

S B

8 1

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 81(FIN)

Revision Date:	1/29/96	Dept. Affected:	Fish and Game
Title:	An Act classifying the wolf as a predator and providing for a bounty on wolf	BRU:	Wildlife Conservation
Sponsor:	Senator Sharp	Component:	Wildlife Conservation
Requester:	House Resources	COMPONENT SERIAL NO.:	473

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)
---------------------------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

POSITIONS	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Assumptions:

1. Loss of revenue from sale of nonresident tags, which are eliminated by this bill, is expected to be constant over next few years at 50.0/annum.
2. Incentive payments will be made from special annual general fund appropriations.
3. Expenditures are based on Board of Game approval of harvest incentives for GMUs 13, 19D, 20A and 20D.
4. No funding estimates are included for enforcement against fraudulent harvest incentives paid for wolves taken from areas outside those identified by the Board. Any enforcement costs will be assumed by Department of Public Safety.
5. For identified subunits, 350 wolves will be turned in for payment annually--slightly higher than at present.
6. Program will commence in winter/spring 96-97 under expedited regulations adopted by board.

Prepared by: Ken Taylor, Deputy Director
 Division: Wildlife Conservation

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4192
 Date: 1/29/96

Date: 1-31-96

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
 For further distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SSB 81(FIN)

Revision Date: 4/26/95 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: Classifying wolf as a predator BRU: Wildlife Conservation
 Component: Wildlife Conservation
 Sponsor: Senator Sharp
 Requester: Senate Finance COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 473

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)
------------------------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0	85.0

Estimate of any current year (FY95) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Loss of revenue from sale of nonresident tags, which are eliminated by this bill is expected to be constant over the next few years at \$50.0/annum.
2. Incentive payments will be made from special annual general fund appropriations.
3. Expenditures based on Board of Game approval of harvest incentives for GMUs 13, 19D, 20A and 20D.
4. No funding estimates are included for enforcement against fraudulent harvest incentives paid for wolves taken from areas outside those identified by the board. Any enforcement costs will be assumed by Dept. of Public Safety.
5. For identified subunits, 350 wolves will be turned in for payment annually--slightly higher than present.
6. Program will commence in winter/spring 95-96 under expedited regulations adopted by the board.

Prepared by: Wayne L. Regelin, Acting Director *Geison Bruce for* Phone: 485-4190
 Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: 4/28/95
 Approved by Commissioner: Frank Rue *Geison Bruce for* Date: 4/28/95
 Agency: Fish and Game

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

For further distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT P

CHAIRMAN
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
RULES COMMITTEE



FAIRBANKS

DENALI BANK BUILDING
119 N. CUSHMAN, SUITE 201
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 452-7885/7886

SESSION ADDRESS

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
(907) 465-3004/4921

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

CSSB-81(FIN)

Section 1. AS 16.35 is amended to add a new section to read:

ARTICLE 2. WOLF.

Section 16.35.210 Re-classifies wolf as an unclassified game animal and furbearer.

(a) the Department of Fish & Game may not classify the wolf as a big game animal and shall designate the wolf as an unclassified animal.

(b) wolf may be taken by any methods or means approved for unclassified game in the game management unit the wolf is taken.

Section 16.35.220 Establishes a HARVEST INCENTIVE.

(a) directs the department of Fish and Game to pay a \$200 harvest incentive for each wolf taken in a Board approved area. The wolf must be presented to an office designated by the Commissioner, or a regional office of the department for identification and sealing or marking. The harvest incentive may be paid only to residents.

(b) a person claiming a harvest incentive must present to the department the raw skin with right foreleg attached in a natural state, including ulna and radius bones. To indicate the harvest incentive has been paid, the department shall keep the foreleg and mark or seal the skin. After the skin has been sealed or marked, the claimant may keep the skin. The department must pay the harvest incentive within 30 days after the skin has been presented.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA

Section 2. AS 08.54.590(2) is amended to read:

(2) defines "big game" to mean brown bear, grizzly bear, caribou, moose, black bear, bison, Sitka blacktail deer, elk, mountain goat, musk-ox, wolverine, mountain or Dall sheep.....(removes wolf).

Section 3. TRANSITION. Notwithstanding AS 16.35.210 as added by sec. 1 and sec 4 of this Act, a person holding an unused tag for wolf issued under AS 16.05.340(a) before the effective date of section 1 of this Act, as those regulations existed on the day before the effective date of section 1, may take a wolf before January 1, 1997

Section 4.. Repeals AS 16.05.340(a)(15)(J) and AS 16.05.340(a)(21)(K).

