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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB - 81

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

1. History of season accessibility by Alaskan Hunters.

	<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 with 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 aerial hunting and a poison program. The state continued the bounty program for approximately 7 - years

What happened?

The last four Governors, Sheffield, Cowper, Hickel and now Knowles have consistently ignored the recommendations of the Department of Fish and Game calling for intensive predator control actions. Recommended actions that were based on bookcases full of scientific studies, game survey results, and years of public testimony.

The actions of Hickel and Knowles have squashed a pilot wolf reduction program which was both 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.

Previous governors choose to thwart Department, Board, Public and Legislative directions for predator control programs by executive orders and removal of key personnel

Last year this legislature passed intensive game management mandate legislation.

At the December 1st and 2nd Board of Game meeting. Public proposals called for intensive management implementation Game management Units 13, 19, 20D and 20A.

Review Unit 13 Department presentation.

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 population levels.

Indications of business as usual. Reduce seasons. Continue managing people not the resource.

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

March Board of Game meeting will be crucial.

My constituents tell me to cut the state budget first where the state isn't doing their job. I would like to continue to work toward getting the Department resources focused on resource management not people management. Budget shift can get the job done with no increase in costs.

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.

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.

This bill simply stated puts 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.

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

SB-81

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

ARTICLE 2. WOLF.

Section 16.35.21 Classifies wolf as predator.

- (a) a wolf as a predator not a big game animal or a furbearing animal.
- (b) there are no restrictions as to the method or means of taking a wolf.
- (c) a wolf may be taken without any restrictions or bag limit.

Section 16.35.220 Establishes a Bounty on wolves.

- (a) directs the department of Fish and Game to pay a \$400 bounty for each wolf taken in the state. 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.
- (b) a person claiming a bounty must present to the department the raw skin with right foreleg attached in a natural state, including ulna and radius bones. to indicate the bounty 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 bounty within 30 days after the skin has been presented.
- (c) All claims presented under this section must be paid by the state. The bounty payment is a legal obligation of the state.

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.

Section 3. Notwithstanding AS 16.35.210(1)and(2), 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, 1996

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

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
POSITION PAPER

Bill No: SB 81

Sponsor: Senator Sharp

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Bill Title: "An Act classifying the wolf as a predator and providing for a bounty on wolf."

Department Position: Oppose

Background/Legislative Intent: This bill would offer monetary incentives and eliminate state regulatory restrictions on the taking of wolves in order to (1) increase the number of wolves taken in Alaska, (2) reduce predation by wolves on their prey, and (3) increase the availability of ungulate populations for human consumptive uses.

Analysis of Bill/Program Effects: If enacted into law, the bill would produce few, if any, positive wildlife management benefits. This bill would have negative biological, fiscal, enforcement, political, and public relations impacts.

- Regulations governing the taking of wolves would be eliminated. Wolves could be taken by any methods or means including by use of aircraft, helicopters, poison, deaning, types and sizes of traps and snares particularly dangerous to the public and nontarget species, radio communications, machine guns, explosives, motor vehicles in motion, and other means currently prohibited.
- Bounty hunters could legally track and target radio-collared wolves that are subjects of scientific research by ADF&G and federal agencies. Destruction of collared animals for bounties would compromise those research projects.
- Seasons, bag limits, hunting/trapping licenses, tags, mandatory sealing and report requirements would be eliminated.
- Enforcement and prosecutions of "methods and means" violations for other game species would be complicated by violators who would claim in defense that they were hunting wolves.
- This bill would allow the live-trapping and possession of wolves, as well as unregulated ownership, transfer, purchase, sale, breeding and exhibition of wolves and wolf hybrids in Alaska.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) considerations may preempt all wolf harvests in Alaska. Under the ESA, the Secretary of Interior may list species as threatened or endangered due to "the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms." This bill would eliminate all regulatory mechanisms and would contribute to a federal threatened species listing for the wolf in Southeast Alaska (Alexander Archipelago wolf) and possibly elsewhere in the state. In consequence, there would be a complete prohibition on harvest of wolves, and the

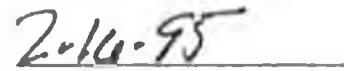
resulting increased pressure on prey populations could force the Board of Game to curtail hunting opportunities for ungulates. In addition, restrictions on the modification of endangered species habitat (i.e., logging in the Tongass National Forest) would likely follow. Delisting, at a minimum, would require reestablishment of effective regulations.

- In most, if not all states, statewide bounties on all species have been eliminated as a game management tool because they are costly, difficult to administer, unpopular with the public, and indiscriminate. As in this bill, bounties do not target specific areas where predator control may be effective and useful, and bounties increase harvests where predator populations may be too low, in jeopardy, or already at desirable levels.
- During the past five years, approximately 1170 wolves have been harvested annually. Before the financial incentive of a wolf bounty would yield results in the form of increased harvest, the department would have to spend nearly \$500.0 in bounties for wolves currently taken in the absence of a bounty. In addition, the department would lose about \$50.0 annually from the sale of nonresident big game tags.
- Biological, fiscal and enforcement concerns aside, wolves are important components of healthy, naturally functioning ecosystems and are highly regarded among Americans as the embodiment of wilderness. If passed, this bill inevitably will result in tremendous public controversy, become the centerpiece of animal rights and anti-hunting campaigns, and engender out-of-state boycotts of Alaska and Alaskan products.

Wolves are a highly sought after big game species and should be managed in a manner similar to other wildlife, in balance with their habitat and with human needs. The department believes the existing regulatory system and management programs for wolves are preferable to the proposed bill and can better achieve the desired purpose of reducing predation on specific big game populations, while minimizing the likelihood that federal agencies will assume management authority.



Commissioner's Signature



Date

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/9/95

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2-16-95
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 3-28-95

Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 81

"An Act classifying the wolf as a predator and providing for a bounty on wolf."

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS SB 81 (RES)
- adopt previous CS _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to the _____ Committee

Senate Bill:
 same title
 new title
 House Bill:
 technical change
 new: SCR^o _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Lynn Huff</i>	X	<i>Lynn Huff</i>	X		
<i>Adrian Taylor</i>	X	<i>Adrian Taylor</i>	X		
<i>Shirley</i>	✓				
<i>Rick Halford</i>	✓				
CHAIR: <i>Loren A. Stroman</i>	✓				

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
DF+C	2-16		6.75

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*Include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1995 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 81

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

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	675.0	675.0	574.0	574.0	574.0	574.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	675.0	675.0	574.0	574.0	574.0	574.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)	(50.0)
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FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	675.0	675.0	574.0	574.0	574.0	574.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	675.0	675.0	574.0	574.0	574.0	574.0

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

POSITIONS

POSITIONS	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
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) Annual loss of revenue from sale of nonresident tag fees, which are eliminated by this bill, expected to be constant over next few years.
- 2) Bounty payments made from special annual general fund appropriations.
- 3) Bounty incentive and elimination of restrictions on take will boost harvest of wolves by 25% over short term.
- 4) Within two years harvest in southeast Alaska (15% of statewide total) prohibited by federal listing of Alexander Archipelago wolf as a "threatened" species.

Prepared by: Wayne L. Regelin, Acting Director *WR*
 Division: Wildlife Conservation
 Approved by Commissioner: Frank Rice
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4192
 Date: 2/15/95
 Date: 2-16-95

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CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 81(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Taylor, Miller

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act amending the Fish and Game Code by ~~removing 'wolf' from the~~
2 ~~definition of 'big game'~~; relating to the classification and taking of wolves; and
3 providing for a ~~harvest incentive~~ on wolves ~~taken in areas designated by the~~
4 ~~Board of Game.~~"

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

6 * Section 1. AS 16.35 is amended by adding new sections to read:

7 ARTICLE 2. WOLF.

8 Sec. 16.35.210. WOLF. (a) The wolf is an unclassified game animal and a
9 fur bearing animal. The department and the ~~Board of Game may not classify the wolf~~
10 ~~as a big game animal and shall designate the wolf as an unclassified game animal.~~

11 (b) ~~A wolf may be taken by any method or means approved for unclassified~~
12 ~~game or furbearers in the game management unit or subunit in which the wolf is taken.~~

13 Sec. 16.35.220. HARVEST INCENTIVE. (a) The department shall pay a
14 harvest incentive of \$200 for each wolf taken ~~in a harvest incentive area designated~~

1 ~~by the Board of Game~~ and presented for identification and sealing or marking at an
2 office of the department designated by the commissioner or at a regional office of the
3 department designated by the commissioner.

