

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES

1993-1994

8672

8081

HOUSE RESOURCES

PROPOSAL

Introduction:

Mountain Goat and Elk introduction to Prince of Wales Island.

Objective:

To establish self sustaining herds of Mountain Goat and Elk to Prince of Wales Island. To allow the residents of Prince of Wales the opportunity of a varied wildlife population.

Justification:

This proposal is based on public demand as supplied in the petition enclosed. The ADF&G's obligation according to Alaska State Statute Title 16, Fish and Game chapter 25 Section 16.25.010, Stocking of Public Lands.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita Haskin" followed by the date "2/10/93".

Rita Haskin

cc: Sen. Robin Taylor
Repr. Jerry Mackie
Sen. Fred Zharoff
Dave Kellyhouse, ADF&G
Ketchikan Sports & Wildlife Club



Sitka Sportsman's Association

P.O. BOX 3030 • SITKA, ALASKA 99835

SENATOR ROBIN TAYLOR
STATE SENATE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

APRIL 3, 1993

SENATOR,

RE: SB 43

At the March meeting of the Sitka Sportsman's Association, the Board of Directors voted in support of SB 43, as introduced by you which would allow additional Elk Transplanting in S.E. Alaska.

The board realizes this does not solely involve the Sitka area and were understanding of the need for scientific study to choose the proper location, the need for matching local assistance and the other facets of your original concept.

We understand the changes that have come out of committee and of the organized opposition and political pressure which appears to have been generated against even the concept or idea of the project, but still support you intent and interest in providing additional game in S.E. Alaska.

Sincerely

Michael V. Schmidt
Secretary

Kavilco
INCORPORATED

ONE UNION SQUARE, SUITE 3431
600 UNIVERSITY STREET
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101
(206) 624-6166

September 18, 1992

Senator Frank Murkowski
State of Alaska
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Kavilco Incorporated is an Alaska Native Corporation formed under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Kavilco Incorporated is interested in working in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation by allowing them to plant elk on our land holdings near Kasaan, Alaska on the Kasaan Peninsula on the Prince of Wales Island.

We are requesting your support in working with Mr. Carl Rosier of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Mr. Mike Barton of the United States Forest Service. We have also been working with Mr. Bob Dewitt of the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club on this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience. I may be reached by phone at (907)542-2214 or fax at (907)542-2215.

Sincerely,

KAVILCO INCORPORATED

Louis A. Thompson^{lw}

Louis A. Thompson
President and Chief Executive Officer

LAT:lw

cc: Mr. Bob Dewitt ✓

B

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

FEB 02 1980

MEMBER LIST
Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club
1979-1980
Total 2000
Amount \$100.00

NAME: [Faint]

[Faint text, possibly a list of names and amounts]

[Faint text, possibly a list of names and amounts]

[Faint text, possibly a list of names and amounts]

[Faint text]

[Faint text, possibly a signature or name]

[Faint text]

KETCHIKAN SPORTS and WILDLIFE CLUB

P.O. Box 5122 • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

October 5, 1992

Carl Rosier
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO. Box 3-2000
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Commissioner Rosier,

By now you have received the letter from Kavilco Inc. about an elk transplant on their Prince of Wales Island property. As we have stated in the past it is our policy to support this kind of project and will help with this one if asked.

We are now asking for your support with this project, with your support and the support of the Game Dept. this introduction can be made in a timely and cost efficient manner.

We are looking forward to meeting with you or your staff on this matter soon.

Thank you,

Bob Dewitt

Bob Dewitt
President
KSWC

c.c.

Louis A. Thompson, Kavilco Inc.
Sen. Robin Taylor
Rep. Carol Fader
Rep. Jerry Mackie
Mike Barton, USFS

CHILKAT INDIAN VILLAGE
AN INDIAN RESERVATION ON THE STATE TRAIL
UNDER ACT OF CONGRESSION, 1935
BOX 210
NAINE S. ALASKA 99824
(907) 787 5508

TO: Rep. Bill Williams - Chairman

ADDRESS: House Resource Committee, Juneau, Alaska

FAX: ~~907-586-7773~~ 3 465-3793

FROM: Joe Noto (Klotwon)

DATE: 3/31/93 TIME: 1:40 PM

OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS ONE):

it would be

Appreciated if you held a hearing on SB77, SB43 and SB46 and put me on the public interested list. In addition we oppose the proposal before the State Finance Sub-Committee that will cut Substructure Division in nine Regions. Southeast Communities should be heard.

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE AND THE FACTS OF EXPERIENCE WERE PROVIDED IN THE TRANSMITTAL OF THESE MATERIALS, PLEASE CALL US BACK AT (907) 787-5515.

OUR FAX NUMBER: 787-5515



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



| Name | Address | City |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| Jennifer Faylor | P.O. Box 124 | Craig |
| Deneise M. Weckmiller Deneise Weckmiller | P.O. Box 19 | Craig |
| Nary Hamman | P.O. 454 | Craig |
| T. Blake | " | CRAIG |
| Henry Julian | Box 367 | Craig |
| Sally Marta Crown | Box 114 | Craig |
| Don Barber | P.O. Box 432 | Craig |
| Pam Echols #174 | P.O. Box 133 | Klawock |
| CLARENCE MAXEY | P.O. Box 19198 | THOENE BAY |
| Cindy Clark | P.O. Box 176 | Klawock, AK 99921 |
| Samuel | P.O. Box 20 | Craig 99921 |
| Lester Lip | P.O. Box 103 | Craig 99921 |
| Shae Roserick | P.O. Box 418 | Craig AK 99921 |
| Lillian Lermine | Box 170 | Craig AK 99921 |
| Carl Boston | P.O. Box 321 | Klawock, Alaska |
| Emily Terry | Box 110 | Craig |
| Kathy Perry | Dr 142 | Craig AK 99921 |
| Vicki Sleasman | Box 372 | Craig AK 99921 |
| T. Peterson | Box 447 | Craig |
| Dick Wilson | Box 395 | CRAIG |
| Lyle Yates | Box 251 | Craig, AK |
| Michael Horn | Box 434 | CRAIG |
| Vicki Horn | " | " |
| Richard Hansen | Box 317 | CRAIG |