Current Status: (H) RES

	Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page		Action
1	02/09/95	222	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
2	02/09/95	222	(S)	RESOURCES
3	03/28/95	808	(S)	RES RPT CS 5DP 1NR NEW TITLE
4	03/28/95	808	(S)	FN TO SB & CS (F&G)
5	03/28/95	808	(S)	FIN REFERRAL ADDED
6	04/26/95	1248	(S)	FIN RPT CS 3DP 3NR NEW TITLE
7	04/27/95	1269	(S)	FN TO FIN CS (F&G)
8	04/29/95	1337	(S)	RULES TO CALENDAR 4/29/95
9	04/29/95	1340	(S)	READ THE SECOND TIME
10	04/29/95	1340	(S)	FIN CS ADOPTED UNAN CONSENT
11	04/29/95	1341	(S)	ADVANCE TO 3RD READING FLD Y12 N6 E2
12	04/29/95	1341	(S)	THIRD READING 4/30 CALENDAR
13	04/30/95	1366	(S)	READ THE THIRD TIME CSSB 81(FIN)
14	04/30/95	1367	(S)	PASSED Y13 N5 E2
15	04/30/95	1367	(S)	ADAMS NOTICE OF RECONSIDERATION
16	05/01/95	1396	(S)	RECON TAKEN UP - IN THIRD READING
17	05/01/95	1396	(S)	PASSED ON RECONSIDERATION Y12 N7 E1
18	05/01/95	1398	(S)	TRANSMITTED TO (H)
	Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page		Action
1	05/02/95	1728	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
2	05/02/95	1728	(H)	RESOURCES, FINANCE

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP
DISTRICT P
CHAIRMAN
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
RULES COMMITTEE



FAIRBANKS
DENALI BANK BUILDING
119 N. CUSHMAN, SUITE 201
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 452-7885/7886
SESSION ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 511
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801 1132
(907) 461-3004/4921

Senate

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSSB-81

Why It's Time to Re-instate a Harvest Incentive on Wolves

1. History of season accessibility to game by Alaskan Hunters as determined by open season lengths.

	<u>Moose</u>	<u>Caribou</u>
1965	Aug. 20 - Sept. 30 - 40 Nov. 15 - 30 - <u>15</u> 55	Aug. 10 - Sept. 30 - 50 Nov. 10 - Feb. 28 - <u>110</u> 160
1995	Sept. 1 - 10/5 - 15 Many with no general open seasons.	Most accessible areas have no general open seasons.

Why were the seasons so liberal in the '60's?

The State inherited large healthy game populations from the Fed's at the time of statehood. Fed's vigorously managed predators by a bounty system, aerial hunting and a poison program. The state continued the bounty program for approximately 7 - years.

What happened? Why are there vast areas in Alaska closed to hunting for 85% of Alaskans?



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA

The last four Governors, and now Governor Knowles, have consistently ignored the recommendations of the Department of Fish and Game calling for intensive predator control actions. These were Department's actions based on bookcases full of scientific studies, game survey results that costs tens of millions of dollars, and years of public testimony.

The actions of Hickel and Knowles have twice squashed pilot wolf reduction programs which meticulously evolved out of years of planning, public input and Board actions, and it only applied to 6,500 square miles, less than 1% of our state lands.

Previous governors as well as the current governor choose to thwart Department, Board, Public and Legislative directions for predator control programs by executive orders, removal of key personnel and shifting legislatively approved funding to other passive management areas.

Two years ago, this legislature passed intensive game management mandate legislation.

At the December, 1994 and March, 1995 Board of Game meetings, public proposals called for intensive management implementation in Game management Units 13, 19, 20D, 20A,20C and 25C.

At the December meeting, the Department gave the following Review on Unit 13:

1. Another deep snow tough winter this year which will make it an unprecedented four in a row.
2. Moose populations down 20-25% and continuing down.
3. Moose calf and "15 month yearling" populations are at extremely low levels which will cause additional deterioration of Unit 13 Moose numbers.
4. A higher than average wolf population with strong indications of a much lower wolf harvest by trappers and hunters this season.

5. Continued record high levels of Grizzly bear populations levels.

Based on the state statute on intensive management and this criteria, what do you think a responsible Department would recommend? Reduce wolf population, liberalize bear hunting seasons from 1 every 4 years to leach year. Planned control burn to improve habitat? The fact is none of the above. No resource management recommendations from the Department to the Board on Unit 13.

