

SB

43

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 1/27/93

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 3-8-93

The Finance Committee considered **SENATE BILL NO. 43**

"An Act establishing a grant program relating to transplantation of elk."

and recommends:

replace with _____ CS SB 43 (FINANCE)
 or adopt previous _____ CS _____
 attaches amendment(s)

same title
 new title
 technical title change (HB only)

adopts _____ Letter of Intent

further referral to the _____

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

NEW FISCAL NOTES

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<u>DF&G</u>	<u>1-20-93</u>	<u>0</u>	

Appropriation No Fiscal Note

DO PASS:

Best Way
B

1. Don't do pass
 Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

George Ashu - No Rec
Tim Kelly - No Rec
Steve King - No Rec
A. K. ... - No Rec

2. Steve Deacon - No Pass
 Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

REPORTED OUT OF
SFC 3-8-93 FISCAL NOTE

No. 1

Bill Version: SB 43

(S) Publish Date: 1-27-93

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____

Department Affected: Fish and Game

Title: An Act establishing a grant program relating to the

BRU: Wildlife Conservation

transplantation of elk

Component: Wildlife Conservation

Sponsor: Senator Taylor

Requestor: Senate Resources

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1003 GF Match	0	0	0	0	0	0
1004 GF	0	0	0	0	0	0
1005 GF Program Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	Changes in <u>CSSB 43 (File)</u> have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate.	Changes in <u>CSSB 43 (RES)</u> have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate.
PART-TIME	<u>3-8-93</u> date	<u>ML</u> Comte Aide (initial)
TEMPORARY	<u>3-8-93</u> date	<u>ML</u> Comte Aide (initial)

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

No additional costs are anticipated to adopt regulations required under this bill; see attached page for other costs.

Prepared By: Larry Jones

Phone: 465-6085

Division: Administration

Date: 1/20/93

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]

Agency: Department of Fish and Game

Date: 1/20/93

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The implementation of SB 43 would be purely administrative, and costs would thus be minimal. However, should an elk transplant take place, there would be significant costs associated with the venture.

Prior to any actual transplant the department would want to spend two years gathering baseline data. After a transplant occurred the department would want to monitor the health of the animals and the effect of the transplanted animals on the animal community into which they had been transplanted. This would involve the use of radio collars and tracking.

Costs for a five year program to accomplish the above goals would range from \$200.0 to \$250.0 per year. The department estimates that one additional full-time employee and one to two seasonal employees would be necessary to perform the work.

Back-up

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY STATE OF ALASKA

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

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

MEMORANDUM

January 19, 1993

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary: SB 43; An Act establishing a grant program relating to transplantation of elk

TO: Senator Robin Taylor
ATTN: Joe Ambrose

FROM: George Utermohle *GUH*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of SB 43; An Act establishing a grant program relating to transplantation of elk.

A sectional summary of a bill is not an authoritative interpretation of the bill. The bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1 of the bill amends AS 16.25 by adding a new section providing for elk transplantation grants. The elk transplantation grant account is established in the general fund and is funded through legislative appropriation. The Department of Fish and Game may award matching grants to nonprofit organizations to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of transplanting elk to suitable habitats. An organization receiving a transplantation grant may match the grant in cash or in kind. An application for a transplantation grant shall be made on a form provided by the department. The department shall adopt regulations to implement the transplantation grant program.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

GU:gc
93-039.glc

Alaska State Legislature

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Chair, Judiciary Committee
Vice Chair, Community &
Regional Affairs

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



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(907) 465-3873
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(907) 225-8008
Fax: (907) 225-0713

Senator Robin L. Taylor

SPONSOR STATEMENT

PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 43, RELATING TO ELK TRANSPLANTS

Please consider the blank committee substitute for Senate Bill 43 in lieu of the original bill. I am concerned the Department of Fish and Game will never perform a follow-up to the previously successful transplant with the original measure.

The department has made no effort to study the effects of elk transplants on indigenous species since that transplant occurred in 1987. Not one of the department's employees has, while in the field, taken elk scat samples to determine what they forage upon to determine whether there is competition with other members of the deer family.

Although the original transplant of elk occurred in 1927 on Afognak Island, no studies have been done indicating what these animals eat. Yet, the department continues to insist a study is needed to determine whether competition exists. None of this would be a problem if it wasn't for the fact that the entire department has reached the conclusion that elk and deer will compete for the same food without ever finding out what elk eat. I maintain the department has had many opportunities to perform such baseline studies here in southeast and on Afognak Island years ago.

The department insisted the elk transplant would fail -- it did not. I think the department ought to get on with managing the existing elk populations and determine when the first hunt might be sustained. These elk will provide a source of food for the residents of southeast Alaska. They can cut trails through which deer and other game can pass. The deer and elk seem to coexist quite well.

I suggest that the transplantations proceed. The sportsman groups in southeast have recommended transplantation of animals to Kruzof Island near Sitka first, then Gravina next to Ketchikan, to Cleveland Peninsula north of Ketchikan and finally Prince of Wales Island.

The estimate cost of transporting the animals is \$1000 per animal.

District A:

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Senator Robin L. Taylor

Memorandum

To: Senator Steve Frank, Co-chair
Senator Drue Pearce, Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee

From: Senator Robin Taylor 

Date: February 3, 1993

Subject: SB 43, Elk transplant program

I would appreciate it if you would schedule Senate Bill 43, An Act establishing a grant program relating to the transplantation of elk, before the finance committee next week. I would like to see action on this legislation so an already successful program begun in 1987 can be further enhanced by volunteer efforts.

Please consider one change to the bill. I have been informed by the Department of Fish and Game that the resources committee amendment of Section 1, subsection (d) adding the public hearing requirement, is unnecessary. The department can already follow the administrative hearing procedure as provide by statute. I would appreciate it if a finance committee substitute could be written to make this change.

The department has stated there has been no change in the fiscal note or in their attached position papers so they are both appropriate. Attached are letters of support and the back up requested by your memorandum of procedure regarding bills before the finance committee. Should you require any further information please contact Terry Otness at 6550.

I appreciate your consideration of my request.