4 (b) A person who claims the harvest incentive on a wolf shall present the raw
5 skin with the right foreleg, including ulna and radius bones, attached in a natural state.
6 The department shall retain the right foreleg and seal or mark each skin presented to
7 indicate that the harvest incentive had been paid for that skin. The claimant may
8 retain the skin after it is sealed or marked. The department shall pay the harvest
9 incentive to the claimant within 30 days after presentment of the skin.

10 * Sec. 2. AS 08.54.590(2) is amended to read:

11 (2) "big game" means brown bear, grizzly bear, caribou, moose, black
12 bear, bison, Sitka blacktail deer, elk, mountain goat, musk-ox, [WOLF,] wolverine,
13 mountain or Dall sheep;

14 * Sec. 3. TRANSITION. Notwithstanding AS 16.35.210, as added by sec. 1 of this Act
15 and sec. 4 of this Act, a person who holds an unused big game tag for wolf issued under
16 AS 16.05.340(a) before the effective date of sec. 1 of this Act may take a wolf before
17 January 1, 1996, under big game hunting regulations for wolf as those regulations existed on
18 the day before the effective date of sec. 1 of this Act.

19 * Sec. 4. AS 16.05.340(a)(15)(J) and 16.05.340(a)(21)(K) are repealed.

9-LS0637K
Utermohle
3/24/95

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 81()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Taylor, Miller

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Alaska State Legislature


Session:
State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Senate Resources Committee

Interim:
716 W 4th Avenue
Anchorage AK 99501-2133

MEMO

TO: Senator Halford, Chairman
SB 81 Resources Subcommittee
and Senator Lincoln, Subcommittee member
Senator Frank, Subcommittee member
Senator Sharp, Sponsor of SB 81
Senator Leman, Resources Committee Chairman

FROM: Annette Kreitzer, Aide 
Senate Resources Committee

DATE: March 25, 1995

RE: CS SB 81 Version K: Wolf as Predator

Attached is the committee substitute for SB 81. This is the language agreed upon in the March 23 subcommittee hearing.

The bill is scheduled for the full Resources Committee Monday, March 27, when the subcommittee chairman is expected to present the committee substitute in the subcommittee report.

9-LS0637C
Utermohle
2/20/95

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 81()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Taylor, Miller

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8 (c) Wolf may be taken without a bag limit, a limitation on sex, age, size, or other
9 restriction.

10 Sec. 16.35.220. BOUNTY (a) The department shall pay a bounty of \$400 for
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DRAFT

HISTORY OF GMU 20A WOLF CONTROL PROGRAMS

Wolf predator programs in Alaska have been a part of wildlife management since pre-statehood. With wide-spread wolf reduction campaigns of the 1940's and 1950's, although poorly documented, it's generally agreed that such programs contributed significantly to high moose and caribou populations of the early 1960's.

In the 1970's and 1980's, site-specific aerial wolf control programs were conducted in Alaska. The best documented wolf control programs were conducted in Game Management Unit 20A.

As reported to the Board of Game, Game Management Unit (GMU) 20A consists of approximately 6,500 square miles just south of Fairbanks. Due to its proximity to Fairbanks, there is a staunch traditional history of hunting concentrated in the area, with moose and caribou the primary big game species pursued by both local and non-local resident hunters.

In response to public demands, the Board of Game and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have managed big game and predator populations to provide enhanced hunting opportunity and harvest of wild food animals such as moose and caribou. Reduction of predator population has been necessary to achieve and maintain the level of harvest desired.

The strategic wolf management plan adopted by the Board of Game in November 1991 reflected a broad public interest in a comprehensive management strategy for wolves in Alaska. The strategic plan called for development of an area-specific and implementation plan. These plans were completed and presented to the Board of Game at both the March and November 1992 meetings.

The Board adopted regulations in November 1992 authorizing wolf reduction in GMU 20A to begin in 1993. Those regulations authorized aerial shooting of wolves as the most humane, selective, and effective method to reduce wolf numbers.

In June 1993, after a period of public debates, the Board of Game rescinded the regulation authorizing aerial wolf controls and adopted regulations prescribing ground-based reduction of wolf predation on the Delta caribou herd in GMU 20A. Two objectives are stated in the regulations:

- (1) To reverse the decline of the Delta Caribou herd and increase the mid-summer population to 6,000-8,000 with a sustainable annual harvest of 300-500 caribou by the year 1998; and

(2) To determine whether ground-based control methods can effectively reduce wolf numbers temporarily to reverse declines in prey populations.

The wolf-reduction, within specified constraints, was authorized for a 3-year period beginning October 1, 1993, in a 4,000 square mile control area south of Fairbanks and on the north side of the Alaska Range within GMU 20A. This area includes 60% of GMU 20A and excludes Military Reservations and lands adjacent to Denali National Park.

During each year of the program a minimum of 35 wolves would be left within the control area and at least 100 wolves would remain in GMU 20A.

The Delta Caribou herd survey indicated a decline from a high of 10,700 animals in 1989 to between 3,700-4,000 in 1993 due to factors including weather and predation. Hunting of the Delta Caribou herd became restrictive in 1990 and was closed in November 1991. Without relief from wolf predation the herd was expected to decline to 2,000-3,000 caribou by 1996.

Wolf populations in GMU 20A, reported to be 250-295 animals in 30 to 34 different packs, was not expected to decline naturally because of relatively high moose populations in the area.

The Record of Decision regarding the implementation of the Wolf Predation Control Plan was completed and approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game in October 1993.

During the first year of the wolf control program beginning October 1993, through April 1994, Department personnel removed a total of 38 wolves from the control area, using 1050 snares and 24 leg hold traps at 32 locations. Of these, 3 were taken in leg hold traps, 13 were shot from the ground, and 22 were taken in snares. Hunters and trappers took an additional 39 wolves from the control area and 25 from the remainder of GMU 20A. Approximately 100-110 wolves remained in GMU 20A with 45 wolves located in the control area.

In addition to the 38 wolves, 76 non-targeted animals were incidentally caught in traps and snares including moose (29), red fox (25), coyote (7), caribou (7), wolverine (2), Grizzly bear (2), Snowshoe Hare (1), and a Raven (1). Four Golden eagles were also caught, of which two were released unharmed. Of the 29 moose caught in snares, 12 died. Of the other 17 moose, 5 escaped unharmed from the experimental "breakaway snares" being developed and tested, 5 were immobilized and released unharmed, and the remaining 5 escaped due to malfunctions of the snare.

A photo census of the Delta Caribou herd on June 30, 1994, indicated a minimum herd size of 4,341 which represents an increase of nearly 700 caribou over the 1993 photo census of 3,661. The increase in numbers was comprised almost entirely of calves. Fall composition surveys in October 1994, indicated over half of the 600-700 calves alive in June died between July and September. Enough calves remained to prevent further decline of the herd but no significant recovery was expected.

On December 1, 1994, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner suspended the state's ground-based wolf control program pending a review of the program, and the incident which occurred on November 29, 1994. This incident involved three wolves that were caught in snares in the wolf control area which was documented by a representative of several animal rights organizations.

At the time the wolf control program was terminated a total of 69 wolves had been taken during the 94-95 trapping period using 635 snares at 26 different locations.

During the two years (93-94, 94-95) of the wolf control program, a total of 126 wolves were taken of which 37 wolves were found alive in traps or snares. During the 93-94 trapping season 98 wolves were taken, 26 of which were found alive, 4 were caught by the leg, and 1 was caught around the body. During the 94-95 trapping season 28 wolves were taken, 12 were found alive with 2 caught by the leg and, 2 caught around the body. The 3 animals caught by the leg and 1 caught around the body were those photographed during the November 29th incident.

The animals that were found alive in both program years were dispatched with several weapons which included rifles and a revolver in .22 long rifle and .22 magnum caliber. Other weapons available and used were .223, .243, .35-06, .257 Weatherby, and .300 Winchester Magnum caliber rifles. In addition, an immobilization kit and dart gun were carried to release non-targeted incidentally caught species.