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

C

May 29, 1992



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



| Name | Address | City |
|------------------|---------------|-------|
| Stephen E. Whner | PO Box 257 | Craig |
| Tom Dawson | POB 356 | Craig |
| Dennis Umick | Box 88 | Craig |
| Tracy Jency | Box 58 | Craig |
| Lyle Wapshille | Box 147 | Craig |
| | | |
| Joe W. Ganschen | Box 59 | Craig |
| Joe Thompson | Box 347 | Craig |
| John Smith | Alaska Alaska | Craig |
| Tom Burch | Box 18 | Craig |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

5/29/92



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



| Name | Address | City |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Francine Schuur | Bx 144 | Klawock AK 99925 |
| Michael Schuur | Bx 144 | Klawock AK 99925 |
| Valores Lantkos | PO Box WWP | KITU, AK 99950 |
| Go Chicham | P.O. Box 1221P | Whale Pass AK 99950 |
| ES | Box 841 Craig | Craig |
| AA, Ko RYON | BOX 250 | Craig |
| Bette Wiseman | Box 103 | Thorne Bay |
| W. E. ... | ... | ... |
| Robert Young JR | Kasaan Box KXA | Kasaan |
| Bruce Bink | Box KXA | Kasaan |
| Ad. H. Whit | 1510 Fritz Cove Rd | Genaru, Ak. |
| Kurt Kuehl | 6061 So. Tongass | Ketchikan AK |
| Elena James | P.O. BOX 457 | Craig AK |
| HAROLD Sampson | Box 107 | Craig |
| D. H. CARRADA | Gen. Del. Craig | 876-2244 |
| TONY COSENTINO | PO 269 Klawock | 755-2404 |
| Keith Wynn | PO Box 853 | Nakati |
| Chaine Price | 312 Harbor Ave | Coffman Cove |
| Frank Berge | Box 383 | Hydaburg |
| Jeff ... | | |
| Jeff Sinclair | PO BOX 327 | Klawock AK |
| Lee Whitney | PO Box 9814 | Coffman Cove AK |
| Charley A Lane | P.O. Box 307 | Klawock AK |

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

5/29/92





We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.

| Name | Address | City |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| Charley Alane | PO Box 307 | Klawock AK |
| Ann Williams | Box 350 | Klawock AK |
| Dave Wick | Bx 240 | Klawock |
| Larry Howell | 242 | Craig |
| Darius Howell | 242 | Craig |
| Megan Quintan | 234 <small>III equal 26 Municipal 26</small> | Klawock |
| Cheryl S. Hitts | 82 | Klawock |
| Wade & Marcia Wadley | Gen Del | Craig |
| Louise White | GEN DEL | CRAIG |
| Debbie White | GEN DEL | CRAIG |
| K. C. C. | Gen DEL | Klawock |
| Keith Sticker | Box 102 | KFW |
| Frank [unclear] | Box 141 | Klawock ALASKA (PO) |
| Ann Reed | Box 162 | Klawock AK 99925 |
| Jon Bowman | Box 51 | Klawock AK 99925 |
| James Bowman | Box 261 | Klawock AK 99925 |
| Donit | Do It. [unclear] | [unclear] |
| Yves | 259 | |
| Larry D. Lemons | Box 102 | Craig, AK, 99921 |
| Sonnie Anderson | Box 83 | Craig, AK, 99921 |
| Larry [unclear] | [unclear] | |
| H. Abel | 259 | |
| Darwin B. Kingway | Box 124 | Craig |
| Colley Curtis | Box 9813 Ktn | Calder Bay |

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

29/92

107



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



| Name | Address | City |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Remonda Lloyd | Po Box 19422 | TNB |
| Earl Nash | Po Box 207 | TNB |
| Thonda Spang | PO Box 19104 | TNB |
| Harold M. Kitcher | PO Box 19206 | TNB |
| Earl Kuehn | PO 40 | Meyers Chuck |
| Sista J. | PO 156 | TNB |
| W.M. Lewis | P.O. Box 19290 | Thorne Bay |
| Steve Timmer | PO Box 303 | |
| Wanda Spink | PO Box 100 | |
| Judne Spink | PO Box 100 | |
| Taron Bluhbaum | PO Box 101 | |
| Steve Garland | PO Box 100 | |
| Gene & Mitauf | Po Box 19488 | Thorne Bay |
| Elyse Olenison | Box TH1 | Tokun PB 99950 |
| James B. Mchalen | P.O. Box 456 | Thorne Bay |
| Jimmy Wilson | P.O. Box 19426 | Thorne Bay |
| Barbara Beck | P.O. Box 19328 | Thorne Bay AK 99919 |
| Paul Clasen | PO Box 19397 | Thorne Bay AK 99919 |
| Dixie Grant | P.O. Box 19318 | Thorne Bay AK 99919 |
| Kathie Cook | PO. Box 19121 | Thorne Bay, AK 99919 |
| Yvonne Ackerman | Gen. Del | Thorne Bay AK 99919 |
| Jim Heller | Gen. Del | Thorne Bay AK 99919 |
| Laura Holt | Box 446 | TNB, AK |
| Mark Mann | Box 19215 | THORNE BAY ALASKA |
| Lynda Nicholson | Box 19442 | Thorne Bay, AK 99919 |

