	HC 62, BOX 5360		DELTA JCT.	AK 99737 (907)895-1024
3 MR.	TIM	WEBB		OBSV. SB 77
	HC 62, BOX 5360		DELTA JCT.	AK 99737 (907)895-1024
PARTICIPANTS IN: DILLINGHAM DLG				
1 MR.	DUGAN G.	NIELSEN		TSFY. HB 404
	BOX 103		DILLINGHAM	AK 99576 (907)842-2743
PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS FBX				
1 MR.	PERRY	ANSOGEAK	TCC	TSFY. HB 404
	122 1ST AVE.		FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-8251
2 MR.	DICK	BISHOP		TSFY. SB 77
	1555 GUS'S GRIND		FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)455-6151
3 MR.	GEORGE	YASKA	TCC	TSFY. SB 77
	122 1ST AVE.		FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)479-2362
4 MS.	KATHRINE	RICHARDSON		OBSV. SB 77
	P.O. BOX 80766		FAIRBANKS	AK 99708 (907)479-2362
PARTICIPANTS IN: GLENNALLEN GLN				
1 MR.	LES	SUTHERLAND	CRNA	OBSV. HB 404
	DRAWER H		COPPER CENTER	AK 99573 (907)822-3944
2 MR.	JAMES D.	WOOLINGTON	ADF&G	OBSV. SB 77
	PO BOX 47		GLENNALLEN	AK 99588 (907)822-3461
PARTICIPANTS IN: HOMER LTC HOM				
1 MR.	RANDY	FRANKLIN		TSFY. SB 77
	PO BOX 1924		HOMER	AK 99603 (907)235-7104
2 MR.	L. R.	MCCUBBINS	SCURVEY CR.	FISH TSFY. ALL ITEMS
	PO BOX 1656		HOMER	AK 99603 (907)000-0000
PARTICIPANTS IN: JUNEAU JNU				
1 REP	B	WILLIAMS		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
				AK (907)000-0000
2 REP	P	CARNEY		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
				AK (907)000-0000
3 REP	B	HUDSON		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
				AK (907)000-0000
4 REP	D	FINKLESTEIN		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
				AK (907)000-0000
5 REP	G	DAVIES		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
				AK (907)000-0000

LTH1100-R01
03/07/94

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK

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TCN: 40446 DATE & TIME: 03/07/94 08:15 TO 10:00 STATUS: 5 IN PROG.

PARTICIPANTS IN: JUNEAU JNU				
6 REP	E.	MULDER		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
				AK (907)000-0000
7 REP	C	BUNDE		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
				AK (907)000-0000
8 REP	J	JAMES		TSFY. ALL ITEMS

9	REP	M	NAVARRE	AK	(907)000-0000
				TSFY.	ALL ITEMS
10	MR	RAY	GILLESPIE	AK	(907)000-0000
			ASSOC. OF AQUACULTURE AS SOCIATIONS	TSFY.	ALL ITEMS
11	SEN	B	SHARP	AK	(907)000-0000
			PRIME SPONSOR	TSFY.	ALL ITEMS
2	MR	DAVID	KELLYHOUSE	AK	(907)000-0000
			DIR., DIV. OF WILDLIFE, DEPT. OF F&G	TSFY.	ALL ITEMS
13		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
14		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
15		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
16		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
17		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
18		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
19		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
20		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
21		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
22		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
23		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
24		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
25		TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS
26		TO	TESTIFY		TSFY. ALL ITEMS
27		TO	TESTIFY		TSFY. ALL ITEMS

PARTICIPANTS IN:KODIAK KOD
 1 MR. LARRY MALLOY KOD REG AQUACULT OBSV. HB 448
 BOX 3407 KODIAK AK 99615 (907)486-6555

PARTICIPANTS IN:KOTZEBUE KOT
 1 MR. BILLY SHELDON KOTZEBUE IRA OBSV. HB 404
 BOX 696 KOTZEBUE AK 99752 (907)442-3467
 2 MR. WHITTIER WILLIAMS SELF OBSV. ALL ITEMS
 BOX 742 KOTZEBUE AK 99752 (907)442-2991
 3 MR. STEPHEN MAXWELL SELF OBSV. ALL ITEMS
 BOX 290 KOTZEBUE AK 99752 (907)442-2716

PARTICIPANTS IN:KETCHIKAN KTN
 1 MR. DON AMEND SSRAA TSFY. HB 448
 2721 TONGASS AVE. AK 99901 (907)225-9605
 2 MR. LEE PUTMAN OBSV. SB 77
 6005 ROOSEVELT DRIVE AK 99901 (907)225-7694

PARTICIPANTS IN:MATSU MAT
 1 MR. ROD ARNO TSFY. SB 77
 PO BOX 2790 PALMER AK 99645 (907)376-2913

PARTICIPANTS IN:SITKA SIT

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PARTICIPANTS IN:SITKA SIT
 1 PETF ESQUIRO NSRAA TSFY. HB 448
 1308 SAWMILL CREEK RD. SITKA AK 99835 (907)747-6850

PARTICIPANTS IN:KEN/SOL SOL
 1 MR. TOM NEARS CIAA TSFY. HB 448
 HC 2 BOX 849 SOLDOTNA AK 99669 (907)283-5761

PARTICIPANTS IN:TOK TOK
 1 MS. KAREN OGDEN OBSV. SB 77
 P.O. BOX 96 TOK AK 99780 (907)883-5604

PARTICIPANTS IN:VALDEZ VAL
 1 MR. DONALD K. TAYLOR TSFY. HB 404
 P.O. BOX 3118 VALDEZ AK 99686 (907)835-4358
 2 MR. GREG WILLIAMS KCHU OBSV. ALL ITEMS
 P.O. BOX 467 VALDEZ AK 99686 (907)835-4665
 3 MR. DONALD K. TAYLOR TSFY. HB 448
 P.O. BOX 3118 VALDEZ AK 99686 (907)835-4358

**** ORDER SUMMARY ****

SPONSOR: HRES HOUSE RESOURCES

CHAIRS: WILLIAMS

PURPOSE: PUB PUBLIC HEARING

LEGISLATIVE

CONTACT: MARY MCDOWELL

TEL#: (907)465-3715

CHAIRING SITE: JUNEAU

CAPITOL

CAP124

SPONSOR REMARKS(PUB): TESTIMONY Y ALLOWED

3 MINUTE LIMIT

TIME LIMIT ON TESTIMONY MAY CHANGE ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.

TCN REQUESTED ON 02/16/94 AND HA.' 6 UPDATES

**** AGENDA ****

1 SB 77 INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF GAME RESOURCES

**** PARTICIPATING LTOS ****

ANC ANCHORAGE ✓	716 W 4TH, #200	LOCATION STAFF
CDR CORDOVA ✓	705 2ND STREET	LOCATION STAFF
DJT DELTA JCT. ✓	JARVIS CIR. #210	LOCATION STAFF
FBX FAIRBANKS ✓	119 N CUSHMAN ST	LOCATION STAFF
GLN GLENNALLEN ✓	COMMUNITY LIB.	LOCATION STAFF
HOM HOMER LTC ✓	126 W PIONEER #4	LOCATION STAFF
* JNU JUNEAU	CAPITOL	CAP124
KOD KODIAK ✓	112 MILL BAY RD.	LOCATION STAFF
KTN KETCHIKAN ✓	352 FRONT STREET	LOCATION STAFF
MAT MATSU ✓	165 E PARKS HWY.	LOCATION STAFF
TOK TOK ✓	MP 1314 AK. HWY	LOCATION STAFF

PARTICIPANTS IN: ANCHORAGE

ANC

1	DAVE CLINE	NAIL AUDUBON SOC TSFY. SB 77
	11930 CIRCLE DR.	ANCHORAGE AK 99516 (907)276-7034
2	TED RAYNOR	TSFY. SB 77
	13901 SCHUBERT CIR.	ANCHORAGE AK 99516 (907)345-0608
3	CATHY GLEASON	TSFY. SB 77
	4211 BRIDLE CIR.	ANCHORAGE AK 99517 (907)248-0442
4	CAROL JENSON	TSFY. SB 77
	8451 GRANHILL WAY	ANCHORAGE AK 99502 (907)344-7078
5	TRACY ABELL	AK, SIERRA CLUB TSFY. SB 77
	13030 BATES CIR.	ANCHORAGE AK 99515 (907)345-0132
6	SANDRA ARNOLD	TSFY. SB 77
	PO BOX 200606	ANCHORAGE AK 99520 (907)276-3670
7	MYRNA HAMMOND WUERTH	OBSV. SB 77
	3180 AMBER BAY LOOP	ANCHORAGE AK 99515 (907)344-9888
8	MARY VAN DUSEN	TSFY. SB 77
	3510 W 30TH AVE.	ANCHORAGE AK 99517 (907)243-7550
9	STEPHEN WELLS	TSFY. SB 77
	PO BOX 202022	ANCHORAGE AK 99520 (907)277-0877
10	TERRY BURRELL	TSFY. SB 77
	3716 WESLYAN	ANCHORAGE AK 99508 (907)563-4454
11	GEORGE MATS	AUDUBON SOCIETY TSFY. SB 77
	14345 CODY	ANCHORAGE AK 99516 (907)000-0000
12	GORDON HABER	TSFY. SB 77
		DENALI PARK AK 99755 (907)683-2761
13	NOT GIVEN	OBSV. SB 77
		AK (907)000-0000

PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS

FBX

PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS FBX

1 MR.	BILL	HAGAR	SELF	TSFY. SB 77
	431 GAFFNEY RD.		FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-6295
2 MR.	TED	LEONARD	SELF	TSFY. SB 77
	55 MILE SALCHA RIVER		SALCHA	AK 99714 (907)452-5484
3 MR.	MIKE	TINKER	SELF	TSFY. SB 77
	P.O. BOX 25197		ESTER	AK 99725 (907)479-2561
4 MR.	DICK	BISHOP	SELF	TSFY. SB 77
	5 GUS'S GRIND		FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)455-6151
5 MR.	JEFF	BUIST	SELF	TSFY. SB 77
	P.O. BOX 71561		FAIRBANKS	AK 99707 (907)457-7189
6 MR.	PETE	SHEPERD	SELF	TSFY. SB 77
	1012 GALENA ST.		FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)474-4685
7 MR.	LYNN	LEVENGOOD		OBSV. SB 77
	931 WIDE WAY		FAIRBANKS	AK 99712 (907)457-3844
8 MR.	OLIVER	BURRIS		TSFY. SB 77
	2801 TALKEETNA		FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)474-0437
9 MR.	TOM	SCARBOROUGH		TSFY. SB 77
	1676 TAROKA DR.		FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)479-4312
10 MR.	GREG	MACHACEK		TSFY. SB 77
	P.O. BOX 56245		NORTH POLE	AK 99705 (907)488-4534
11 MR.	GRANT	LEWIS		OBSV. SB 77
	6101 CHENA HOT SPRINGS		FAIRBANKS	AK 99712 (907)488-2884

PARTICIPANTS IN: GLENNALLEN GLN

1 MR.	JIM	WOOLINGTON	F&G	OBSV. SB 77
	PO BOX 576		GLENNALLEN	AK 99588 (907)822-3649

PARTICIPANTS IN: HOMER LTC HOM

1 MS	KATHERINE	SMITH	KBCS	TSFY. SB 77
	1193 COOPER CRT		HOMER	AK 99603 (907)235-5448
2 MRS.	NANCY	HILLSTRAND		TSFY. SB 77
	PO BOX 170		HOMER	AK 99603 (907)235-2572

PARTICIPANTS IN: KODIAK KOD

1 MR.	RICHARD	MACINTOSH		TSFY. SB 77
	909 MISSION ROAD		KODIAK	AK 99615 (907)486-3087
2 MS.	MARY	FORBES		TSFY. SB 77
	418 MILL BAY ROAD		KODIAK	AK 99615 (907)486-2685

PARTICIPANTS IN: KETCHIKAN KTN

1 MR.	NOEL	PUTMAN		TSFY. SB 77
	846 BROWN DEER		KETCHIKAN	AK 99901 (907)225-0687
2 MR.	DOUG	LARSEN	ADF&G	OBSV. SB 77
	2030 SEA LEVEL DRIVE		KETCHIKAN	AK 99901 (907)225-2475
3 MR.	LEE	PUTMAN		OBSV. SB 77
	6005 ROOSEVELT DRIVE		KETCHIKAN	AK 99901 (907)225-7694
4 MS.	TABITHA	GREGORY		OBSV. SB 77
	PO BOX 6853		KETCHIKAN	AK 99901 (907)225-7330

PARTICIPANTS IN: MATSU MAT

1 MR.	ROD	ARNO		TSFY. SB 77
	BOX 2790		PALMER	AK 99645 (907)376-2913
2 MR.	ED	GRASSER		OBSV. SB 77

LTN1100-R01 LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK PAGE 03
02/17/94 09:46:16
TCN: 40295 DATE & TIME: 02/16/94 08:15 TO 10:00 STATUS:6 ADJOURNED

PARTICIPANTS IN: MATSU MAT

	BOX 1350		PALMER	AK 99645 (907)745-3772
--	----------	--	--------	------------------------

PARTICIPANTS IN: TOK TOK

1	KAREN	OGDEN		OBSV. SB 77
	PO BOX 96		TOK	AK 99780 (907)883-5604

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association

Board of Directors

Nancy Lethcoe
President
Alaska Wilderness
Sailing Safaris

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Alaska Rainforest Tours

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Treasurer
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Leadership School

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Alaska Mountaineering &
Hiking

Bob Dittrick
Wilderness Birding
Adventures

Kirk Hoessle
Alaska Wildlands
Adventures

Bob Jacobs
St. Elias Alpina Guides

Karen Jettmar
Equinox

Steve Ranney
Fishing & Flying

Stan Stephens
Stan Stephens Charters

Eruk Williamson
Eruk's Wilderness
Float Trips

The Honorable Bill Williams, Chairman
House Resources Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol, m/s 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1152

March 30, 1993

RE: HB 141

SB77

Dear Rep. Williams:

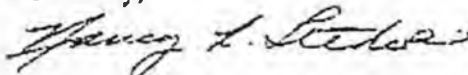
The Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association requests that you enter the following letter into the committee record on HB 141. AWRTA has the following public policy concerns about SB 77/HB141:

- 1) The bill gives priority use of Alaska's game to one user group. This is a major departure from existing public policy. The tourism industry markets watchable wildlife. We believe the bill will have an adverse economic impact on our members, since their ability to market and deliver various watchable wildlife experiences would be affected. Loss of income or a decrease in number of businesses can have an adverse effect on small rural towns where small tourism businesses provide economic diversity and community stability.
- 2) The bill interjects the legislative branch into micro-managing a department in the administrative branch. We question whether this is a good public policy precedent.

Aside from the public policy issues, we suggest there is a risk that a national backlash against the bill could result in such activities as a renewed boycott on tourism or introduction of federal legislation to remove more animal species from the control of the state. As I am sure you remember, this happened in the early 1970s when state sea otter hunts provided the stimulus for passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act which removed control of sea otters, seals and sea lions from state authority.

We would encourage you to vote against moving HB141 out of the House Resources Committee.

Sincerely,



Nancy R. Lethcoe



ALASKA VISITORS ASSOCIATION

3201 C Street, Suite 403 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Tel: (907) 561-5733 • Fax: (907) 561-5727

1992-93

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Regency Cruises

Karen Cowart

Executive Director

March 16, 1993

MAR 17 1993

Representative Bill Williams

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

It has come to my attention that there is significant misunderstanding of AVA's position on the Board of Game's wolf control plan. I would like to clarify our position relating to the issue. At no time has AVA opposed predator control. We were drawn into this issue when the New York Times reported in a lengthy article about the wolf kill as a lead story on their national page. (See article enclosed.)

The AVA, representing tourism interests throughout Alaska, responded quickly because of the substantial economic impact that killing wolves from helicopters would have on a billion dollar industry.

We believe in an abundance of game for all user groups throughout Alaska. Further, we support the constitutionally established system of game management, and let me reiterate the fact that we have never been opposed to predator control.

In this time of declining oil revenues, depressed mineral prices, unstable seafood prices, and a troubled timber industry, tourism stands as a bright spot for Alaska's economic future. We hope you concur and will continue to support tourism.

We look forward to working with you and others to do what is right for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Jacobsen

President

November 19, 1992

The New York Times

Alaska to Kill Wolves To Inflate Game Herds

By TIMOTHY EGAN
Special to The New York Times

ANCHORAGE, Nov. 18 — Trying to tip the balance of nature in favor of moose and caribous, wildlife officials have decided to start shooting wolves from airplanes over a huge portion of the Alaska wilderness.

By reducing the number of wolves that prey on big-game animals, Alaska wildlife officials hope to produce a bounty for hunters and tourists.

"We feel we are going to create a wildlife spectacle on a par with the major migrations in East Africa," said David Kelleyhouse, director of the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation. "Aunt and pop from Syracuse can come up here and see something that they can't see anywhere else on earth."

International Outcry Expected

With votes today and on Tuesday, the Alaska Board of Game set in motion a major reordering of the predatory chain in a habitat often referred to as the American Serengeti. The move promises to affect the populations of

Alaska's big-game animals, number no more than 7,000 statewide.

The plan calls for the wolves to be shot by game officials from airplanes or by private citizens who will be allowed to track them from the air, then land and shoot them. Both practices are prohibited under the Federal Airborne Hunting Act, but the law makes an exception for state game managers or state-sanctioned wildlife control.