REVIEW OF GMU 20A WOLF CONTROL PROGRAM

The Department of Public Safety review of the November 29, 1994 wolf kill incident and the wolf control program addressed several issues including:

- * Are there written policies and procedures for this program?
- * Were they followed?
- * Was the program conducted in a professionally acceptable manner; i.e, what criteria was used to design the snaring effort?
- * What steps were taken to minimize suffering?
- * How often were snares inspected?
- * Were the involved personnel adequately trained?
- * Is there a standard caliber of ammunition required?
- * Impact of weather conditions on this incident.

Question - Are there written policies and procedures for this program?

Answer - Yes. The policies for the wolf control program are codified in 5 Alaska Administrative Code 92.120. CONTROL OF PREDATION BY WOLVES, and the objectives and procedures for the program are outlined in 5 Alaska Administrative Code 92.125. WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

In addition to the codified policies and procedures, there is the Record of Decision regarding the implementation of the wolf predation control plan. Memoranda outlining the Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Division's position on wolf management; guidelines for the ground-based wolf reduction effort in sub-unit 20A; ground-base wolf control trapping protocol; wildlife research study plan with a schedule of activities; data collection during the program; and an outline for evaluation of the ground-based wolf removal program and objectives in GMU 20A.

General program management policy and procedures were adopted and verbally communicated between supervisors and field staff associated with the program. Copies of the policies and memoranda outlining roles and responsibilities were also provided.

There is no GMU 20A wolf control program procedures manual describing daily operation or specific functions, such as what size cable will be used for snares, frequency of set inspection, types of weapon, or caliber of ammunition that will be used to dispatch wolves, etc. The experience level of the staff personnel working closely in the day-to-day operation did not necessarily require specific documentation of daily procedural decisions.

Although there is no procedures manual, a detailed log of daily operational meetings, held either at the end of the day or prior to the days activities are well documented.

The program documentation included an initial trapping data form with drawings of snares and trap placements at each site, plus aerial photographs of each location. When checking trapping sites, a second form was used noting the method of inspection and name(s) of inspector(s). The forms requested information for evaluation of the different prototype breakaway snares. Additional forms were used for set summaries, a schedule of site inspections, and documentation of necropsies of each animal taken.

Question - Were the policies and procedures followed?

Answer - Yes. Each individual assigned to the program, whether employed by or contracted by the Department, clearly understands the policies and procedures used to accomplish the objectives of the wolf control program. Each member participating in the control program acknowledged that there were no other guidelines, written or verbal, which included alternate methods or means not approved by the board which had been established and adopted by codified regulations. Each member understood the sensitivity of the issue, the public interest, and intense monitoring which mandated complete compliance with the guidelines established to maintain a public and professional acceptance of the program.

A review of the wolf control guidelines indicate that assigned staff personnel conducted the program in a manner consistent with the policies and procedures as mandated.

Question - Was the program conducted in a professional acceptable manner?

Answer - Yes. A draft of the Area Specific Wolf Management Plan for Southcentral and Interior Alaska were reviewed by Doug Heard, Regional Biologist with the Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, in November, 1992. Heard is considered knowledgeable in this field and noted in a letter to the Department of Fish and Game that he believes the management objectives are realistic and obtainable. He also stated that the predicted outcomes have sound biological basis.

Wayne Adams and Bruce Dale, Wildlife Biologists with the National Park Service who are conducting wolf studies in the Denali area, reviewed the Area Specific Wolf Management Plan and associated Implementation Plans in November 1992, and acknowledged it was a worthwhile process. The final plans from that process were never used. The present program, in use at this time, is the least acceptable as it employs the most ineffective method of wolf control. But the program, within its constraints, is considered to be and has been conducted in a professionally acceptable manner.

Interviews were conducted with the most senior experienced professional trappers including Sidney Huntington, Paul Kirsteatter, Dean Wilson, Sam Snyder, James Smith, Ben Hopsch, Jim Masek, and Peter Buist, current president of the Alaska Trappers Association, which represents approximately 250 years of professional trapping experience. The overall consensus was the present wolf control program is/was being conducted in a professionally acceptable manner given the limitations imposed upon the Department of Fish and Game.

Question - What criteria was used to design the snaring effort?

Answer - The snaring techniques employed by the staff are standard trapping procedures which have been developed and have proven effective throughout the history of trapping. The primary design of the snare set was developed and deployed by Daniel Grangaard based on his research and 29 years of wolf trapping experience. In an attempt to improve the efficiency of the snares while reducing the number of non-targeted species caught, staff members consulted with trap and snare manufacturers, including Ray Thompson, developer of the Thompson-lock snare, widely used by the trapping industry. They also consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Research Center and the U.S.D.A. Animal, and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Damage Control, for recommendations and development of the breakaway prototype snare. Bob Phillips, who authored a paper entitled "Evaluation of Breakaway Snares for use in Coyote Control", also provided data.

Question - What steps were used to minimize suffering?

Answer - Information provided by experienced trappers, professional wildlife researchers, and biologists indicate snares are considered more humane than leg hold traps. In the 93-94 trapping season, staff personnel deployed 24 leg hold traps and 1050 snares. This year (94-95), 685 snares were deployed and no leg hold traps were utilized. The deployment of snares used in the sets were designed for neck catches.

In the 93-94 trapping season, 25.5 % (25 of 98), of the wolves caught were found alive in the snares. In the 94-95 trapping year, 43% (12 of 28), of the wolves were found alive in the snares which is believed to be a direct result of the frequency of set inspection. Set inspection was conducted as often as weather would allow, normally averaging every 4 days.

The prototype breakaway snare being developed and deployed in the field is designed to reduce injury or death to non-targeted species. In case of a failure in the breakaway snare or lock, it is designed to fail conservatively and would tend to release the animal caught.

Question - How often were snares inspected?

Answer - Snares were logged by the Global Positioning System (GPS), detailing the set number and location to ensure that all sets were inspected. Records indicate that inspections were completed as weather conditions would allow, on the average of every four days.

Question - Were the personnel involved adequately trained?

Answer - Christian Smith, Regional Supervisor for the Fairbanks area. Completed Bachelor's and Master's degree in wildlife biology management. Employed by the Department of Fish and Game since 1976 serving as assistant area biologist in Yakutat, area biologist in King Salmon, research biologist in Ketchikan, and management coordinator in Fairbanks with experience in statewide planning functions.

Kenton Taylor, Management Coordinator for the Interior region of the Division of Wildlife Conservation, supervising all management programs in GMU 12, 19-31, 24, 25 and 26 B&C. Completed Bachelor's degree at the Colorado State University. Worked with South Africa Department of Nature Conservation working with endangered species. In 1973 worked for the Alaska Senate Resources Committee as a staff assistant. Began with the Department of Fish and Game in 1974 serving in Talkeetna, Dillingham and Fairbanks since 1990.

Edward B. Crain, Project Leader for the GMU 20A ground based control project. Completed Bachelor's degree in wildlife from Humboldt State University in 1977. Worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a temporary for nine years, became a full-time employee in 1980. Has trapped professionally and part time for 42 years specializing in snaring. Crain is a Department of Fish and Game Hunter Safety Instructor for Fairbanks and the Trapping Training Coordinator. He instructs trapper education programs and wolf trapping clinics.

Mark McNay, Furbearer Research Biologist for the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation in Fairbanks, assigned to work with the personnel who had the primary responsibility for the actual implementation of the trapping program. His duties included gathering the data which would enable the Department to evaluate the effectiveness of the experimental management efforts for the program. McNay completed a Bachelor of Science in wildlife biology degree in 1977 and Master of Science degree in wildlife biology from the University of Montana in 1980. Worked for the Maine Department of Fish and Game beginning in 1977. Started with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1981 at King Salmon. Transferred to the Fairbanks office in 1986 as the Area Biologist until 1991 before taking his current position. McNay is a competent aircraft pilot with an instrument rating and is one of the most experienced wolf survey pilots in the department. McNay is also an experienced trapper.

