

SCR

24

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCR 24

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Dept. Fish & Game
 Title: Reestablish ADFG Division of BRU: _____
 Game Component: _____
 Sponsor: Senator Sharp
 Requester: Senate Resources Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 100	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Senate Resources Committee Phone: 465-2095
 Division: Senator Loren Leman, Chairman Date: 2/8/96
 Approved by Commissioner: *Loren Leman* Date: _____
 Agency: _____

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SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral

DATE: 2/2/96

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2-8-96
 (in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 2-22-96

The Resources Committee considered SCR 24

Relating to a division of game in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and to management of game.

and recommends:

- be replaced with SEN CS SCR 24 (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:**
- same title
 - technical title
 - new: SCR# _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Rick Halford</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sym Hoff</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<i>Grace</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<i>CHAIR: Loren A. Jensen</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department Date Zero Fiscal

CS
SCR

<i>Committee</i>	<i>2/5/96</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department Date Zero Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

9-LS1624G ✓
Utermohle
2/21/96

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR SHARP

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to a division of game in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and**
2 **to management of game.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS, under Governor Steve Cowper, the name of the Alaska Department of**
5 **Fish and Game, division of game, was changed to the division of wildlife conservation on**
6 **January 1, 1989; and**

7 **WHEREAS, during the seven years under the new name, the primary mission of the**
8 **division, to manage the vast game resources of Alaska, has been significantly redirected**
9 **toward nongame, nonconsumptive uses and users; and**

10 **WHEREAS the change of the name of the division appears to also have changed the**
11 **focus of the division from management goals reflective of the taxes, license fees, and**
12 **matching federal dollars provided by consumptive users of game resources to management**
13 **goals based on public opinion and unscientific data; and**

14 **WHEREAS significant amounts of federal and state fish and game funds have been**
15 **used for purposes other than those purposes statutorily mandated to benefit those hunters and**
16 **sportsmen whose license fees and equipment taxes provide funding for the division;**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the number of actions
2 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage people, instead of game, by reducing
3 harvests, implementing onerous methods and means regulations, and restricting access to
4 game, should be kept at the lowest possible levels; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the game
6 resources of Alaska have the potential to be a truly growing "permanent fund," capable of
7 providing the highest harvestable and viewing benefits to all Alaskans; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that if the Department
9 of Fish and Game desires to provide viewing opportunities and other nonconsumptive uses of
10 resources, that those uses compete with other department programs for general fund money
11 and not siphon federal and state fish and game funds provided by hunters and sportsmen; and
12 be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urgently requests Governor
14 Knowles to reestablish the division of game within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
15 and to reaffirm the division's primary mission to manage the game resources of the state to
16 achieve and maintain high sustainable levels of game for all Alaskans.



Alaska State Legislature

Official Business

State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801

MEMO

TO: George Utermohle
Legal Services
via fax: 2029 this page only

FROM: Annette Kreitzer, Aide to
Senator Loren Leman

DATE: February 20, 1996

RE: CS for SCR 24 (RES)

It is simplest to send you the language the committee wants IN this resolution. It is as follows:

WHEREAS under Governor Steve Cowper the name of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, division of game, was changed to the division of wildlife conservation on January 1, 1989; and

WHEREAS, during the seven years under the new name, the primary mission of the division, to manage the vast game resources of Alaska, has been significantly redirected toward non-game, non-consumptive uses and users; and

WHEREAS the change of the name of the division appears to also have changed the focus of the division from management goals reflective of the taxes, license fees and matching federal dollars provided by consumptive users of game resources to management goals based on public opinion and unscientific data; and

WHEREAS significant amounts of federal and state fish and game funds have been used for purposes other than those purposes statutorily mandated to benefit those hunters and sportsmen whose license fees and equipment taxes provide funding for the division;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the number of actions by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage people, instead of game, by reducing harvests, implementing onerous methods and means regulations, and restricting access to game, be kept at the lowest possible levels; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the game resources of Alaska have the potential to be a truly growing "permanent fund," capable of providing the highest harvestable and viewing benefits to all Alaskans; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature finds that if the Department of Fish and Game desires to provide viewing opportunities and other nonconsumptive uses of resources, that those uses compete with other department programs for general fund moneys and not siphon federal and state fish and game funds provided by hunters and sportsmen.