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



| name | Address | City |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| John W. Smith | Box 19 | CRAIG AK |
| MARK M. JONES | Box 14 | NAKATI |
| PEGGY STEVENS | Box 247 | CRAIG AK |
| G. WENTWORTH | Box 101 | CRAIG AK |
| Ben A. Cole | P.O. Box 312 | Craig AK |
| Robert Hall | Box 7931 | Ketchikan, AK |
| XXXXXXXXXXXX | | |
| Rick Jones | 206 | Craig |
| ERNEST W STILLER | PO Box 494 CRAIG | CRAIG |
| JOHN C SCHIEMANN | Box TRT | KETCHIKAN |
| U. ... | General Delivery | CRAIG |
| Lennine White | General Delivery | Craig |
| Rebecca White | General Delivery | Craig |
| Norma White | General Delivery | Craig |
| Bernie White | General Delivery | Craig |
| Maldie Decker | General Delivery | Craig |
| Dw. Beck | Box 379 | Craig |
| Terry Lutton | Box 405 | Craig |
| Charlie Kissell | Gen DEL | CRAIG |
| Dick Wagon | Gen Del | CRAIG |
| Juan Patton | | |
| Neil Chamberlain | Box 218 | Craig |
| Gemma Buder | Box 487 | Craig |
| Cathy Uzogorine | Gen Del | Craig |
| Carl ... | Gen Del | Craig |

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

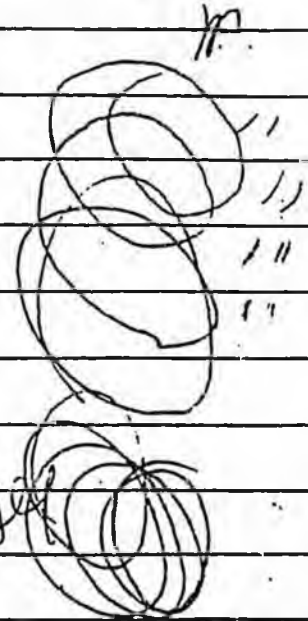
5/29/92



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



| Name | Address | City |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| George A. Woods | Box 292 Bayview Blvd | Klawock 99925 |
| Ron [unclear] | P.O. Box 249 Craig | 99921 |
| Alma Cook | | |
| Pete [unclear] | P.O. Box 69 Craig | |
| Dorell [unclear] | Box 309 Klawock AK | 99925 |
| Jeremy O'Houll | " " " | " " |
| Randy Dobbins | " " " | " " |
| Andy Howell | " " " | " " |
| Kristi Howell | " " " | " " |
| Deborah Richards | Gen Del Craig AK | 99921 |
| Angie Strobel | Coen Del Craig, AK | |
| Amelia A. Wood | Box 101B KIU AK 99920 | LAB. BAY |
| Thomas Mills | Box 100 CRAIG AK | 99921 |
| Jode Blea | 522 Craig | Craig |
| Quent Jones | Box 108 Cr | Craig |
| [unclear] | | [unclear] |
| Kelli [unclear] | Box 282 | Klawock |
| [unclear] | Box 282 | Klawock |
| James L. Fessan | P.O. Box 111 | Craig |
| Mike [unclear] | P.O. Box [unclear] | Whale Pass AK |
| [unclear] | PO Box [unclear] | Whale Pass AK |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

5/29/92

[Handwritten mark]



We, as residents of Prince of Wales Island would like to see Mountain Goats and Elk introduced to our island. We'd like to show our support by signing our name to help the Ketchikan Sports and Wildlife Club help us to bring this about.



| Name | Address | City |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cherilyn Halter -Devin M... L R. HALL | PO Box 21 P.O. Box 267 Box 181 | Hydaburg Craig |
| Gerald White | Box 1111 Ketchikan | WHALE PASS |
| Patricia F. Welch | Box 1111 Ketchikan | Whale Pass |
| Fred Turpin | Box 37A | Craig |
| Idea Perdikis | Box 37A | Craig |
| LARRY LEMONS | Box 102 | Craig, AK. 99921 |
| Tony Jones | P.O. Box 193 | Craig, AK |
| Kevin Haines | P.O. Box 254 | Klawock AK |
| Garry Ad... | P.O. Box 493 | Craig |
| Pat Linn... | P.O. Box 569 | Craig |
| DALE YOUNG | P.O. Box 569 | Craig |
| Junior Barrera | P.O. Box 569 | Craig |
| James Barnes | Box 45 | ii |
| Jim Lutz | Box 405 | Craig |
| Donald Parsons | Box 204 | Craig |
| Randy King | Box 41 | ii |
| Jeff Cain | P.O. Box 362 | Hydaburg |
| Jim ... | P.O. Box 477 | Craig |
| Bianca Halter | P.O. Box 800 | Craig |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