Daniel Grangaard AKA Danny Grangaard, ADF&G Wildlife Technician and Trapper. Started trapping coyotes in South Dakota and moved to Alaska in 1965. Trapped for a living until 1980 before starting with the Department of Fish and Game. He has trapped wolves for 29 years, taking between 400-600 wolves. He has participated in wolf control programs in the 70's and 80's as a trapper and aerial gunner. He conducts trapping seminars and trapping education programs in Canada and Alaska. He was involved in the production of an instructional videotape on trapping wolves and foxes for the department. Over the past 3 years, he has worked with the USF&WS, Denver Research Center, animal controllers adopting portions of their breakaway snare system for use in Alaska.

Richard Swisher, Commercial pilot, owner/operator of Quicksilver Air based in Fairbanks, AK. Swisher was contracted from the approved ADF&G charter list for both fixed winged and helicopter aircraft. He provided logistical support, flew, and assisted departmental personnel in daily operations when checking snares. He is also an experienced trapper.

Jonathan D. Larrivee, Commercial pilot employed by the Department to provide logistical support. Larrivee is now in New Zealand.

Question- Is there a standard caliber of ammunition required?

Answer - There are no wolf control program directives which require a specific caliber of ammunition to be used for the dispatching of live wolves found in traps. The animals that were found alive in both program years were dispatched with several weapons which included rifles and a revolver in .32 long rifle and .22 magnum caliber. Other weapons available and used were .323, .243, .25-06, .257 Weatherby, and .300 Winchester Magnum caliber rifles. In addition, an immobilization kit and dart gun were carried to release non-targeted incidentally caught species.

Interviews were conducted with the most senior experienced professional trappers including Sidney Huntington, Paul Kirsteatter, Dean Wilson, Sam Snyder, James Smith, Ben Hopson, Jim Masek, and Peter Suist, current president of the Alaska Trappers Association, which represents approximately 250 years of professional trapping experience. The overall consensus was the .22 long rifle and the .22 magnum caliber firearms were the most used weapons to dispatch trapped wolves.

The .22 magnum revolver used on November 29, 1994, had been purchased to dispatch wolves in the wolf control programs in the late 70's, and was also used during the current program. After inquiring of the ADF&G staff regarding this revolver and its use, it was undiscernible as to how often this revolver was used to dispatch live wolves.

Question - Impact of weather conditions on this incident.

Answer - Weather conditions and snow depths at the location of the incident documented by the representative of the animal rights group on November 29 were not recorded. The only reference available are those viewed in the video. Those persons at the location that furnished their observation stated their focus was more centered on the snared wolves.

Experienced trappers advised that snow conditions impacts snare operations, i.e. deep powder snow reduces the efficiency of the snares, while hard packed or wind blown snow does not affect the snare operations. Changing snow depth will require adjustment of snares.

Trapper James Smith, who trapped in the Muddy Creek drainage of the wolf control program area, advised that he would adjust the height of his snare when the snow level came to within 10 inches of the bottom of the snare. While trapping the area, Smith stated that, at times, he would have as many as 1000 snares set. He would normally set the snares at a height of approximately 13 inches or just above knee level.

Many time he could not return to all of his sets to adjust or reset fallen snares. He would inspect his snares as weather and equipment breakdowns permitted. Smith advised that he has caught approximately 10% of his wolves by their legs in that area. Smith also stated that 30% of the wolves found alive in snares may be a low number. Smith placed the number of live wolves he found in snares at approximately 50% or more. Other trappers indicated they expected to find most wolves dead in the snares. All trappers advised that incidental catch of non-targeted species was regrettable but every trapper has experienced this.

NOVEMBER 29, 1994 WOLF INCIDENT

Information summarizing the events that occurred at Moody Creek, in the Alaska Range, on November 28 & 29 was obtained through interviews with the following individuals:

Gordon Haber - Independent wildlife biologist on commission to Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Wolf Haven International, and Friends of Animals

Mark McNay - Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks

Ed Crain - Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks

Art Warbelow - Pilot, owner of Warbelow's Air Ventures in Fairbanks

Jim Fitzpatrick - Pilot, Heli-lift, Inc - Helicopter Charter in Fairbanks

Steve Reinhart, reporter, and Bob Hallinen, photographer, of the Anchorage Daily News were present with Haber at Moody Creek on November 29, however refused to be interviewed on advice from their attorney.

SYNOPSIS

On November 28, 1994, Gordon Haber chartered an aircraft flown by Art Warbelow, owner/operator of Warbelow's Air Ventures, to monitor GMD 20A wolf control activities being conducted by Alaska Fish and Game personnel in the Yanert River area near Denali in the Alaska Range. At approximately 1400 hours, they flew the Moody Creek area and saw what they believed was a dead wolf caught in one of the snares at the Fish and Game's Moody Creek site #102. Upon returning to Fairbanks, Haber contacted Steve Reinhart, reporter for the Anchorage Daily News.

On the morning of November 29, 1994, Reinhart and Bob Hallinen, a Daily News photographer met with Haber in Fairbanks. Haber, Reinhart, and Hallinen in a chartered helicopter from Heli-lift Air, flown by Jim Fitzpatrick, flew to the Moody Creek area.

At approximately 1200 hours, the helicopter transporting the Haber party was directed into the Moody Creek site (#102) by Art Warbelow who was flying a Super Cub support aircraft also chartered by Haber. After directing the helicopter, which landed at site #102, Warbelow flew to the Yanert River drainage looking for other trapping sites.

Haber stated that as they approached before landing, a pack of five wolves were seen departing the snare site area. Only after landing at the site, did they find the one dead wolf and three live wolves caught in snares. Two wolves had been caught by the leg, and a one wolf had been caught around its body. (The wolf caught around the body was the one Haber and Warbelow had seen the previous day and was thought to be dead). One of the animals caught by the front leg had wrapped itself in the snare around a small tree. This animal had chewed the lower portion of its leg off below the snare wire. The animals were videotaped by Haber and photographed by Hallinen.

Due to temperature, which was estimated to be between -20 to -30 degrees, Haber had to constantly warm his camera battery, and the helicopter pilot had to restart the aircraft engine about every 30 minutes.

At approximately 1100 hours, Alaska Department of Fish and Game personnel departed Fairbanks in two aircraft, a Bellanca Scout (fixed wing aircraft) flown by Biologist Mark McNay, and a Robinson R-22 helicopter flown by Jonathan Larivee with Biologist Ed Crain as observer. At approximately 1230 hours, McNay flew over the Muddy Creek and observed the Bell-Lift helicopter on the ground at the ADF&G snare site #102. McNay observed one individual standing near the helicopter (Hitzpatrick), and three individuals standing near the snare sets (Haber, Reinhart, and Hallinen). McNay attempted to make contact with the party by radio but the helicopter engine and radio had been shut down. McNay continued to circle the location but was unable to clearly see what the people were doing at the site. When the helicopter started its engine, McNay again attempted make contact but was unsuccessful.

McNay gained altitude and contacted the ADF&G helicopter which was working in another portion of the control area, about 30 minutes flying time away. McNay advised them that he believed that Haber was at the Muddy Creek site. McNay made radio contact with Art Warbelow who was returning to the area. Warbelow advised McNay that they had seen a dead wolf at this Muddy Creek site the previous day and there was a news crew with Haber at the site. McNay returned to the Muddy Creek site and began circling again, making contact with the helicopter pilot at approximately 1400 hours.

McNay inquired as to their activity and requested they depart the location so he could bring their (ADF&G) helicopter in to check the site. At that time, Haber radioed McNay that there were live wolves in the snares and they (ADF&G) needed to come in and take care of them. McNay confirmed this information with the helicopter pilot and again requested they leave, which they refused. McNay re-contacted the ADF&G helicopter, advised them of the situation and directed them to proceed immediately to the Muddy Creek site #102.