'A Very Dumb Mistake'

A number of wildlife biologists say that killing hundreds of Alaska wolves each year would not guarantee a population explosion of large animals. In some areas, 30 percent of the wolves, which run in packs of 8 to 30 animals, would be killed.

"This decision is bad biology all around, almost insulting from a scientific standpoint," said Dr. Gordon Huber, a wildlife scientist who has been studying wolves in Alaska for 27 years. "They are making a very dumb mistake."

Letting nature take its course over a number of years would gradually build up the big-game herds, Dr. Huber said. If too many wolves are killed, the game herds will grow too fast and risk mass starvation or disease, he said.

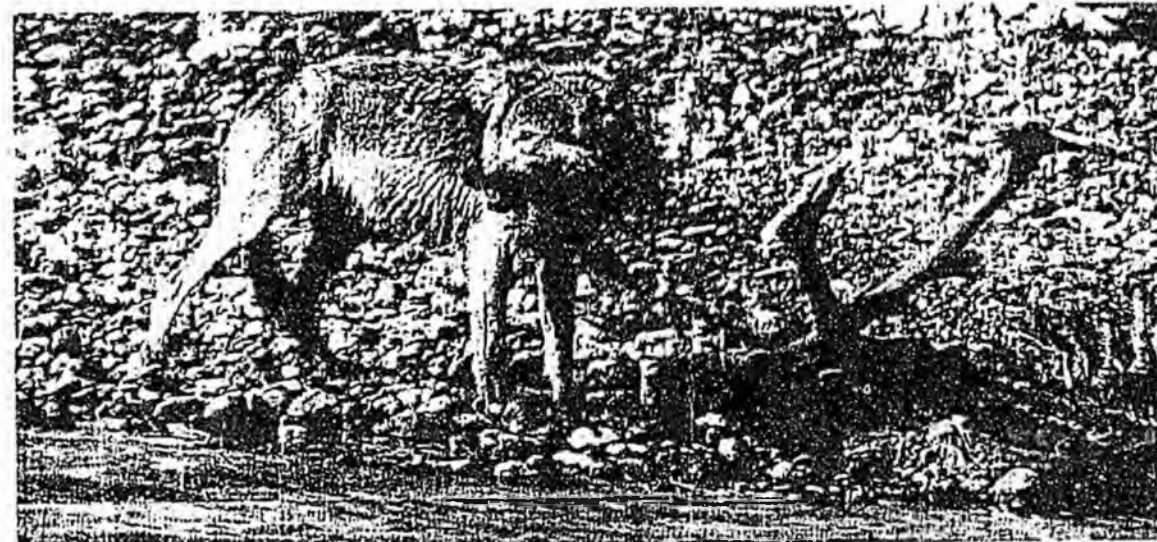
The Yellowstone Model

Other biologists have pointed to Yellowstone National Park, where wolves were wiped out long ago and where the elk population is now so excessive that hundreds have died of starvation or disease in recent years.

Wolves are extirpated or endangered in every state but Alaska and Minnesota. Some critics say the decision this week to kill wolves systematically harkens back to wolf-poisoning campaigns of the 19th century, a claim state officials dispute.

"I have never heard anyone in this state say we ought to eliminate all the wolves," said Bruce Bartley, a spokesman for the wildlife department. "What's happening is some hunters feel they are being shortchanged. They think a few more moose and caribou ought to die by bullets instead of by teeth."

Although there are no real shortages of big-game animals in Alaska, this week's decision is an attempt to make it easier for hunters to kill moose and caribou, said Mr. Kelleyhouse, whose appointment two years ago reflects a



Alaska wildlife officials are hoping to produce a bounty for hunters and tourists by reducing the number of wolves that prey on big-game animals.

Biologists worry that 'playing God' will upset natural cycles.

the nation's biggest herds of moose, dall sheep, caribous, wolves and grizzly bears into the next century.

But some biologists say the state has entered a dangerous phase of "playing God" that will upset the natural cycles that it will actually produce fewer animals.

The decision to begin killing wolves, a wildlife management practice that was stopped nearly 10 years ago after critics labeled it barbaric, is bound to generate an international outcry. For many people, the Alaska gray wolf is a symbol of the state's wild character, chronicled in Jack London tales and Walt Disney movies.

To inflate Alaska's populations of moose and caribous, which already number well over a million, the state plans to kill hundreds of wolves each year. Wildlife experts estimate that the wolves, the primary predators of Alas-

philosophical change in wildlife management favored by Gov. Walter Hickel of Alaska.

Prior to Governor Hickel's election in 1990, the state had been moving away from any sort of systematic wolf-killing program.

The plan enacted this week by the state game board is a five-year program of shooting wolves in a 43,000-square-mile area between Anchorage and Fairbanks, a section of birch forests, glaciers and tundra that is home to more than 60,000 caribous, 10,000 moose, 2,000 grizzly bears and about 700 wolves. Since bears, as well as wolves, prey on the moose and caribou, the state will also try to eliminate more bears in some areas, although the exact numbers have not been determined.

Although the proportion of Alaska residents who hunt is twice the 8 percent average in the rest of the nation, there is considerable opposition to the wolf-killing program here.

"We don't think game populations should be artificially maintained for high levels of hunting," said Dave McCargo, a director of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, a group dedicated to protecting the state's wild animals. "More than 80 percent of Alaskans don't hunt. Yet, this agency is being run for a small group of people."

Hunters' groups generally favored

this week's decision. Randy Smith, director of the Alaska Outdoor Council, a coalition of hunters and gun users, said that if the state did not begin killing wolves it would take too long for the moose and caribou herds to build up. "These animals are being managed for the benefit of man, and that's the way it should be," Mr. Smith said.

No Longer for Sport

Until two years ago, Alaskans were allowed to hunt wolves for sport by tracking them in airplanes, then shooting them on the ground. After a celebrated case in which an Anchorage surgeon, Jack Frost, was accused by Federal officials of killing up to 60

wolves he had tracked by plane, the practice called "land-and-shoot" was stopped. Some Alaskans are still allowed to trap wolves for fur or, with a special permit, to shoot them from the ground.

Mr. Kelleyhouse noted that the game board's decision this week outlaws land-and-shoot hunting of wolves for sport. It can only be done now as a wildlife management tool, he said.

But Stephen Wells, associate director of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, said, "No matter what they call it, they're still trying to manage these animals to guarantee a hunter's success rather

than on sound scientific decisions."

British Columbia and other areas that in the past allowed aerial shooting of wolves faced fierce international opposition, including economic boycotts, until they ceased the practice. In the last year, the state of Alaska has received hundreds of letters from out of state, "almost universally opposed to wolf killing," Mr. Bartley said.

The new plan calls for the killings to begin in late winter, when the snow is deepest and the wolves are at their weakest, game officials said. The animals would be shot and killed quickly, under strict supervision, Mr. Kelleyhouse said.

Nov 19, 1972

Alaska to shoot hundreds of wolves from airplanes

New York Times

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Trying to tip the balance of nature in favor of moose and caribou, wildlife officials have decided to start shooting wolves from airplanes over a huge portion of the Alaska wilderness.

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Shot from planes

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'Bad biology'

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MAR 24 1993

Wilderness Birding Adventures

Bill Williams
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

P.O. Box 10-3747
Anchorage, Alaska
99510-3747
(907) 694-7442

Dear Representative Bill Williams:

Senate Bill 77 will damage my business and the tourism industry as a whole. The wildlife of this state is supposed to be managed with all of us in mind. This bill singles out one user group for privileged rights to a resource that belongs to all of us. It disregards the subsistence hunters and the non consumptive users, which are a majority of Alaskans. And it is an assault on the tourism industry which brings a significant amount of revenue into the state.

The biologists and other experts trained and educated in the field of wildlife management should be making the management decisions not the legislature on behalf of a vocal special interest group. This bill by mandating policy usurps the authority of the Board of Game, and it negates the public process. The Board of Game's purpose is to listen to the public's concerns about the resource and then make decisions with that consideration. This bill will direct them to ignore the majority of the public.

The bill is a thinly disguised effort for the wolf control advocates to circumnavigate the public process. If aerial wolf control is again implemented it will result in further boycotts of an innocent industry causing it additional harm. If there was a lesson in the wolf issue it is that the majority of people don't believe aerial wolf control is acceptable as a management tool except in extreme circumstances. In a poll commissioned by the tourism industry the majority of Alaskans were opposed to aerial wolf control. When they were asked "how do you feel generally about this new proposal for the aerial hunting of wolves?" 55% were opposed and 30% were in favor. Further, 40% responded they were strongly opposed while only 9% responded they were strongly in favor.

The clients with which I deal are coming to Alaska and spending their money in a large part because of the diverse wildlife in a natural setting. Managing the wildlife in the fashion directed by SB 77 will diminish the populations of popular species for wildlife viewing. This will damage Alaska for tourism.



(over)



Anchorage Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 101161 • Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • (907) 278-3007

Testimony On

CSSB 77; Intensive Management of Big Game

My name is George Matz. I am representing the Anchorage Audubon Society which has about 1,400 members throughout Southcentral Alaska not including the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island.

Members of the Anchorage Audubon Society enjoy wildlife. We enjoy observing wildlife and some of us also enjoy hunting. Some of our members earn their living by guiding others in their quest to experience Alaska's wildlife. So that we and many others can continue these experiences, we ask that our resource managers dedicate themselves to maintaining the abundance and diversity of Alaska's wildlife as well as the quality of its habitat. We think this can be best achieved by practicing ecosystem management.

Because of our interests in wildlife, we are very concerned about CSSB 77. This bill mandates that the Department of Fish & Game intensively manage Alaska's big game for "higher levels of human harvest." Intensive management is defined as predator control and habitat improvement.

While the Anchorage Audubon Society believes there are situations where intensive management can be consistent with ecosystem management, such as the recovery of an endangered species or restoration of natural habitat, the result of this bill is more likely to be ecosystem disruption followed by a loss of biodiversity and sustainability; the foundations of ecosystem management.

Predator control, which appears to be a key objective of this bill, will result in the loss of biodiversity. Instead of considering predators as a functional part of a healthy ecosystem, this bill implies that predators are unneeded varmints, depriving hunters of their game. There is no acknowledgement that most people nowadays would rather observe a wolf, and even pay for the experience, than have it killed.

Although CSSB 77 makes reference to "sustained yield" it does so in a manner that creates internal contradictions. It is hard to imagine how resource managers will be able to maintain "in perpetuity a high level of ... human harvest of game resources" and "not significantly impair the productivity of the game resource". Irrespective of natural population cycles, "The Board of Game may not significantly reduce the taking of an identified big game population" without going through a burdensome regulatory process. It seems that this process would not result in critical management decisions until years after the decision is needed.

To illustrate that maintaining high population levels of big game is more complicated than merely eliminating predators, I would like to refer to a Wildlife Monograph entitled "Interrelationships of Wolves, Prey, and Man in Interior Alaska" written by several ADF&G staff

This is a poor bill which takes the power to manage the resource out of the hands of those most qualified to do so. It promotes the interests of a specific group over those of the majority of Alaskans and Alaska as a whole. And it is a slap in the face to an industry that is good for Alaska. The tourism industry is the third largest revenue producer now and growing rapidly. It is one of the few industries which is non consumptive of the resources and therefore sustainable indefinitely into the future.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Dittrick", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bob Dittrick owner

members.

The abstract states "Moose and caribou populations increased following a wolf reduction program in the 1950's and reached peak abundance in the 1960's. Deep snow and heavy browsing caused an initial crash of moose in 1965-66. Moose continued to decline until 1976, primarily due to periodic deep snow, harvest by man, and predation by wolves. These factors were interactive, each altering the impact of the others."

Some other quotes of relevance.

p. 23 "At peak abundance during 1960-65, moose may have been near range carrying capacity. Heavy browsing reduced plant vigor and killed willows in areas where moose concentrated. High moose density and reduced browse availability probably contributed to the extensive die-off during the severe winter of 1965-66.

p. 25 "Harvest by Hunters- High exploitation was a major factor causing the precipitous decline of the herd during the early 1970's."

p. 28 "Effective wildfire suppression since the 1950's caused slowly decreasing habitat quality through 1979."

p. 46 "Moose population size was not estimated accurately enough, and its rate of decline was initially underestimated. Consequently, appropriate hunting regulations were implemented belatedly."

To help illustrate these changes, I have entered data from the report into a spreadsheet from which I made a graph. To keep things on the same scale, I plotted percent change rather than the actual numbers. This data indicates that the impact of hunting was greatest when moose populations were rapidly dropping. Once the moose populations bottomed out, a "predator pit" condition was created and the quickest recovery was to undertake a wolf control program. What is important to note, however, is that while wolf control may have been the solution given the circumstances, the problem did not begin with wolves.

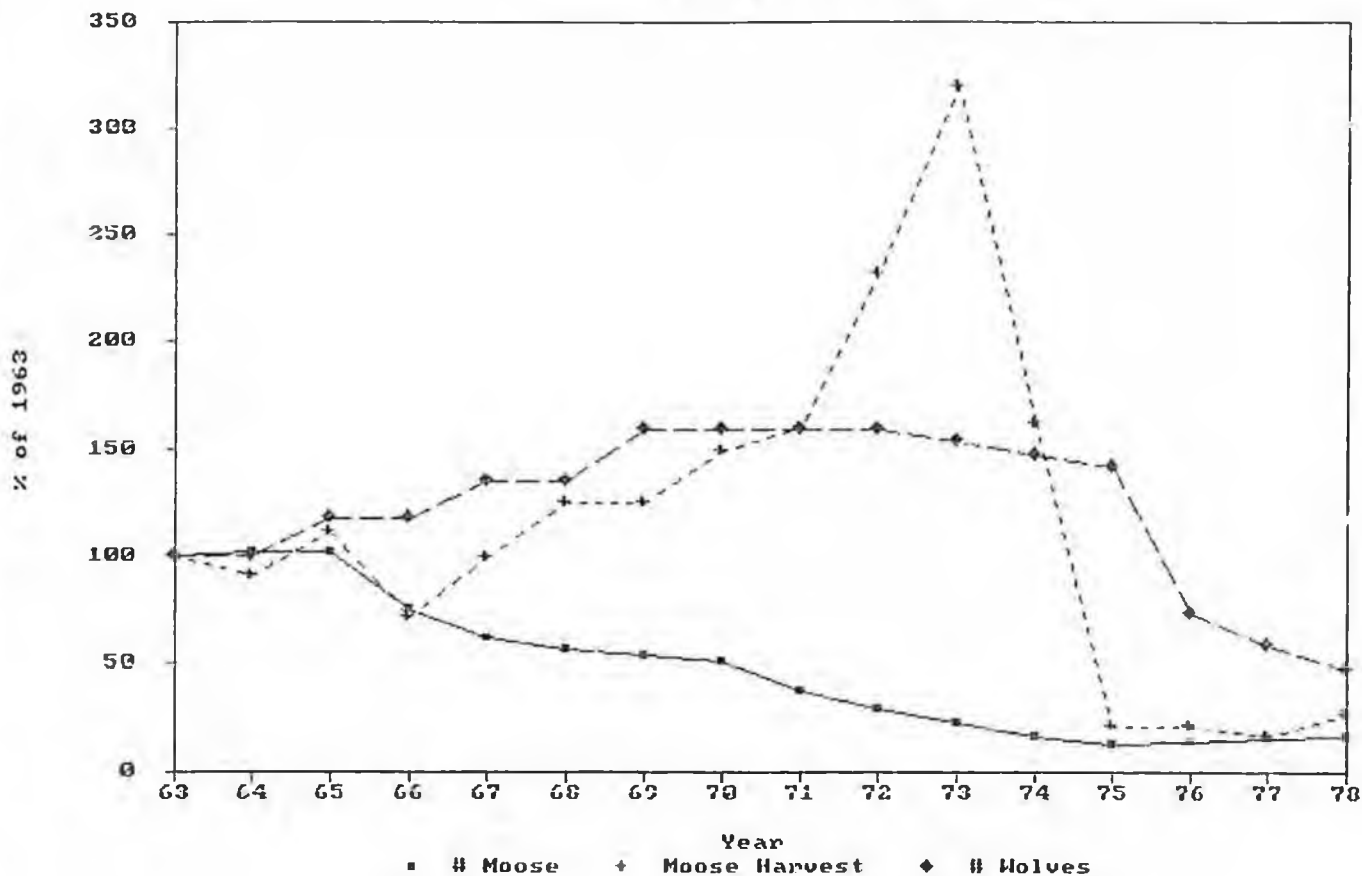
My message is that CSSB 77 seems destined to repeat many of the mistakes that were made in previous years. Wildlife populations are too dynamic and complicated to think they can be controlled as predictably as a machine. It is better to employ management systems which mimic nature rather than attempt to control it. Those who have learned this lesson have become believers of ecosystem management.

A final point I would like to make is that intensive management is expensive management. The fiscal note from ADF&G illustrates the point. From 1976-1984, ADF&G spent more than \$823,000 on wolf control just in the Interior. If predator control is to be conducted statewide, which CSSB 77 seems to imply, significant sums of money will be needed. Being in favor of user fees, I would like to suggest that this money be raised via a surcharge to hunting licenses. In fact, to really determine how much support there would be for this bill, the surcharge should be voluntary.

I thank you for this opportunity.

