

HB

26

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Mary Pagenkopf

Senate Rules Committee 5/1/97 10:51 a.m.

Alaska State Legislature

Co-Chair Resources Committee
Special Committee on Oil & Gas
Legislative Council
Community and Regional Affairs
Fisheries



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Representative Scott Ogan House District 27

Sponsor Statement HB-26

I have introduced HB-26 (HB-313 last session), because the need to provide our wildlife specialists with the proper management tools is extremely important, especially in areas identified as needing intensive management. In light of Ballot Initiative #3 being approved, it is even more important we pass HB-26. Without sufficient latitude, it is difficult for the Department of Fish and Game and Board of Game to meet the requirements of sustained yield management under Article VIII of our State Constitution..

To maintain a healthy population of moose, caribou, and sheep for both human and natural (secondary) harvest the Department and Board of Game have few choices once hunting has been reduced or eliminated. One of the only practical remaining options to further decrease mortality of ungulates is a reduction in natural predation. To assist the Department in meeting their sustained yield goals, HB-26 provides increased incentives for nonresident hunters who consider the purchase of a big game tag to harvest wolves.

These hunters are generally under the supervision of a professional guide which requires a more closely monitored entry into the field. This, together with more stringent reporting requirements of animals both taken and shipped, gives the Department a very well controlled tool in attaining the scientifically established population goals for a given area.

It should be noted, that of the some 10,000 nonresident who typically hunt in Alaska annually, less than 3% purchase tags for harvesting a wolf. The main reason for low tag sales is the opportunity to harvest a wolf is remote at best. Consequently, most hunters are unwilling to pay a large sum of money with such poor odds. By establishing a more reasonable price on tags, the Department should see a significant rise in sales which will in turn put more dollars into the Fish and Game Fund while also increasing the incidental take of wolves.

In summary, HB-26 will provide a wider latitude for the Board of Game in making adjustments to meet the needs of both human and secondary utilization of our important ungulate resources while increasing the revenues for better management. I urge your support for this modification as provided in HB-26.

Thank you.

FISCAL NOTE

(1)
 Bill Version: HB 26
 (H) Publish Date: 1/31/97

STATE OF ALASKA
 1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: Big Game Tags for Wolves BRU: Wildlife Conservation
 Component: Wildlife Conservation
 Sponsor: Representative Ogan
 Requester: House Resources COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 473

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						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
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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	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

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)

Reduced fees may be an incentive for more nonresidents and nonresident aliens, who come to Alaska to hunt other big game species, to purchase big game tags for wolves. Sales estimates are based on the following assumptions: (1) average annual nonresident and alien licensees will remain constant at 8,050 and 310, respectively; (2) 53% of nonresident/alien hunters who indicated an unwillingness to pay any more for their hunts* will not purchase wolf tags; (3) of the remainder, 30% of hunters who oppose wolf control* will not purchase wolf tags; (4) of the remainder, 50% of hunters who do not already purchase wolf tags, will purchase wolf tags (assumption #4 is speculative). Using these assumptions, the number of nonresident/alien wolf tags sold annually will increase from the present 215/30 to 1500/75.

*from: D.W. McCollum and S.M. Miller, 1994, Alaska voters, Alaska hunters, and Alaska nonresident hunters: their wildlife related trip characteristics and economics and their characteristics and attitudes toward wildlife.

Prepared by: Phil Koehl, Wildlife Biologist *PK*
 Division: Wildlife Conservation
 Approved by Commissioner: Gordon Bruce Don
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game //

Phone: 465-4190
 Date: 1/17/97
 Date: 1/21/97

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