At approximately 1430 hours, the ADPAG helicopter landed at the Moody Creek site #102. Ed Crain, the ADPAG biologist, proceeded to the snare area, followed by Haber and the one of the news crew. Crain requested Haber and the news crew to remain at their helicopter, but they refused. Crain, a firearms safety instructor, said he was very concerned with conditions and people around him and didn't want a firearms accident or a accidental discharge, so he loaded the .22 magnum revolver with one cartridge at a time. With the cameras, he was nervous and was trying to focus on the job. Crain approached the first wolf which was caught by the leg. The wolf stance gave him a frontal shot and he shot the wolf between the eyes. Crain said he could see he had hit right where he had aimed and was surprised when the wolf did not fall. He claimed he was now obviously very nervous and wrongfully rotated the cylinder for the second shot, causing a misfire. He repositioned the cylinder and fired the second shot at the rear of the skull. This round entered below the ear and traveled approximately three inches downward into the neck. Crain chambered another round and fired again at the rear of the skull, apparently missing as no entry hole or bullet were found. When the wolf did not react, Crain then shot the wolf in the heart/lung area, as he said this was a quick and effective way to kill wolves. When this did not kill the animal, Crain returned to the helicopter and got the .22 magnum ammunition. Crain returned to the first wolf, loaded a .22 magnum round and fired into the head, killing the animal. He then proceeded to the other two wolves dispatching each of them with a single shot. The wolves were then transported out of the area.

FIREARM AND AMMUNITION TESTING

The revolver and remaining ammunition used on November 23, 1994, was submitted to the Department of Public Safety Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory for examination. The testing of the firearm and ammunition revealed two significant facts. The mismatching of the ammunition to the firearm and the barrel length of the revolver adversely affected the performance of the ammunition. The use of .22 long rifle ammunition in a .22 magnum cylinder resulted in poor ballistic performance. The smaller .22 long rifle cartridge fails to fill the interior space of the larger .22 magnum chamber. When fired, a substantial portion of the propellant gasses leaks by the bullet and the cartridge case will usually split. This leaking of the gasses and splitting of the cartridge reduces the energy used to propel the bullet.

The short four inch barrel of the revolver prevents the chambered cartridge from reaching its full potential. The ammunition companies rate their .22 ammunition performance in rifle length barrels. When fired from a shorter barrel, the bullet emerges from the gun before it can reach full speed. In addition, the advantage of the .22 magnum over the .22 long rifle ammunition is lost when the barrel length is shortened to handgun dimensions.

Test results revealed the ballistic performance of the revolver and the ammunition were as followed:

<u>Ammo</u>	<u>Energy 210'</u>	<u>Published Muzzle Energy</u>
.22 Long Rifle	24.5 ft. lbs.	117 ft. lbs.
.22 Magnum	31.5 ft. lbs.	300 ft. lbs.

* Published Ballistics are for rifle length firearms.

Weather conditions and temperature can adversely affect the performance but was not factored in the above tests.

NECROPSY

The wolf carcass from the November 23, 1994, incident was examined by the State Veterinarian, DVM Gore on December 19, 94. The examination summary indicates there were four wounds on the carcass. The fatal shot was from the .22 magnum that penetrated the skull, entered the brain, and exited below and behind the right ear.

The initial shot fired by Crain would have proven fatal had the bullet penetrated the internal frontal bone and entered the brain. The remaining two shots caused muscle damage but would not have been fatal.

Laboratory findings indicate that in order to ensure quick and humane dispatching of animals, the proper combination of firearm, ammunition, and accurate shot placement, is required.

Submitted by: Sen. Bert Sharp

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT 9

CHAIRMAN
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
ALLES COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL
STATE OF ALASKA
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
1978

SENATE

Department of Fish and Game's Program Review Committee (PRC) indicates that they recommend business as usual - managing people not the resource.

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

TO: Wayne Regelin
Acting Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation

DATE: December 13, 1994

FROM: PRC Members

SUBJECT: Recommendations on
Wolf Management

The PRC (minus Peterson and Pitcher) met December 13 to discuss wolf management issues. Members present reached consensus on several recommendations for your consideration. We did not reach consensus on one recommendation; minority reports on that point are included below.

Recommendations:

1. In future deliberations regarding wolf control, the department should provide an objective analysis of the benefits and costs of wolf control and management other options. The department should not advocate for or against wolf control.

2. The majority of the PRC (3 members) believe DWC should recommend continued suspension of wolf control until the governor's review process is complete. Two minority views on this recommendation follow:

Minority view #1: The potential negative consequences of a decision by this group to recommend continued suspension of the 20A control program may be far greater than any potential positive effects of making such a recommendation on our professional credibility. The responsible action would have been to objectively consider all reasonable alternatives, including continued suspension, and to identify the potential costs, benefits and/or liabilities associated with recommendations regarding each alternative prior to making a decision. To make recommendation #2 without following the process outlined above is reactionary and ill advised. (2 Members)

Minority view #2: Regardless of the merits of continued suspension to future discussion and resolution of the controversy over wolf control, recommendation #2 conflicts with Recommendation #1. If the division is to remain neutral on wolf control as called for in #1, it is contradictory to take any position regarding the existing program in GM 20A. (1 Member)

December 15, 1994

3. An impartial review of the state's wolf management policies and programs should be conducted.

4. A credible survey of Alaska public attitudes is essential to developing a balanced statewide wolf management policy.

5. The current Board of Game decision-making processes are not producing broadly supportable, sustainable wolf management policies. We recommend that those processes be reviewed.

If you need elaboration on any of the points, please feel free to contact any of us individually.

cc:

PRC Members

MAR 7 1955

Ed Gelvin
PO Box 108
Central, AK 99730
April 3, 1995

Loren Harrison, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee

Dear Sir:

I am writing in support of SB # 81. It's good to see that people in the bush may get some relief from the very low moose populations. Many of my friends and neighbors have gone without moose on a regular basis for a good number of years. And there is no excuse for it. I have lived in this area for over 40 years. Two or three decades ago, there were 50 moose where there is only one now. I have hunted, guided, and trapped all these years and I know what goes on out there.

This winter - Nov., Dec., Jan. - I kept track of two packs of wolves containing

11 in one pack and 10 in the other. I managed to trap 3 so far. Each pack killed about 25 moose and that is just the ones I was able to find.

A year past, aerial shooting was just enough to keep the wolves in check so we had a fairly stable moose population. Since it has been illegal to shoot from aircraft, the moose have steadily declined.

It is downright criminal the state has treated its citizens like this. The solution is simple but until you stop listening to the emotionally disturbed, opinion writers, and self-proclaimed biologists, and the scare tactics to tourists, nothing is going to change.

Senate Bill # 81 will help and I hope it passes.

Sincerely -

Ed Gelvin



The Alaska Wildlife Alliance

SB81

April 6, 1995

The Honorable Loren Leman,
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99801

APR 11 1995

RE: Senate Bill 81

Dear Senator Leman,

We are deeply concerned about SB 81 (the "wolf bounty bill"), and are writing to express our opposition.

As you are probably aware, SB 81 creates "harvest incentive areas" and would pay private hunters and trappers \$200 bounties for each wolf killed in these areas. The public considers the word change of "bounty" to "harvest incentive" an attempt to fool them. Because cash will be paid for dead wolves, SB 81 is a bounty bill, no matter what label is attached.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game remains opposed to the idea of paying cash for killing wildlife, because it has proven to be ineffective, controversial, expensive, and open to abuse. Most wildlife managers consider bounties an embarrassment to their profession. Aside from the prevailing biological opinion, with which we would concur, SB 81 presents numerous other problems. Some of them include:

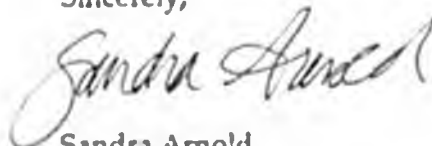
- Alaska is already setting wolf-killing records. Last year, 1,583 Alaskan wolves were reported killed, a 20-year record high. To dramatically increase the kill with a bounty will threaten the long-term viability of wolf populations, and have other unforeseen ecological consequences.
- Establishing a wolf bounty will encourage more federal intervention in Alaska's wildlife management. If a bounty is passed, it is possible that the U.S. Department of the Interior would close federal lands in Alaska to wolf hunting/trapping, in response to national outcry and biological considerations. Although the proposed bounty would only be paid for wolves killed on state land, people will kill wolves on federal land too, and report them as being killed on state lands in order to collect the cash. The vastness of Alaska precludes scrutiny or enforcement of a bounty program.
- SB 81 is expensive, at a time when general-fund support for the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game has been cut by nearly 40%. SB 81 will cost the state money that would be better spent on wildlife law enforcement or habitat protection.
- In the wake of graphic wolf-kill video, the world is watching Alaska and its treatment of wolves and all wildlife. Passage of a bounty will again bring negative international attention to the state. *The possibility of a renewed tourism boycott is strong.*
- The Alaska Board of Game is already busy implementing SB77, which was signed into law in 1994. SB77, or the "intensive game management law" mandates more predator killing in Alaska. The legislature should wait to see the effects of this first predator-kill law before passing another one.