Aug 11, 92

~~Aug 11, 92~~

TO: SENATOR Taylor

4/1/93

FAX 465-3922

FROM: PETER HALLGREN + JOE GARRISON

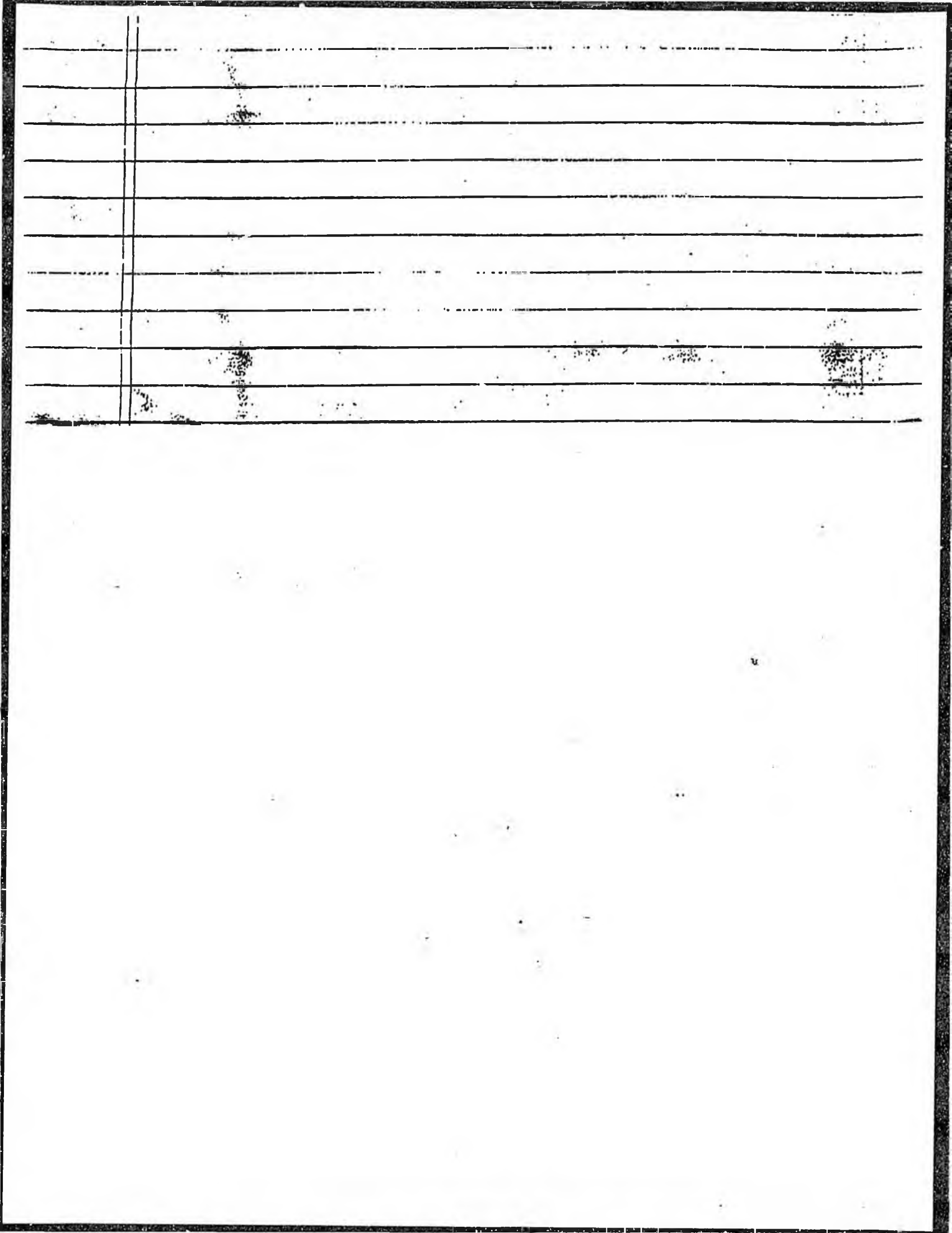
RE: ELK TO EAT

— HERE ARE COPIES OF THE CURRENT
POSITION CIRCULATING IN SITKA TO
GIVE THE F&G ADVISORY CO. MEETING
4/8/93

— THERE ARE ORDERS STILL OUT, THESE ARE
ALL WE HAVE NOW

145 YES
29 NO

Robin - SITKA ELK
SUPPORT SO FAR !!



Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Krutzoff Island?

| Name | Address | Phone | AK Resident | Yes or No |
|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| PETRO, STEVE | Box 2084 | 747-6209 | AK NATIVE | YES |
| JOE GRANVILLE | Box 1995 | 747-5497 | Yes | Yes |
| FRAN HALLGREN | Box 1203 | 747-5076 | yes | yes |
| YIP HALLGREN | Box 1203 | 7-5076 | yes | yes |
| HOLJA NANNAN | Box 2861 | 7-5489 | yes | yes |

Would you like to see ETK Transplanted to Kratoch Island

| NAME | Address | Are you a resident of this area | How long | Ph. | Yes or No |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| John Bell | Po Box 913 | YES | 32 yrs | 747-5421 | YES |
| Frank Under | 607 Etalon St | yes | 22 yrs | 747-5476 | YES |
| Ed Smith | Box 2166 | yes | 45 | 866-2223 | YES |
| King Brown | 3107 maine | yes | 26 | 747-8649 | Yes |
| George Kim | 4256 14th | yes | 29 yrs | 747-8700 | yes |
| Will Jones Jr | Box 73 Klauock | yes | 23 yrs | 755-2227 | YES |
| Al White | 1303 west 46th Ave | Yes | 5 yrs | 562-0490 | YES |
| Paul Cadente | 1800 Marshall | yes | 30 yrs | — | yes |
| James P. Moore | Box 240433 | yes | 26 yrs | — | yes |
| GREG Brown | JURIN, AK. | YES | 35 years | 467-3204 | YES |
| Jim Z. Dutcher | | YES | | 7-1468 | NO |
| Jeff Stewart | 1507 Edgemoor | yes | 31 | 747-4890 | YES |
| Stan Edwards | | | 23 | 747-1474 | yes |
| Korey Peters | | yes | 4 yrs | 747-4729 | YES |
| Harold Conroy | Fullerton | yes | 14 yrs | 747-4729 | yes |
| Robert Reese | | YES | 5 yrs | 747-3657 | YES |
| Andrew Keene | | Yes | 4 yrs | — | Yes |

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ELK

TRANSPLANTED TO KRUZOFF ISLAND?

| NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE# | AK RESIDENT | YES OR NO |
|------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Stump D. Cor | Box 2404 | 7-5421 | Yes | Would like to form tips |
| Steve Clayton | Box 2426 | 7-8236 | Yes | NO |
| Spot Stahl | 207 Lakewood #3 | 7-0572 | Yes | YES |
| Jerry Matthews | Box 1015 | 7-8930 | Yes | Yes |
| Anthony McElyre | Box 1333 | 7-6421 | YES | YES |
| Glenia Mitchell | Box 1371 | 7-3141 | YES | Yes |
| Monte McFarland | | 7-6911 | YES | NO |
| MIKE KERNIN | | | YES | NO |
| John Ballou | | 7-5829 | YES | NO |
| DON KOPPEL | | 7-8103 | YES | NO |
| LARRY KONKAL | Box 2316 | 7-8157 | YES | YES |
| Royce R. Roth | 3912A | 7-8731 | yes | YES |
| St. Vincent | 606 Lake | 7-8286 | yes | YES |
| Steve Dan Harder | 411 Curtman | 7-9506 | Yes | NO |
| Rich Sigmund | POB 2463 | 7-5676 | Yes | Yes |
| Mike Annelle | 105 Shaler | 747-8911 | YES | YES |
| MARTY II MARTIN | Box 2752 | 7-3815 | YES | NO |
| John Miller | Box 2856 | | YES | YES |
| Phil Ross | | 7-6721 | Yes | YES |
| Chris Traversick | Box 458 | 7-9200 | Yes | NO |
| Brian Ryeck | Box 458 | 7-8059 | YES | HUNTING YES THEN |