District A:

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Alaska State Legislature

Chair, Special Committee on Oil & Gas
Vice Chair, Transportation Committee
Member, Resources Committee
Rules Committee
Committee on Committees
Western States Legislative Forestry Task Force

District A
Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Saxman
Hyder, Meyers Chuck, Kupreanof



Senator Robin L. Taylor

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SPONSOR SUMMARY SB 43

The purpose of this legislation is to augment an already successful elk transplanted program I initiated during my tenure in the Fourteenth Alaska Legislature. This bill would provide the opportunity for further enhancement of the existing herds in the area by organized non-profit sportsman groups.

The elk transplanted grant account is established in the general fund and funded through an appropriation. The bill allows the Department of Fish and Game to award matching grants to nonprofit organizations to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of transplanting elk to suitable habitats. The organization receiving the grant may match it in cash or in-kind. The application for a transplanted grant would be on a form prescribed by the department. The department will adopt regulations to implement the program.

The herds, planted in 1987, have expanded their range from Etolin Island, to Zarembo Island. There have also been unconfirmed sightings on Bushy, and Deer Island near the Cleveland Peninsula as well as the Cleveland Peninsula.

There were two different transplanted groups. The first was 33 Roosevelt elk from Jewell Meadows in Oregon; the second was 17 Rocky Mountain Elk From Oregon's Elkhorn range.

In a five year period the elk have expanded their numbers from the original 50 to 75 - 120 animals.

The creation of this fund will aid in bolstering the present herd numbers and accelerating the first hunting opportunity date.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

POSITION PAPER

Bill No: SB 43
Sponsor: Senator Taylor
Division: Wildlife Conservation
Bill Title: An Act establishing a grant program relating to transplantation of elk

Background/Legislative Intent: The purpose of this bill is to encourage the introduction of elk to locations within Southeast Alaska and establish a population of these animals for sport hunting and recreation. This bill would provide authorization for future transplants and encourage private participation using monetary incentives.

Analysis of Bill/Program Effects: The department is concerned about authorization of a transplant program at this time for the following reasons:

1. The Forest Service has expressed the following concerns over future elk introductions into the Tongass National Forest: (1) elk are not an indigenous species and are an "ecological exotic"; (2) impacts on designated wilderness areas may result from invasion of elk introduced in other locations; (3) potential negative impacts on indigenous flora and fauna have not been studied; and 4) dispersal from Etolin Island (the previously authorized transplant site) is well documented.
2. Organizational interest in obtaining state funds to implement a transplant program appears to be very limited (i.e., only one organization has expressed interest).
3. The most recent transplant effort to Etolin Island is still being monitored to determine success. Attempting to establish elk herds in other locations at this time would be premature.
4. Elk introduced into the state should be monitored, and the department has no funding to undertake such an effort.
5. Recent outbreaks of disease, include bovine tuberculosis, in elk and other cervids in some westerns states and provinces has resulted in reevaluation of translocation of such animals. Most states and provinces are tightening their import/export regulations in an effort to protect native wildlife populations.

6. Transplanted elk in Southeast Alaska will negatively impact deer populations where critical habitats overlap.
7. The department's *Species Management Policies* generally oppose introductions of elk because transplants often have unforeseen detrimental effects. These policies state that "proposed transplants must meet the following minimum requirements to be approved: 1) the proposed transplant site must provide sufficient and suitable habitat to support a viable population of elk as determined by comprehensive study; 2) prior study must establish that the introduction of elk will not adversely affect the numbers, health, or utilization of resident species; 3) protection of the proposed transplant population must be assured; and 4) future public use of the resource must be guaranteed." The currently proposed legislation does not provide the funding or means for meeting these requirements.

Commissioner's Signature

Don Smith

Date 1/20/93

Alaska State Legislature

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Legislative Council



Senator Robin L. Taylor

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Resources Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 43

Summary of Senate Resource Committee changes to SB 43

Section 1 (b) was amended to provide the department the ability to transplant elk to public or private land.

Section 1 (d) was amended to eliminate the requirement to adopt regulations, instead calling for a public hearing process. After the public hearing process the department would develop criteria to implement this section.

Section 2 was amended to add an immediate effective date.

District A:

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB43(FIN)

Revision Date: 12/16/93
 Title: An Act relating to transplanta n of elk
 Sponsor: Senator Taylor
 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	179.1	185.3	196.0	40.8	40.8	40.9
TRAVEL	29.0	29.0	29.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
CONTRACTUAL	125.4	125.4	125.4	27.0	27.0	27.0
SUPPLIES	70.8	70.8	70.8	14.0	14.0	14.0
EQUIPMENT	10.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	414.3	415.5	426.2	86.8	86.8	86.8

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

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

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

POSITIONS

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

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

Prepared By: Kim Titus, Regional Supervisor
 Division: Wildlife Conservation
 Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4265
 Date: 12/16/93
 Date: 12/20/93

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Assumptions for Operating Expenditures:

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

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

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

4. Summary of other major expenditures:

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

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

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

Equipment (line 500): includes telemetry equipment.

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

Request For New Position

AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

BRU Division of Wildlife Conservation

COMPONENT Fiscal Note CSSB43 - Elk Transplant

FY 95

Position Title WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST I			No. of Positions 1	Range / Step 14/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12		Location Juneau	Election District 1,2,3,4,5	
TYPE OF EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT	Justification		
Salary	31.7	31.7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide direct support and assistance to Elk Transplant project leader (WB III) on all aspects of the project. Serve as project leader in absence of WB III. 2. Directly supervise handling of all wildlife species involved. Travel to states/provinces providing elk to oversee trapping efforts, veterinary services (e.g disease screening), and transport. The incumbent in this position must be someone with experience in handling large ungulates. 3. Work with other states/provinces on all technical aspects of wildlife exchanges. 4. Purchase equipment and supplies (including drugs, antibiotics, and telemetry equipment), and materials for constructing traps, crates, cages, etc. 5. Supervise and participate in all capture operations. 		
Benefits	13.4	13.4			
Premium Pay					
Other					
Total Personal Services	45.1	45.1			
Travel					
Contractual					
Commodities					
Equipment					
Other					
Total Cost		45.1			
FUNDING SOURCE FOR TOTAL COST					
Federal Receipts	1002				
G.F. Match	1003				
General Fund	1004	45.1			
I-A Receipts	1007				
CIP Receipts	1061				
Other					

Request For New Position

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

FY 95

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

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

Request For New Position

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

FY 95

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

PROPOSALIntroduction:

Mountain Goat and Elk introduction to Prince of Wales Island.