+ last sentence line 11-14, page 2 (verbal to G.U.)

Technical Change

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR SHARP

Introduced: 2/2/96
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to a division of game in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
2 to management of game.

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

4 WHEREAS Governor Steve Cowper ^{was changed} changed the name of the Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game, division of game, to the division of wildlife conservation on January 1, 1989;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, during the seven years under the new name, the primary mission of the
8 division, to manage the vast game resources of Alaska, has been seriously eroded and blurred;
9 and *significantly re-directed toward*

10 WHEREAS the change of the name of the division has fostered fragmentation of
11 management goals that has resulted in building a bureaucracy of self-serving biologists and
12 administrators with nongame management agendas who justify decisions on public opinion
13 polls rather than current scientific biological data; and

14 WHEREAS the fragmentation of management goals has caused serious degradation
15 of the professionalism, self-esteem, and morale of the personnel of the division; and

16 WHEREAS blurring of the game management mission of the division has resulted in

non game, non-consumptive, uses of wildlife

He will now

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR SHARP

Introduced: 2/2/96
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to a division of game in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
2 to management of game.

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

4 WHEREAS Governor Steve Cowper changed the name of the Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game, division of game, to the division of wildlife conservation on January 1, 1989;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, during the seven years under the new name, the primary mission of the
8 division, to manage the vast game resources of Alaska, has been seriously eroded and blurred;
9 and

10 WHEREAS the change of the name of the division has fostered fragmentation of
11 management goals that has resulted in building a bureaucracy of self-serving biologists and
12 administrators with nongame management agendas who justify decisions on public opinion
13 polls rather than current scientific biological data; and

14 WHEREAS the fragmentation of management goals has caused serious degradation
15 of the professionalism, self-esteem, and morale of the personnel of the division; and

16 WHEREAS blurring of the game management mission of the division has resulted in

1 serious misuse of millions of dollars of federal and state fish and game funds that are
2 statutorily mandated to benefit those hunters and sportsmen whose license fees and equipment
3 taxes provide funding for the division;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the number of actions
5 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage people, instead of game, by reducing
6 harvests, implementing onerous methods and means regulations, and restricting access to
7 game, be kept at the lowest possible levels; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the game
9 resources of Alaska have the potential to be a truly growing "permanent fund," capable of
10 providing the highest harvestable and viewing benefits to all Alaskans; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urgently requests Governor
12 Knowles to reestablish the division of game within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
13 and to reaffirm the division's primary mission to manage the game resources of the state to
14 achieve and maintain high sustainable levels of game for all Alaskans.

*WAS NOT COAST
we are really going to
get stacked up.*

*Take something to the
A. B. Smith*



Alaska State Legislature

Official Business

State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

*expected to be present

- *Chairman: Senator Loren Leman
- *Vice Chairman: Senator Drue Pearce
- *Senator Steve Frank
- *Senator Rick Halford
- Senator Robin Taylor
- *Senator Georgianna Lincoln
- *Senator Lyman Hoffman

Teleconference Sites: ANC, FBX, Cordova, Kenai

AGENDA
3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 14, 1996

SCR 24: Reestablish ADF&G Division of Game
SENATOR SHARP, Sponsor

Teleconferenced

Expected Witnesses:
Senator Sharp to present resolution

SB 243: Oil & Gas Leases: Areawide & Others
SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE, Sponsor
SB 245: North Slope Oil & Gas Best Interest Finding
SENATE RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Teleconferenced

Expected Witnesses:

- Ken Boyd, Director, Division of Oil & Gas/DNR to give overview of 5-year Lease Sale Process
- Carol Shobe, Realty Services Section, Division of Land/DNR: overview of title work to prepare for 5-year Lease Sale Process
- Jim Hansen, Leasing & Evaluations, Division of Oil & Gas/DNR: overview of current best interest finding process for 5-year Lease Sale Process
- Ken Boyd: areawide lease sales, best interest finding as proposed in the bills before the committee
- Pat Foley, Lands Committee Chairman, Alaska Oil and Gas Association

NEXT MEETING:

~~Friday, Feb. 16 canceled, will be rescheduled;~~
~~Wednesday, February 21: Schedule to be announced~~

ADJOURN

Alaska State Legislature

*Revised
resubmitted to
Fairbanks Committee*

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT P

CHAIRMAN
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
RULES COMMITTEE



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JUNEAU, ALASKA 99901-1182
(907) 465-3004/4921

Senate

SPONSOR STATEMENT SCR-24

BY: MARILYN WILSON, LEGISLATIVE AIDE TO
SENATOR BERT SHARP, SPONSOR OF SCR-24

SCR-24 IS A REQUEST BY THE LEGISLATURE TO THE GOVERNOR TO CHANGE THE NAME DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BACK TO THE DIVISION'S FORMER NAME, DIVISION OF GAME.

IN 1989, GOVERNOR STEVE COWPER'S ADMINISTRATION RENAMED THE DIVISION OF GAME, TO THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

THE NAME CHANGE TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ENCOURAGED THE FRAGMENTATION OF THE DIVISION'S MISSION INTO MANY SECTIONS, MANY WITH OPPOSING GOALS. THE DIVISION'S RESOURCES HAVE BEEN REDIRECTED TOWARD BENEFITING NON-HUNTERS, GATHERING AND MANIPULATION OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR NON-USERS-PAYER BENEFIT AND VIRTUALLY ABANDONING THE MANAGEMENT OF ALASKA'S GAME RESOURCE FOR ABUNDANCE.

A NAME CARRIES A SIGNIFICANT MEANING. LET'S GET BACK TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GAME RESOURCE AS A HARVESTABLE RESOURCE FOR ALASKANS. LET'S RE-ESTABLISH A DIVISION OF GAME.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA

From:
ALASKA LEGISLATIVE
RESEARCH AGENCY

December 16, 1988

Mr. Ron Somerville
Alaska Outdoor Council
3780 McGinnis Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Somerville:

The Division of Game within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will change its name to the Division of Wildlife Conservation on January 1, 1989. This new name more accurately reflects the responsibilities and programs that this division administers.

The Division of Game is responsible for the management and conservation of all wildlife species which reside within the state. Many of these species are not hunted, and the word "game" connotes only those species which are hunted or trapped. Management of game species will remain a primary function of the division. However, the division has numerous other responsibilities--such as nongame management, wildlife research, refuge and sanctuary management, hunter education, and wildlife technical assistance.

The division's primary goals will remain: (1) to protect, maintain, and enhance the wildlife resources of Alaska; and (2) to provide for optimum use, both consumptive and nonconsumptive, consistent with sound biological principles and public needs. We believe the new name is more symbolic of the division's role as stewards of Alaska's wildlife resources.

Sincerely,

Don W. Collinsworth
Commissioner

Alaska State Legislature

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



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Senate

SPONSOR STATEMENT SCR-24 BY: SENATOR BERT SHARP

SCR-24 SIMPLY PUT IS A REQUEST BY THE LEGISLATURE TO THE GOVERNOR TO REMOVE THE NAME DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND REPLACE IT WITH THE DIVISION'S FORMER NAME, DIVISION OF GAME.

THE FIRST WHEREAS NOTES THAT, THEN GOVERNOR COWPER, IN 1989 RENAMED THE DIVISION OF GAME, THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

WHAT'S IN A NAME YOU SAY? A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME SMELLS JUST AS SWEET YOU SAY.