Would you like to See ELK

Transplanted to Kruzoff Island?

| Name | Address | Phone | AK Resident | Yes or No |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Ernie Perahardt | 707 SMC | 747-3907 | 37 yrs | NO |
| Russell Anderson | 1619 SMC | 747-8517 | 2 yrs | Yes |
| JM Boyce | Po 3107-SITKA | 7-3934 | 8 yrs | YES |
| Bruce Parker | Po-Box 6990 | 7-6006 | 8 yrs | YES |
| Tony Verscha | P.O. Box 963 | 7-6782 | 1 1/2 yrs | YES |
| Bob Peed | Box 855 | 7-8176 | 18 yrs | Yes |
| Eric Oa | Box 2026 | 749-5667 | 29 | NO |
| Troy Baume | Bx 1541 | 747-6770 | 13 | YES |
| Bob Johnson | Bx 2846 | 747-6573 | 10 | NO |
| Todd Miller | Box 856 | 747-4702 | 24 | yes |
| Ally Lee | Bx 756 | 747-3854 | 24 | YES |
| Jul Hall | Box 2214 | 7-6976 | 24 | Yes |
| MITCH COWAN | 605 DEGRoff | 7-7416 | 18 | YES |
| Rusty Williams | 104 Eagle Way | 7-5905 | 4 | Yes |
| BOB BECK | 619 DEGRoff | 7-6120 | 37 | YES |
| Patrick H. Haff | Box 472 | 7-8021 | 31 | YES |
| XXXXXXXXXX | | | | |
| Don Sams | 611 Etolin ST | 7-8067 | 12 yrs | NO |
| WM STORTZ | 299 Observer | 7-5916 | 10 yr | NO |
| Kristen Mitchell | Box 891 | 7-5428 | 9 yrs | NO |

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruxoff Island?

| Name | Address | Phone | AK Resident | Yes or No |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Paul Addie | 3208 HPR #6 | 6723 | SITKA | NO |
| RICK RADHUN | P.O. Box 1324 | 6605 | SITKA | Yes |
| MILTON HUNT | P.O. BOX 2355 | 747-8492 | SITKA | Yes |
| George R. Howard Sr. | P.O. Box 1833 | 747-1022 | SITKA | Yes |
| Louis R. Howard Sr. | 119 New Archangel | | SITKA | Yes |
| Lenny Leonard | PO Box 2008 | 747-9907 | SITKA | NO |
| Lee Lente | 1801A HOCER Wy | 747-8594 | SITKA | Yes |
| Jack Livingston | Box 995 | 747-5434 | SITKA, AK | Yes |
| Glenn P. Johnson | P.O. Box 1033 | 747-1022 | SITKA | NO |
| Allen M. Johnson Sr. | General Delivery 288-3401 | ANCHORAGE | | NO |
| William E. Johnson | Box Del Sitka | 998305 | | NO |
| Al G. Du Bois | 6229 | 8821 | SITKA | YES |
| Allen I. Van Horn | HPR - PH | 747-6581 | SITKA | Yes |
| Maryellen C. Wayne | 2716 HPR #4 | 747-6488 | SITKA | Yes |
| Norman E. King | 2410 HPR | 747-6407 | SITKA | Yes |
| Roy W. Howard | Ocean Side #18 | 747-1022 | SITKA | Yes |
| Jamie L. Johnson | P.O. Box 6084 | | SITKA | Yes |

Would you like to see ELK

TRACK PLANTED to KRUZOFF ISLAND

| Name | Address | Phone | AK Resident | Yes or No |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Dennis Romine | PO BOX 2183 Sitka AK. | 747-8881 | yes | YES |
| Jana Romine | " | " | " | YES |
| Al Stacher | Box 2457 | 7-5110 | Yes | Yes |
| John [unclear] | 2308 HPR | 747-1000 | 30 years | Yes |
| Melvin [unclear] | Box 2402 | 7-3871 | Yes | Yes |
| B. Knight | 211 SMCR | 7-3741 | YES | YES |
| Scott Saline | Bx 3183 | 7 7889 | Yes | NO |

X10!!! Do Not transport Elk
to Kruzoff or anywhere else
on Barrow Chukot Island Group.

Don Mitchell
103 Dawlin
Sitka
747-5909 88 AK.
28 yr. resident

This Money
should be spent
wisely i.e. Education
etc NOT TAKE
MEAT (DEER) OUT OF
SUBSTANCE FREEZES

We don't need another permit hunt in AK.

No! We don't need to make it harder for deer. AK do compete
with deer for clove food in hard winters.

Scott Brinkley Box 17 4777 Yes NO

Would you like to see ELK

Transplanted to Kruxoff Island?