Objective:

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

Justification:

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rifa Haskin", followed by the date "2/10/93".

Rifa Haskin

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

RIH ENTERPRISES

RTA HASKIN / INDEPENDENT RELIV DISTRIBUTOR

October 25, 1992

Senator Robin Taylor
P.O. Box 1441
Wrangell, Alaska 99929

Dear Senator Taylor,

I'd like to thank you for the good time my husband and I had at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet. We are members of the foundation (6 yrs), and of the Ketchikan Sports & Wildlife Club. I am responsible for the petitions around Prince of Whales Island to transplant Mountain Goat and Elk. I seen you on a tape I received from the Rain Country television program involed in the Deer Mountain transplant for goats. I wanted to make you aware of the interest on POW for goats & elk.

I'd like to personally thank you for your support of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. It is something very dear to my heart.

Enclosed are copies of the signatures I've received so far. I keep in contact with Noel Putman, and will keep you posted of the residents interest in goats & elk.

Respectfully Yours,

Rita Haskin
Rita Haskin

Enclosures

cc: Steve Weaver - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Noel Putman - Ketchikan Sports & Wildlife Club

*I thought I had sent
this, but obviously I didn't.
Rita 2/10/93*

*I was raised around Shelton, WA
and have a great love for Elk!*

P.O. Box 468

Craig, Alaska 99921

1-800-478-2479



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



Name	Address	City
Jennifer Taylor	P.O. Box 122	Craig
Deneise M. Weighmiller Deneise Weighmiller	P.O. Box 19	Craig
Mary Hamman	P.O. 454	CRAIG
T.L. Blake	"	CRAIG
Henry Julian	Box 367	Craig
Sally Jensen Nette Crowe	Box 114	Craig
Don Borders	P.O. Box 432	Craig
Pam E. Hols ^{Hi Ram}	P.O. Box 133	Klawock
CLARENCE MAXEY	P.O. Box 19198	THORNE BAY
Cindy Clark	P.O. Box 176	Klawock, AK 99921
Gerald WAD	P.O. Box 20	Craig 99921
Lester Lip	P.O. Box 103	Craig 99921
Shae Roenick	P.O. Box 418	Craig AK 99921
Ketina Larriere	Post 170	Craig AK 99921
Carl Benson	P.O. Box 321	Klawock, Alaska
Emily Tommy	Box 110	Craig
Kathy Perry	Dr 442	Craig AK 99921
Vicki Sleasman	Box 372	Craig AK 99921
T. Peterson	Box 447	Craig
Dick Wilson	Box 395	CRAIG
Lyle Yates	Box 251	Craig, A.K.
Michael Horner	Box 434	CRAIG
Vicki Horner	"	"
Richard Hansen	Box 317	CRAIG

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

77 May 29, 1992



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



Name	Address	City
Francis Schur	Box 144	Klawock AK 99925
Michael Schur	Box 144	Klawock AK 99925
Nalores Lantles	PO Box WWP	KTIU, AK 99950
Jo Christman	P.O. Box 1428	Whale Pass AK 99950
Bill	Box 811 Craig	Craig
AA. Ko-RUAN	Box 25 C	Craig
Britta Wasserman	Box 163	Thorne Bay
W. F. ...	Ketchikan	Thorne Bay
Robert Young Jr	Kasaan Box KXA	Kasaan
Angie Bink	Box KXA	Kasaan
Bill W. ...	1510 Fritz Cove Rd	Genese, AK.
Kurt Kuehl	6061 So. Tongass	Ketchikan, AK.
Elena James	P.O. BOX 45	Craig AK
Harold Sampson	Box 187	Craig
D. ...	Gen Del Craig.	876-2244
TONY COSENTINO	PO 269 Klawock	755-2404
Keith Wayne	PO Box 853	Nakat
Ernie Pine	312 Harbor Ave	Coffman Cove
Frank Berge	Box 383	Hydaburg
Jeff ...	PO Box 327	Klawock AK
Jeff Sinclair	PO Box 327	Klawock AK
Lee Whitney	PO Box 9814	Coffman Cove AK
Charley A Lane	P.O. Box 307	Klawock AK

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

5/29/92





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



Name	Address	City
Charley Alene	PO Box 307	Klawock AK
Ann Williams	Box 350	Klawock AK
Daye Wick	Bx 240	Klawock
Louy Howell	242	Craig
Danny Howell	242	Craig
Megan Quintan	234 <small>111 equal 26 number 26</small>	Klawock
Cheryl Jefferts	82	Klawock
Wade & Marie Wadley	Gen Del	Craig
Louise White	GEN DEL	CRAIG
Debbie White	GEN DEL	CRAIG
Ken C. ...	Gen Del	Klawock
Keith Stiska	Box 102	KLW
Mark ...	Box 141	Klawock ALASKA (PO)
Ann Reed	Box 162	Klawock AK 99925
Jon Rowan	Box 51	Klawock AK 99925
James Rowan	Box 261	Klawock AK 99925
Dmit	Do Lt. <i>[Signature]</i>	
Yves	259	
Larry D. Lemons	Box 102	Craig, AK, 99921
Sonnie Anderson	Box 83	Craig, Ak. 99921
Joseph ...	Box	
G. Abel	259	
Darin B. Kingway	Box 124	Craig
Colby Curtis	Box 9813 Ken	Calder Bay

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

29/92

[Handwritten mark]