THE ROSE, (DIVISION OF GAME) THAT EVERYONE COULD RECOGNIZE AS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF GAME RESOURCES WAS REPLACED BY A BROAD ARRAY OF FLOWERING PLANTS THAT EMITS SUCH A RANGE OF SCENTS THAT EVERY POSEY SNIFFER CLAIMS TO DETECT THEIR FAVORITE AND DEMANDS THAT THEIR SENSE OF SMELL IS THE MOST ACCURATE AND OVERPOWERING.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ROSE WHICH REPRESENTED THE DIVISION OF GAME'S COMMITMENT TO THE MANAGEMENT OF GAME, BASED ON SOUND SCIENTIFIC DATA, HAS DETERIORATED TO A MANGY BRAMBLE.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA

THE GOAL OF ACHIEVING HIGH SUSTAINABLE POPULATION LEVELS OF GAME ANIMALS FOR PERSONAL USE HARVEST AND VIEWING BY ALASKANS IS NO LONGER A COMMITMENT OF THE DIVISION. NO LONGER IS HANDS ON ACTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESOURCE CONSIDERED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.

THEIR MISSION NOW IS MORE FOCUSED ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HARVEST GAME.

THEY NOW ADVOCATE THE NEED TO MANAGE PUBLIC OPINIONS AS ONE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, SUCH AS THEIR NEWLY PROPOSED "HUMAN DIMENSIONS" PROGRAM COSTING OVER 1/4 MILLION DOLLARS.

THE FACT IS THAT 100% OF THIS DIVISION'S BUDGET IS PAID FOR BY TAXES AND FEES ON HUNTERS, SHOOTERS, SPORTFISHING ACTIVITIES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

THE NAME CHANGE IN 1989 TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ENCOURAGED THE FRAGMENTATION OF THE DIVISION'S MISSION INTO MANY PARTS, MANY WITH DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSING GOALS. THE DIVISION'S RESOURCES HAVE BEEN REDIRECTED TOWARD BENEFITING NON-HUNTERS, GATHERING AND MANIPULATION OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR NON-USERS-PAYER BENEFIT AND VIRTUALLY ABANDONING THE MANAGEMENT OF ALASKA'S GAME RESOURCE FOR ABUNDANCE.

I SUBMIT THAT A NAME CARRIES A SIGNIFICANT MEANING. ASK THOSE ENGAGED IN THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY, WOULD THEY FAVOR A CHANGE OF NAME FROM DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES TO THE DIVISION OF CONSERVATION OF MARINE LIFE? I THINK NOT. LET'S SEND A MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNOR. LET'S GET BACK TO BASICS, LET'S GET BACK TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GAME RESOURCE AS A HARVESTABLE RESOURCE FOR ALASKANS, LET'S RE-ESTABLISH A DIVISION OF GAME.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

To: Senate Resources, Senator Bert Sharp

February 14, 1996

From: Peter E.K. Shepherd, 1012 Galena St., Fairbanks AK 99709
Phone 474-4685 Fax 474-9173 E-Mail pekshep@polarnet.com

Subject: SCR 24

I would like to thank Senator Sharp for introducing SCR 24; this resolution appropriately returns the title of game division to its original and descriptive meaning and reaffirms the management mission of this division.

I was hired as an ADF&G, game division biologist July 1, 1960 and retired in May of 1981. Many of us who joined the cadre of this newly formed division had years of experience in Alaska, prior to statehood, with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This prior experience was gained not only through academic training, but by field work in Alaska, and backgrounds of hunting, fishing, and trapping. Today one finds that many of the biologists charged with management of the wildlife resource are products of a very different philosophy and not in sympathy with the consumptive user.

It was with great pride that my fellow biologists and I looked forward to applying our biological training and practical experience towards research and management of Alaska's wildlife. Myself and contemporary biologists were fully aware of the state constitutional mandate to manage wildlife for sustained yield with consumptive use a priority use of fish and game.