ADF&G STATISTICS

Tanana Flats



ADF&G ESTIMATES FOR TANANA FLATS

Year	Moose Population	Percent of 1963	Moose Harvested	Percent of 1963	Wolf Population	Percent of 1963
1963	22,900	100	302	100	170	100
1964	23,300	102	274	91	170	100
**1965	23,300	102	335	111	200	118
*1966	17,200	75	216	72	200	118
1967	14,300	62	299	99	230	135
1968	13,000	57	377	125	230	135
1969	12,400	54	376	125	270	159
**1970	11,800	52	449	149	270	159
1971	8,500	37	483	160	270	159
1972	6,700	29	699	232	270	159
1973	5,200	23	964	319	260	153
**1974	3,600	16	489	162	250	147
1975	2,900	13	63	21	240	141
1976	3,100	14	62	21	125	74
1977	3,400	15	50	17	100	59
1978	3,600	16	80	27	80	47

* Moderately severe winter

** Very severe winter



National Audubon Society

ALASKA • HAWAII REGIONAL OFFICE
308 G STREET, SUITE 219 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501 • (907) 276-7034 • FAX (907) 276-5069

Statement of

David R. Cline
Regional Vice President

for the

National Audubon Society

on

Senate Bill 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.”

in the

Legislature of The State of Alaska

February 16, 1994

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the House Resources Committee. My name is Dave Cline and I'm testifying today on behalf of the National Audubon Society. I'm also testifying as a professionally trained wildlife biologist, sportsman, and 23 year Alaska resident.

Over the years, I've seen many wildlife bills given consideration by the Alaska State Legislature. Some were very good, others not so good. But I have to say without hesitation that Committee Substitute for SB 77 now under your consideration is a very bad bill. In essence, it's special interest predator control legislation. I am, therefore, recommending that all members of your committee vote against its passage.

SB 77 is bad for wildlife because it:

1. Puts game species at risk of overharvest. That's because Alaska is too big a place to accurately determine maximum sustained yield for most big game populations. As history will show, once overharvest occurs, game populations can take many years to recover;
2. Would inevitably lead to the overharvest of predators with high aesthetic appeal - like wolves and bears. Again, this could require many years of closed seasons for the populations to recover;
3. Essentially destroy any opportunity for developing a balanced wildlife conservation program by putting most of our scarce wildlife conservation money into intensive management for a few favored game species. What will be left to address the needs of wildlife species whose populations are already in trouble?

SB 77 is bad for the vast majority of Alaskans and other Americans because it:

1. Will commit most of our scarce state wildlife personnel and money to serving a small, single interest group - urban big game hunters;

2. Conflicts with the interests of many rural subsistence uses, and conservation purposes of many of our federal national interest lands;
3. Jeopardizes the quality of life for many Alaskans who thrill in seeing thriving wildlife populations, including mature individuals, near their homes and along our road corridors;
4. Could result in most, if not all of our increasingly scarce wildlife monies appropriated to intensive management. We simply cannot afford it! Perhaps that is why no fiscal note accompanies this legislation;
5. Circumvents the public participation process wherein all concerned wildlife user groups have opportunity to have their views and concerns addressed through the system currently in place; and
6. Eliminates the discretionary authority of the Alaska Board of Game and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to manage wildlife in response to public desires, and needs of the resource.

SB 77 is bad for business because it:

1. Could lead to serious overharvesting of game populations. Should this occur, ADF&G would be required to impose emergency closures until populations recovered. This would not be good for Alaskan businesses dependent on annual utilization of local game populations at healthy population levels; and
2. Would require the implementation of widespread and costly predator control. This would embroil the state in further national controversy and damage our image as a preferred tourism destination.

Alaska has some of the last great wildlife and wildland spectacles remaining on the planet. People are coming here in increasing numbers

from throughout the nation and the world to enjoy them. Thus tourism is Alaska's only real growth industry. Alaska's wildlife and all people who respect and enjoy this magnificent resource deserve better than to have our state get into the "meat market approach" to game management as SB 77 mandates.

Since SB 77 is ecologically and economically unsound, and socially and politically irresponsible. I strongly urge that it be rejected by your committee.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Jeff Slo.
740 Fifth St.
Juneau, AK 99801

February 22, 1994

To: House Resources Committee Members

I was unfortunately unable to attend the hearing on SB77 (Wolf Control) held last week. As a 15 year Alaska resident and sport hunter, I strongly oppose any attempt to "manage" wolf populations. We should allow wolf numbers to reach their natural equilibrium and not interfere with human management goals. Furthermore, any hunting of wolves should be done strictly by the sporting rules of any big game hunt and certainly without advantages such as baiting, "aerial trapping" or any kind of aircraft-assisted hunting.

I am employed as a wilderness guide taking groups of visitors (and many residents, too) on outings where we seek to view rarely-seen wildlife such as the wolf. Seeing a wolf is usually the all-time highlight of an Alaska wilderness trip if not one's entire life, for hunters and non-hunters alike.

However, if such legislation is destined to pass the House Resources Committee, I urge you to support amendments omitting the "mandatory" nature of the bill's mandates to eliminate predators before taking any other actions to modify wildlife populations. If SB77 cannot be dropped altogether, I suggest, at the very least, that all language prescribing predator control be changed from "shall" to "may". This would simply allow wildlife management staff some flexibility in dealing with the myriad of wildlife issues and situations. After all, Alaska's constitution dictates that wildlife belongs to all of us, not just Moose and Caribou hunters.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sloss

February 16, 1994

Rep. Bill Williams
Chairman
House Resources Comm.

Re: SB77

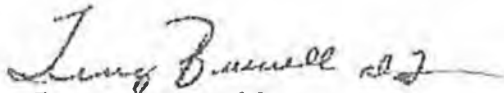
Dear Rep. Williams

Alaska needs a new Governor, a very new Fish & Game Board, and replacement for any legislators who support the above bill.

SB77 which truly calls for Mandatory Wolf Control is an outrage.

Please do not give your support to this Bill.

Sincerely,



Terry Burroll
3716 Wesleyan Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99504

2/16/94

To: Rep. Bill Williams
Chairman
House Resources Committee

From: Michael Adams
PO Box 008
Anchorage, AK 99510-0008

Re: SB77

As a longtime Alaskan, I want to record my vehement opposition to this outrageous piece of legislation.

Thank you



February 22, 1994

George Constantino
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

Dear Mr. Constantino:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and its 1.8 million members and constituents, I wish to express strong support for the proposed regulations to prohibit the taking of free ranging wolves and wolverines on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges on the same day the trapper or hunter is airborne (58 FR 68012 68014, 22 December 1993).

The HSUS is dedicated to ending cruelty to animals, the frivolous use of animals in entertainment, sports, and elsewhere, and to protecting wildlife in its natural habitat. The sanctioning by the state of Alaska of "same-day-airborne trapping" of wolves is an affront to every value this organization cherishes and to civilized people across America. That such a barbaric practice could be carried out on lands owned by all Americans makes that affront all the more bitter.

Consequently, The HSUS applauds the proposal by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to ban the practice of same-day-airborne hunting of wolves and wolverines on refuges.

In our view, Alaska's same-day-airborne trapping regulations clearly violate the Airborne Hunting Act (AHA) and its implementing regulations (16 USC §742a-j-1; 50 CFR §19). The AHA makes it illegal to shoot wildlife from the air, to use an airplane to harass wildlife, or "while on the ground [to] take or [attempt] to take any wildlife by means, aid, or use of an aircraft" (50 CFR §19.11(b)(2)). Service representatives have themselves argued repeatedly that land-and-shoot hunting violates the AHA. In a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (30 October 1992), for example, Service Regional Director Walter Stieglitz stated, "...it is virtually impossible for an individual to take a

The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
(202) 452-1100 FAX (202) 778-6132

Mr. George Constantino
February 22, 1994
Page Two

wolf by the land-and-shoot method without violating the Airborne Hunting Act."

As described in the Service's Federal Register notice (p. 68013), difficulties in enforcing Alaska's same-day airborne trapping regulations invite aerial harassment of wolves and other blatant violations of the AHA. The HSUS is especially concerned with the cruelty that such abuses inevitably involve.

The application of Alaska's same-day-airborne trapping regulations to Federal lands in Alaska poses additional legal conflicts with the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; 16 USC §3301 et seq.). As the Service indicates, same-day airborne trapping by subsistence hunters and trappers is currently prohibited by regulation on Alaska refuges (Service Refuge Manual, § 8 RM 5.5). However, ANILCA declares that "nonwasteful subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and other renewable resources shall be the priority consumptive uses of all such resources on the public lands of Alaska when it shall be necessary to restrict taking..." (16 USC §3112(2); emphasis mine). It therefore seems inconsistent with ANILCA for restrictions on taking wolves to be more stringent on subsistence users than on others. The Service's proposed regulation would redress that conflict on refuge lands.

The HSUS believes that Alaska's increasingly belligerent policy toward wolves, as exemplified by the same-day airborne trapping regulations and the extension of the trapping season through April, poses a serious threat to Alaska's wolf populations. As we understand it, past land-and-shoot programs have led to the killing of 800-1000 wolves per year. Estimates of Alaska's total wolf population are uncertain, but range from 5,000 to 7,000. This suggests an additional mortality factor of 11% to 20% on a population whose attributes are not well understood.

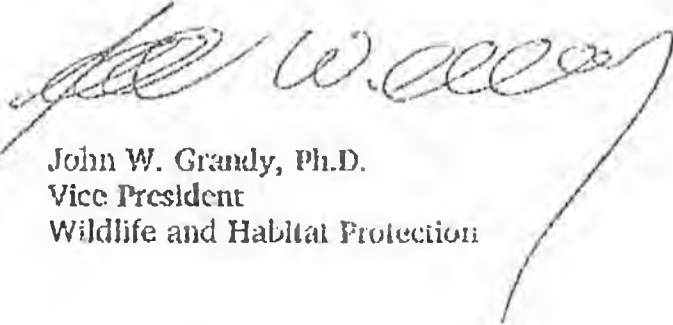
The Alaska State Senate has passed and the House is now seriously considering a bill (S.B. 77) that would mandate intensive wolf control for game production on lands throughout the state (copy enclosed). Passage of such a bill, together with the increased efficiency of wolf-killing through same-day airborne trapping, would thrust upon the Federal government the principal role of protecting wolves in Alaska.

The Service's proposed regulation is a good first step. However, all Federal land-management agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, should take similar steps to ban aircraft-assisted hunting on lands under their jurisdiction. The HSUS strongly urges these agencies to take whatever further steps are necessary to protect Alaska's wolves from cruelty and population decimation.

Mr. George Constantino
February 22, 1994
Page Three

The HSUS appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposed rule.

Sincerely,



John W. Grandy, Ph.D.
Vice President
Wildlife and Habitat Protection

cc: Mollie Beattie, Director, USFWS
Bob Armstrong, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Land and Minerals
Management
Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior
James R. Lyons, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and
Environment
Walter J. Hickel, Governor of Alaska
House Resource Committee, Alaska State Legislature

SB77

(17 year Alaska Resident)

Myrna Hammond Wuerth, concerned citizen 26.16.1994
3150 Denba Bay Loop - Anchorage, Alaska 99515
(907-344-9888)

I wish to testify against bill SB77.

First of all, SB77 allocates too much power to the Board of Game. This act removes actions by the Board of Game from public view and out of reach of public discussion. Under this act wildlife and wildlife habitat management decisions that are controversial such as the discussions concerning predator/prey management would not be aired in public commentary hearings. I strongly object to the elimination of public review from important public resource management policy.

Second, I object to the mandate itself. This bill orders the Board of Game to intensively manage "identified big game populations to maintain or restore high levels of sustained yield for human harvest...." This "intensive management" should include "control of predation and prescribed or planned use of fire and other habitat improvement techniques...." ^{This bill requires} ~~It is up to~~ the Board of Game ^{to} ~~to~~ determine the level of predator control and the type of habitat improvement that is necessary to provide a "'sustained yield' (meaning) the achievement and maintainance in perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular periodic human harvest of game resources of the state..."

This bill intends to establish game ranching and artificial wildlife manipulation to increase numbers of single prey species just to benefit the demands of a single animal: that of the human predator/hunter.

Page 2

SB 77

Thyane Wasson
Feb 16, 1994

There are many people in Alaska who are not predator/hunters who have a different attitude towards nature. We believe that we are part of a large ecosystem with a diversity of life that should be protected and preserved. More and more of us want to see responsible management of our wildlife and wildlife habitat that respects the diversity of species, not management that sacrifices our ecosystem on the altar of one special interest group: the hunter/predator.

Senator Murkowski, in his address to the legislature on Feb. 15, 1994, spoke of the Alaskans' reverence for the environment of Alaska. Our environment includes all our surrounding plants and animals. Where does SB77 address this reverence for our environment? I urge you to reject this bill.

Carol A. Jensen
8451 Greenhill Way
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

February 16, 1994

(907) 344-7078

of pages 2

House Resources Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Representatives:

To	Final Resources	From	Carol Jensen
Co	Re: SB 77	Co.	
Dept.		Phone #	344-7078
Fax #	415-3793	Fax #	

RE: SB 77, Intensive Management of Game

In response to Senator Sharp's opening statements at today's teleconference:

1. "We need a strong mandate for managing game."
Me: It is not the job of the legislature to mandate such an intricate, complicated and biologically sensitive area. Predator control programs have been instituted in the Lower 48 with disastrous results.
2. "We manage people first, not the game." Me: People are the intruders and have the potential for the most destruction. They need to be managed and monitored.
3. "Newborns die off".
Me: According to Ken Taylor, Fish & Game Regional Supervisor in Fairbanks, the past two unusually dry summers caused undernourished caribou; the early winters caused the caribou to migrate during mating season. These factors combined to cause high calf mortality. It was not heavy wolf predation. In other areas, bear predation has been shown to combine with other factors (not wolves) to raise calf mortality.
4. "Need to restore the game to historical levels". Me: This ignores the fact that caribou are at an almost all-time high state-wide. Some splinter herds have fluctuated (which is normal). Nelchina caribou (Unit 13) are at their carrying capacity (wolf control was proposed for Unit 13 last year--WHY?) and the moose in the current wolf control area of 20A are at their carrying capacity.
5. "We need a definition of sustained yield". Me: Sustained yield is not what SB 77 defines it. It does not mean continuous HIGH yield for HIGH human harvest. If you want a definition, ask competent biologists in the Lower 48 who are up to date on current ecosystem management and wildlife management techniques (that are not in practice at Fish & Game); or ask Dr. Gordon Haber, the wolf/ungulate expert biologist.

Response to Dave Kellyhouse's comment "Fish & Game wants to manage for the best use of the resources". Me: The best use is public mandated MULTIPLE USE. This bill only addresses the use of a minority of Fairbanks and Tok area hunters and trappers by killing off most or all of the wolves (Fish & Game doesn't know how many wolves are in these areas) in the assumption that this will provide quick and easy caribou kills close to home.

House Resources
February 16, 1994
Page 2

The wolves and all wildlife belong to all of the people in this country. They range on Federal as well as State land.

The Federal government has proposed banning same day airborne hunting and there is a bill in Congress to do the same plus make predator control programs much more difficult to do. You can bet these proposals will quickly pass if SB 77 passes. SB 77 firmly establishes Alaska as a leader in dark ages wildlife management and provides an example of how knee-jerk State legislative interference can be devastating to an entire species, which will eventually adversely impact all the wildlife.

The intent of "sustained yield" is not to cater to a small group of select hunter lobbyists. This bill removes all options for the Board of Game (who already favors and passes wolf control anyway, making this bill unnecessary).

Passage of this bill will also end up costing a lot of money. The present wolf control program in 20A has supposedly killed 84 wolves and cost us over \$2,000 per wolf. Aerial hunting and land and shoot will be banned before too long (by Federal law), which will make it even more expensive to conduct wolf control.

The best thing you can do this session is kill this bill. Please listen to the majority of the public.

Thank you.


Carol Jensen



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Committee
 committee name
 committee on Bill # 27, dated 2/26/93
 bill/subject

I wholeheartedly agree and approve of
 AS 44.62. / AS 16.05.255. as written.

Signed: Charles T. Lindstrom
 Testifier
AK WILDERNESS ARTS & TAXIDERM
CHARLE LINDSTROM
 Representing 240 HOMESTEAD DRIVE
NORTH POLE ALASKA 99705
 Address
907-488-9307
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Committee
 committee name
 committee on Bill # 77, dated 2/26/93
 bill/subject

I agree with, and approve of
 AS # 16.05.255 as written

Signed: Sam RL Livingston
 Testifier

AK. WILDERNESS ARTS & TAXIDERMY
 c/o CHARLIE LIVINGSTON
 Representing (Employer)
 2700 HOMESTEAD DRIVE
 NORTH POLE ALASKA 99705

Address
907-488-9307

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Committee
committee name
committee on Bill # 77, dated 2/26/93
bill/subject

I agree with all changes to AS. 16.05.255

Signed: Randall L. Wilson
Testifier

Randall L. Wilson
Representing (Optional)

6999 Sewell LN, SAlcha, AK 99714
Address

488-9660
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Committee
committee name
 committee on Bill # 77, dated 2/26/93
bill/subject

I agree with, and approve of
 AS #16.05.255 as written.

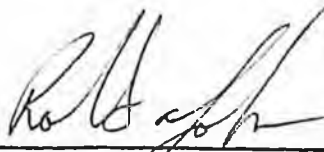
Signed: [Signature]
 Testifier
Bill Tyson, Alaskan Resident
 Representing (Optional)
5070A Apollo. EAFB, AK
 Address
372-4673
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
 committee name
 committee on SB 77, dated Feb 16, 94
 bill/subject

I Support This bill, I feel it contains
 sound management practices. The Sustained
 yield principles is constitutionally sound and in the
 best interest of all concerned.