- Bounties hold an overly simplistic view of ecosystems, threaten long-term wolf viability and reflect badly on Alaska's wildlife image. They are ineffective because more dead wolves will not necessarily mean more game in targeted areas, and people will kill wolves outside of the targeted areas and report them as being killed within the target area in order to collect the money (enforcement is difficult).
- Senators Bert Sharp and Robin Taylor (SB 81 sponsors) say that "public opinion has nothing to do with game management." On the contrary; Wildlife professionals are finally learning that unless wildlife programs have public support, they are doomed at the outset. Public opinion does count, and the reason wildlife controversies continue to rage on in Alaska is precisely because the public has for too long been ignored.

We realize that the Legislature and members of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance may have divergent philosophies regarding predator control in general. However, while we may disagree where and when wolf/bear control is necessary or appropriate, it is our hope that we can at least agree that bounties are never appropriate. We strongly believe that passage of SB 81 is the single most damaging action Alaska could take at this time, not only for wildlife but for tourism, international reputation, federal involvement, anti-hunting/trapping sentiment, financially, and to the many Alaskan residents with nonconsumptive wildlife values.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We urge you to reject SB 81. Please contact us at any time should you need more information or would like to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



Sandra Arnold
Executive Director

cc: other Alaska Legislators and leaders

CAROL JENSEN
4800 E. 112th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99516-1612
(907) 346-3321

February 21, 1995

FEB 23 1995

TO: All Members of Alaska State Senate
FROM: Carol Jensen
RE: SB 81, Establishment of Wolf Bounty

Of all the bills to be introduced in the history of the Alaska legislature, this has to be the worst. If I didn't know better I would think it was a joke. However, with the Republicans in power and the twisted, sick mind of Senator Taylor in great power, I fear this bill actually has a chance to pass and sustain a veto unless the public reacts quickly and strongly. Unfortunately, a majority of the public, though they may strongly oppose a bill, will not usually contact their legislators.

Alaska has the much deserved reputation as being terribly irresponsible and outright reckless regarding management and treatment of our precious wildlife and environment. The world-wide condemnation of our wolf control trapping program is evidence of people's views on wildlife. Now, we are carrying this ruthless war on wolves to the lowest possible level.

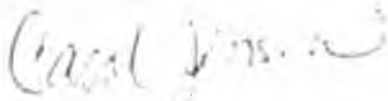
This bill should never have been assigned to just one committee. It should be assigned to Finance, since if passed, will cost the state millions of dollars. It should also go to Judiciary, because the entire bill contradicts current State law and hunting/trapping regulations, and the new Tourism Committee, because this will definitely kill tourism. Senator Pearce, I am requesting you assign this bill to the above listed committees at once.

This bill is so broad, it leaves open the use of machine guns, aircraft, denning, as well as more conventional methods such as trapping and poisoning, which kills other non-target species, including those protected by Federal law. It also legalizes torture. It allows the killing of all wolves year-round, state-wide. This bill would not be legal on Federal land. Since everybody and their brother would be out trying to kill wolves for money, most people would not know or care if they were on Federal land. The wolf would become an endangered species very quickly, at which point NO hunting or trapping would be allowed on any lands.

I am certain the Fish & Game Dept. is firmly opposed to this bill. Wiping out of wolves will have disastrous long range impact on all other species of wildlife as well as humans. It's obvious this bill was written with no thought or knowledge of wildlife interactions.

Senator Taylor is the worst enemy of our environment and wildlife. However, this bill still came as a shock to me. It must be killed. No amount of amendments will ever make it acceptable.

Sincerely,



Carol Jensen

Handwritten notes:
Please bury this bill
in Alaska history
at once. Just
Taylor intimidate
Thank you

OPINION





Alaska State Legislature

SRES Senate Resources

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources

committee on SB-81 / Classifying Wolf as predator dated 2/20/95
bill/subject

I Support SB-81

OUTSIDE Animal Rights Groups seem to run our Game management
They should have no say.

ALSO our Public officials Don't like this or that about SB-81
They should support + uphold the ALASKA CONSTITUTION or Resign
The ALASKA CONSTITUTION should be the final word.

Read it!!!

Signed: Bernard Goodno
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
90 Box 92 Delta Junction, Alaska Republic
Address
895-4000
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Comm-
committee name

committee on SB 81 , dated Feb. 20, 1995
bill/subject

I support SB 81, especially to get the discussion started on wolf control. We realize that bears are also big predators with significant impact but they can be controlled by hunting. The prob. with wolves is that the normal Alaskan moose hunter is not efficient at wolf hunting. If we are ever going to get out from under the allocation ~~down~~ problems in areas with tremendous potential for moose harvest, we have to give human harvest the priority over wolf and bear predators.

This bill heads us in the right direction.

Let's use GMA 13 as an example; please ask the AD&G to check my numbers

Present Moose Pop. 18,000
assume 70% are cows (12,600)

State Calving (sum) '96
(nearly 100% turning
over)

Pop. will be: 40,000 moose

Half of the calves will be bulls

So, June '95 we have 15,000 bulls
25,000 cows

AD&G says numbers can only
take 300 bulls in fall 195

that allocates nearly all the cow calves, 11,000
w/ all the bull calves, 11,000 plus existing to
other predators

Signed: _____

Testifier Mike Twiller

Representing (Optional) Self

Score: Humans 300

Pred: 23,000

Address Box 2289
ESTER, ALASKA 99725



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SRES committee name

committee on SB 81 , dated 2-20-95
bill/subject

Alaska's game animals are in serious trouble something has to be done to bring predators under control and now is the time of the year to do it.

Signed: Carl E. Nichols
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1234 Hill Ave FBX5, AK 99712
Address



STATE of ALASKA

Delta Junction Legislative Information Office

P.O. Box 1189
Room 210, Jarvis Office Center
Delta Junction, AK 99737
(907) 895-4236

Fax: (907) 895-5017

February 21, 1995

TO: Senate Resources Committee

Please accept the enclosed original of written testimony for the Senate Resources teleconference hearing that was scheduled on 2/20/95.

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your committee via fax on 2/20/95.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E.A. Sarver".

Elizabeth A. Sarver
Information Officer

Enclosures: 1

FROM: Peter E. K. Shepherd 1012 Galena St. Fairbanks, AK 99709
Testimony prepared for Feb. 20, 1995 hearing on SB 81

TO: Senate Resource Committee

Feb. 21, 1995

I support SB 81 because a bounty system is one of the few remaining means for providing big game relief from excessive predation. All other effective methods for reducing wolf predation on critically low sheep, moose, and caribou populations have been subverted or eliminated for non-biological political and emotional reasons.

Wolves are increasing over Arctic and Interior Alaska and have severely impacted sheep, moose and caribou populations. Past experience suggests that resident trappers and hunters can reduce wolves to levels permitting recovery and increased productivity of these species while still maintaining viable wolf populations.

Presently, low fur prices and lack of demand for wolf pelts are providing little incentive to harvest wolves. A bounty system would encourage private citizens participation in wolf control and could have many benefits. Among these benefits is the lower cost per wolf compared to government control efforts. Bounties would provide opportunities for additional earned income, especially in job-poor rural Alaska. Moreover, wolf reduction in rural areas would benefit subsistence resources by reducing predation on moose and caribou.

Bounties should not encourage wide-spread elimination of wolves because such intentions would be self-defeating. Further assurance that wolf harvests do not become excessive could be achieved by area-specific regulatory means. Considerable wolf habitat in Alaska occurs within the boundaries of Federally dedicated lands where hunting and trapping of wolves is banned; thereby providing ample refuges for wolf survival.

Intensive management of wildlife on patented state lands is becoming imperative with growing Federal regulatory intervention on government owned lands. To better enhance big game populations for human use the state must continue predator control, including bounties. A bounty system would encourage participation in this effort by the people most in need of wild game resources.