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Name	Address	City
Rosemary Lloyd	Po Box 19422	TNB
Earl Nash	Po Box 207	TnB
Shonda Lane	PO Box 19104	TNB
Jerald M. Kitcher	PO Box 19206	TNB
Earl Kuehn	PO 40	Myers Creek
Steve Jones	PO 156	TNB
W.M. Lewis	P.O. Box 19290	Thorne Bay
Steve Jones	PO Box 303	
Steve Jones	PO Box 303	
Juane Spink	PO BOX 100	
Jason Blubaum	PO BOX 100	
Bruce Garland	PO BOX 100	
Gene & Martha	Po Box 19448	Thorne Bay
Elaine Stensson	Box TH1	TOKEN AK 99950
James B. Matheson	P.O. Box 456	Thorne Bay
Roxy Wilson	P.O. Box 19426	Thorne Bay
Barbara Best	P.O. Box 19328	Thorne Bay, AK 99919
Paul Clasen	PO Box 19397	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Lindy Grant	P.O. Box 19318	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Kathy Cook	PO. Box 19121	Thorne Bay, AK 99919
Leah Ackersman	Gen. Del	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Jim Keller	Gen. Del	Thorne Bay AK 99919
Laura Holt	Box 446	TNB, AK
Maui Finn	Box 19215	THORNE BAY, ALASKA
Diana Richardson	Box 19442	Thorne Bay, AK 99919

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name	address	city
John W. Smith	Box 19	CRAIG AK
MARK MEYERS	Box 14	NAKATI
PEGGY STEVENS	BOX 247	CRAIG AK
GT. WENTWORTH	Box 101	CRAIG AK
Ben A. Cole	P.O. Box 312	Craig, AK
Robert Hall	Box 2921	Ketchikan, AK
XXXXXXXXXXXX		
Dick Jones	204	Craig
ERNEST W STILLER	PO Box 494 CRAIG	CRAIG
JOHN C SCHISMAN	Box TKT	KETCHIKAN
U. S. ...	General Delivery	CRAIG
Jennine White	General Delivery	Craig
Rebecca White	General Delivery	Craig
Norma White	General Delivery	Craig
Bernie White	General Delivery	Craig
Maldie Davis	General Delivery	Craig
Dan Beck	BX 377	Craig
Jerry Luttan	Box 405	Craig
Charlie Kissell	Gen DEL	CRAIG
Dick Wayne	A.P.L.	CRAIG
Jewel Peterson		
Mal Ebenbeck	Box 248	Craig
Gwenne Bider	Box 467	Craig
Cathy Yzaguirre	Green Hill	Craig
Carl ...	High Hill	Craig

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

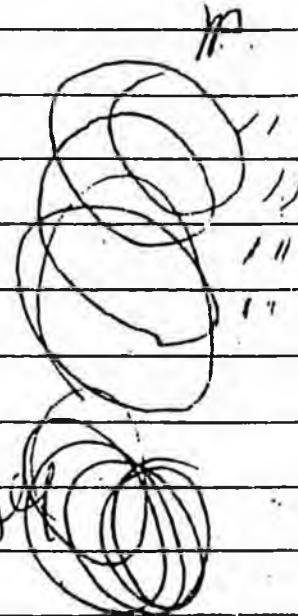
5/29/92



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Name	Address	City
George B. Woods	Box 292 Bayview Blvd	Klawock, 99925
Russell	P.O. Box 249 Craig	99921
Alma Cook		
Gate Rucci	P.O. Box 69 Craig	
Dorell [unclear]	Box 309 Klawock AK	99925
Jeremy Howell	" "	" "
Randy Dobbins	" "	" "
Amy Howell	" "	" "
Kristi Howell	" "	" "
Delorrah Richards	Gen Del Craig, AK	99921
Anaio Strobel	Gen. Del Craig, AK	
Amelia D. Wood	Box WLB KTN AK 99920	LAB. BAY
Thomas Mills	Box 100 Craig AK	99921
Bob Blea	522 Craig	Craig
Quent Jones	Box 108 Cr	Craig
[unclear]		[unclear]
Kelli [unclear]	Box 282	Klawock
[unclear]	Box 282	Klawock
James J. Fessenden	P.O. Box 161	Craig
Mike [unclear]	P.O. Box [unclear]	Whale Pass AK
[unclear]	PO Box [unclear]	Whale Pass AK



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-5,29/92



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Name	Address	City
Cheryl Halter	PO Box 21	Hydaburg
-Doris Mann	Box 267	Craig
L R HALL	Box 181	CRAIG
Gerald White	Box 1111 Ketchikan	WHALE PASS
Patricia J White	Box 1111 Ketchikan	Whale Pass
Fred Turpin	Box 370	Craig
Idea Pundick	Box 370	Craig
LARRY LEMONS	Box 102	CRAIG, AK. 99921
Jony Jones	P.O. Box 193	Craig, AK
Kevin Haines	PO Box 254	Klawock AK
Garry Ad...	P.O. Box 50	Craig
Pat Simpson	P.O. Box 493	CRAIG
DALE YOUNG	P.O. BOX 569	CRAIG
Justin Barrera	P.O. Box 569	CRAIG
James Barnes	Box 45	II
Jay Latta	Box 405	Craig
Derek Parsons	Box 204	CRAIG
Bandy King	Box 41	-
Jeff Craig	P.O. Box 362	Hydaburg
Janice ...	PO Box 477	Craig
Boris Halter	PO Box 86	Craig

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

Aug 11, 92
~~11/92~~

SB 43

KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

APR 10 RECD

PROPOSAL

April 5, 1992

Roosevelt Elk Introduction to Revillagigedo Island, S.E. Alaska.

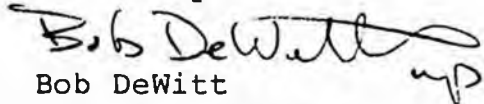
Objective: Establish a self sustaining population of Roosevelt Elk to this area.

Justification: Alaska Statutes Title 16 Fish and Game chapter 25 Section 16.250.010 Stocking of Public Lands.