Signed: 
 Testifier
Robert Johnson
 Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 56165 N.P AK 99705
 Address
907 488-3313
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on SB-77, dated FEB 16 94
bill/subject

I SUPPORT THIS BILL. WE NEED
MORE GAME.

Signed: Sylvester H. Starman
Testifier

SYLVESTER H STARMAN
Representing (Optional)

2412 PEPPER ST, NORTHPOLE, AK 99705
Address

907-488-7175
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name
committee on SB-77, dated FEB 16, 1994
bill/subject

I SUPPORT SENATE BILL "77"

Signed: _____

Testifier

ADRIAN C. BARTA

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 55923 NORTH POLE, AK 99705

Address

(907) 488-9247

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

committee on SB-77, dated Feb. 16, 1994
bill/subject

Good morning ladies & gentlemen. My name is Buzz Otis and I have resided in Alaska for 19 years.

I urge your support of SB-77 to enhance the amount of game available for human harvest. Human harvest should be our #1 priority. However, with proper management, using sustain yield as our goal, there will be plenty of game for hunters, as well as tourists, and other Alaskans who enjoy seeing wildlife.

This bill is constitutionally sound, it gives the priority use of game proper focus & it removes shortages for all Alaskans.

This bill will give the board of game & in turn the Fish & Game Dept. the mandate to manage for sustain yield which is so badly needed. Thank you for your support.

Signed: Louise "Bugs" Otis
Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 72441 Fbks AK 99707

Address

907 452-5617

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
 committee name
 committee on SB77, dated 2/16/94
 bill/subject

I Favor management of Alaskas
 Game Resources to provide for Human
 consumption rather than to provide
 food for predators.

I Depend on Moose, Caribou, &
 fish for a large part of the meat
 to feed MY family of 4.

Signed: Grant J. Lewis
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
10101 Chene Hot Springs Fbks 99712

Address
488-2884

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

committee on SB77, dated FEB. 16, 94
bill/subject

I support "SB77". It supports the way things should be managed for both the hunder and the game.

Signed: Bonnie M. Grace

Testifier

Bonnie M. Grace

Representing (Optional)

4705 Rivers St, Noni Park AK 99705

Address

458-0635

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on SB 77 , dated FEB 16, 1994
bill/subject

I STRONGLY support SB 77 AND urge you to pass this bill. This bill finally provides a CLEAR definition of "SUSTAINED YIELD".

Considering our STATE CONSTITUTION AND all the Dollars consumptive users INVEST IN FISH & GAME it is incomprehensive that the Dept has NOT operated along the lines of SB 77 previously.

Passage of this bill will benefit: Tourists, Photographers, Subsistence users, AND consumptive users. Increased game populations benefits all users AND will bring additional Dollars to ALASKA in years to come.

This bill will also prevent some of the Conflict between urban AND rural users. With Management for NO STORAGE, urban users will get a moose close to home AND it will NO longer be a requirement to travel 100⁵⁰ miles to get the winters meat supply.

Signed: David K. Machacek
Testifier

DAVID K. MACHACEK
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 55905, North Pole, AK 99705
Address

488-7164
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House RESOURCES
committee name
committee on SB 77, dated 3/16/94
bill/subject

I WRITE THIS COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT
SB 77. I AGREE THAT THE STATE
SHOULD NOT BE DENIED THE RIGHT TO
MANAGE ITS RESOURCES IN THE INTERESTS
OF ITS PEOPLE.

IT IS AN EXCELLENT SOLUTION
TO THE SUBSISTANCE ISSUE THAT NO-
ONE HAS ADDRESSED

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 57164

Address



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

committee on SB 77, dated Feb 15, 1994
bill/subject

I support the proper management of wildlife
in the STATE of Alaska.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Robert R Redington

Representing (Optional)

2653 Shady Lane North Pole, AK 99705

Address

(907) 488-0176

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
 committee name
 committee on SB 77, dated FEB 16, 1994
 bill/subject

I feel that this bill needs to be passed. It is a sound bill that included the hunter, sight seer, and Alaskan citizens as a part of the environment, not separate from it. It allows for management at the level where it should be, ~~there~~ at state level.

Signed: Dennis L. Nelson
 Testifier

Dennis L. Nelson
 Representing (Optional)

3753 Aune Ct North Pole, AK 99705
 Address

(907) 488-8944
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
 committee name
 committee on SB 77, dated FEB 16, 94
 bill/subject

I wholeheartedly support "SB 77" to
 preserve and perpetuate big games in the
 State of Alaska, for the use by Alaskans.

Signed: John C. DeBose
 Testifier

John C. DeBose
 Representing (Optional)

3121 Dyke Road, North Pole Alaska 99705
 Address

907-488-8817
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on SB 77, dated FEB 16, 1994
bill/subject

I SUPPORT THE PROPER MANAGEMENT
OF WILDLIFE IN THE STATE OF ALASKA

Signed: Irwan J. Milloy
Testifier

IRWAN J. MILLOY
Representing (Optional)

PO. BOX 56366, NORTH POLE, AK 99705
Address

(907) 488-8605
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
 committee name
 committee on SB 77, dated 16 Feb 94
 bill/subject

I definitely support the management principle
 for Wildlife management folks for no shortages.

I feel this will prevent conflict of the interests
 between the urban and rural populace.

The no shortages should provide more for
 everyone...

Signed: John F. Flaherty

Testifier

John F. FLAHERTY

Representing (Optional)

3010 DAVIS RD. # B52 FRANKS, AK 99709

Address

(907) 474 0928

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on SB 77, dated FEB 16, 1994
bill/subject

I FULLY SUPPORT SB 77. ALASKA GAME RESOURCES
NEED TO BE MANAGED FOR THE SPORTSMAN, NOT JUST UR-
SERVED BY THE ANIMAL LOVER. VOTE "YES" ON SB 77.
REMEMBER... I VOTE!

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

MICHAEL H QUINN
Representing (Optional)

1414 STILL VALLEY RD, NORTH POLE AK 99705
Address

907-488-2685
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

committee on SB 77, dated FEB 16 1994
bill/subject

*I support the bill for Better Management
of our resources. The state has better
knowledge of what goes on in this state.*

Signed: Roger E Matthews - ROGER E MATTHEWS
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

3579 OLD Richardson Hwy North Pole

Address

907-489-4591

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

committee on SB 77, dated Feb 16 94
bill/subject

I support "SB 77" It describes the way game should be managed for the hunter as well as the Looker. manage for no shortages and there will be more for everyone.

Signed: Kenneth H Foebes
Testifier

Kenneth H Foebes
Representing (Optional)

2593 Yakutat North Pole AK 99705
Address

488-4263
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on SB 77, dated FEB 16, 94
bill/subject

I definitely support this Bill, it contains sound
management practices for both harvest as well as
tourism. The game resources need to be managed for
the sportsman, not just observation for the animal
rights activists

Signed: Michael Harper
Testifier

Michael Harper
Representing (Optional)

2518 Aster DR North Pole AK 99705
Address

(907) 488-2590
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
 committee name
 committee on SB 77, dated Feb 11, 94
 bill/subject

I definitely support this bill, it contains sound management practices for both harvest as well as tourism. The depletion of many of the animals in my area could be substantially reduced with the proper management. Unfortunately this has not happened. The sustained yield principle is constitutionally sound and in the best interest of all concerned. I feel this would result in less conflict between all party's and more animals for everyone involved.

Signed: Mark E Miller
 Testifier

Mark E. Miller

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 56501 N.P. AK 99705

Address

(907) 488-2311

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name
committee on SB 77, dated Feb ¹⁶ 1994
bill/subject

I strongly support SB 77 to provide
proper management of ALASKA'S natural
Resource, "Wildlife".

Signed:

Carla J. Rounds

Testifier

Carla J. Rounds

Representing (Optional)

10107 Ichabod, North Pole, A.K. 99705

Address

(907) 488-8920

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name

House CS for CS to SB 77
committee on _____, dated 2/16/94
bill/subject

Intensive Mgt of Game - the solution to the subsistence problem.

I favor this Bill because it provides statute consistent with Alaska's constitutional mandate to sustained yield for human harvest. It provides a definition for sustained yield which has occurred for most other renewable resources. Persons who oppose this Bill ignore Alaska's constitutional mandate for management for sustained yield. This Bill is necessary to empower to Board of Game to be able to return to an abundance of wildlife. An abundance of wildlife benefits everyone.

The current Norway TV coverage shows an abundance of moose. Norway & Sweden harvest yearly ten times the amount of moose harvested in Alaska. They manage their wildlife. Alaska Dept of Fish & Game only monitors. Norway & Sweden has an abundance of wildlife Alaska no longer does. When Mt McKinley Park was created in 1911 there were 25,000 Dall sheep in the park and no wolves. Wolves first appeared in 1916. By the 1940s there were less than 500 today the Dall sheep are few and wolves are plentiful. NO Human Hunting we must take control.

Signed: _____

Testifier

AWCA

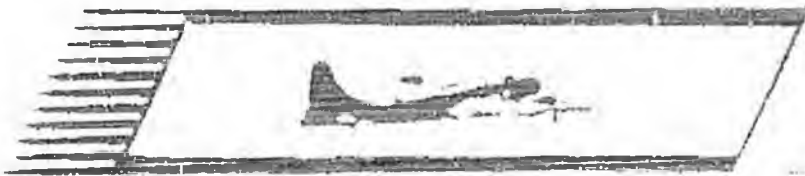
Representing (Optional)

931 VIDE WAY

Address

Phone No.

PASS this Bill
It will solve the subsistence problems.

DATE February 10, 1994

FROM

TO House Resource Committee
Chair/Representative WilliamsTHOMAS J. CLASSEN
P.O. BOX 80507
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99708FAX LINE 465-3793Tel: (907) 479-2303
Fax (907) 479-3569

TOTAL PAGES (Including Cover Sheet) _____



Please accept my comments regarding SE-77. This bill is a disaster in the making and not appropriate management for Alaska wildlife. We need more emphasis on maintaining a natural ecosystem. Past history supports the conclusion that management by killing predators has failed whenever used. Wolves are not the only reason for diminishing numbers of caribou in the Delta herd. There are other factors involved. Some action must be taken to eliminate snow machines from over running the area as is presently the case. Critical habitat cannot be used by animals due to heavy snow machine traffic. The wolf extermination program presently in progress should make everyone hang their heads in shame. Man's abuse and exploitation of wildlife continues. A tragedy. There are less than 200 wolves in Area 20A, now probably a hundred, and 10,000 people trying to kill them. Man needs controlling not the wolves.

Sincerely



Thomas J. Classen



APR 17 1993

Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association

INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 669

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Phone 474-0437

April 6, 1993

The Honorable Bill Williams
P.O. Box V
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Williams:

The Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association is the oldest conservation organization in Alaska. Our organization is primarily composed of hunters, fishermen and other users of the outdoors. Our members support the wise use of all our natural resources. Our organization has traditionally supported the concept that resource users should pay for wildlife conservation.

Independent research indicates that the makers of our state constitution expected the legislature to set the policies of how our wildlife should be managed and to define sustained yield. The TVSA SUPPORTS THE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77. This bill accomplishes what our constitution intended. CSSB77 deserves your support for the following reasons:

1. Alaskans support the concept that wildlife should be managed for healthy abundant populations. Intensive management to provide for healthy and abundant wildlife provides for all uses such as wildlife to view and meat for residents.
2. Conflicts between user groups are minimized where wildlife is abundant. Wildlife can be managed to supply the needs of residents so that there is no need to invoke subsistence priorities.
3. Hunters have been told to give up their dependence on wildlife or hunt elsewhere because it was not politically popular to manage wildlife when populations are depressed.

We have the ability to supply all of our red meat needs if our wildlife were actively and wisely managed. CS for SB77 will provide for the consumptive and non-consumptive needs of Alaskans and all others which rely on our wildlife.

Sincerely,

Oliver "Bud" Burris
President

ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSN.

1625 Old Steese Hwy. - Fairbanks, AK 99701 - (907) 456-1992

April 2, 1993

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

Dear Representative Williams:

The Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association (AWCA) is an organization made up of the men and women who have historically paid for Alaska wildlife conservation - resident users of Alaska's fish and game. We are dedicated to the wise use of all fish and wildlife resources.

AWCA supports CS FOR SENATE BILL NO.77. We believe this bill also deserves your support. Here's why:

1. **ABUNDANCE:** If you asked your constituents whether they favor Alaskans using our fish and game resources, they would overwhelmingly say, "YES!" We have asked this question and found almost universal agreement.

An abundance of fish and wildlife is the answer for all groups. Tourists want watchable wildlife. Alaskans want more wild fish and game on the family table. The maintenance and restoration of high fish and game populations through intensive management is the only answer. The best example of intensive management is found in our very successful fish hatchery program.

2. **SUBSISTENCE:** Intensive management resulting in high fish and game populations removes the root cause of the subsistence controversy. This Bill is the most important first step toward solving the divisive subsistence issue.

There is no need to delay passage. This bill clearly meets the long-term needs of Alaska families, benefits the resource and removes the potential of Alaskans fighting Alaskans to see who gets the last moose.

W. W. W. W.
Lynn Loring
Mike Dink

Sincerely,

ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ASSN.

Keith C. Decker
Oliver E. Burns

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 99801-1132

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.

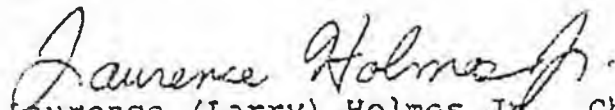
We are unanimous in opposing these bills because they all share the common error of bringing the legislature into issues of fish and wildlife management at a level best left to the Department of Fish and Game. We believe the legislature's role in fish and game is best one of general guidance rather than 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

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance

PO Box 202022
Anchorage, AK 99520
(907) 277-0897

January 19, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stephen Wells or Sandra Arnold, The Alaska Wildlife Alliance (907) 277-0897

WOLF CONTROL OVER BUDGET \$1,800+ PER DEAD WOLF

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance (The Alliance) today revealed that the State's wolf control program in Game Management Unit 20A, despite being only halfway to its objective, is already over its budget of \$100,000. The budget was to have allowed for up to \$30,000 in personnel costs, and \$70,000 for everything else. As of mid-January, personnel costs have exceeded \$60,000 with total costs standing at a minimum of \$141,000. The State claims that 76 wolves have been killed in the program so far, placing the cost per dead wolf in excess of \$1,800.

According to documents obtained by The Alliance, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) spent more than \$42,000 on aircraft charters alone, including \$23,000 for helicopter charters from Pollux Aviation under a contract that was not supposed to exceed \$15,000. "Calling this program 'ground-based' is a bad joke," said Stephen Wells, Executive Director of The Alaska Wildlife Alliance.

The State has actively opposed or delayed requests for information under the Public Records Act. As a result, little detail has been provided for expenditures already incurred, especially personnel costs. "ADF&G has used the red herring of personnel safety to suppress public records regarding how they have spent their time and significant State funds," Wells said.

The State sent three top officials from ADF&G to Washington, DC last fall to promote wolf control and oppose modifications to the federal Airborne Hunting Act, the costs of which add to total wolf control related expenditures. In addition, the State has gotten involved in several lawsuits relating to wolf control including one to obtain public records. "These are costly endeavors," Wells said, "and the cost of the negative publicity the State has received worldwide, and the reduced tourism revenues due to boycotts are more difficult to calculate. Given the

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance
Press Release
Page 2

State's current fiscal crisis, it's ironic that ADF&G is allowed to spend money with abandon on a wolf kill program which is immensely unpopular in Alaska and outside."

Other documents obtained by The Alliance indicate that the State purchased leghold traps, to be used in the control program, in April, more than two months before hearing public comment on the program or gaining approval from the Alaska Board of Game. "This is further proof that public input into wildlife management decision making is ignored. In 1992, ADF&G radio collared dozens of wolves, making them easier to locate and kill, almost a year before hearing public testimony or getting approval for their proposed plan," Wells said.

**SURVEY AMONG
ALASKA RESIDENTS
REGARDING WOLF HUNTING**

OCTOBER 1992

**PREPARED FOR
THE ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE
WOLF HAVEN INTERNATIONAL**

DITTMAN RESEARCH CORPORATION

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METHODOLOGY

During the period October 18 through October 22, 1992, 641 Alaskan residents over the age of 18, in 51 Alaskan communities were personally contacted by telephone by professional interviewing employees of the Dittman Research Corporation of Alaska. The views and opinions of the Alaskan residents were recorded on a strictly confidential basis.

Research Design

A random sample design was featured which provided that all adult residents of the communities listed in the most recent directory had essentially an equal chance of being interviewed.

Sample Selection

The sample was randomly selected from the current telephone subscribers listed in the most current directory for each community.

Processing the Data

Dittman Research employees completed coding, editing, data entry and verification, while data processing was completed through the in-house Dittman Research Corporation computer system featuring the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS/PC+) program. The SPSS program is one of the most sophisticated research-oriented data processing and analytical systems available, and is designed specifically for the processing and analysis of survey research data.

Measurement History

Citizen opinion measurements by the Dittman Research Corporation, utilizing the previously described methodology, analytical procedures and data processing systems, have proven to be perfect predictors of political election results in Alaska for the past twenty years.

FINDINGS

Overall, on a state-wide basis, approximately one-out-of-three respondents (34%) report they have hunted for big game in Alaska within the past five years...

