

**SCR**

**10**

# FISCAL NOTE

No. 1  
 Bill Version: SCR 10  
 (S) Publish Date: 4-26-97

**STATE OF ALASKA  
 1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Revision Date 4/9/97 Dept. Affected \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title Supporting use of furbearer resource BRU \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Wilken \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requester \_\_\_\_\_ Component Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues**

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES [ ]</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE**

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1091 Designated Program Receipts						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: 0.0

**POSITIONS**

POSITIONS	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution will have no fiscal impact on state agencies.

Prepared by Senate Resources Committee  
 Division *Rick Halford*  
 Approved by Senator Rick Halford, Chairman  
 Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 465-4907  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date 4/21/97

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## **ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL, INC.**

P.O. Box 73902  
Fairbanks, AK 99707-3902  
907-455-4262 ph/FAX

January 2, 1997

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Division of Refuges  
Attention: Trapping Project  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Rm 670  
Arlington, VA 22203

To whom it may concern:

This letter responds to your solicitation of comments regarding the use of "animal traps" or "steel jaw leghold traps" in the National Wildlife Refuge System on behalf of the Alaska Outdoor Council.

The Council is a statewide Alaskan umbrella organization comprised of over 50 conservation - outdoor user clubs plus 1100 individual members with a total membership of about 12,000. The purposes of the Outdoor Council are to promote sound scientific fish and wildlife and habitat management, public access to public resources consistent with the Alaska state constitution, and ethical uses of these resources. As the official state association of the National Rifle Association, the Council also supports the individual right to keep and bear arms, and safe, ethical, legal firearm uses.

The Council advocates fishing, hunting, trapping and other outdoor activities. These activities are regularly challenged at local, state and federal government levels by various groups and individuals. The Council supports well regulated fish, wildlife and habitat uses, but opposes unsound and discriminatory laws. The Council categorically rejects arguments that fishing, hunting and trapping should be prohibited. Such arguments are not based on fact, reflect an unacceptable intolerance of others' values, and threaten the traditional values and lifestyles of fishers, hunters, trappers and many others.

Trapping furbearers is a way of life for thousands of Alaskans, and an important element of Alaskan lifestyles for thousands more. Trapping provides income for people living where jobs are scarce and for those who need supplementary income and are willing to work for it. Trapping provides furs widely used for practical Alaskan winter clothing. Trapping contributes to scientific management of wildlife resources.

The main kinds of "animal traps" used in Alaska are leghold traps, snares, and body-grip traps. Leghold traps are most common and are used for species ranging from weasels to wolves. Leghold traps are sometimes used for bears and other species by wildlife agencies for research, management, and depredation control.

Snares probably rank second in extent of use. The use of bodygrip traps is increasing, but is probably still third in the extent of uses.

Alaska contains 76 million acres of National Wildlife Refuge lands. That's about 85 % of the entire National Wildlife Refuge system acreage. Most federal refuges in Alaska were established by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The lands designated "refuge" in ANILCA were mostly those with important wildlife populations and habitats. All have supported trapping using steel traps, snares and home-made traps for up to 200 or more years. Historically, trapping intensity varied from highly commercialized with high harvests to limited personal use, depending on various social, political and economic factors.

None of that detracted from the suitability of these areas for Refuge designation by ANILCA. Indeed, the rallying cry was to preserve these pristine ecosystems..

Because the Alaskan refuges (85% of the entire refuge system) were designated on prime wildlife lands, they almost always surrounded numerous towns and villages. People of these towns and villages fish, hunt, trap and gather natural resources as part of their lifestyle and life support. They use steel traps, snares, bodygrip traps, guns, boats, snowgos, etc. People from larger towns also fish, hunt and trap on refuges--many of them trap as part of their livelihood and lifestyle, just as local people do.

There is no evidence that trapping as regulated over the last 40 to 50 years has caused ecological problems on any of the refuges. There is no reason to believe that traps as a capture tool will cause conservation problems in the future.

If future conservation problems arise it will be because ANILCA's "customary and traditional" language allows for fishing, hunting and trapping with no closed season and no bag limit under the rural subsistence priority, not because traps or any other particular tool or tolls are used.

There are not endangered species subject to trapping on refuges in Alaska--85 % of the entire federal refuge system.