Respective Cooperators:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club

Sincerely;



Bob DeWitt
Ketchikan Sports and
Wildlife Club

cc; Carl Rossier, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mike Barton, U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Robin Taylor, District Representative

SB 43

RECEIVED AUG 13 1991

KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

File

RECEIVED AUG 13 1991

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

Dear Commissioner Rosier;

August 13, 1991

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

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

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

SINCERLY;

Bob DeWitt

Bob DeWitt
Vice President
Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club

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

KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

PROPOSAL ROOSEVELT ELK TO KRUZOFF ISLAND

INTRODUCTION

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

OBJECTIVE

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

JUSTIFICATION

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

FINANCING

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

Sincerely,

KETCHIKAN SPORTS AND WILDLIFE CLUB

Bob DeWitt bygem

Bob DeWitt
Vice President

KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

PROPOSAL ROOSEVELT ELK TO GRAVINA ISLAND

INTRODUCTION

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

OBJECTIVE

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

JUSTIFICATION

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

FINANCING

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

CONCLUSION

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

Sincerely,

KETCHIKAN SPORTS AND WILDLIFE CLUB

Bob DeWitt by com

Bob DeWitt
Vice President

KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

PROPOSAL ROOSEVELT ELK TO PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

INTRODUCTION

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

OBJECTIVE

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

JUSTIFICATION

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

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

CONCLUSION

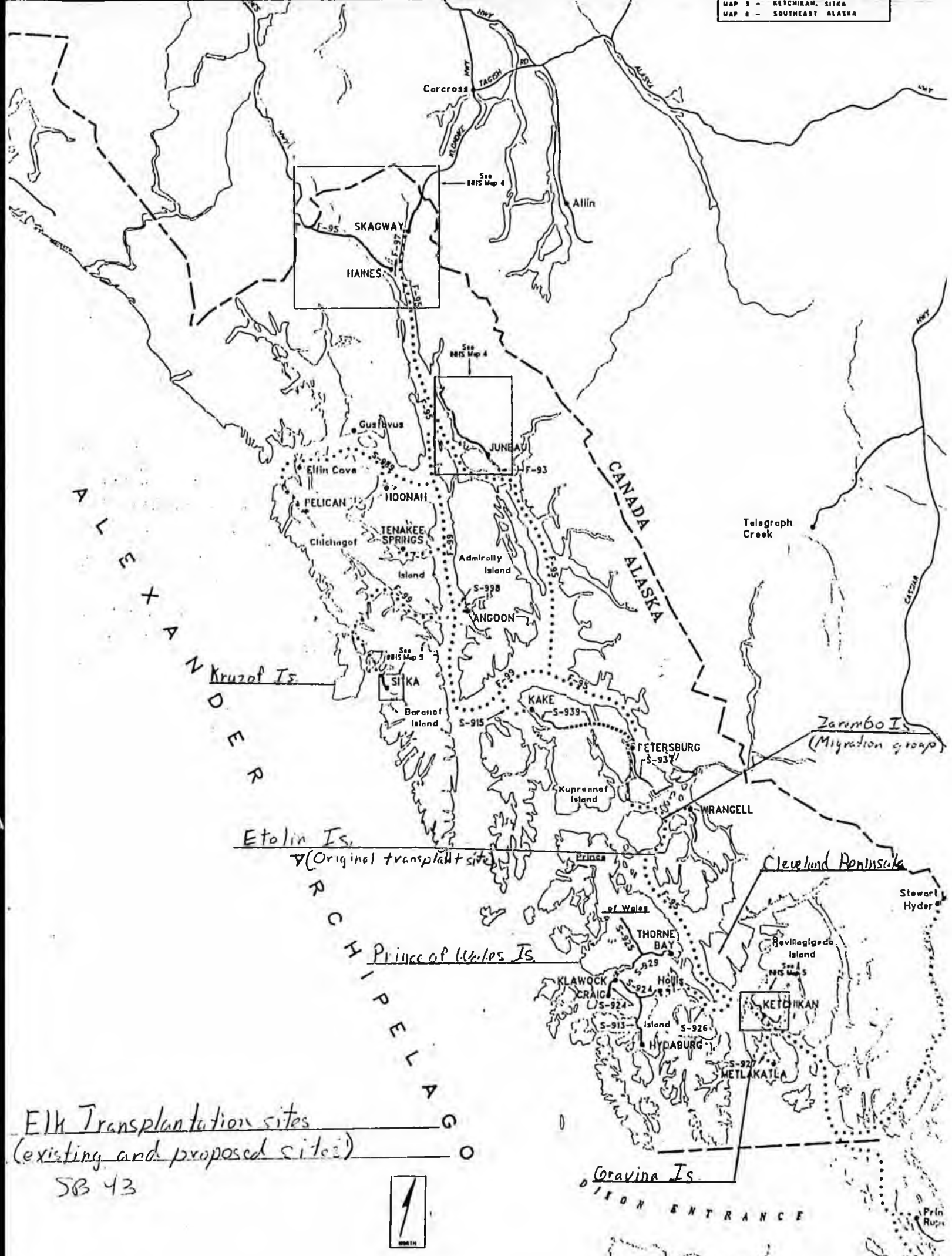
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Sincerely,

KETCHIKAN SPORTS AND WILDLIFE CLUB

Bob DeWitt by em

Bob DeWitt
Vice President



Elk Transplantation sites
(existing and proposed sites)

SB 43



OUTDOOR NEWS



John Hyde

SOUTHEAST'S ELK INVASION

WITH A LITTLE LUCK, elk hunting may someday become an annual tradition for southeastern Alaska sportsmen. According to state game biologist Charlie Land, a transplant of 50 elk from Oregon to Etolin Island is showing promise.

Roosevelt elk, taken from the Jewell Meadows Wildlife Management Area in Oregon, and Rocky Mountain elk from eastern Oregon, were released in 1987 on Etolin Island near Wrangell. Of the 30 elk that were

fitted with radio collars and released there, 10 were still alive in the spring of 1990. Alaska Department of Fish and Game surveys and reports from loggers, fishermen and other observers in the area indicate the remaining elk are in good condition and have produced calves annually.

Despite reports that elk have spread to nearby Zarembo, Brownson and Deer islands, Land says, "The elk on Etolin are now at the crucial point of success or

failure. Every indication is that the introduction will succeed."

Until recently, the only elk in Alaska were found on Raspberry and Afognak islands near Kodiak. Transplanted in 1928 from Washington's Olympic Peninsula, the animals eventually established stable, huntable populations. In the 1989-90 season, hunters harvested 206 Roosevelt elk on Raspberry and Afognak islands, up from a total of 124 in 1988-89. ●

BURBOT BLUES

FISHING PRESSURE ON burbot, or freshwater ling, has increased dramatically over the last decade in many parts of interior Alaska. In fact, state biologists say that so many burbot have been taken, especially with set-lines through lake and river ice, that they are concerned stocks may soon be depleted.