QUESTION:

'Have you hunted big game in Alaska during the past five years or so?'

RESPONSE:

34%	Yes
66%	No

...and, demographically Alaskan hunters tend to be males, 18-40 years of age, living in rural areas of the state...

"...hunted big game in Alaska...?"

		<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
<u>Gender:</u>	Male	51%	49%
	Female	17%	83%
<u>Age:</u>	18-24 years old	41%	59%
	25-30 years old	40%	60%
	31-40 years old	38%	62%
	41-55 years old	32%	68%
	56-65 years old	29%	71%
	66+ years old	14%	86%
<u>Location:</u>	Rural	62%	38%
	Central	35%	65%
	Southcentral	40%	60%
	Anchorage	26%	74%
	Southeast	25%	75%

Regarding wolf population control, by approximately a 2:1 ratio (55% - 26%), Alaskan respondents report they believe reducing the wolf population will not result in more moose and caribou for hunting...

QUESTION:

"Do you believe that reducing the number of wolves will result in more moose and caribou for hunting?"

RESPONSE:

26%	Yes
55%	No
19%	Unsure

...and by a similar margin, most Alaskans feel wolf hunting should not be allowed in national parks...

QUESTION:

"Do you support or oppose hunting wolves in national parks in Alaska?"

RESPONSE:

29%	Support
57%	Oppose
14%	Unsure

More than two-out-of-five respondents (43%) feel the number of wolves killed for population control purposes should be reduced -- while another twenty-eight percent (28%) feel it should remain at the current level and only eight percent (8%) would prefer the number be increased...

QUESTION:

"Last year we killed over one thousand wolves out of a total population of approximately 6,000 to 7,000. Do you think the number of wolves killed for population control purposes should be reduced, increased or remain at the current level?"

RESPONSE:

43%	☐	24%	Greatly reduced
		19%	Moderately reduced
		28%	Remain at current level
8%	☐	6%	Moderately increased
		2%	Greatly increased
		21%	Unsure

...and the different methods of wolf hunting vary in degrees of acceptance by the general public. For example, nearly half of all respondents (48%) support hunting wolves by means of trapping and snaring...

QUESTION:

"Do you support or oppose hunting wolves by trapping and snaring?"

RESPONSE:

48%	Support
43%	Oppose
9%	Unsure

...however, opposition greatly exceeds support for hunting wolves from snow machines...

QUESTION:

"Do you support or oppose hunting wolves from snow machines?"

RESPONSE:

35%	Support
57%	Oppose
8%	Unsure

...as well as from aircraft or from the ground, after spotting from aircraft...

QUESTION:

"Do you feel the shooting of wolves by the public should be allowed from aircraft or from the ground, after spotting from aircraft?"

RESPONSE:

29%	[1%	From aircraft
		21%	From the ground after spotting
		7%	Both
		66%	Neither
		4%	Unsure

And the support for each of these methods comes primarily from the big game hunter population in Alaska...

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
<i>"...by trapping and snaring...?"</i>		
Big game hunter	73%	20%
Non-hunter	34%	55%
<i>"...from snow machines...?"</i>		
Big game hunter	55%	40%
Non-hunter	25%	65%
<i>"...from aircraft or from the ground...?"</i>		
Big game hunter	43%	52%
Non-hunter	22%	74%

And lastly, approximately three-out-of-four respondents (74%) oppose state agency personnel shooting wolves from helicopters and airplanes...

QUESTION:

"Do you support or oppose state agency personnel shooting wolves from helicopters and airplanes?"

RESPONSE:

19%	Support
74%	Oppose
7%	Unsure

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF WOLVES WILL RESULT IN MORE MOOSE
AND CARIBOU FOR HUNTING?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	YES	NO
TOTAL.....	19%	26%	55%
LOCATION			
RURAL.....	20%	25%	55%
CENTRAL.....	15%	36%	49%
SOUTHCENTRAL.....	16%	25%	59%
ANCHORAGE.....	23%	22%	54%
SOUTHEAST.....	17%	24%	59%
BIG GAME HUNTER			
YES.....	14%	32%	54%
NO.....	22%	22%	56%
GENDER			
MALE.....	15%	30%	55%
FEMALE.....	24%	21%	56%
AGE			
18-24 YRS OF AGE...	22%	22%	56%
25-30 YRS.....	21%	18%	60%
31-40 YRS.....	20%	22%	58%
41-55 YRS.....	15%	27%	58%
56-65 YRS.....	20%	37%	43%
66+ YEARS OF AGE...	32%	34%	35%
VOTER REGISTRATION			
REPUBLICAN.....	24%	27%	49%
DEMOCRAT.....	17%	31%	53%
GREEN/AIP/LIB.....	24%	28%	48%
NON-PARTISAN.....	18%	23%	59%
HOW OFTEN VOTE			
EVERY ELECTION.....	22%	22%	56%
MOST ELECTIONS.....	18%	33%	49%
ABOUT HALF THE TIME	14%	10%	76%
MOST IMPORTANT.....	12%	34%	54%
FIRST ELECTION.....	15%	27%	58%
DON'T VOTE/ UNSURE.	33%	0%	67%
TIME IN ALASKA			
UNDER 1 YEAR.....	21%	13%	65%
1-4 YEARS.....	25%	19%	56%
5-9 YEARS.....	24%	12%	64%
10-14 YEARS.....	17%	22%	61%
15+ YEARS.....	18%	31%	51%

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE HUNTING WOLVES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN ALASKA?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
TOTAL.....	14%	29%	57%
LOCATION			
RURAL.....	11%	41%	47%
CENTRAL.....	13%	30%	57%
SOUTHCENTRAL.....	10%	30%	60%
ANCHORAGE.....	16%	27%	57%
SOUTHEAST.....	17%	26%	57%
BIG GAME HUNTER			
YES.....	13%	43%	44%
NO.....	14%	23%	63%
GENDER			
MALE.....	11%	39%	50%
FEMALE.....	17%	20%	63%
AGE			
18-24 YRS OF AGE...	13%	16%	71%
25-30 YRS.....	18%	25%	57%
31-40 YRS.....	15%	31%	54%
41-55 YRS.....	10%	31%	59%
56-65 YRS.....	13%	37%	51%
66+ YEARS OF AGE...	27%	23%	49%
VOTER REGISTRATION			
REPUBLICAN.....	14%	37%	49%
DEMOCRAT.....	10%	35%	55%
GREEN/AIP/LIB.....	13%	27%	60%
NON-PARTISAN.....	16%	24%	60%
HOW OFTEN VOTE			
EVERY ELECTION.....	14%	29%	56%
MOST ELECTIONS.....	15%	28%	57%
ABOUT HALF THE TIME	21%	33%	47%
MOST IMPORTANT.....	9%	33%	58%
FIRST ELECTION.....	8%	21%	71%
DON'T VOTE/ UNSURE.	0%	53%	47%
TIME IN ALASKA			
UNDER 1 YEAR.....	19%	13%	68%
1-4 YEARS.....	15%	19%	66%
5-9 YEARS.....	17%	28%	55%
10-14 YEARS.....	9%	29%	62%
15+ YEARS.....	14%	33%	53%

HAVE YOU HUNTED BIG GAME IN ALASKA DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS OR SO?

DEMOGRAPHICS	YES	NO
TOTAL.....	34%	66%
LOCATION		
RURAL.....	62%	33%
CENTRAL.....	35%	65%
SOUTHCENTRAL.....	40%	60%
ANCHORAGE.....	26%	74%
SOUTHEAST.....	25%	75%
GENDER		
MALE.....	51%	49%
FEMALE.....	17%	83%
AGE		
18-24 YRS OF AGE...	41%	59%
25-30 YRS.....	40%	60%
31-40 YRS.....	38%	62%
41-55 YRS.....	32%	68%
56-65 YRS.....	29%	71%
66+ YEARS OF AGE...	14%	86%
VOTER REGISTRATION		
REPUBLICAN.....	35%	65%
DEMOCRAT.....	30%	70%
GREEN/AIP/LIB.....	45%	55%
NON-PARTISAN.....	34%	66%
HOW OFTEN VOTE		
EVERY ELECTION.....	27%	73%
MOST ELECTIONS.....	41%	59%
ABOUT HALF THE TIME	49%	51%
MOST IMPORTANT.....	51%	49%
FIRST ELECTION.....	31%	69%
DON'T VOTE/ UNSURE.	43%	57%
TIME IN ALASKA		
UNDER 1 YEAR.....	54%	46%
1-4 YEARS.....	17%	83%
5-9 YEARS.....	35%	65%
10-14 YEARS.	30%	62%
15+ YEARS.....	36%	64%

LAST YEAR WE KILLED OVER ONE THOUSAND WOLVES OUT OF A TOTAL POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 3 TO 7,000. DO YOU THINK THE NUMBER OF WOLVES KILLED FOR POPULATION CONTROL PURPOSES SHOULD BE REDUCED, INCREASED OR REMAIN AT THE CURRENT LEVEL?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	GREATLY REDUCED	MODERATELY REDUCED	REMAIN CURRENT LEVEL	MODERATELY INCREASED	GREATLY INCREASED
TOTAL.....	21%	24%	19%	28%	6%	2%
LOCATION						
RURAL.....	17%	19%	23%	29%	10%	1%
CENTRAL.....	19%	26%	12%	24%	10%	8%
SOUTHCENTRAL.....	20%	27%	19%	26%	5%	2%
ANCHORAGE.....	24%	24%	19%	30%	2%	1%
SOUTHEAST.....	19%	20%	22%	29%	7%	2%
BIG GAME HUNTER						
YES.....	19%	17%	18%	36%	7%	3%
NO.....	22%	27%	20%	24%	5%	2%
GENDER						
MALE.....	20%	21%	20%	30%	6%	4%
FEMALE.....	23%	27%	18%	26%	5%	1%
AGE						
18-24 YRS OF AGE...	8%	28%	31%	23%	6%	4%
25-30 YRS.....	14%	22%	20%	33%	7%	4%
31-40 YRS.....	26%	22%	20%	28%	2%	1%
41-55 YRS.....	18%	31%	16%	27%	8%	1%
56-65 YRS.....	26%	13%	18%	27%	9%	7%
66+ YEARS OF AGE...	30%	8%	18%	34%	3%	6%
VOTER REGISTRATION						
REPUBLICAN.....	25%	17%	19%	31%	4%	4%
DEMOCRAT.....	17%	20%	20%	33%	5%	5%
GREEN/AIP/LIB.....	15%	21%	21%	32%	8%	0%
NON-PARTISAN.....	22%	21%	18%	25%	6%	1%
HOW OFTEN VOTE						
EVERY ELECTION.....	25%	24%	16%	27%	5%	2%
MOST ELECTIONS.....	20%	23%	22%	27%	5%	4%
ABOUT HALF THE TIME	8%	22%	25%	33%	12%	0%
MOST IMPORTANT.....	18%	25%	21%	31%	5%	0%
FIRST ELECTION.....	8%	22%	25%	36%	4%	5%
DON'T VOTE/ UNSURE.	0%	33%	38%	29%	0%	0%
TIME IN ALASKA						
UNDER 1 YEAR.....	0%	29%	38%	13%	0%	19%
1-4 YEARS.....	22%	25%	22%	28%	2%	0%
5-9 YEARS.....	16%	24%	30%	23%	2%	5%
10-14 YEARS.....	18%	23%	22%	36%	1%	0%
15+ YEARS.....	23%	23%	15%	27%	9%	3%

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE HUNTING WOLVES BY TRAPPING AND SNARING?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
TOTAL.....	9%	48%	43%
LOCATION			
RURAL.....	3%	65%	32%
CENTRAL.....	11%	50%	39%
SOUTHCENTRAL.....	6%	54%	40%
ANCHORAGE.....	10%	40%	50%
SOUTHEAST.....	14%	42%	44%
BIG GAME HUNTER			
YES.....	6%	73%	20%
NO.....	11%	34%	55%
GENDER			
MALE.....	7%	63%	29%
FEMALE.....	11%	32%	57%
AGE			
18-24 YRS OF AGE...	7%	24%	69%
25-30 YRS.....	7%	48%	44%
31-40 YRS.....	8%	53%	39%
41-55 YRS.....	9%	48%	44%
56-65 YRS.....	11%	51%	38%
66+ YEARS OF AGE...	19%	31%	50%
VOTER REGISTRATION			
REPUBLICAN.....	10%	46%	44%
DEMOCRAT.....	9%	50%	42%
GREEN/AIP/LIB.....	6%	56%	37%
NON-PARTISAN.....	9%	46%	44%
HOW OFTEN VOTE			
EVERY ELECTION.....	10%	47%	43%
MOST ELECTIONS.....	7%	50%	42%
ABOUT HAL. THE TIME	7%	39%	53%
MOST IMPORTANT.....	13%	52%	35%
FIRST ELECTION.....	4%	32%	64%
DON'T VOTE/ UNSURE.	0%	53%	47%
TIME IN ALASKA			
UNDER 1 YEAR.....	0%	36%	64%
1-4 YEARS.....	8%	33%	59%
5-9 YEARS.....	9%	51%	40%
10-14 YEARS.....	9%	49%	42%
15+ YEARS.....	9%	50%	41%

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE HUNTING WOLVES FROM SNOW MACHINES?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
TOTAL.....	8%	35%	57%
LOCATION			
RURAL.....	3%	64%	34%
CENTRAL.....	10%	37%	54%
SOUTHCENTRAL.....	5%	34%	62%
ANCHORAGE.....	11%	27%	63%
SCOUTHEAST.....	10%	34%	56%
BIG GAME HUNTER			
YES.....	5%	55%	40%
NO.....	10%	25%	65%
GENDER			
MALE.....	7%	43%	50%
FEMALE.....	10%	27%	64%
AGE			
18-24 YRS OF AGE...	10%	38%	51%
25-30 YRS.....	4%	35%	61%
31-40 YRS.....	9%	40%	51%
41-55 YRS.....	6%	34%	60%
56-65 YRS.....	7%	28%	66%
66+ YEARS OF AGE...	27%	24%	48%
VOTER REGISTRATION			
REPUBLICAN.....	8%	40%	53%
DEMOCRAT.....	8%	33%	58%
GREEN/AIP/LIB.....	9%	39%	53%
NON-PARTISAN.....	9%	33%	58%
HOW OFTEN VOTE			
EVERY ELECTION.....	10%	30%	60%
MOST ELECTIONS.....	7%	38%	55%
ABOUT HALF THE TIME	4%	44%	52%
MOST IMPORTANT.....	9%	52%	39%
FIRST ELECTION.....	4%	35%	62%
DON'T VOTE/ UNSURE.	0%	0%	100%
TIME IN ALASKA			
UNDER 1 YEAR.....	0%	49%	51%
1-4 YEARS.....	8%	19%	73%
5-9 YEARS.....	6%	36%	58%
10-14 YEARS.....	6%	38%	56%
15+ YEARS.....	10%	37%	53%

DO YOU FEEL THE SHOOTING OF WOLVES BY THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ALLOWED FROM
AIRCRAFT OR FROM THE GROUND, AFTER SPOTTING FROM AIRCRAFT?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	FROM AIRCRAFT	FROM THE GROUND	BOTH	NEITHER
TOTAL.....	4%	1%	21%	7%	66%
LOCATION					
RURAL.....	3%	0%	20%	8%	70%
CENTRAL.....	6%	1%	28%	8%	57%
SOUTH CENTRAL.....	3%	1%	26%	8%	62%
ANCHORAGE.....	4%	2%	15%	6%	73%
SOUTHEAST.....	7%	1%	28%	4%	60%
BIG GAME HUNTER					
YES.....	4%	2%	29%	12%	52%
NO.....	4%	1%	17%	4%	74%
GENDER					
MALE.....	5%	3%	25%	9%	58%
FEMALE.....	4%	0%	18%	4%	74%
AGE					
18-24 YRS OF AGE...	1%	0%	27%	4%	68%
25-30 YRS.....	2%	0%	30%	4%	65%
31-40 YRS.....	6%	0%	19%	7%	67%
41-55 YRS.....	3%	2%	19%	6%	70%
56-65 YRS.....	1%	3%	31%	11%	54%
66+ YEARS OF AGE...	16%	6%	10%	8%	61%
VOTER REGISTRATION					
REPUBLICAN.....	5%	1%	21%	9%	64%
DEMOCRAT.....	4%	2%	22%	5%	67%
GREEN/AIP/LIB.....	7%	2%	22%	5%	63%
NON-PARTISAN.....	4%	1%	21%	7%	67%
HOW OFTEN VOTE					
EVERY ELECTION.....	6%	1%	22%	7%	64%
MOST ELECTIONS.....	3%	1%	22%	7%	66%
ABOUT HALF THE TIME	0%	0%	21%	3%	76%
MOST IMPORTANT.....	4%	6%	16%	5%	69%
FIRST ELECTION.....	2%	0%	20%	5%	72%
DON'T VOTE/ UNSURE.	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
TIME IN ALASKA					
UNDER 1 YEAR.....	0%	0%	21%	19%	59%
1-4 YEARS.....	0%	0%	18%	1%	80%
5-9 YEARS.....	3%	2%	24%	2%	70%
10-14 YEARS.....	2%	0%	17%	6%	74%
15+ YEARS.....	7%	2%	22%	9%	60%

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE STATE AGENCY PERSONNEL SHOOTING WOLVES FROM
HELICOPTERS AND AIRPLANES?