| Name | Address | Phone | AK Resident | YES or NO |
|------------------|--|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Ted Thomassen | 702 FALCON | 7-8417 | 52 yrs | yes |
| Larry Nelson | C-LADY | | 4 | yes |
| Charles (Mud) | Fisherman | 7-8294 | 40 yrs | yes |
| Alvin C. Lund | precinct 514 #1 231 KATHLAN ST 2-25 | | 11 yrs | yes |
| MURF WALLER | 3514 REIDSTONE RD North Pole, AK 98855 | | 21 yrs | YES |
| Del Childress | 207 CRABAPPLE | | 25 yrs | YES |
| Rich Olson | 704 LAKE ST | 7-8628 | 29 yrs | YES |
| Larry Smith | 102 Kincaid way | 7-6425 | 28 yrs | YES |
| Shelley Frank | Box 1722 | 7-3594 | was | yes |
| Kate Leland | Box 455 | 7-8345 | 1 yrs | yes |
| David Wilson | Box 455 | 7-7800 | was | yes |
| Steve McBRaw | Box 1974 | NONE | 46 yrs | YES |
| Ken J. Behrman | Box 2565 | 5158 | 2 yrs | Yes |
| Christine Steneh | 3201 #624PR | 3729 | 21 yrs | sure |
| Mark H. Jenkins | P.O. Box 6166 | 7-5360 | 1 | yes |
| David Mearns | P.O. Box 6356 | 747-3117 | 18 yrs | yes |
| David Mearns | P.O. Box 57 | 747-8909 | yes | yes |
| Don Miller | 231 KATHLAN 1-20 | 747-3718 | 6 YEARS YES | YES |
| HENRY OKSVO | 11 P.O. 2045 | | 40 YEARS YES | YES |
| Paul Larson | 406 Marine St #1 | 7-2424 | 22 yrs | yes |
| GARY EATON | 23A LAKEVIEW DR | 7-3648 | 31 yrs | YES |
| Pat Anderson | 1901 5th St #1 | 797-8787 | 33 yrs | yes |
| Hal Taylor | 1603 DAVIROFF ST | 747-5324 | 42 yrs | YES |

Would you like to See ELK

TRANSPLANTED to Kruzoff Island?

| Name | Address | Phone | AK Resident | Yes or No |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| Rita Ledbetter | Box 2832 Sitka | 747-3059 | 154FS | Yes |
| Beut E. Kihonen | Box 6075 | 747-6143 | 150FS | Yes |
| Lampine Bell | 410 Hallowland | 747-8336 | | Yes |
| D. Van Noy | P.O. 8013 PA. | AK 508-2266 | ✓ | Yes |
| Sammy J. | PO 6393 | | YES | Yes |
| Bryan Adams | P.O. 2724 | Sitka | | No |
| William E. Sykes | P.O. 6224 | SITKA, AK. | Yes | Yes |
| Mark Petraro | 231 KATLIAN ST. 3-16 | SITKA AK. | Yes | Yes |
| Dick DeLoe | PO Box 6044 | SITKA AK | Yes | Yes |
| William Church | PO Box 1466 | SITKA AK | Yes | Yes |
| Bob King | PO Box 6298 | SITKA AK | "Yes" | Yes |
| Cheryl Schubert | PO 101 Overhart | PO #41# | Yes | Yes |
| Del-Cara | Box 6328 | SITKA AK. | yes | No |
| Parves Dozier | 1709 HPR #31 | 7-3321 | Yes | Yes |
| Kevin Vance | Box 2516 | | yes | yes |
| Donald M. Duncan | Box 373 | SITKA 76554 | YES | Yes |
| Donald M. Duncan | Box 373 | SITKA 7-6554 | YES | Yes |
| Matthew J. Lonoke | Box 1782 | SITKA 7-8343 | ✓ | yes |
| Dan Williams | 1782 | SITKA 7-6405 | yes | No |
| Tom Over | 231 KATLIAN ST. | | yes? | |
| Mark Reid | Box 1201 | | 6 months | No |
| Red Allen | 1709 HPR | | Yes | Yes |
| Ken Merrill | 131 SHELKOFF | | YES | YES |

Would you like to see Elk

Transplanted to Kruzoff Island?

| Name | Address | Phone | vsAK | resident | yes | no |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|-----|----|
| lea Smith | 8044 Wale St Port Alexander AK | 589-2356 | 5 yrs | | yes | |
| Regis Ozawa | Box 2223 Sitka AK | 747-7443 | 40 yrs | | yes | |
| David Turner | Box 624 Sitka | 747-3775 | 6 yrs | | yes | |
| Jon Sorens | Box 2074 Wrangell | 874-5827 | 6 yrs | | yes | |
| Oliver Becken | Box 1017 Sitka | 747-8469 | 32 yrs | | yes | |
| JAMES J. NIELSEN JR | Box 1753 SITKA | 7-5478 | 39 | | yes | |
| Robert J. Kirkman | Box 2716 SITKA AK | 7-5073 | | | yes | |
| Ernest W. Barnes | P.O. Box 673 Sitka, AK | | | | yes | |
| EAN CAVLAN | 8023 TRACT B PORT ALEXANDER AK | 99836 | YES | | YES | |
| Ian Coulter | 8023 Tract B Port Alexander AK | 99836 | | | yes | |
| Bob Fazel | 163 Harvest Oregon city Oregon | 97045 | | | yes | |
| Clarence Peterson | 1707 Delgado Ave. Sitka AK | 747-5029 | 6 yrs | | | |
| Perry Nelson | 8020 Port Alexander AK | 99836 | yes | | yes | |
| Roger NESS | 326 Lincoln St Sitka AK | 99855 | 14 yrs | | yes | |
| Jim Brightman | 409 Etolin Way Sitka AK | | 20 yrs | | yes | |
| Pamela Austin | 429 KATHIAN Sitka | 1039 | 7 yrs | | yes | |
| Jim Thompson | PO Box 493 CRAIG AK | 99921 | 6 | | yes | |
| Richard Aky | PO 2316 SITKA AK | | 15 yrs | | yes | |
| Bill Ball | 10734 N Tobias St Ketchikan AK | | 8 | | yes | |
| Pete Reddy | Box 6436 SITKA | | 17 yrs | | yes | |
| Max Taylor | Box 6207 SITKA AK | | 30 yrs | | yes | |
| Charles Engel | 609 Etolin Sitka AK | | 11 | | yes | |
| Jim Moran | 507 KATHIAN Sitka | | 8 | | yes | |
| Bob Phillips | P.O. Box 2670 Sitka | | 8 | | yes | |
| Joy Bayard | P.O. Box 1541 Sitka | | 30 | | yes | |
| MIKE BROOKS | 2306 H.P.R. Sitka | | 24 yrs | | yes | |
| Robin Truman | 704 #13 SITKA | | 25 yrs | | yes | |

| | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------|--------|-----|
| MIKE BROOKS | 2306 H.P.R. | SITKA | 24 YRS | YES |
| Robin Truman | 704 #13 | SITKA | 25 YRS | YES |
| Wynne Phillips | P.O. Bx 2670 | SITKA | 8 | YES |

END FAX

145-400
29 10

4-6-93

SENATOR ROBIN TAYLOR:

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE
ENCLOSED FORM THE MAJOR MAJORITY
OF THE FOLKS IN EDNA BAY ARE
IN FAVOR OF TRANSFERRING OF EIK
ON PRINCE OF WALES AND KASUKO
IS.