Last November, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued emergency closures on a number of lakes and streams in the Tanana and Tyone river drainages and the Lake Louise area near Glennallen. Results of studies in some lakes revealed a 60 percent drop in burbot populations between 1987 and 1988. The decreases have been attributed to the winter set-line sport fishery.

Burbot, brownish-yellow bottom feeders with long tapering bodies, are savored for their firm, white flesh. The fish provide winter sport for set-line fishermen who are allowed to catch them through the ice using as many as 15 baited lines per angler.

In the past, bag limits have been liberal, but because the fish grow slowly and are late to mature, popular waters have quickly been overfished. ●

Wolf Season Extended

Wolves in game management Unit 15A on the Kenai Peninsula appear to be flourishing. In fact, the 45 or so predators were doing so well last February that the state extended the trapping season one month.

According to a report in *The Peninsula Clarion*, the reason for the extension is not to control wolves on the Kenai, but "to provide additional trapping experiences in the field

because of surplus wolves." Area wildlife biologist Ted Spraker said at least 45 wolves were residing in GMU 15A last winter—well above the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's population objective of 25 to 35 wolves.

ADF&G reported that two large wolf packs in GMU 15A containing 26 wolves are infested with lice. The department hoped the extended season might slow or prevent the spread of lice to other packs. ●

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: 1/11/93

FURTHER: FINANCE *[Signature]*

Date of 5-Day Notice: 1.14.93
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 1.26.93

RESOURCES Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 43

~~"An Act~~ establishing a grant program relating to transplantation of elk."

and recommends it
be replaced with

and recommends:

replace with CS S.B. 43 (Res)

- same title
- new title
- technical title change (HB only)

attaches amendment(s)

It may be ~~that~~ reports it back with ~~an amendment~~

adopts _____ Letter of Intent *as follows*

further referral to the _____

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

FISCAL NOTE INFORMATION

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
ADE & G	1/20/93	✓	

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

Appropriation No Fiscal Note

Governor's Bill with Previous Fiscal Notes (enter information above)

DO PASS

[Signature] who signed do pass

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

True source - No Rec
Paul Hancock No Rec
Al Adams No Rec
Herb D. Loman No Rec

Mike Miller Do Pass
Chair: Signature and Recommendation

Two months later, 17 more elk, this time Rocky Mountain elk from Oregon's Elkhorn range, came to Alaska in exchange for a small number of otter. These otter became the linchpin of a 5-state deal that eventually carried Alaska's subbearers all the way to Nebraska.

By March of 1987 ADF&G had released 50 elk onto Etolin Island. Of these, 28 had radio collars.

"We monitored the deaths of over half the elk with collars within 18 months," says Land. Wolf and bear predation was blamed for cutting the population down to as little as 1/2 or 1/3 its original size. "From there they've reached 75 or 100 animals."

From a low reached approximately two years after the first implants, the elk have become acclimated to their predators, and have begun to expand quickly.

Different people put the actual size of the herd today at numbers ranging from 75 to 120 animals.

The larger figure comes from a census taken by Dennis Blackenbeckler, who estimated the herd at 120 animals, 34 of which should be bulls.

Doug Larsen of the Ketchikan office, who puts the herd at a more conservative 100 animals says that monitoring of the elk has been entirely op-

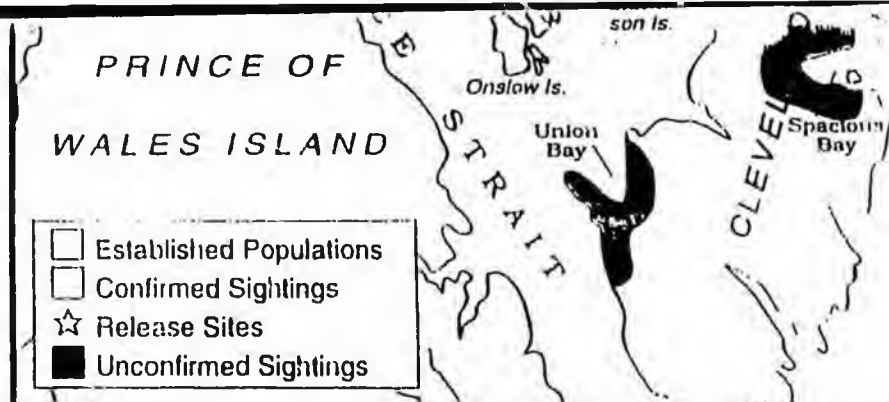
On the accompanying map, the locations of some of the different sightings are colored in. Reports from fishermen come in to Land's office, and to Dewitt's home regularly, some accompanied by fuzzy photographs or a distant video image. To be a confirmed sighting, a location needs either multiple reports from separate sources or a single report by an ADF&G observer or citizen source with a conclusive photograph. Unconfirmed reports are sightings without a conclusive photograph that have not been confirmed by separate reports.

The Taylor elk herd has come into the limelight once again with the discovery of a cow elk poached on the north side of Zarembo.

Another elk was found dead under suspicious circumstances along a road on the south end a few weeks previously, this one wearing a radio collar.

This is the second time ADF&G is aware of that the herd has been attacked by poachers. The last time, in 1988, two Ketchikan residents pulled into a harbor in Ketchikan with the racks of two bulls flying in the rigging. One of the pair received a stiff fine, the other is a fugitive from justice.

The Stikine Sportsmen's Association, based in



Wrangell, posted a \$1,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of the persons responsible for killing the elk on Zarembo. Since its introduction, the purse has quickly skyrocketed to around \$4,000 thanks to monies donated by a dozen or more Wrangell citizens.

The investigation has been stymied by a lack of information, leaving Fish and Wildlife Protection Trooper Greg Hamm (874-3215) desperate for clues.

If you have any information regarding this case do not hesitate to call Officer Hamm and leave a message.