DEMOGRAPHICS	UNSURE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
TOTAL.....	7%	19%	74%
LOCATION			
RURAL.....	3%	19%	77%
CENTRAL.....	11%	20%	69%
SOUTHCENTRAL.....	2%	21%	78%
ANCHORAGE.....	9%	18%	73%
SOUTHEAST.....	6%	17%	77%
BIG GAME HUNTER			
YES.....	5%	25%	70%
NO.....	8%	16%	77%
GENDER			
MALE.....	7%	26%	67%
FEMALE.....	6%	12%	82%
AGE			
18-24 YRS OF AGE...	12%	15%	73%
25-30 YRS.....	12%	12%	75%
31-40 YRS.....	6%	17%	77%
41-55 YRS.....	4%	20%	76%
56-65 YRS.....	5%	23%	71%
66+ YEARS OF AGE...	14%	35%	52%
VOTER REGISTRATION			
REPUBLICAN.....	9%	24%	67%
DEMOCRAT.....	9%	19%	72%
GREEN/AIP/LIB.....	5%	16%	80%
NON-PARTISAN.....	5%	17%	78%
HOW OFTEN VOTE			
EVERY ELECTION.....	7%	18%	74%
MOST ELECTIONS.....	4%	19%	77%
ABOUT HALF THE TIME	6%	20%	73%
MOST IMPORTANT.....	6%	23%	71%
FIRST ELECTION.....	9%	23%	68%
DON'T VOTE/ UNSURE.	38%	0%	62%
TIME IN ALASKA			
UNDER 1 YEAR.....	19%	51%	29%
1-4 YEARS.....	9%	12%	80%
5-9 YEARS.....	10%	16%	75%
10-14 YEARS.....	4%	17%	79%
15+ YEARS.....	6%	21%	73%



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee
 committee name
 committee on CS for SB 77 dated 3/4/94
 bill/subject

The Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association supports the CS for SB 77. This bill is essential if we are to restore a constitutionally mandated sustained-yield policy for our wildlife. In 1983 in a work session of the Board of Game the representative from the Dept. of Law cautioned the Board that their failure to take action to restore the moose population and caribou herd in the Fortymile area could make the Board's actions or non actions conflict with the constitution's mandate for sustained yield. The moose season had been closed for many years and the caribou season had been curtailed to allow only a token harvest.

a member of the Board. stated that a harvest of
 Signed: Oliver "Bud" Burris, President

Testifier

Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 70669, Fairbanks AK 99707

Address

President-474-0437, Message-474-4425

Phone No.

Clubhouse & Range 474-4538

986 Legislative Information Office

only one animal a year would satisfy the sustained yield provision of the constitution.

The same Board member later told the Fish & game advisory committee that they would have to live with the decline of moose and caribou. Furthermore, since Tak was on the road system they could travel to other areas to hunt.

Since 1984 we have lost over 15% of our resident licensed hunters and 20% of the non resident hunters. This is a great economic loss to the state. The decline in hunters because of the lack of opportunity and because of declining game populations and shortened seasons costs the state millions of dollars each year. Billions of dollars have been lost to the state in both direct and non direct revenue.

Neither the Board of Game, ADF+G, or the Governor's Office has been willing to buck the anti hunting - anti use Minority to implement constitutionally mandated game management to benefit the human consumption users or the wildlife resources. Please recommend passage of this bill.

A * *



Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

P.O. Box 22151 Juneau, Alaska 99802

Phone: 907-463-3366

Fax: 907-463-3312

SB 77: Intensive Game Management

SB 77 requires that the Board of Game "intensively manage" big game species in order to provide high game populations exclusively for human harvest. Intensive game management is the manipulation of an animal species' environment to artificially increase its population. Intensive game management techniques include deliberately setting fires and controlling predators.

The Alaska Environmental Lobby opposes SB 77.

- Wolf, bear and other predators are a part of a healthy ecosystem. Predator control should only be discussed as an option when other pressures on game populations have been addressed. These include habitat loss, recreational hunting pressures, and interference with migratory routes by development projects.
- The Board of Game is required to consider the interests of all user groups. SB 77 would mandate that the Board consider the interests of a single group: big game hunters.
- The legislature is usurping the authority of the Board of Game by mandating policy. This diminishes the mission of the Board which is to provide a forum wherein different, often competing, interests can debate issues and arrive at a consensus.

Alaska's wildlife resources should be managed - not for human consumption - but for the overall health of the ecosystem. Only a healthy ecosystem will be able to adequately sustain both game and non-game animal populations for subsistence and recreational hunters, as well as for non-consumptive users over the long term.

2/10/94



DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

A. DIVISION FUNCTIONS:

1. Statutory basis.

Titles 16, 37, 39, and 44

2. Duties.

The Division of Administration provides administrative and management support services to help the department accomplish its goals and objectives in an efficient, cost-effective, and accountable manner. To meet this goal the division offers support services in budgeting, fiscal management, accounting, contracting, leasing, reimbursable services agreements, federal billings, supply, purchasing, property control, personnel management, payroll, and labor contract administration. The responsibility for the fish and game licensing system is also placed within the Division of Administration. The division is organized into seven primary sections (Finance/Licensing, Personnel/Payroll, Procurement/Contracting, Data Processing Services, Director's Office, Regional Administration, and Boards Support).

The Division of Boards was merged with Administration in FY94 (See separate discussion under "B"). The Board of Fisheries, the Board of Game, and the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game promulgate regulations for the conservation, development, and use of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources--or more simply, allocate the allowable harvest of fish and wildlife resources. The Boards Section provides support for the boards and this regulatory process. This includes staff support to the boards and 80 local advisory committees. At least three times annually the Boards Section publishes a Call for Proposed Changes to the Regulations which results in as many as 1,000 proposals for changes. These changes are deliberated upon, as required under the Administrative Procurement Act, in public hearings which during FY94 were scheduled for approximately 100 days. Resulting changes are codified and published in 21 regulation books. Regional Coordinators are located in Bethel, Kotzebue, and Dillingham.

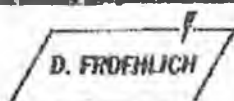
THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS
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COMPONENT SUMMARY - OPERATING BUDGET

***** Department of Fish and Game *****

Page	Budget Component	FY93 Act	FY94 CC	FY94Auth	FY94 Adj	Governor	FY94Auth - Governor Comparison	
	Boards of Fisheries and Game							
19	Boards Services	1,183.0	999.9	999.9	1,002.7	1,002.7	2.8	.3%
20	Advisory Comm./Region. Council	623.7	669.0	669.0	670.7	578.7	-98.3	-14.7%
	* BRU Total	1,806.7	1,668.9	1,668.9	1,673.4	1,573.4	-95.5	-5.7%
	Subsistence							
21	Subsistence	1,972.9	1,886.2	1,886.2	1,896.5	1,815.2	-71.0	-3.8%
22	Special Projects	822.6	1,128.7	1,128.7	1,133.2	894.3	-234.4	-20.8%
	* BRU Total	2,795.5	3,014.9	3,014.9	3,029.7	2,709.5	-305.4	-10.1%
	Habitat							
23	Habitat	3,045.3	3,063.6	3,063.6	3,081.3	3,081.3	17.7	.6%
24	Special Projects	999.5	1,239.6	1,239.6	1,244.8	1,657.1	417.5	33.7%
25	Restoration	6,731.6		5,358.1	5,358.1		-5,358.1	-100.0%
	* BRU Total	10,776.4	4,303.2	9,661.3	9,684.2	4,738.4	-4,922.9	-51.0%
	Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission							
26	Limited Entry Program Admin.	2,695.8	2,747.2	2,747.2	2,762.4	2,762.4	15.2	.6%
	* BRU Total	2,695.8	2,747.2	2,747.2	2,762.4	2,762.4	15.2	.6%
	*** Total Agency Expenditures	94,997.1	90,883.0	96,285.0	96,887.6	93,359.8	-2,925.2	-3.0%
	*** Total Agency Funding							
	Fed. Receipt	27,955.5	30,547.6	30,563.2	30,692.2	29,311.6	-1,251.6	-4.1%
	General Fund	46,233.2	42,960.6	42,974.8	43,196.9	43,696.9	722.9	1.7%
	Other Funds	20,808.4	17,374.8	22,747.8	22,998.5	20,351.3	-2,396.5	-10.5%

From FY95 Budget.



INDUSTRIAL — CHEMICALS & EQUIPMENT

P.O. Box 110849 • Anchorage, Alaska 99511 • Telephone (907) 345-1121

February 15, 1994

The Honorable Bill Williams
House Resources Committee
Fax: 465-3793

Re: SB77

Dear Rep. Williams:

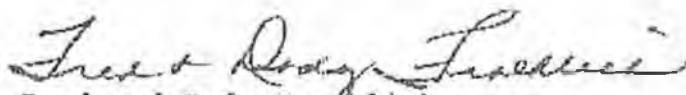
Quite simply we are outraged over this Bill and ADAMANTLY oppose it.

To have wildlife officially managed to benefit hunters and game species at the expense of predators period as this Bill would do goes against the wishes of the populace and biological expertise.

Our Constitution assures that wildlife belongs to all, not just those so anxious to pay for continued slaughter.

We urge the immediate defeat of SB77.

Sincerely,



Fred and Dody Froehlich



Lynn Canal Conservation, Inc.

Post Office Box 964
Haines, Alaska 99827

February 15, 1994

To: House Resource Committee Members
From: Eric Holle, President, Lynn Canal Conservation
Re: SB 77

Please enter into the record on February 16 the following testimony on SB 77.

Lynn Canal Conservation opposes Senate Bill 77. We are opposed to predator control generally because predators have co-evolved with prey and play a crucial role in keeping prey populations healthy. This role is different than that played by human hunters in that hunters do not generally remove starving or diseased prey animals from the gene pool. In most areas where predators have been eliminated or reduced, the prey populations have ultimately suffered.

We also oppose this bill for economic reasons. Our local economy depends greatly on tourism. As a gateway community to the interior, we are affected by the experiences of tourists in interior Alaska, as well as locally. Sightings of predators keep bringing people to Alaska, and this means money for our economy.

The supermarket approach to game management, stocking whatever form of red meat is most in current demand, belongs in the dark ages. If Alaska is to throw off the reputation it has acquired for unenlightened game management and avoid tourist boycotts, bills like SB 77 will have to become a thing of the past.

Sincerely,

Eric Holle

February 10, 1993

Representative Bill Williams
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Williams,

I would like to express my views in opposition to SB77 which I understand will be heard in the House Resources Committee on February 16. SB77 is a dangerous bill for a number of reasons.

First, it will mandate regulatory action on the part of the Alaska Board of Game, through the use of the terminology "shall". Although the bill makes reference to the Administrative Procedures Act, by forcing the Alaska Board of Game to take action, the APA process, including the access of the public to the regulatory process and the expression of public opinion, is subverted entirely.

Second, wherever SB77 uses the terms "intensive management" it means "predator control" or more specifically "wolf control". SB77 is a wolf control bill plain and simple. But instead of coming out with it, the sponsors try to hide its real intent. If their intent is wolf control, the bill should come right out and say it. Wolf control is without a doubt one of the most controversial programs ever undertaken by the State of Alaska. Surveys have shown time and again that the majority of Alaskans, even the majority of hunters, are opposed to it. Yet a minority of hunters, and their supporters in the Department of Fish and Game, continue to try to force it down our throats, regardless of its cost in dollars and image.

The vague, unspecific and undefined terms used in SB77, such as "restore the abundance or productivity", "human consumptive use goals", "depletion of the big game population", "reduction of productivity", "significant reduction in the allowable human harvest", "enhancement of abundance or productivity", and "significantly reduce the taking", provide the opportunity to institute widespread and long term wolf control programs under just about any circumstances. And to top it off, SB77 would actually *prevent* the application of other reasonable and traditional wildlife management tools such as controls on prey species hunting seasons, bag limits, methods and means until after wolf control has been approved. It in effect creates the emergencies and then prevents any corrective action towards any of the other potential, and more likely, causes. The wolves, or other wild predators such as grizzly bears, will always take the hit until there aren't enough left to blame anymore. There is absolutely no incentive for responsible and conservative management of prey species.

Third, even though it has no fiscal note, SB77 is an expensive proposition. At a time when budgets are tight and getting tighter, SB77 will mandate extensive new spending that could be avoided or used on other more useful and less controversial programs. With more than two months to go, the current so-called "ground based" wolf control program has already cost in excess of \$160,000 (ADF&G budgeted \$100,000), which is around \$1,900 for every wolf that has been killed to date. Wolf control programs instituted under SB77 will be much larger and incur much greater spending. What will not be funded in order to kill wolves? These funds would be much better spent, if they are spent at all, on law enforcement and prosecution of wildlife and other offenses. If it is to be considered, SB77 should address the cost of

the programs it is imposing. Another expense, though not directly monetary, is the cost to the image of the State of Alaska when widespread wolf control programs, likely including aerial shooting, in progress as a result of SB77. While we might like to think that we don't care what other think about us, the views of others, especially those in the U.S. Congress and the Clinton Administration can have a big impact on programs in Alaska and the control of the State in wildlife and other resources, especially those on federal land.

I hope you will consider these issues when SB77 is considered by the House Resources Committee. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Wayne Hall
P.O. Box 190455
Anchorage, AK 99519

THOMAS R. WICKWIRE

LAWYER

3730 UNIVERSITY AVENUE SOUTH

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709

(907) 474-0068

FAX (907) 474-0069

February 11, 1994

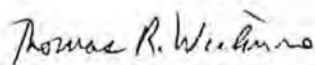
Bill Williams
Room 128
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

I am against the beliefs behind Senate Bill 77, which would require the killing of wolves for the specific purpose of increasing populations of animals which people like to hunt. My reasons are:

1. My understanding of the balance of nature is that a healthy predator-prey relationship is necessary to assure the health and vigor of the prey species, i.e., studies show that when they prey species is substantially reduced, it results in too rapid an increase in the prey species, which then allows the weaker individuals to propagate, reducing the overall strength of the species. Replacing natural predators with hunters does not avoid this because hunters take out the biggest and strongest individuals whereas prey culls out the weakest.
2. There are other values to wolves besides just their function as predators of the several species (including almost entirely field mice in some regions during some seasons). Their travel patterns, distances covered and the detail of their communication by their howling language is intricate, but not yet well understood, though the subject of ongoing studies. These facets of wolf behavior are interesting to me and, I believe, quite a few others. I believe it is government's responsibility to protect this interest as well as that of the recreational hunter. I believe Senate Bill 77, if passed, would be a legislative statement of policy that hunting and killing moose and caribou is more important than these other interests. I do not believe making such value judgments about our game populations is an appropriate legislative function.

Sincerely,


Thomas R. Wickwire

TRW:bf

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON
CSSB 77, THE INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT BILL

February 15, 1994

Dave Kelleyhouse
Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation

The department supports the concept of intensive management of big game, but as evidenced by our program to restore the Delta Caribou Herd this winter, the department already has statutory authority to conduct intensive management programs when necessary and desirable.

The department and the board could benefit from clear legislative support for the use of intensive management. However, the department believes that CSSB 77 in its present form would blur distinctions between the powers of the Commissioner to manage and the powers of the board to allocate wildlife resources. CSSB 77 also would reduce the flexibility of the board to regulate uses of Alaska's wildlife.

The department's current position on CSSB 77 is neutral pending substantial amendment to address our most serious concerns.

To improve CSSB 77, the department offers the following friendly recommendations for amendment:

(a) The Board of Game shall adopt regulations "it considers advisable in accordance with" AS 44.62

This would strengthen the legislative direction with the substitution of the word shall for (MAY). However, it would still maintain the board's current discretion in the promulgation of regulations. Failure to maintain discretion would cause unintended problems such as with (a)(8) requiring the board to prohibit all live capture and possession of wildlife which it currently can allow under strict conditions.

(a)(11) authorizing (REQUIRING) the department

Mandating the board to require departmental programs is unacceptable. Establishment of departmental priorities for agency resources is clearly a prerogative of the Commissioner which must be protected.

(e) [EXCEPT] In areas where the board or department has determined that intensive management would be [IN] effective [OR] and that intensive management would be [IN] appropriate [DUE TO LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERNS],

These changes would require determination that intensive management would be effective and appropriate before such management could be required for an identified big game population. These changes would focus consideration of intensive management on the most important areas and game populations where such management would be most appropriate. Appropriateness entails more than simply land ownership patterns, such as cost effectiveness.

In summary, the department is not opposed to legislation directing the board to authorize intensive management of identified big game populations where appropriate and feasible. In fact, we believe that intensive management will be even more necessary in the future to meet the needs of Alaskans for hunting opportunities and to reduce controversy between subsistence and other hunters.

The department has demonstrated its capability to safely produce greatly increased harvests from important moose, caribou and other big game populations through intensive management. It is our desire that intensive management activities resumed during this administration be continued where necessary and appropriate in the future for the benefit of the majority of Alaska's hunters.

We must all recognize that intensive management involving predator control will always be potentially controversial. No single piece of legislation can change this fact nor alter the political realities. I urge the committee to incorporate the amendments we have offered to improve this legislation. The department stands ready to continue working with Senator Sharp and members of this committee to craft sound public policy regarding intensive management.