Our salaries were furnished by Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration monies provided by the Pittman-Robertson Act and matched with Alaskan and non-resident license fees. I was obligated to do my best for the resource and the hunting public, but at the same time realized that with a pro-active management program and favorable environmental factors our efforts towards game abundance would also benefit the non-consumptive public. This attitude seems to be directed today towards a passive mode which in the long-run will benefit neither group.

I agree with Senator Sharp's vision that in the last decade the wildlife division's mission has distinctly changed from one of active management to a biocentric oriented passive mode. This philosophical view doesn't complement legislative direction or constitutional mandate. The public understanding of the word "conservation" no longer has the same connotation it did in the recent past. Most people associate conservation with preservation and the concept that the best way to preserve nature is to leave it alone. However, many scientists would agree that to leave nature alone is to leave it to a torrent of change. Nature can not manage animal populations; we can, by the most scientific and humane means possible.

I urge the legislators to continue their welcome efforts for game management reforms, since it appears the present ADF&G leadership is reluctant to meet their obligation to the wildlife resource, legislative direction, the constitutional philosophy, and the ^{users} ~~users~~.

Peter Shepherd

ATTN: Sonak Resource, Sustainable

To: Editorial Page Editor
Daily News-Miner
Fairbanks, AK

February 12, 1996

From: Peter E.K. Shepherd
1012 Galena St.
Fairbanks, AK 99709 Phone 474-4685 Fax 474-9173

Dear Editor,

Celia Hunter is again showing her environmental need for ecological deliverence. She begins by critiquing the bounty bill and other legislative efforts to jump-start a stalled wildlife management program. She speaks as if environmentalists were guardians of the public trust, whereas for years the movement embraced and lobbied for laws endangering cultures and liberties. I disagree with some of the points she presents.

Indigenous people respect wolves and bears for far different reasons than those profffered by self-anointed preservationists. This respect was fostered by intense competition for food and admiration for predators speed, strength, and endurance. Hunter-gatherers also routinely burned vegetation to promote new growth or sustain productive secondary successional stages---practices which would hardly be acceptable to todays saviors of mature forests.

I suggest that wolf control is beneficial and necessary under certain ecological situations, and because ADF&G participation has been halted by political interference, encouraging public harvests of wolves has become an option. Bounties are simply subsidies, an incentive to supplement low fur prices, especially for rural Alaskans. After all, government subsidizes just about everything else it wants to succeed!

Accidental death of moose by vehicular traffic has no relationship to wolf bounties, unless one wishes to eliminate trains and automobiles by paying removal bounties. Furthermore, this unnecessary loss of animal life could possibly be alleviated by forest and wildlife management practices opposed by enviromental organizations.

In due respect to Dr. Robert B. Weedens' metaphysical prose, a healthy land capable producing wolves can become biologically dysfunctional during explosive predator population eruptions, leaving a land devoid of prey and predator. Despite the hubris claims of the biocentric populus, nature left alone is subject to a torrent of change.

We live on a very unpredictable planet where changes are often swift and devastating. The environmentalists vision is that of a kind and balanced nature. However, to give birth to this vision we must learn how to tame the chaos. Nature can not manage animal populations; we can, by the most scientific and humane means possible.

P.S. Doubt if they'll publish this

Peter Shepherd

P.S.

Bounties: an archaic, expensive idea

NEWS - WINNER FEB. 8, 1996

Legislators should stop demonizing our wolves

Deja vu. The current brouhaha regarding wolf control is a

replay of so many similar conflicts which have raged around the issue of "The Wolf's Place in Alaska" since white men arrived here in the last century.

It's interesting that we Caucasians have transferred our vision of morality—of good versus evil—almost literally into our attitude toward the wolf. Indigenous peoples rarely see the world in terms of black and white—good animals and bad animals. They view the other creatures who share the world with them as deserving of respect and courtesy and offer them a ceremonial acknowledgment of their importance to their own survival even when they hunt the animals as part of their subsistence economy.