Hopefully you can help us.

Thank you

God Bless

Kees Bartle

We, the undersigned people of Edna Bay, support the transplanting of Elk to Island and Prince of Wales Island. With the remote setting of our location, various mountain peaks, areas of old growth timber, also many areas of clear cuts and a low populated area we feel Kosciusko Island and Prince of Wales Island would be a prime place to transplant.

| NAME | SIGNATURE | DATE |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Bob SMART | Robert Smart | 3/30/93 |
| Kathryn Flemings | Kathryn Flemings | 3/30/93 |
| Mary Lou Smart | Mary Lou Smart | 3/30/93 |
| Russ Bartels | Russ BARTELS | 3/30/93 |
| Sharon Widmyer | Sharon Widmyer | 3/30/93 |
| Judy K. Slattery | Judy Slattery | 3/30/93 |
| Ronald F. Slattery | RONALD F. SKATTERY | 3/30/93 |
| Henry P. Ford | | |
| Charleen Bartels | Charleen Bartels | 3/30-93 |
| Bert Bergman | BERT BERGMAN | 3/30/93 |
| Marietta Bergman | Marietta Bergman | 3/30/93 |
| David E. Otte | | 4/1/93 |
| Ralph C. Slattery | | 4/1/93 |
| Sarah Daniels | | 4/1/93 |
| Steve Schallberger | | 4/1/93 |