If the herd is lucky enough to get mild winter, the numbers of elk in southeast may jump dramatically. According to Land, the elk have calved each year giving the herd a significant younger population. If this younger population survives the winter in large numbers, many more viable pairs will be available to breed next year.

Summit lakers hit Pixees

PAXSON — Late December should be a great time to hit Summit Lake, thanks to overflow earlier in the month.

According to Larry Smith of the Summit Lake Lodge (822-3969) standing water on the ice covers some fine lake trout.

"Sam Zaspro got two nice lakers a couple weeks ago," he says.

According to Smith both fish were in the 7- to 9-pound range, and had excellent flavor. More fish like these will be available in the weeks ahead,

assuming the weather holds.

"The lake is beautiful, it has a couple inches of water on it. It's 15 below so it should freeze up solid soon," reports Smith.

Zaspro took his two fish on a Pixee spoon with either a pink or red center, reports Smith. Jigging spoons of this type "seems to do the trick" for Summit's lake trout.

Most of Summit Lake lays within 10 miles of Paxson heading north along the Richardson Highway.

Mirror Lake continues to produce

ANCHORAGE — Fishing in Mirror Lake remains good according to Marvin Schmidt of Northern Recreation (376-8087).

"Fishing at Mirror Lake and Finger Lake has been good. It's also pretty good on Big Lake," he says.

The Chinook that blew through a

In recent years Mirror Lake has had trouble with excessive algae. Luckily that problem hasn't raised its head this year.

"The lake has cleared up, fish there are tasty and clean," says Schmidt.

A confessed bait fisherman, Schmidt prefers to use shrimp over other baits. Jigging fans tend toward

POW steelhead abound

KLAWOCK — If you live on Prince of Wales, or really love to fish steelhead, now is the time to blow the dust off your gear and head to Klawock.

Bob Anderson of the Fireweed Lodge (755-2930) reports that the steelhead have hit not just the Klawock River, but Eagle River, Harris Creek and Twelvemile Arm Creek as well.

"They've been real hot. I expect they'll be there for the next month or two, into January," says Anderson.

The winter steelhead run doesn't get publicized as heavily as the spring run for sev-

eral reasons. First, it's smaller and won't accommodate as many fishermen. Second, but most importantly, the weather is too unstable to predict. As a result, low fishing pressure allows a fishermen to get into some good angling just outside of downtown Klawock.

"I hesitate to market it due to the inconsistencies in the weather," testifies Anderson, "If anybody's interested they're there right now."

A few fly-in fishermen have already been testing the water, which so far remains free of ice.

Admiralty deer move high again

ANGOON — Deer hunting around the south end of Admiralty Island got a little more difficult early this month but should improve as snow pushes the animals back down the hills.

Ed Ledoux of Whaler's Cove Lodge (788-3123) says that deer on Admiralty were a bit hard

Butch Young of the Sitka ADF&G office (75449) was not nearly as optimistic.

"Hunting on south Admiralty is not good," says. "They could be up high, or they could be gone, we don't really know."

Kurt Abell, also of Whaler's Cove Lodge to

F&H NEWS EXCLUSIVE: ETOLIN ISLAND ELK

Taylor's elk, 5 years later: Ready to hunt?

by Robin Taylor
Alaska editor

PETERSBURG — It took 24 years according to Robert Dewitt, president of the Ketchikan Sportsmen's Association (225-4002), but one fine day in 1987, a small group of 33 Roosevelt elk found themselves alone on Etolin Island. Joined a few months later by 17 Rocky Mountain elk, the animals have eked out a living, and have finally begun to expand to other islands in Southeast.

This year, ADF&G is considering the request of the Ketchikan Sportsmen's Association to approve the herd's first permit hunt in 1993.

This hunt, if approved, will herald the first elk ever taken by an Alaskan sport hunter in south-east Alaska.

"The project started with a bill in the legislature calling for not less than 30 and not more than 100 elk on Etolin Island," says Petersburg ADF&G biologist Charlie Land (772-3801). "A companion piece got \$50,000 to pay for it."

The bill was sponsored by now-Senator Robin Taylor (father of the *F&H News* Alaska editor). It met with stiff resistance from ADF&G who feared that elk could not co-exist with deer on Etolin Island.

Thankfully those fears have not been born out. Video footage of deer lingering near the elk, assumedly for protection from the wolves did a lot to assuage fears that the two species might not mix. Similarly, that same footage showed the elk grazing on grass, a type of foliage basically ignored by Sitka blacktail deer, calming concerns that the elk and deer might compete over food.

Taken from the Jewel Meadows in Oregon the first 33 elk were paid for with goats captured near Ketchikan. Each goat brought two elk apiece. The first release was in January of 1987.

Two months later, 17 more elk, this time Rocky Mountain elk from Oregon's Elkhorn range, came to Alaska in exchange for a small number of otter. These otter became the linchpin of a 5-state deal that eventually carried Alaska's furbearers all the way to Nebraska.

By March of 1987 ADF&G had released 50 elk onto Etolin Island. Of these, 28 had radio collars.

"We monitored the deaths of over half the elk with collars within 18 months," says Land. Wolf and bear predation was blamed for cutting the population down to as little as 1/2 or 1/3 its original size. "From there they've reached 75 or 100 animals."

From a low reached approximately two years after the first implants, the elk have become acclimated to their predators, and have begun to expand quickly.

Different people put the actual size of the herd today at numbers ranging from 75 to 120 animals.

The larger figure comes from a census taken by Dennis Blackenbecker, who estimated the herd at 120 animals, 34 of which should be bulls.

Doug Larsen of the Ketchikan office, who puts the herd at a more conservative 100 animals says that monitoring of the elk has been entirely op-

portunistic. This generally means that little effort is made to actively find the elk. Overflights will pick up the occasional radio collar as they did on Oct. 12 of this year, and sometimes non-collared elk are spotted on beaches and in open areas, but little active counting of the elk goes on.

"About the only way we can find them is by following the radio collars," says Larsen.

Larsen confesses that recent estimations of the herd size have had to be extrapolated from a low number of sightings and the very few radio collars that are still in operation. The collars were given a 3-year battery that theoretically should have expired in January 1990. Larsen believes there are 6 still in operation.