The Department of Fish and Game ignored these warning signals and gave their standard signal, business as usual, proposing reduced seasons and more stringent antler size limitations. Continue managing people not the resource.

See memo from PRC Members dated 12/15/94.

At the next Board meeting, 3 1/2 months later, the only positive action was reluctant approval to liberalize bear harvest in Unit 13. This was done by the Board without a recommendation from a passive Department. No active predator control was authorized.

I would like to continue to work toward getting the Department resources focused on resource management not people management. Budget shifts can get the job done with no increase in costs. We are trying to do this.

Some who will come forward in opposition of this bill will justify their testimony by saying we must keep politics out of the game management process.

I can only reply that we are at this point only because of blackmail politics by special interest groups who are financed primarily by outside interest. They have totally thwarted and frustrated the public process in our state.

This bill is a simple statement. Alaskans demand that this resource be managed with their best interest being the paramount issue.

This bill is here because of politics destroying wise game management in our state.

Many believe this bill is far from what is needed. They point to sections which still leaves the power to initiate harvest incentive at the discretion of the Board of Game. At this time, I am still hopeful the Board will use this authority in specific areas where high predator populations are a major contributing factor in destroying game resource availability to Alaskans.

This bill simply stated gives the Board of Game the authority and a tool to put the power back into the hands of the people in an arena where government has miserably failed.

Careful examination of this bill reveals another feature. It's an Alaskan Hire piece of legislation. Thank you.



Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

P.O. Box 22151

Juneau, Alaska 99802

Phone: 907-463-3366

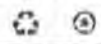
Fax: 907-463-3312

January 30, 1996

Good morning Mr. Chairman, My name is Bo Forrest. I am a volunteer for the Alaska Environmental Lobby, and I am here to voice our collective concerns regarding SB81. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for this opportunity to testify.

SB81 is a prime example of extreme politicians trying to strong-arm inappropriate legislation into law. This legislation denies economic reason. The last wolf-kill legislation the state implemented was budgeted for 100,000 dollars, but ultimately the state shelled out over 229,000 dollars for 120 mutilated carcasses. This doesn't include legal expenditures for defending such irresponsible policy in the eyes of an outraged state, nation, and planet.

Currently, 675,000 dollars is earmarked for the proposed wolf-bounty program, a program which could realistically pay out cash for the skin and foreleg of a protected wolf, or even a wolf from another country. There is no way to control the location of the proposed killing, and the skin remains with the person receiving the bounty. Who can say with certainty what the bottom line will be?



Furthermore, there will be lawsuits, loss of tourism revenue, public hearings, and the loss of public confidence in our political system and Alaska's ability to manage its wildlife in responsible and sustainable way.

Many legislators proclaim the highest and best use of our wildlife is provided through human consumptive use of this wildlife. ADF&G, however, has recent economic research figures indicating that the large number of tourists that visit the state each year would pay higher amounts of cash to view Alaska's big game populations, including wolves and bears, than would the handful of recreational hunters that feel they don't have an adequate chance of killing something unless they are the sole predator on the clock that particular day. And under the Alaska State Constitution's "common use clause," Alaska wildlife belongs to ALL Alaskan's, not only the consumptive use bidders OR the highest users. There are a multitude of wildlife interests in Alaska, and SB81 threatens the balance of the community at the focal-point of those combined interests.

Passage of this bill will be political suicide. In the face of public censure based on existing scientific evidence and consensus, this bill represents a contemptuous response to a workable problem. If in extreme cases wolf control is needed in specific circumstances, lets make scientific decisions backed by public understanding and support.

The current policies allowing the killing of wolves with strangulation snares, steel-jawed traps, the use of all-terrain-vehicles and snow-machines combined with semi-automatic assault rifles, and the same-day land and shoot approach using air-craft already has Alaska under world-wide scrutiny. The additional bounty on wolves is unnecessary and unacceptable.

Many past policies are no longer acceptable. Bounties have not been successful throughout their history in this state, and there's no reason to suffer through another attempt now. Alaska's physical and biological complexities deserve responsible and realistic nurturing towards a sustainable and optimal yield, not a reductionism approach to management.

The proposal before you is not a well-meaning attempt to exploit responsibly, but a stumbling, uncontrolled, and unnecessary lunge at a monster that does not exist beyond the boundaries of a few archaic minds.

This is the same type of mentality that called for and received a bounty on the American Bald Eagle, a bounty that was in effect from 1915 until as recently as 1953 in Alaska. Have we not learned our lesson yet? The cost of each dead wolf will well exceed it's 200 dollar limit. In the end, Alaska will pay with Her soul.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.