

SCR

2



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
Vice Chair: Senator Lyda Green
Senator Loren Leman
Senator Bert Sharp
Senator Robin Taylor
Senator John Torgersen
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

Teleconference Sites: ANC, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Ketchikan

AGENDA

3:30 TO 5:00 p.m.
Friday, March 7, 1997

SCR 2: Management of wildlife resources Teleconferenced
Senator Taylor, sponsor

Expected Witnesses:
Senator Taylor to present the resolution

NEXT MEETING
Monday, March 10

SJR 20 - Modify federal wetlands program for Alaska's needs
SB 64 - Shuyak Island State Park

* Bills previously scheduled

ADJOURN

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 1/17/97

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/27/97
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/10/97

Resources Committee considered SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2
Relating to management of Alaska's wildlife resources.

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS SCR 2 (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 DP/PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>John Lougan</i>	✓	<i>[Signature]</i>			✓
<i>Karen J. Jensen</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>Vice CHAIR: Luke Green</i>	✓	CHAIR:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>Resources</i>	<i>3/7</i>	<i>X</i>	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*Include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SCR 2(RES)

Revision Date 3/7/97 Dept. Affected _____
 Title Management of wildlife resources BRU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Taylor _____
 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						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

CHANGE IN REVENUES						
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1091 Designated Program Receipts						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution has no fiscal impact on state agencies.

Prepared by Senate Resources Committee
 Division _____
 Approved by Senator Lyda Green, Vice-Chair *Lyda Green*
 Agency _____

Phone 465-4907
 Date _____
 Date 3/7/97

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Alaska State Legislature

Chairman.
Judiciary Committee

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Resources Committee
Rules Committee
Committee on Committees



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Senator Robin L. Taylor

Sponsor Statement

Senate Concurrent Resolution 2

SCR 2 is a simple resolution. If the policies it advocates were implemented, the State of Alaska would go a long way toward solving the subsistence dilemma by managing wildlife for abundance.

A shortage of wildlife will not be solved by determining who may have a preference regarding harvest. Our state constitution is very explicit on this issue. Article VIII, Section 3 states "*Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife and waters are reserved to the people for common use*".

Our constitution also mandates that fish and game resources be managed on the principle of sustained yield. The current administration has failed to implement an intensive management program that will ensure an abundance of wildlife. Attempting to manage complex wildlife populations by only addressing human use will not work. Alaskans currently harvest less than three percent of the harvestable surplus, an amount so small that it is statistically insignificant.

An abundance of fish and wildlife for all Alaskans is the only practical solution to the subsistence impasse. Present policies only perpetuate shortages. An abundance of wildlife is what the people of Alaska need, want and demand. Plentiful populations are good for consumptive users, wildlife viewers, photographers and tourists.

SCR 2 calls on the administration to do everything possible to implement management based on abundance.

District A:

Hyder • Ketchikan • Kupreanof • Meyers Chuck • Petersburg • Saxman • Sitka • Wrangell



Alaska Environmental Lobby, Inc.

P.O. Box 22151 Juneau, Alaska 99802

Phone: 907-463-3366

Fax: 907-463-3312

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE ~ FIRST SESSION

SCR 2: a resolution relating to management of Alaska's wildlife resources

While this resolution at first encounter appears benign, the ambiguity and restrictive aspects of this legislation create a document that the Alaska Environmental Lobby is unable to support.

- **Ambiguity:** the phrase "biological basis for abundance" is so vague as to create confusion: is the sponsor applying the term equally to predator and prey species alike? If two differing prey species are in competition for the same habitat (for example, black tail deer and introduced elk), which species is to be given preference for "abundance" management?
- **Restriction of management options:** wildlife management issues frequently must be examined on a case-specific basis - factors to consider are constantly changing, new studies offer fresh data to evaluate. The formulation and coordination of plans of action for managing a given population require that complex decisions be made, decisions that should be made within the public forum. To restrict wildlife biologists at ADF&G and members of the boards of game and fisheries to decisions based solely on the vague concept of biological abundance is to deny the reality of the realm in which these people must function - they must consider "people" needs as well as the "biological" needs of the wildlife.

The Alaska Environmental Lobby must take exception with the sponsor's attempts to obscure an issue that is clearly addressed by the Alaska Constitution, Article VIII, Section 4 on Sustained Yield. If the sponsor has concerns with the expenditure of money for wildlife research, AEL suggests that more directed legislation could be drafted to deal with those specific concerns.