Carol A. Jensen
8451 Greenhill Way
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
(807) 344-7078

March 7, 1994

TO: HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RE: TESTIMONY ON SB 77 (CS FOR CS DATED 3/5/94)
FOR TELECONFERENCE 3/7/94

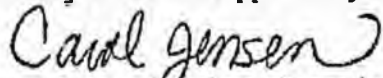
This bill does not significantly differ from earlier versions. The main objective ingredients are still present; the first being the erroneous "finding" that hunting is the highest and best use of the game and that the definition of sustained yield is to provide a high level of harvest for human consumptive use. This, as you've been told repeatedly, violates sound, intelligent game management principles, the ecosystem management approach, AND mainly, it violates the now widely accepted (except in archaic Alaska), the principles of fair multiple use of the game. A much larger segment of the public is opposed to the intent and wording of this bill than support it. You will find the only ones supporting it are avid but lazy hunters who want to hunt close to home instead of traveling around the state to locate and hunt where game is more abundant. These are people who also hunt down game with aircraft, power boats and/or snowmachines...in other words, they do not utilize traditional fair chase techniques.

This bill still mandates the Board of Game to institute wolf control programs before it is allowed to curtail the human hunting. The word "shall" is used instead of the preferable "may" in Section 2(e). Section (3) is contradictory in itself because it refers to the use of "recognized and prudent active management techniques". Wolf control (especially using aircraft as we are now doing) is the opposite of "recognized and prudent techniques." It is especially deplorable when used to "enhance" healthy populations of game.

The bill further erodes the power of the Board to make decisions or the Dept. to advise them by stating in section 3(f) "The Board...MAY NOT significantly reduce the taking...of big game prey population...unless they" institute wolf control (we might as well call it what it is). Section 2(g)(2) also refers to wolf control being used to extend and develop high or higher levels for human harvest.

For the above reasons, I am strongly opposed to the passage of this bill. I know everyone else except the strong, but comparatively small hunter lobby will also be opposed. I also know that passage of this bill will have dire consequences in the future for state maintained game management and any predator control programs. The further Alaska slides back into the Dark Ages of unacceptable, game mismanagement based on expensive, Neandrathal, widely opposed techniques contrary to ecosystem management and multiple use, the more you can expect the Federal government to step in and the more scorned Alaska will become in the eyes of the World. We will also see our wolf population eventually declared an endangered species.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I hope I haven't wasted my time.



Carol Jensen (daytime phone: in Anchorage (800)478-2234)

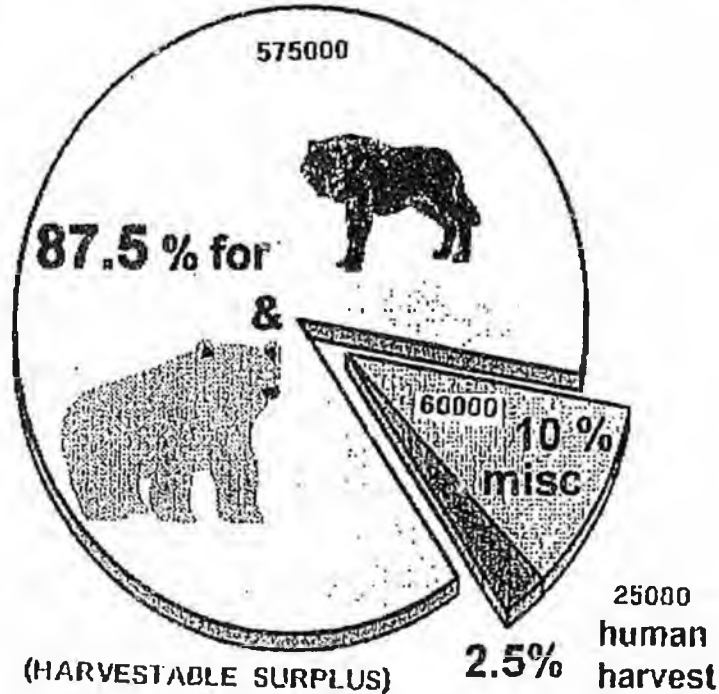
CURRENT NO TRUST DEPARTMENT

ECO/MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SUSTAINED YIELD PREY HARVEST
SURPLUS ALLOCATION
MOOSE \ SHEEP \ CARIBOU

THE PROBLEM

NO BIOLOGICAL REASON FOR????
THE WAY IT IS!!!



(HARVESTABLE SURPLUS)
660,000 BABIES BORN YEARLY

ECO DEPARTMENT UNEXCEPTABLE

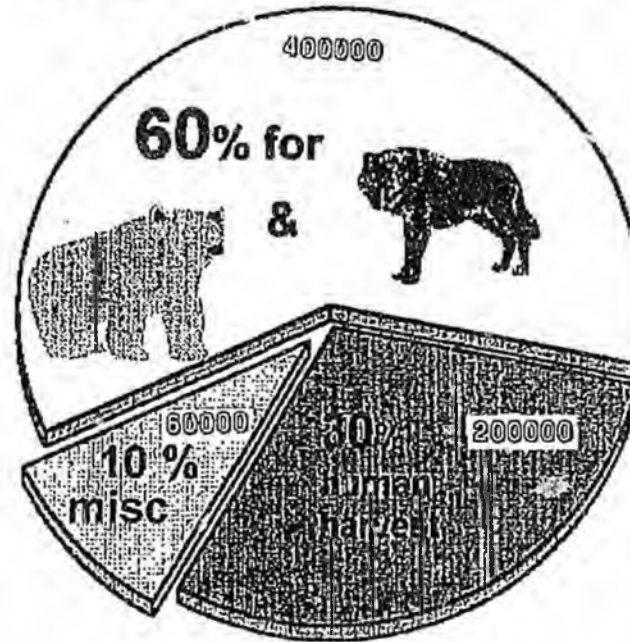
FUTURE TRUST DEPARTMENT

MODIFIED ECO/MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SUSTAINED YIELD PREY HARVEST
SURPLUS ALLOCATION
MOOSE \ SHEEP \ CARIBOU

THE SOLUTION

THE WAY IT SHOULD BE !!!
RESTORE SANITY THROUGH !!!!
SOUND MANAGEMENT / EQUAL ALLOCATION



A.W.C.A. GOAL !!!
CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND!!!

NO SHORTAGES

EQUALITY

Provided by office of Rep. Vezev

02/14/94 16:09 8907 452 8115 BILL HAGAR THEY ARE KILLING 80% OF THE BABIES

"Sustained Yield"

Alaska's Constitutional Mandate for Action

By

John B. Coghill, Lieutenant Governor
Constitution Convention Delegate



January 28, 1994

Preamble

The meaning of "sustained yield" was clear when the Alaska constitution was drafted in 1959. I believe that the meaning is very clear, and supercedes statutory and regulatory definition.

At the time of the Constitution State Land was to be selected for the priority of development and utilization by Alaskan's. From this utilization would arise an economy that could support the state government. Resources were expected to be the key to Alaska's economy.

Failure of these resources to be developed under federal management led the framers of the constitution to seek a mechanism that would assure the citizens access to and utilization of Alaska's resources. The sustained yield section of the Constitution is intended to allow for this utilization, and to require the authorized agency to maintain these resources in an optimum state for future development.

To understand the meaning and intent of the phrase "sustained yield" in our Constitution we must understand the meaning of the words and the context in which they are used. It is also useful to understand the use of the phrase in the wildlife literature in the same time frame.

The meaning of "sustained yield" has recently taken on new political meanings by various animal rights and preservation organizations that are opposed to man's use of replenishable resources. It is important for us to understand that the original and clear meaning of the Constitution was for replenishable resources to provide a high or maximum sustained level of consumptive utilization for humans, by Alaskan's.

Definitions of Sustained Yield

The Alaska Constitution, Article VIII, Section 4 reads:

Section 4 - Sustained Yield.

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

"The history of Alaska has been closely related to, indeed often

dependent upon, its fur, fish and game." The importance of wildlife and renewable resources to Alaskans led to the incorporation of Section 4 in Article VIII, of the Alaska Constitution. Professor John Buckley argued the feeling of many in his presentation to the Constitutional Convention: "Wildlife conservation often has been treated somewhat lightly with mismanagement or no management resulting; it has not been granted the prompt corrective measures that would have been accorded most other resources. . . . It is to forestall political interference and to maintain continuity that I believe provision for wildlife should be at the constitutional rather than legislative level."

Few other States have a constitutional provision for natural resources such as Article VIII. The Committee on Resources heard extensive testimony on non-renewable resources, and on renewable resources. I believe this testimony was overwhelmingly in agreement with the meaning and intent of Section 4, Sustained Yield, in Article VIII. In fact, the wording in the section on Sustained Yield varied very little over the course of the debate on Natural Resources.

The Committee on Resources included a discussion of Sustained Yield in its December 16, and January 16 commentary attached to its report and drafts. This definition reads:

"Sustained Yield is recognized as a principle applicable to the administration of plant and animal life subject to the immediate authority of the State. This provision applies generally to wildlife and fisheries anywhere in the State and to the forests and other replenishable resources including grass which occurs on lands in the state domain. This principle is qualified in terms of "the highest beneficial public use" in recognition of its not being in the public interest to preserve certain parasitic or predatory organisms destructive of more beneficial plant and animal life. The reference of this section is to the State of Alaska, and not to any particular parcel of land or any particular parcel of water."

¹Buckley, John, "Wildlife in the economy of Alaska," Alaska Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Biology Papers of the University of Alaska, Number 1, Feb., 1955.

²Buckley, John L., "Wildlife and the Constitution", Prepared for consideration of the Committee on Natural Resources of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, page 2 & 3, December, 1955.

³Constitutional Convention, Committee Proposal 8, December 16, 1955, Commentary on Article on State Lands and Natural Resources, also in: Constitutional Convention X/Resources/S/a, Style and Drafting/Article VIII, January 30, 1956.

This definition clearly indicates that the Committee viewed the sustained yield issue as one of administration, of action on the part of the applicable State agency or commission.

This discussion by the Resources Committee also clarifies the intent of qualifying phrase "subject to preferences among beneficial uses". (We are referring to uses, not users, or competing user groups.) The management for sustained yield "subject to preferences among beneficial uses" clearly reaffirms the overall intent of the section on "sustained yield". Human consumption and other uses beneficial to man have preference over uses that are not beneficial to man. Management must be preferentially for species and resources suitable for human consumption, not, for example, parasites or predators that would cause species such as caribou to decline.

Management for "sustained yield" is mandated for all wildlife resources under State management, and all replenishable resources on State lands.

George Utermohle, in his explanation of terms utilized in the Constitution defined "sustained yield" with respect to wildlife as follows:

"Sustained Yield Principle: . . . For fish, wildlife . . . the term "sustained yield principle" is used in connection with management of such resources. When so used it denotes conscious application insofar as practicable of principles of management intended to sustain the resource being managed."

The "administration" referred to in the Resource Committee commentary is also the "management" referred to by George Utermohle. It mandates a "conscious" action, action intended to maintain and provide for the renewable resources. Management intended to prevent the depletion of wildlife resources by over harvesting, or by natural causes where possible. The sustained yield provision is intended to assure "the conscious application," of management tools by the future Department of Fish and Game. Actions intended to benefit wildlife populations.

Gordon Harrison, Alaska Legislative Research Agency, further explains that:

"The principle of sustained yield management is a basic tenet of conservation, it is the simple yet fundamental idea that the annual harvest of a biological resource should not exceed the annual regeneration of that resource. Maximum sustained yield is the largest harvest that can be maintained year after

BILL HAGAR

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year."⁴

The Alaska constitution mandates the "hands on" management of wildlife and renewable resources for the maximum sustained yield.

Preservation v. Development

Today we hear loud proclamations from those who advocate no action be taken, "let nature take its course", say those who believe in the philosophy of preservationism. They argue that the concept of conservation must be expanded to include the concept of preservation, and then argue that preservation is the overriding management philosophy for resources. I do not disagree with such concepts - as long as they are applied within the confines of the appropriate federal withdrawals, and special areas set aside under Section 7, Article VIII.

Preservation is a very real part of Alaska, and has remained a management option . . . for the federal reservations and parks which encompass a large part of this territory, excepting the fact that the State of Alaska has jurisdiction over wildlife. Inaction, or the failure for today's State agencies to manage a renewable resource, to stand by and allow a renewable resource to significantly decline, is not allowed under the "sustained yield" provision of the constitution.

Section four contains several key words and phrases that reveal its intent. The resources listed are "replenishable". They are to be "utilized, developed, and maintained".

The listing of only replenishable resources for "sustained yield" management indicates that the committee did not intend for non-renewable resources to be managed for "sustained yield". The mineral resources in the ground are thus expected to be developed, extracted from the ground and made available "for the benefit of mankind". Development of non-renewable resources is expected to exhaust the resource. As a specific deposit or resource location is depleted, other commodities or other deposits are expected to be found and developed. Renewable resources, however, can be maintained at high levels of productivity.

⁴Harrison, Gordon B., Alaska's Constitution, A Citizen's Guide", Third Edition, Alaska Legislative Research Agency, 1992.

⁵History of Alaska Statehood, in U.S. House of Representatives, Report No. 624, 85th Congress, 1st. Session, Committee on Interior Affairs, Chairman O'Brien. Accompanying H.R. 7999, the Alaska Statehood Act.

The argument for Statehood was a battle to allow Alaskans the opportunity to utilize the lands and resources around them. "[T]remendous acreages of land have been tied up in the status of Federal reservations and withdrawals for various purposes. The [U.S. House Interior and Insular Affairs] committee feels strongly that this practice has been carried to extreme lengths in Alaska, to a point which has hampered the development of such resources for the benefit of mankind. As a result a long list of potential basic industries . . . can exist in Alaska only as tenants of the Federal Government, and on sufferance of the various Federal Agencies. . . The committee feels that this policy must be changed if statehood for Alaska is to be a success."⁶ The policies of preservation, of non-use was well represented in Alaska in 1955 - on federal lands and withdrawals. State land is to be managed for utilization by the people of Alaska.

Statehood gave us land with which we could develop a sustaining economy. Before Congress would pass the Statehood Act we had to assure them that we could develop a resource based economy sufficient to maintain the State.

Maintain v. Conserve

There is little question that the words "utilized" and "developed" in the phrase: "shall be utilized, developed, and maintained" intends for the State's resources to be directly and physically used by mankind. It is interesting to note that the Resources Committee tried and rejected the word "conserve" as a substitute for "maintain" in Section 4. We can read the version of January 29th, 1956:

"Section 4. Fish forests, wildlife, grasslands and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed and conserved on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses."⁷

If the word "conserved" had remained the meaning of this section would have been substantially different. The fact that this word change was one of the few considered alterations of Section 4, in the light of the considerable rewrites of other sections, attests to its importance and near unanimous agreement on its intent.

⁶House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, H.R. Report No. 624, 85th Congress, 1st. Session, 1955, in: State of Alaska v. United States of America, Complaint for Just Compensation.

⁷Report of the Style and Drafting Committee, Constitutional Convention, X/Resources/8/a, Style and Drafting/Article VIII, January 29, 1956.

Gregory P. Cook significantly errs in his suggestion that:

"Assuming . . . that the word "maintained" in Art. VIII, S 4 has an even broader meaning than "conserved", then it seems quite reasonable to conclude that the sustained yield principal of S 4 was intended to include preservation, i.e., non-harvesting uses."⁹

"The verb "conserve" means "to keep in a safe or sound state; to save; to preserve from change or destruction". . . "Conserve" addresses the idea of maintenance of an existing condition." In contrast the word "maintain" signifies literally "to hold by the hand". . . "to support what has already been brought into existence."¹⁰

The selection of the word "maintain" gives us a very important insight in the meaning of the section on Sustained Yield. If the Resources Committee had used the word "conserved" one could have argued that a "no action" alternative existed for the State as a management option. To "maintain" our resources means that we will not only manage man's activities through harvest limits or seasons, but also manage the resource itself. It means that we will provide the stewardship and the husbandry needed to keep renewable resources available at the highest possible level for human use.

It is clear that the use of the word maintain indicates that the State is mandated by the constitution to actively manage its resources. Management is to include the best techniques and principles available to the responsible State agencies.

Context: Article VIII

Alaska is one of few states with a Natural Resources clause in its constitution. Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution establishes the States policy on Natural Resources. The inclusion of this article was discussed at length in the early development of Alaska's constitution. Alaskans felt that federal policies and practices had hampered the utilization of Alaska's resources,

⁹Cook, Gregory, "The Sustained Yield Principle of Article VIII, S 4" May 4, 1991.

¹⁰Words and Phrases, West Publishing Co., Volume 40A, page 593, 1953.

¹¹Words and Phrases, West Publishing Company, Volume 40A, page 594, 1953.

blocking the natural development of a sustainable economy.

The desire to escape from restrictive Federal policies hampering the utilization of Alaska's resources, was a key reason for Statehood. Article VIII sets the State's resource policy, with the clear intent to encourage the development of the State's resources.

Article VIII has eighteen sections. Section 1 is a "Statement of Policy," Section 2 establishes "General Authority." Section 3 establishes that wildlife is reserved for common use, and Section four is "Sustained Yield". The organization of these sections was carefully considered by the Resources Committee, and the Committee on Style and Drafting as well as the body of the Constitutional Convention. Section 4 follows, and is responsible to the preceding sections.

Section 1 - Statement of policy.

It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.

Section 2 - General Authority.

The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.

Section 3 - Common Use.

Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use.

Section 4 - Sustained Yield.

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

The organization of these sections varied during the various drafts in the Resource Committee reports. The final organization clarifies the relative meaning of these sections.