I was shocked to note in a recent news article on the proposal by one of our local legislators to reinstate a bounty system for "managing" wolves that he described wolves as "vermin." The bill in question would de-classify the wolf as a big game animal in favor of listing it as an unclassified animal "ranking them as vermin along with porcupines and starlings."

When I first arrived in Alaska, the territory had a bounty system on several predators. The first Territorial Legislature in 1915 established a bounty of \$10 on wolves "to conserve game animals." Over the years, other species were added to the list of bountied wildlife and bird life, in-



Cella Hunter

cluding the bald eagle, hair seals (which included the harbor seal, ringed seal, ribbon seal, and bearded seal), Dolly Varden trout, and the wolverine. By 1960, when the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was created, they reported that bounties had cost the taxpayers nearly \$3 million.

In this 1980 report by ADF&G, biologist Cal Lensink emphasized that in certain situations predator control might be justified, but that bounties were the least desirable method of providing predator control. When I see the present statistics (1990s) on the number of moose slaughtered by automobiles, plus those killed by the Alaska Railroad, it seems to me if we're going to protect our big game animals, we ought to be collecting so much a head from the railroad and vehicle operators for each moose killed.

Unfortunately, all this talk about predator control by bounties or any other methods pussy-foots around the basic issue, which is legislative interference in the management of our fish and wildlife. Much of the legislature's actions are based on myths and long-standing prejudices, and the individual legislators harbor deep suspicions about the activities and research carried out by ADF&G wildlife biologists and management personnel.

Under the present set-up in the Legislature, the ADF&G is

even being deprived of federal funding which would take some of the burden off state monies because various legislators are determined to do away with the wildlife Habitat Division due to its supposed restriction of unfettered private enterprise as it seeks to maintain adequate habitat protection including breeding areas for fish.

One of the treasures of being an Alaska resident is the opportunity to live in a land which still supports abundant wildlife of many varieties. We know moose quite intimately as we share our woods and ski trails with them. We even have a moose here in Dogpatch who has acquired a taste for the black sunflower seeds we put out for our friendly chickadees. The other morning we watched one young bull stretch up to his full height while he tried to poke his nose into the openings on the bird feeder beside our back deck.

During my long acquaintance with Mt. McKinley National Park as my partner and I were busy building and operating Camp Denali, we had wonderful opportunities to enjoy the park wildlife. Bears, Dall sheep, caribou and moose, abundant waterfowl, and other bird life made each trip through the park an adventure.

The animal which gave us the greatest thrill, however, was the wolf, and our guests from all over the world shared that enjoyment. Thank goodness, the earlier attitudes toward the wolf no longer prevailed within the park. When I first visited Mt. McKinley National Park, during the late '40s and early '50s, wolves were not esteemed, and National Park Service rangers had orders to shoot wolves on sight.

But it was in the 1960s that

Dr. Robert B. Weeden penned these memorable lines, which appear on a beautiful poster, produced by the Northern Environmental Foundation of Winnipeg, featuring a lone Arctic black wolf loping across an expanse of tundra beneath a fantastic cloud formation:

"The world needs an embodiment of the frontier mythology, the sense of horizons unexplored, the mystery of uninhabited miles. It needs a place where wolves stalk the strand lines in the dark, because a land that can produce a wolf is a healthy, robust and perfect land."

In conclusion, I have gone back to Aldo Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac," to his description of killing a wolf: "In those days we had never heard of passing up a chance to kill a wolf. In a second we were pumping lead into the pack, but with more excitement than accuracy ... When our rifles were empty, the old wolf was down, and a pup was dragging a leg into impassable slick rocks.

"We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes—something known only to her and the mountain. I was young then, and full of trigger-itch; I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view."

Amen.

Cella Hunter has been involved in the Alaska conservation movement since 1960.

ATTN: Senator Sharp