Wildlife lives and dies by tooth and claw, disease and starvation. Big animals eat little animals. Prey is often eaten while still alive--bleeding, broken, disemboweled, struggling to escape while pieces are torn from its body, until it can struggle no more. Animals die lingering deaths if small game, mice, berries, moose, caribou or other foods are scarce. Beaver get frozen in, unable to reach their feed--or flooded out, drowning kits in spring. While some trapping techniques do cause physical trauma to trapped animals, trapping can scarcely be more inhumane than nature. In

general, trappers work to minimize physical damage to furbearers for two reasons: a) they wish to minimize physical trauma and suffering, and b) for economic and esthetic reasons, they wish to minimize damage to the furs they've worked hard to obtain.

In summary, there are no substantive reasons to categorically propose elimination or significant restriction of the use of traps on federal refuges, and certainly not on the 85% of the refuge system in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Bishop  
Executive Director

P.S. Alaska is also affected by trapping practices on lower 48 refuges. Waterfowl populations that migrate between Alaska and the lower 48 can be severely impacted by high populations of skunk, raccoon, and other furbearing predators. There is no need to further discourage the trapping of these abundant predators on refuges.

**Taxpayers' money is being used to track and snare Alaska's wolves. And you thought taxes were killing you.**



*Still alive when found, this radio-collared wolf, from a family group inhabiting the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, spent at least three days caught by the foot and neck in a wire snare. The Wolf was lured by 4 dead caribou, caught in snares at this same sight.*

Two years ago, public opposition to any wolf control measure that puts wire nooses around wolves' legs and necks and leaves them in the snow to suffer slow, agonizing deaths, helped suspend Alaska's wolf control program.

Now, an intensive, privately organized wolf control program is underway on public lands - within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and other areas of the forty-mile caribou range supported by your tax dollars, but without your knowledge or consent.

The National Park Service radio-collared wolves at taxpayer expense, then gave the frequencies to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, enabling that agency to radio track the wolves regularly. ADF&G biologists then provided information about the wolves travel patterns - deduced from tracking them with radio collars - to wolf trappers.

Lured by the promise of a \$400 per wolf pelts bounty offered by the Alaska Trappers Association

and others, trappers have deployed hundreds of indiscriminate wire snares - barbaric devices which ensure prolonged suffering for the wolves, coyotes, foxes, lynx, caribou, and other animals caught in them. The "saturation snaring" - a disaster for entire ecosystems - is the land-based equivalent of driftnet fishing, which is now condemned worldwide.

To make matters worse, Alaska is the only state in the union that doesn't require trappers to check their snares and traps regularly. The wolf pictured above, as well as four caribou captured at the same snare sight, are some of the latest known victims of this outrage.

Please write to: The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska, P.O. Box 110001, Juneau, Alaska 99811 0001. Tell him you want an immediate closure to wolf snaring, trapping and hunting in the area of the private bounty and a halt to "saturation snaring" statewide.

YES, I AGREE WITH FRIENDS OF ANIMALS THAT WOLVES, CARIBOU AND OTHER ANIMALS SHOULD NOT BE VICTIMS OF BARBARIC SNARES AND LEGHOLD TRAPS. I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN AND RECEIVE FOA'S QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE, ACTION LINE, WHICH WILL KEEP ME UPDATED ON WHAT FOA IS DOING TO PROTECT WOLVES AND OTHER WILDLIFE IN ALASKA AND AROUND THE WORLD

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION TO FRIENDS OF ANIMALS FOR \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

FRIENDS OF ANIMALS (FOA) IS A NON-PROFIT MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS BEEN PROTECTING ANIMALS FROM CRUELTY, ABUSE AND INSTITUTIONALIZED EXPLOITATION AROUND THE WORLD SINCE 1977

**Friends of Animals**   
777 POST ROAD, DARIEN, CT 06820

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and

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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERS We can no longer  
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 MUST be in U.S. dollars.  
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MAIL ORDER WITH PAYMENT TO:  
 The Alaska Wildlife Alliance,  
 P.O. Box 202022, Anchorage, AK  
 99520-2022.



**Wolf  
Video**

The shocking video of Alaska's  
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**ALASKA LAND ACREAGE SUMMARY  
DECEMBER 31, 1989**