Pete Shepherd-Retired ADF&G biologist, trapper, and registered guide.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE _____

COMMITTEE ON SB-81 COMMITTEE NAME
DATED 2/22/95
BILL/SUBJECT

My name is [unclear] I have hunted [unclear] and [unclear] for [unclear] years. I have seen the result of wolf control and believe me a control program does work.

At the present time the sheep and caribou in unit 20A are in a very poor shape. This is a result of bad winters (deep snow) and heavy predation from wolf & bears.

Since the state wolf control program has become a political football and the present administration has no intentions of having a control program for the next four years and the price of wolf pelts have declined in the last year, making the hunting and trapping of wolves not economical feasible for the serious wolf trapper. We need a monetary incentive to the hunters and trappers to save our ungulate populations. The only thing left for interior Alaska is the bounty system.

SIGNED _____
TESTIFIER

REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

1630 Willow F-616 AK 99709 (907)452-4679
ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
 committee name
 committee on SB-81 , dated 2/20/95
 bill/subject

INTENSIVE PREDATOR CONTROL ACTIONS ARE NEEDED IN SOME GMU'S IN THE STATE TO INSURE THE STRENGTH OF ALASKA'S MOOSE AND CARIBOU POPULATIONS. I DON'T AGREE WITH THE BOUNTIES OR UNLIMITED METHODS AND MEANS OR NO CLOSED SEASONS ON WOLVES.

F+G PREDATOR CONTROL POLICIES HAVE BEEN DOMINATED BY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR TOO LONG, BUT WE NEED TO DO WOLF CONTROL ON A GM UNIT BY GM UNIT BASIS.

I AGREE THAT DEPARTMENT RESOURCES BE FOCUSED ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NOT HUNTER MANAGEMENT, THROUGH SHORT OR NON-EXISTANT HUNTING SEASONS.

IN SOME GMU'S, BEARS ARE MORE OF A PREDATOR ON MOOSE OR CARIBOU CALFS THAN WOLVES. BUT WOLVES ARE A YEAR ROUND PREDATOR - BEARS ARE NOT.

FINALLY, WE NEED TO CLASSIFY WOLVES AS A BIG GAME ANIMAL

Signed: Will [Signature]
 Testifier

SELF
 Representing (Optional)

PO BOX 3628 SLDOTNA AK 99669
 Address

262-7746
 Phone No.

ALASKA RAINFOREST TOURS

WILDERNESS, ADVENTURE, AND CULTURAL TOURS
FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER SEEKING QUALITY,
KNOWLEDGE, AND THE UNUSUAL IN ALASKA'S
RAINFOREST.

369 S. FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 463-3466
FAX (907) 463-4453

Fax to: Senator Loren Leman, Chair
Senate Resource Committee

907-465-~~3466~~ 2810

February 20, 1995

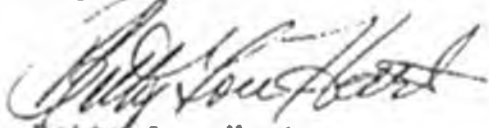
Dear Senator Leman,

I am writing to indicate our distress at the bill reclassifying
wolves from "big game" to predators and putting a \$400 bounty on
them with no restrictions.

Our business targets independent travellers who are interested in
wilderness and wildlife. My partner was in Chicago at a Travel
Show last weekend and reported that she talked to people who had
cancelled a trip to Alaska that they already booked because of
the state wolf policy.

It is a highlight of a tour if our clients are able to see a wolf
in the wild. Here in SE Alaska they are almost an endangered
species and with a \$400 bounty it won't be long before they are
extinct.

Regards,



Betty Lou Hart
Partner



ALASKA UP CLOSE

P.O. Box 32666, Juneau, AK 99803
(907) 789-9544 FAX: (907) 789-3205

February 20, 1995

Senator Loren Leman
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
FAX: 465-3810

RE: SB 81

Dear Senator Leman:

Alaska Up Close offers custom travel planning services and markets photography and wildlife watching tours to visitors from the Lower 48 and abroad. We also work with non-profit travel programs, representing such organizations as zoological societies, universities, museums, environmental organizations.

Our clientele is very sensitive to environmental concerns. We have been told directly by organizations that they can not sponsor a trip to Alaska as long as the state sanctions a program that kills wolves. It is impossible to say how many simply never contacted us because of a policy they find offensive. Alaska tourism competes in a global marketplace and tourists can choose to go anywhere in the world.

Adventure travel is the fastest growing segment of the travel industry, and holds great potential for smaller communities throughout Alaska. The impacts of a bounty program on wolves should rightly include the economic impact on small independent tour operators, who are particularly affected because of the clientele we serve.

Sincerely,

Judy Shuler
Alaska Travel Specialist



**ALASKA
WILDLAND
ADVENTURES**

URGENT
Regards 3:30 meeting
Today

P.O. BOX 389 GIRLWOOD, AK 99587

OUTSIDE ALASKA: 800-334-8730

DIRECT: 907-783-2928

WITHIN ALASKA: 800-478-4100

DIRECT: 907-783-2928

FAX: 907-783-2130

DATE: 2/20

FAX

TO: Senator Loren LemmanSENATE- RESOURCES
ATTENTION: COMMITTEE HEARINGSFROM: Kirk Hoessle, Pres.TO FAX #: 907-465-3810# OF PAGES TRANSMITTED (INCLUDING THIS PAGE): ①

PLEASE CALL A.W.A. UPON RECEIPT

 YES NO

MESSAGES: Dear Senator Lemman - We stand very much against SB 81
regarding a bounty on wolves. It would only serve as a continuing
public relations nightmare for nature tourism. We lost between
\$60,000 - \$100,000 in revenue when wolves first hit the nation's
headlines in late '92, first of '93. It is bad wildlife management and
bad for tourism business. Respectfully, Kirk Hoessle, Pres.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on SB 49, dated 2/20/95
bill/subject

I AGREE WITH THE BILL ^{WHERE} MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF FISHERIES SHOULD HAVE NO VESTED ECONOMIC INTEREST IN FISHING PERMITS OR FISHING BUSINESSES.

HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THE BOARD OF FISHERY MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED TO THREE MEMBERS.

KEEP IT AT A SEVEN MEMBER BOARD.

Signed: William J. Gawn
Testifier

SELF
Representing (Optional)

PO BOX 3628 SIDLINGTON AK 9969
Address

262-7746
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SRES
committee name

committee on SB 81, dated 2/20/95
bill/subject

AS WRITTEN, THIS BILL WOULD DO LITTLE MORE THAN ANTAGONIZE ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS & MAKE MONEY FOR LAWYERS. — WOLF BEING TAKEN WITHOUT BITE LIMIT OR OTHER RESTRICTION IS IN VIOLATION OF ALASKA CONSTITUTION ART III SEC 4 WHICH STATES IN PART WILDLIFE WILL BE MANAGED ON A SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS.

Signed: Jack H. Heston
Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 2376 SODONA 99609

Address

262-5455

Phone No.



Alaska
Wilderness
Recreation &
Tourism
Association

Sustainable recreation and tourism for a quality future

P.O. Box 1353
Valdez, AK 99686
Phone: 907-835-4300
Fax: 907.835.5679

To: Senator Loren Leman, Chairman Senate Resources Committee
From: Nancy R. Lethcoe, President (Testimony presented by Ed Davis, AWRTA Board Member)
Date: Feb. 20, 1995

RE: SB 81

Senator Leman, Senate Resources Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My Name is Ed Davis. I am testifying as a board member for the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association, and also as a hunter. AWRTA opposes SB 81 because of: a) the negative impacts it will have on the economic viability of rural tourism, and b) the impact it will have on the future of sport hunting. Finally, we believe that the bill requires additional committee assignments.