The behavior of the two subgroups released on Etolin 5 years ago differs greatly. The Roosevelt subgroup has stayed within a few miles of its release point in Dewey Anchorage throughout their stay on the island. Land reports that over the last year or so the herd has begun to migrate up and down the hillsides with the change of seasons — typical of their Oregon ancestors.

The Rocky Mountain subgroup, by contrast, has practically grown wings. Reports of elk have come from differing points on Etolin, Bushy, Shrubby, Mitkof, Deer, Brownson, Zarembo, and the islands of Three Way Passage. Amazingly, some of these islands are separated by stretches of water over a mile wide at their narrowest point.

The latest report places a small group of elk on the south side of Cleveland Peninsula, in Spacious Bay. Almost assuredly Rocky Mountain Elk, this group was reported to Robert Dewitt in Ketchikan (225-4002).

"They're going like gangbusters," he says.

According to Land, the Rocky Mountain elk have established themselves on both Etolin and Zarembo. The elk on Zarembo had two radio collars going for a time and sightings are regularly reported by passing fishermen.

On the accompanying map, the locations of some of the different sightings are colored in. Reports from fishermen come in to Land's office, and to Dewitt's home regularly, some accompanied by fuzzy photographs or a distant video image. To be a confirmed sighting, a location needs either multiple reports from separate sources or a single report by an ADF&G observer or citizen source with a conclusive photograph. Unconfirmed reports are sightings without a conclusive photograph that have not been confirmed by separate reports.

The Taylor elk herd has come into the limelight once again with the discovery of a cow elk poached on the north side of Zarembo.

Another elk was found dead under suspicious circumstances along a road on the south end a few weeks previously, this one wearing a radio collar.

This is the second time ADF&G is aware of that the herd has been attacked by poachers. The last time, in 1988, two Ketchikan residents pulled into a harbor in Ketchikan with the racks of two bulls flying in the rigger. One of the pair received a stiff fine, the other is a fugitive from justice.

The Sitka Sportsmen's Association, based in

TAYLOR'S ELK 5 YEARS LATER



Wrangell, posted a \$1,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of the persons responsible for killing the elk on Zarembo. Since its introduction, the purse has quickly skyrocketed to around \$4,000 thanks to monies donated by a dozen or more Wrangell citizens.

The investigation has been stymied by a lack of information, leaving Fish and Wildlife Protection Trooper Greg Hamm (874-3215) desperate for clues.

If you have any information regarding this case do not hesitate to call Office Hamm and leave a message.

If the herd is lucky enough to get mild winter, the numbers of elk in southeast may jump dramatically. According to Land, the elk have calved each year giving the herd a significant younger population. If this younger population survives the winter in large numbers, many more viable pairs will be available to breed next year.

Summit lakers hit Pixees

PAXSON — Late December should be a great time to hit Summit Lake, thanks to overflow earlier in the month.

According to Larry Smith of the Summit Lake Lodge (822-3969) standing water on the ice covers some fine lake trout.

"Sam Zaspro got two nice lakers a couple weeks ago," he says.

According to Smith both fish were in the 7- to 9-pound range, and had excellent flavor. More fish like these will be available in the weeks ahead,

assuming the weather holds.

"The lake is beautiful, it has a couple inches of water on it. It's 15 below so it should freeze up solid soon," reports Smith.

Zaspro took his two fish on a Pixee spoon with either a pink or red center, reports Smith. Jigging spoons of this type "seems to do the trick" for Summit's lake trout.

Most of Summit Lake lays within 10 miles of Paxson heading north along the Richardson Highway.

Mirror Lake continues to produce

ANCHORAGE — Fishing in Mirror Lake remains good according to Marvin Schmidt of Northern Recreation (376-8087).

"Fishing at Mirror Lake and Finger Lake has been good. It's also pretty good on Big Lake," he says.

The Chinook that blew through a few weeks ago hasn't left any enduring marks on the ice. As a result fishermen armed with a Swedish Pimple or two can get into some good schools of landlocked kings.

In recent years Mirror Lake has had trouble with excessive algae. Luckily that problem hasn't raised its head this year.

"The lake has cleared up, fish there are tasty and clean," says Schmidt.

A confessed bait fisherman, Schmidt prefers to use shrimp over other baits. Jigging fans tend toward the Swedish Pimple.

Mirror Lake lays about halfway between Wasilla and Anchorage just off the Glenn Highway. Take either the Eklutna or Peter's creek exits.

POW steelhead abound

KLAWOCK — If you live on Prince of Wales, or really love to fish steelhead, now is the time to blow the dust off your gear and head to Klawock.

Bob Anderson of the Fireweed Lodge (755-2930) reports that the steelhead have hit not just the Klawock River, but Eagle River, Harris Creek and Twelvemile Arm Creek as well.

"They've been real hot. I expect they'll be there for the next month or two, into January," says Anderson.

The winter steelhead run doesn't get publicized as heavily as the spring run for sev-

eral reasons. First, it's smaller and won't accommodate as many fishermen. Second, but most importantly, the weather is too unstable to predict. As a result, low fishing pressure allows a fishermen to get into some good angling just outside of downtown Klawock.

"I hesitate to market it due to the inconsistencies in the weather," testifies Anderson, "If anybody's interested they're there right now."

A few fly-in fishermen have already been testing the water, which so far remains free of ice.

Admiralty deer move high again

ANGOON — Deer hunting around the south end of Admiralty Island got a little more difficult early this month but should improve as snow pushes the animals back down the hills.

Ed Ledoux of Whaler's Cove Lodge (788-3123) says that deer on Admiralty were a bit hard to find.

"I just came in from deer hunting and the deer have moved up again," he reports. "They'll be coming down with the snow."

Butch Young of the Sitka ADF&G office (754-49) was not nearly as optimistic.

"Hunting on south Admiralty is not good," says. "They could be up high, or they could be gone, we don't really know."

Kurt Abell, also of Whaler's Cove Lodge to *F&H News* that the south end of Admiralty land holds a good population of deer. While does not recommend hunting near the village, eas like upper Eliza Harbor and Pybus Bay yield bucks.