Neil Plested, Volunteer
3/7/97



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Neil Plested, Volunteer
3/7/97



RECEIVED

AS 1.....

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

PLEASE ENTER INTO THE RECORD MY TESTIMONY TO THE Senate Resources
COMMITTEE NAME

COMMITTEE ON SCR 2 DATED _____
BILL/SUBJECT

We support SCR No. 2. Over the last 20 years ~~of~~ ~~the~~ Alaskans have lot focus on the fact that plentiful wildlife resources are necessary for satisfying the various uses of them. ~~the~~ Our fish and game professionals and Boards have zeroed in on who should have the "last moose" rather than doing everything possible to enhance moose populations and habitats.

There are special interests who pretend that Alaskans who hunt can not or should not detract from visitors who wish to view game in its natural habitat. This argument is eyewash. There must be strong, healthy populations for hunting and viewing. Abundance is the goal. The concept of management on a biological basis is sound. Let the social science experiment of the last 10 years end.

SIGNED Mike Tinker MIKE TINKER Thank you.
TESTIFIER

AWCA Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association
REPRESENTING (OPTIONAL)

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ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Toni Utt
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Wasilla, AK 99654
(907)376-5718 phone
(907)373-7719 fax

COMMENTS FOR TELECONFERENCE

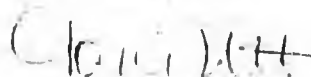
RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

The main item that strikes me about this Bill is "shortages currently exist in numerous wildlife populations in Alaska and are continuing unabated: and whereas it is in the best interest of all Alaskans that the replenishable resources of Alaska are biologically managed for abundance" ... if I remember correctly, it wasn't too long ago that there was a "cow season"....this really makes sense - there is a shortage and our "biological management" decides to kill mothers and unborn??!!
Where is the common sense?

Then there was an article in the Anchorage Daily News yesterday regarding the wolf that was caught in a snare in the Yukon Charley Rivers National Preserve...I didn't think you could hunt or trap in a Park or Preserve to start with and then not only did it snare a wolf, but it snared caribou also! Then, Fish and Game Commissioner Frank Rue stated that "state law prohibited anyone but the trapper from touching the wolf." - Does that mean that if I am out walking in the park, not paying attention to where I am going, looking at the birds flying overhead and step into a snare; anyone with me cannot get me out of the snare, they have to wait until the trapper comes to check it? I know you are going to say that I should be watching where I'm walking and being aware of my surroundings, but when you are out in the beauty of Mother Nature some things are more important than watching where you put your foot! And then you'll say that this is a different case - I am human and the wolf is an animal....WE ARE ALL ANIMALS! Both wolf and man bleed if they are cut, breathe air, must have food and water to survive.

Please think twice before messing with Mother Nature. God created us all and He takes care of us as He sees fit....There is an overabundance of human animals.....are we going to start trapping specific segments of humans to manage the balance?

Thank you.



Toni Utt

JoAnn Utt
PO Box 1114
Palmer, AK 99645
fax (907)373-7719

COMMENTS FOR TELECONFERENCE

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.2

Line 12: "Whereas an abundance of wildlife will benefit all user groups and will greatly reduce competition amount Alaskans for wildlife resources."

I am sure line 11 and 12 refer to the destruction of the wolf. I have very strong reservations on this....why is it the wolf is #1 on the hit list? Maybe, we should "trim" our hunting permits to levels of which caribou (etc.) can return to acceptable heights.

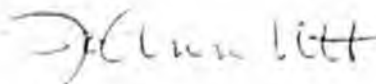
If you read the 3/6/97 issue of Anchorage Daily News, Metro Section (front page) - *Alert* - there is a problem when a wolf trap besides snaring 1 wolf - killed 4 caribou (on a dwindling herd - maybe more than the wolf should be blamed)! Maybe, these lobby-paid trappers should be outlawed!

I attended the Board of Game hearings a few years ago in Anchorage. A very knowledgeable Elder from the Fortymile area said limited hunting needed to be evoked until herds were replenished - too bad Fish & Game, as well as our Juneau politicians, do not look at both sides of an issue as our Native leaders can.

However, as you have seen, the American public have shown their disillusionment with "politics as usual" from our paid public servants. Let's be a different breed - *be fair* and look at both sides! Poeti justice to save the caribou from the wolf for a hunter (no-win situation for the caribou?)!

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



JoAnn Utt

P.S. Senator Taylor: You need to stop worrying about the plight of the Alaska Outdoor Council and start worrying about unemployment in Southeast - you know *Timber?*