Maximum use is the reigning policy for resource development on State land (Sec. 1). The Constitution directs the legislature to provide citizens the opportunity to utilize and develop our resources (Sec. 2). Fish and wildlife are to be managed for the use of everyone (Sec. 3). They are to be managed for sustained yield (Sec. 4).

The "sustained yield principle" in Section 4 is subject to the

"maximum use" policy of Section 1. Our maximum use policy emphasizes the "yield" aspect of "sustained yield principles."

This utilization is to be provided up to the maximum level that the resource can sustain. The best scientific principles available are to be used to guide the level of utilization. Resources that are utilized to a near maximum extent obviously require active husbandry and management to sustain population levels and prevent long term declines.

Historical Viewpoint

In the discussion at the Constitutional Convention there was uniform understanding of the intent of Section 4, Article VIII. The phrase "sustained yield principles" directs the responsible agency with the task of maintaining a yield from the States resources.

In the 1950's the phrase was particularly common in the discussion of fishery resources. The depletion of various fish streams under federal management was to be avoided at all costs under State management. Depletion was to be prevented not only by regulation of the harvest levels and methods by fishermen, but also by developing fish hatcheries or other man made enhancement efforts to restore a fishery to maximum sustainable levels.

Successful resource management in the 1950's, when our Constitution was being crafted, included not only forests and fisheries, but also migratory waterfowl, and large game. Bringing migratory waterfowl back from the brink of extinction is one of the great successes in the development of modern wildlife management principles.

Sidney Huntington's new book "Shadows on the Koyukuk" has an excellent discussion on wolves. The story of Don Strickman and Sid's brother Jimmy in the winters of 56-58 as well as stories of Jay Hammond's work in the Northern Alaska, and the success these artificial management efforts produced, were a part of the philosophy of maintenance of our wildlife resources prevalent at the Constitutional Convention.

By the 1950's wildlife managers had proven abilities to manage animal populations, and many of our replenishable resources. Management of wildlife called for the cooperative work of hunters, biologists and game wardens. John Buckley argued that "wildlife is living and dynamic . . . Immediate action can result in saving for human use many animals that would otherwise be lost to natural causes; conversely, prompt action can also prevent overharvest. Therefore regulations relating to wild animals must be made by an organization capable of rapid action. Legislative action is too

slow."¹¹

Conclusion

Those interested in utilizing these resources must not feel that they "can exist in Alaska only as tenants of the [State] government and on the sufferance of the various [State] agencies"¹² and outside animal rights or preservation interest groups. "Sustained yield" means that we will provide the stewardship and the husbandry needed to keep renewable resources available at the highest possible level for human use.

All resource agencies must work to assure that Alaska's renewable resources are available for utilization. No one Agency, no single interest group, has a preference or a priority over the State's replenishable resources. Not only are these resources available for all uses, but the framers recognized that utilization for one resource was generally an asset to those who would use another use, utilization of timber resources enhances access for hunters, and provides a patch of new foliage for wildlife. Utilization increases the value of a resource to society, and thereby increases the impetus for management efforts.

The Resources Committee, the signatories to the Constitution, the people who voted for the Constitution, and the U.S. Congress who ratified the Constitution in the Statehood Compact, clearly intended for the active management of Alaska's renewable resources.

The changing view of "sustained yield" by animal rights advocates, preservationists, and others does not alter the clear intent of our Constitution. Alaska's Constitution mandates the development of Alaska's resources, by individuals, for the maximum benefit of mankind. The mandate to the legislature and to the management agencies remains clear. The Alaska Constitution mandates action.

The placement of a natural resources Article in the Alaska Constitution was intended to emphasize the high priority of the management of these resources to provide for the development of a diverse economy.

JRC/BWC

¹¹Buckley, John L., Wildlife and the Constitution, Prepared for the consideration of the Committee on Natural Resources, of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, page 6, December, 1955.

¹²Modified from: House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, H. R. Rep. No. 624, 85th Cong., 1st Sess. (1955), in State of Alaska vs. United States of America, 1993.

Dear Senator,

I would like for you to know that I want you to support senate bill 77 and senate joint resolution bill no. 34. I think they are both good bills and as my representative please vote in favor of them both.

Thank You,

JIM SACKETT

NATHAN BORSON • Box 211 • Gustavus, AK 99826-0211 • (907) 697-2381

March 31, 1993

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Williams,

I am very concerned about two bills which threaten Alaska's wildlife. I work in the tourism business, and I live in Alaska because of its wilderness character. I ask you to oppose these bills which threaten my way of life and Alaska's natural character.

SB43: I understand this bill mandates that the Dept. of Fish and Game transplant 300 elk to four locations in Southeast Alaska.

I live in Southeast Alaska, and I do not think Elk should be introduced here. There could be severe effects on established wildlife and plant communities as a result. The impacts on Sitka black tail deer especially concern me. The other thing that really bothers me about this bill is that the state would be **paying** for it. Surely this cannot be justified given cuts to critical programs at the same time. This is not the time to begin frivolous new programs.

SB77: Mandates that Board of Game manage stocks to "achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest."

I have a real problem with the philosophy behind this one. I do not believe that all plants and animals are "there just for us." I think it is a mistake to treat them as such and disrupt the natural order that has evolved, especially in fragile northern habitats. Maybe the problem is not too few moose and caribou, but too many people hunting them.

I also have a problem with the practical implications of this bill: I expect predator control be the main result, and this is a wasteful, destructive practice which I feel is wrong. Furthermore, it is nationally controversial and has had a negative impact our wilderness guiding company due to the nationwide boycott. And finally, will the state be *paying* to destroy predators? I certainly hope not!

Thank you for considering my views on this matter. I hope you will vote against these meddlesome, destructive, and expensive bills.

Sincerely,



Nathan Borson

Box 1258
Bethel, Ak. 99559
2 April 1993

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Representative Williams:

I'm writing in opposition to SB 77, the "Intensive Game Management" bill. This thinly disguised wolf kill bill would do nothing but stir up again the public outcry and threats to the Alaska tourist industry. SB 77 is a simple politicization of game management for the benefit of a single group of people, the recreational hunters.

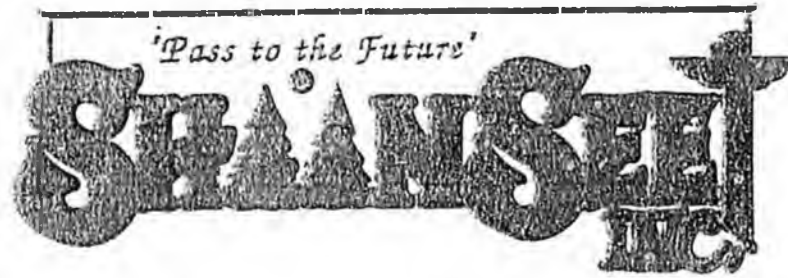
Wildlife, if it is "managed" at all, should be managed for the overall health of the entire ecosystem, not to possibly enhance the numbers of one or two species. SB 77 is bad public policy and should be rejected.

I urge you to reject SB 77!

Sincerely,



Thomas Warner



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.

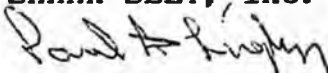
Additionally, Shaan Seet opposes the elk transplantation proposal as contained in Senate Bill 43. This plan is not complete and until the possibility of harm to indigenous game stocks is removed from it, it should not be attempted. The State should maintain a conservative attitude about such proposals 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



SIERRA CLUB

Alaska Chapter



February 14, 1994

Representative Bill Williams, Chairman
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Chairman,

The Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club is opposed to Senate Bill 77. If passed, this bill would artificially boost "game" animals by mandating the killing of one species for the benefit of another. We believe this approach is biologically regressive and bad public policy.

Predators are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem and should not automatically be treated as less valuable than "game" animals, as this bill would require. It is particularly disturbing that predators would be killed as the first step before considering action such as reducing hunting pressure or studying other alternatives.

Alaska's constitution makes it clear that the state's wildlife belongs to all Alaskans. Our wildlife should not be managed for the sole benefit of hunters and trappers.

Sincerely,

Tracy Abell .
Wildlife Chair,
Alaska Chapter -- Sierra Club

"Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress."

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance

PO Box 202022
Anchorage, AK 99520

January 20, 1994

Representative Bill Williams
State Capitol Room 128-C
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams,

As a member of the House Resources Committee, we are writing to provide information regarding SB 77. Senator Sharp has requested a hearing on SB77 in the next few weeks.

The 2,000 members of The Alliance do not support SB77, primarily because of vagaries and assumptions about game management and the values of Alaskan citizens. It is no secret to our members that this bill was written and introduced to make predator control programs required by law, and make it much more difficult for concerned citizens to affect change. Anything in quotes refers to text in the bill. Specifically:

- By changing "may" to "shall", the Board of Game is stripped of any flexibility, and provisions for incorporating public comment are similarly erased.
- The concept of "...high levels of sustained yield..." is not scientifically or ecologically valid. Modern wildlife management literature characterizes "high levels of sustained yield" as an oxymoron. In short, high levels of harvest are usually not
- This bill requires that predators be killed first before any game is even considered. We are puzzled as to why the State wants to bring more public criticism by, in effect, increasing the likelihood and frequency of predator control programs.
- This bill clings to the outdated and regressive concept of intensive micro-management of game species in Section 1 (11) (A) and (B). For example, in the 1993-94 wolf control program to "save" the Delta herd, it is often ignored that the Delta herd is above historic averages, and that the state's total caribou population has tripled in the last 15 years. In reality, all of Alaska's caribou (& other game species) belong to a single statewide population, within which, on a scale of decades, there are shifting centers of abundance. It is biologically inappropriate, not to mention expensive, to focus management policies on individual "herds", and attempt to maintain each at a constant size within a fixed area.
- The majority of Alaskans are opposed to state-sponsored wolf control. A copy of an independent public opinion survey is inclosed for your review.
- With the current state of Alaska's budget, we are shocked at the cost of predator control programs, and again puzzled as to why the state would want to pass as law a bill which would require more needless spending on predator control programs for which results are not tangible or measurable, and which taint Alaska's public image. In addition, these

expenditures benefit only those few Alaskans who want guaranteed hunting success in convenient locations. An Alliance press release regarding the cost of the state's current wolf control program is enclosed.

Although we realize that wildlife must be managed, we believe the language of this bill does more to reflect a political agenda than provide for the long-term viability of Alaska's wildlife. Caribou, moose and other game species are abundant, and hunting opportunities for human harvest will continue to be plentiful, even in the presence of natural populations of predators. Plainly stated, increased "intensive" management is unnecessary, costly and results are not measurable.

As a suggestion, The Alliance recommends that contracting centers of prey abundance first be closed to harvest, and harvest be increased in expanding centers of prey abundance before the state assumes that predators must be removed. Although the hunting community may grumble at the inconvenience of having to travel farther from the road system, we strongly believe that the majority of Alaskans will be satisfied, Alaska's image will be improved nationwide, and all species of wildlife populations will be truly sustained.

We respectfully urge you to reject SB77, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Arnold". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sandra Arnold
Staff Representatives

enc.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on SB 77, dated 3-7-94
bill/subject

I WOULD LIKE TO GO ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING THIS BILL, BIG GAME MANAGEMENT IS IMPORTANT AND IF DONE PROPERLY WOULD INCREASE BIG GAME AVAILABILITY I BELIEVE BIG GAME FARMS (MOOSE, CARIBOU, ETC.) WOULD ALSO HELP IN MANAGEMENT OF WILD BIG GAME. THE WAY THERE COULD BE A CLOSURE OF BIG GAME HUNTING IN AREAS WHERE THERE ARE LARGE HUMAN POPULATIONS WITHOUT AFFECTING THOSE WHO DEPEND ON BIG GAME TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES.

THE BEST WAY TO DO BIG GAME MANAGEMENT WOULD BE TO SHIFT HUMAN POPULATION TO DIFFERENT AREAS, LIKE ROTATING FIELD CROPS. I KNOW THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE SO OTHER MEANS OF GAME MANAGEMENT IS NEEDED, MAYBE THERE IS A WAY TO GET BIG GAME TO SHIFT SOME OF THEIR "GRAZING" AREAS.

Signed: Cheyenne Walker CHEYENNE WALKER
Testifier

SELF
Representing (Optional)

HC 62 BOX 5360 DELTA JCT., AK- 99737
Address

895-1024
Phone No.



Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.

March 18, 1994

The Honorable William K. Williams
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

I want to express the grave concern of the statewide Native community and the Alaska Federation of Natives over Senate Bill 77 and the versions of it currently pending in the House of Representatives. Although the House and Senate bills differ in language, they are both anti-subsistence and bad public policy. For the following reasons, we oppose them.

Both versions of SB 77 mandate that the Board of Game practice intensive management of big game prey species in order to bring up population numbers for human consumption. The crux of the bill is that it requires, in addition to such things as habitat management, predator (i.e., wolf) control. If you look at the section marked in the margin of the appended copy of the latest House version, you see that the Board of Game may not adopt regulations that significantly reduce the human taking of any big game population unless it adopts regulations to implement intensive management. That prohibition includes Tier I and Tier II regulations that protect subsistence uses under AS 16.05.258 (the state subsistence statute) when a game population decreases to certain levels.

On its face, SB 77 bill is bad public policy. Tying the Game Board's ability to restrict the taking of big game prey species to regulatory action on wolf control effectively asks the moose and caribou to wait for badly needed protections until the state government can decide an extremely controversial management issue. What happens to those big game species if the state fails to carry out such a management program - for lack of money, political pressure, or any other reason? Would that mean that moose and caribou could never be protected by harvest reductions?

This bill, sponsored by Senator Sharp and others, is for sport hunters. They are trying to get the Legislature to impose on the Board of Game a non-discretionary state policy of predator control. (Despite the inclusion of habitat management and other measures, what this is really about is wolves.) Why the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which has traditionally fought against legislative policies that would tie the Board's hands in resource management, tepidly supported this bill in committee testimony is not clear and deserves a straight answer.

A legislative mandate of wolf control will have serious political repercussions for the State of Alaska. Whether or not predator control is generally a useful management tool, it should not be automatically required every time game populations decline - often for reasons having little or nothing to do with wolves. Subsistence users do not support a blanket approach to such a complex situation and publicly disclaim responsibility for it. We want the public, the Congress, the Interior Department and all other interested parties to understand that this is not being done for us.

We question the whole logic of SB 77 and feel that it should not go forward without careful reconsideration and additional public hearings. But more specifically, we object to any linkage of subsistence protections to wolf control. If the whole bill cannot be stopped, we urge, at the very least, that lines 17 through 20 on page 2 be deleted and replaced with:

"(2) promulgates regulations relating to harvest of, access to, or management of the population, as required by AS 16.05.258."

That amendment was introduced by Representative Eileen MacLean on Friday and was defeated on the House floor. The current language of lines 17 through 20 merely provides that AS 16.05.258's subsistence protections could go into effect if the Board of Game schedules intensive management regulations for its next regular meeting. While that may prevent delays before the fact of subsistence protections, it maintains the linkage after the fact: it gives the state and sport interests the opportunity to say that wolf control was somehow necessary because of the required cutbacks to protect subsistence.

Enactment of this bill will be one more impediment to the state's reacquisition of subsistence management authority on federal public lands under ANILCA. The present dual management regime has resulted from the Legislature's refusal to protect subsistence by complying with the federal law. Does anyone seriously think that the Congress or the cognizant federal agencies will allow subsistence management on federal lands to go back to a state that has a policy of mandatory wolf control in times of resource reductions? On the contrary, further losses of state management authority are the most likely outcome.

The Alaska Federation of Native urges that this whole wolf policy be carefully reconsidered from the point of view of effective management and smart politics. But if that is not possible, the bill should contain, at the very least, no connection of intensive management regulations to protections of subsistence.

Sincerely,

Julie E. Kitka

Julie E. Kitka
President



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2/16/94

PLACE: Capitol, Room 124

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 SB 77 - INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF BIG GAME
 SJR 13 - OPPOSING EXPORT BAN ON AK NORTH
 SLOPE CRUDE OIL

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Joel Bennett	self	114 W. 6 th Juneau		586-1255		(Y) N	SB 77
WM BURK	SELF	PO BOX 240742	924	780 6019		(Y) N	SB 77
John George	Territorial / Sportsmen/AN	9511 moraine Way Juneau	99801	784-0172		(Y) N	SB 77
Jim BARR	AEL.	P.O. 210371 A. L. Barr	99821	790-2858		(Y) N	SB 77
Chip Thoma	self	Juneau				Y N	SJR-13
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	

* PLEASE PRINT + INCLUDE *
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 3/7/94

PLACE: Capitol, Room 124

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 HJR 17 - Magnuson Fishery Conservation + mgt. Act
 HB 404 - Land Allotments
 HB 448 - Waste + Use Of Salmon + Parts of Salmon
 SB 77 - Intensive management of Game

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Bill Garry	State DNR Parks	400 Willoughby	99801		465-4563	(Y) N	HB 404
Geron Bruce	Fish/Game	P.O. BX 25524	99802		465-6143	(Y) N	HB 448
Dave Kelleyhouse	Fish & Game	"	"		465-4191	(Y) N	HS CS5B 77 ✓
Ran Gillespie	Aquaculture	9478 Riverbend Ct	99801	781-3941	463-3377	(Y) N	HB 448
Kevin McDougall	FISHERMAN PROCESSORS	Box 714 Douglas	99824		364-2273	(Y) N	HB 448
Roger McKowan	Rep Hoffman					(Y) N	HB 404
John George	AOC	9515 Moraine Way Juneau	99802	789-0172		(Y) N	HB 77
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	