Negative Economic Impacts on Tourism:

- 1) Several of our members profit from guiding wolf hunts under sport hunting regulations. This bill would unfairly reduce the wolf populations and force them to compete with ^{US\$121,200} commercial and aerial hunters.
- 2) Independent visitors to rural areas who may wish to view or hunt wolves spend far more per capita than the average Alaskan visitor. Whereas the average cruise/air visitor spends \$225 in Alaska, independent and inde/package travelers who visit rural areas spend from \$827 to \$1,816 (AVSP, *Expenditures*, p. 61).
- 3) SB 81 is likely to trigger another Tourism Boycott by animal rights activists. The tourism industry has just experienced two years of a tourism boycott on the wolf issue. Many of our rural, non-hunting businesses saw a decline in bookings and income. In response to Governor Knowles' cancellation of the wolf hunt, the tourism boycott was cancelled. A preliminary survey of some of AWRTA's members involved in rural, non-hunting tourism shows that their inquiries and bookings are ahead of the past two years. We encourage you to consider the economic impacts of this bill on small Alaskan tour operators by assigning it to the State Affairs Committee.

Undermines Sport Hunting:

SB 81 will undermine sport hunting because:

- 1) It does not follow sound game management practices and it authorizes hunting techniques such as aerial hunting and unrestricted commercial hunting which plays into the hand of anti-hunting and anti-trapping groups. These organizations are thriving because they portray responsible and scientifically managed hunting as a sensationalized form of brutality and poaching. SB-81 will provide them with documentation to further advance this image. We need to encourage responsible scientifically managed sport hunting rather than the mad free for all that this bill advocates.

2) It may result in a federal takeover of wolf hunting, just as earlier State practices lead to a federal government take over of marine mammal management.

Need for Additional Hearings:

- 1) The bounty mandated under SB 81 will be paid for with State funds. This will have a fiscal impact on the state, so the bill needs to be referred to the Senate Finance Committee. A fiscal note should be prepared.
- 2) There has been inadequate notification of this public hearing given the potentially serious economic consequences of the bill to the rural tourism industry. AWRTA, for example, which is located in Valdez received its first notification this morning. It was impossible to notify many of our more than 300 members on such a short time notice. We request that the Senate Resources Committee hold additional public hearings.
- 3) Since SB-81 may trigger a tourism boycott which will have adverse economic impacts on the tourism industry in general and remote tourism in particular, the bill should be assigned to the Senate State Affairs committee.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages = 2

To <i>J. Resurre</i>	From <i>Valdez 810</i>
Co. <i>Testimony for</i>	Co.
Dept. <i># 50247</i>	Phone # <i>835-2111</i>
Fax # <i>465-3810</i>	Fax #

State of Alaska
Office of the Governor

TONY KNOWLES
Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
NEWS RELEASE



Bob King
Press Secretary
907-465-3500
FAX: 907-465-3533

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 3, 1995

95-27

KNOWLES CANCELS UNIT 20A WOLF CONTROL PROGRAM
Orders Examination of Predator Control Policy

Governor Tony Knowles today cancelled the state's ground-based wolf control program and ordered a thorough examination of state predator control policies. The announcement followed the release of the Department of Public Safety's report on the November 29, 1994 wolf kill incident in interior Alaska.

"The findings of this report will be disturbing to all Alaskans," Knowles said. "The lack of leadership, training and direction in implementing this program during the Hickel Administration are unacceptable. Most disturbing is that in addition to the wolves, dozens of other animals were killed by the snares - including animals that the wolf control program was designed to help. This program has harmed Alaska's reputation and done a disservice to Alaska's legitimate trappers and hunters."

Knowles requested last month that the Department of Public Safety investigate the incident that was videotaped and broadcast nationwide. The ~~final~~ report, written by state Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection personnel, stated that there were no written policies or procedures for the program and no training for personnel involved. The report documented that use of the wrong type of ammunition in a handgun resulted in one snared animal being shot four times before it was killed.

A total of 1,735 snares were used during the two-year program in which 134 wolves were killed. In addition, 35 moose, 14 caribou and four golden eagles were accidentally caught in the snares, as well as many other small animals. The program was suspended and the snares were removed after the airing of the videotape in early December.

After reviewing the public safety report, Governor Knowles ordered the wolf control program in Game Management Unit 20A cancelled and asked his Chief of Staff and the acting commissioner of Fish and Game to take other action as deemed appropriate.

Knowles also directed the commissioner to work with the game board and the public to develop conditions and procedures so that any future predator control efforts would be acceptable to the public and the scientific community.

SHEEP

MOOSE

CARIBOU

HARVEST RATIO



Data from ADFG 1991

ATTACHMENT A

Wolf Kill Statistics

(12/02/94)	1993-94 (10/01/93 - 04/30/94)	1994-95 (10/01/94 -	
Non-Targeted Species Information			
Moose	29 (17 survived)	6 (5 survived)	63% survival
Caribou	7 (5 survived)	7 (2 survived)	50% survival
Grizzly Bear	2 (2 survived)	0	100% survival
Wolverine	2	1	
Coyote	7	3	
Red Fox	25 (1 survived)	1	
Snowshoe Hare	1	0	
Raven	1	0	
Golden Eagle	4 (2 survived)	0	50% survival
Total No. Taken	78	18	

FAIRBANKS DAILY
NEWS MINER

APRIL 8, 1994

WOLVES: First season ends

Continued from Page A-1

caribou to escape unharmed. Four other snared moose and one wolverine were tranquilized and released.

"The eagle was an unfortunate surprise," Taylor said. "It actually landed to feed on one of the foxes and ended up getting caught in a nearby snare."

Department officials blamed the high cost and incidental catches on special interest groups that fought an aerial wolf control program. Most of those groups fought wolf control of all kinds.

"If we had removed the wolves by aerial shooting, we wouldn't have had the incidental take, it could have been much cheaper in terms of our operating cost, and it would have been more effective in removing whole packs within the core calving area," said Chris Smith, Division of Wildlife Conservation regional supervisor.

Taylor said operating costs for

the program totaled about \$100,000, plus about \$35,000 for a seasonal employee, plus staff time.

"The staff time isn't extra money but a reallocation within the division," he said.

Changes being considered for next year include starting later in the winter and ending earlier to reduce the incidental catches, and using more of the breakaway snares Taylor said.

The program was successful in that it proved the number of kills necessary could be accomplished with traps, he said. "As to the effect on the prey population over the next three years, it's too early to say," Taylor said.

Although state trappers finish pulling out their equipment Thursday, the public wolf trapping season remains open through April.

State traps 98 wolves

Three wolf packs eliminated: skinned carcasses go to dump

By KELLY BOSTIAN
Star Writer

Alaska wrapped up its first season of wolf control with 98 wolves dead at a cost of about \$1,000 per wolf and with the headless, skinned remains placed in the Fairbanks North Star Borough Landfill.

"That's kind of symbolic of the whole program," said Stephen Wells of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, a group long opposed to wolf control.

"We're still working on doing what we can to get the Alaska Board of Game process changed in the long term, which is the best thing we can do ultimately," Wells said.

Ken Taylor, Fairbanks management coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Conservation, said three wolf packs were eliminated and that 45 wolves remain in the main control area—much of which makes up the spring calving area for the Delta Caribou Herd.

"Wolf distribution remains essentially unchanged," he said. "There are small packs out there that will have pups this spring and it may pop right back up to where it was before."

Taylor also said it is not unusual to dispose of wolf carcasses at the dump.

Bob Troun, borough solid waste division manager, said the landfill accepts animal carcasses from anyone but that advance notification is appreciated. He said the borough follows "a strict require-

ment that they are buried immediately."

The 98 wolf hides remain in the state's possession and will be sold at auction, possibly at next year's Fur Rendezvous in Anchorage, Taylor said. Some of the hides are going to educational institutions, as are the skulls of the animals.

The Board of Game last summer approved a three-year effort by the state to reduce wolves and boost numbers of the Delta caribou herd in Game Management Subunit 20A, roughly 2,000 square miles south of Fairbanks and north of the Alaska Range.

Lawsuits, public outcry and a renewed national call for an Alaska tourism boycott by some groups could not stop it.

Before the program, about 250 to 300 wolves inhabited the 20A area, the department said. Board guidelines said the department was to leave at least 35 wolves in the control area, or 100 in all of Subunit 20A.

The 98 wolves killed by Fish and Game staff, plus wolves killed by private trappers in the area, will bring the total dead close to the department's original goals.

"I wouldn't be surprised if it is 150 total when it's all done," Taylor said.

Officials added 13 fox, 12 moose, six coyotes, two caribou, one snowshoe hare, one wolverine and one golden eagle to the death toll.

Experimental "breakaway" snares allowed four moose and five

See WOLVES, Back Page