	<u>Millions of Acres</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	
<b>Total Land Alaska</b> .....	<b>367.7</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<i>mi<sup>2</sup></i> <i>576,531</i>
<b>State Land Entitlement</b> <sup>1</sup> .....	<b>105.8*</b>	<b>28.8%</b>	
Selected Land <sup>2</sup> (includes overselection).....	25.1		
Tentatively Approved <sup>2</sup> .....	49.8		
Patented <sup>2</sup> .....	35.1		
<b>Private Land Owned by Individuals</b> <sup>3</sup> .....	<b>5.0*</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	
<b>Native Corporation Land Entitlement</b> <sup>4</sup> .....	<b>43.7*</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	
Selected Land (includes overselection).....	35.0		
Interim Conveyed or Patented <sup>5</sup> .....	35.8		
<b>Total Federal Land</b> .....	<b>217.7*</b>	<b>59.2%</b>	
<b>National Park System</b> .....	<b>51.0**</b>	<b>(13.9%)</b>	
(Parks Acreage also within the National Wilderness Preservation System: 32.4) <sup>6</sup>			
Parks/Monuments Established Prior to 1980 <sup>7</sup> ---	7.5		
Parks/Monuments Established in ANILCA <sup>6</sup> ----	24.6		
Preserves Established in ANILCA <sup>6</sup> .....	18.9		
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife System</b> .....	<b>76.0**</b>	<b>(20.6%)</b>	
(Refuge Acreage also within the National Wilderness Preservation System: 18.6) <sup>6</sup>			
Refuges Established Prior to ANILCA <sup>8</sup> .....	22.3		
Refuges Established in ANILCA <sup>6</sup> .....	53.7		
<b>U.S. Forest System</b> .....	<b>23.2**</b>	<b>(6.3%)</b>	
(Forest Acreage also within the National Wilderness Preservation System: 5.4) <sup>6</sup>			
Forests Established Prior to ANILCA <sup>9</sup> .....	19.8		
Forests Established in ANILCA <sup>6</sup> .....	3.4		
<b>Bureau of Land Management</b> .....	<b>65.0**</b>	<b>(17.7%)</b>	
National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska .....	22.4		
Areas Established in ANILCA <sup>6</sup>			
Conservation & Recreation Areas .....	2.2		
Nat'l Wild & Scenic Rivers System .....	1.5		
Other Alaska Land (Public Domain) .....	38.9		
<b>Military Land</b> <sup>10</sup> .....	<b>2.5**</b>	<b>(0.7%)</b>	

**Note:** Because of unresolved overlaps between state and Native selections and various federal designations and because state entitlement land may be disposed of to private owners, the sum of subtotals exceeds the statewide total.

\*Figures add to statewide total.

\*\*Figures add to federal total.

**GARY WILKEN**

SENATOR  
Districts 29 & 30  
West Fairbanks

Senate Standing Committees

Chairman: Health, Education,  
and Social Services (HESS)  
Vice Chairman: Transportation  
Vice Chairman: Community and  
Regional Affairs

Special Committee

Member: Administrative Regulation Review



During Session:  
State Capitol, Room 510  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3709 (v)  
(907) 465-4714 (f)  
[www: akrepublicans.org/wilken.htm](http://www.akrepublicans.org/wilken.htm)  
E-mail: Senator\_Gary\_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us

Interior:  
119 N. Cushman St., Room 213  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 452-3421  
Fax (907) 452-3426

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Representative Scott Ogan  
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee

**FROM:** Gary Wilken  
Senator, West Fairbanks

**DATE:** April 30, 1997

**RE:** Request for Committee Hearing for SCR 10  
"Supporting Use of Furbearer Resources"

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Please schedule Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, "Supporting Use of Furbearer Resources" for a House Resources Committee Hearing at your earliest convenience.

SCR 10 calls for the Alaska Legislature's endorsement of continued harvest and use by Alaskans of the state's renewable furbearer resources consistent with the principles of sustained yield. I feel that this is important since trapping is a traditional Alaskan activity that promotes self-reliance and provides food, clothing and income for many of our residents.

I have attached a sponsor statement for SCR 10. Please contact my aide, Ms. Beth Hagevig, if you have any further questions in regards to this resolution.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Wilken".

## **GARY WILKEN**

SENATOR  
Districts 29 & 30  
West Fairbanks

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and Social Services (HESS)  
Vice Chairman: Transportation  
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Interior:  
119 N. Cushman St., Room 213  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 452-3421  
Fax (907) 452-3426

## **SPONSOR STATEMENT**

### **SCR 10 - Supporting Use of Furbearer Resources**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 calls for the Alaska State Legislature's endorsement of continued harvest and use by Alaskans of the state's renewable furbearer resources, consistent with the principles of sustained yield.

There are some that feel trapping should no longer be allowed in our state. I strongly disagree and through this legislation I hope the Legislature will too.

We, in Alaska, are blessed with many renewable resources including abundant furbearer populations. Not only is trapping an important management tool for helping to maintain healthy furbearer populations, it is also a traditional activity for many Alaskans and helps promote self-reliance by providing income, food, and clothing. Trapping ties Alaska to its pioneer roots, and helps to keep alive the very values that built the forty-ninth state.