OVER

NAME

DATE

Cindy Mary

4/1/93

Robert J. Morgan

4/1/93

LOIS MORGAN

Lois M. Morgan 4.1.93

Janice Clene

4-1-93

~~Jeff Richter~~

4/1/93

Camille Richter

4/1/93

Bill Richter

4/1/93

~~Jeff Richter~~

4/1/93

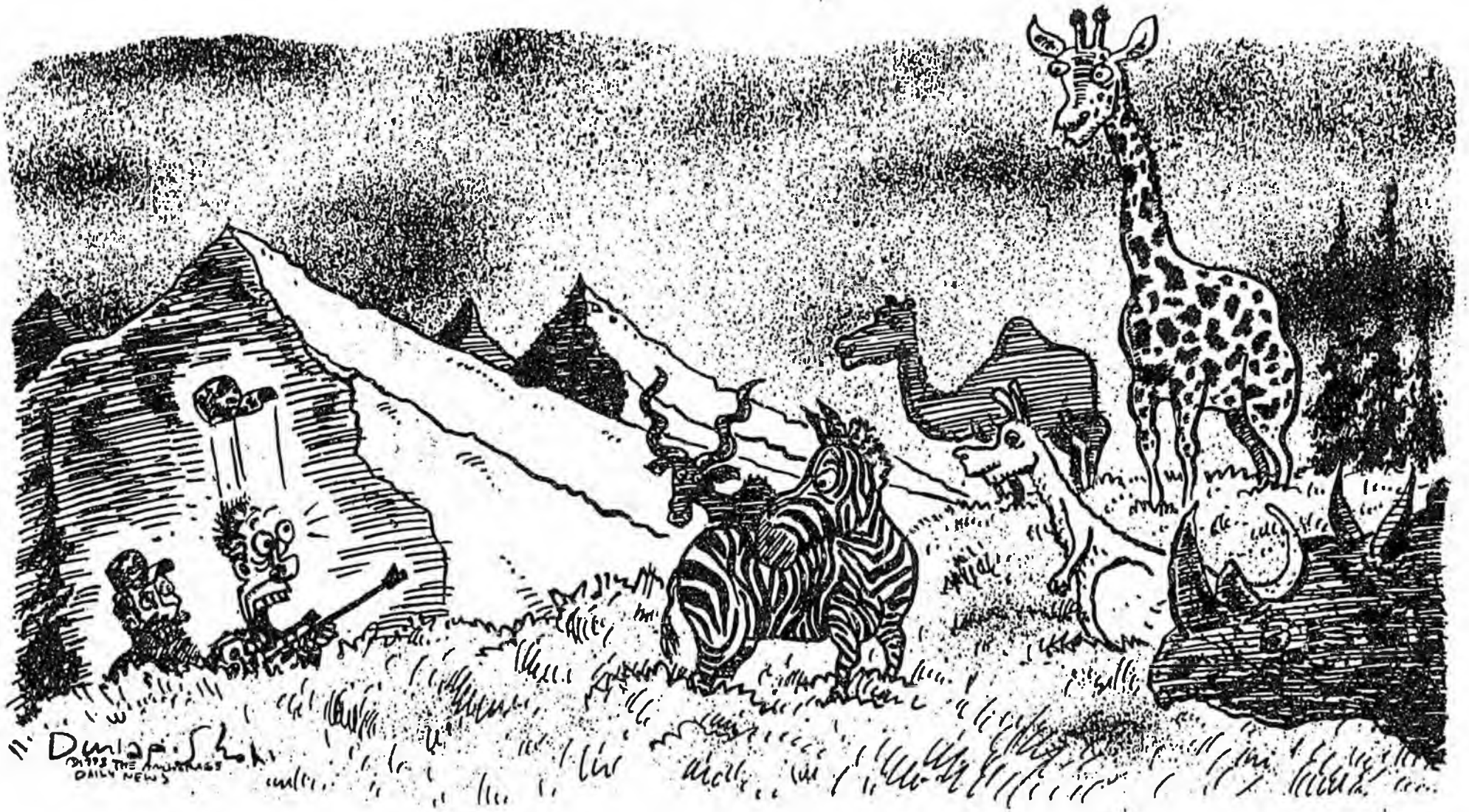
Skip Richter

4/1/93

Buni Wortman

4/1/93

OPINION



EVER SINCE HE GOT HIS WAY ON THE ELK TRANSPLANTS, THERE'S BEEN NO STOPPING ROBIN TAYLOR

D In California the canopy has alerted the miners

Wapiti

The North American wapiti (*Cervus elaphus*), or elk as it is often called in North America, is the second largest member of the deer family. Wapiti bulls grow to nearly 5 feet (1.5 meters) in height at the shoulders and may weigh more than 750 pounds (340 kilograms). The cows are smaller. Wapiti are dark brown in the head and chest region and light brown on the rest of the body with a large white patch on the rump. They have huge antlers that may spread 5 feet across. Wapiti were once found throughout most of the United States but are now restricted to the western states and southern Canada. Their range includes Europe (where they are called red deer), central Asia, Siberia, and northern and western China.

Wapiti roam in herds, moving from the mountains to the valleys in winter. During the mating season in the fall, fights between males are common. They challenge one another with a loud bellow. Two animals face each other from a distance of about 20 feet (6 meters), paw the ground, and then charge and crash their antlers together. Bellowing as they fight, they continue the struggle until one goes down. The loser usually survives but leaves the area. Occasionally the antlers of the fighters lock together so that neither can eat, and both animals die from starvation. (This also sometimes happens with other fighting species of deer.) In March the bulls lose their antlers, but they can still ward off predators with their sharp front hooves. In early summer each cow gives birth to one or two white-spotted calves.

Senator Robin Taylor
Room 30
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

4/2/93

Robin,

This letter is to confirm our commitment to fund the transplant of elk in the Ketchikan area. This does not mean that we will fund any research or other funding to the ADF&G. The time window needs to be large enough for fund raising. Keep up the good work.

Lee Putman
Vice-President KSWC
PO Box 5122
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

F.

P.O. Box 20994
Juneau, Alaska 99802-0994
14 April 1993

Representative Bill Hudson
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

re: SB 43 -- Elk introductions to southeastern Alaska

Dear Bill:

I'm writing to you about SB 43 (elk introductions) because I believe it has some very serious ecological implications that have not been considered by anyone in the legislature and you should be aware of them. I am a research wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station (Forestry Sciences Laboratory here in Juneau) and have been studying black-tailed deer and elk for the past 16 years. I DO NOT SPEAK FOR THE FOREST SERVICE IN THIS LETTER, HOWEVER; I'M WRITING AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. But I'm very familiar with the potential ecological problems and scientific theory involved in this issue. My Ph.D. research at the University of Washington (1977-80) focused on the comparative ecology of elk and black-tailed deer, and my subsequent research here in southeastern Alaska (1980-present) has focused on forest habitats and the ecology of black-tailed deer with a continuation of comparative nutritional ecology of deer and elk. I have authored and coauthored 32 papers in the primary scientific literature dealing with both deer and elk, forest habitats, and the effects of both species on their habitats. I have no personal interest in the elk introduction to southeastern Alaska, but I do see it as a significant ecological problem.

There are major implications of both an ecological and political nature in the pending legislation. The ecological consequences of the elk introduction involve damage or loss of rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants, lowered carrying capacities of habitats for black-tailed deer, and major changes in community structure of habitats favored by elk. Political implications include effects on threatened and endangered species, aggravated subsistence problems with deer production and hunting, and conflict with wilderness management policies aimed at maintaining wilderness in a natural state. There is far too extensive a history of problems throughout the world involving effects of introduced species, especially to island faunas, to plead naive to this problem. The example of the introduction of red deer (same species as elk, Cervus elaphus) to New Zealand, alone, is compelling evidence of the potential of elk to create major, unwanted ecological change to their new habitat. Additionally, a political (and logistical) reality is that preventative measures are usually much easier to effect than are corrective measures (in this case, "depopulation").

As you are well aware, elk already have been introduced to southeastern Alaska in the late 1980s -- to the south end of Etolin Island and to Zarembo Island. I voiced no concern at that time because of three reasons: (1) I believed the original plan stated that the elk would be limited to those two islands, that there would be an open hunting season on any elk moving to any other island; (2) I expected that the elk would survive but would be limited to only a slow reproductive rate because of a relative lack of abundant, high-quality, herbaceous forage in southeastern Alaska (the summer forage base is much heavier in shrubs and small herbs than in large herbs and high-quality grasses favored by elk); and (3) because of the first two reasons, I simply did not consider the greater ecological consequences; I thought of the introduction as a local political issue that would resolve itself. Now, however, it is apparent that all three of those reasons are wrong: (1) the elk are spreading to other islands, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) attempt to open the hunting season on the emigrants has been stopped politically; (2) I apparently underestimated the ability of the elk to exploit the vegetation of southeastern Alaska, and the population appears to be increasing rapidly rather than slowly [this, however, may need closer observation to confirm]; and (3) the political issue is heating up rather than resolving itself. SB 43 is a major escalation of the political issue.

If elk do well (survival and reproduction) in southeastern Alaska, then they will most definitely have a major effect on the vegetation of the habitats they favor. Vegetation biomass will be greatly reduced through a combination of both consumption and trampling. Elk are large animals, and the trampling effects in wet habitats can exceed the effects of grazing and browsing. The fact that elk exert major structural and compositional change in the vegetation of their habitats is well established in the scientific literature. The change should be expected to be much greater (intensity) and broader than that of overgrazing by black-tailed deer because elk are more catholic in their food selection than are deer and their trampling effects are much greater. Alpine and subalpine habitats (especially lush herb communities -- the same communities most important to black-tailed deer and bears in summer) and preferred winter ranges will be most severely depleted. Those effects have widespread ecological implications because the structure and composition of the entire vegetation will be greatly changed. The change will not be simple reductions in preferred forage species; it will be major compositional and structural change.

Dietary overlap between black-tailed deer and elk should be expected to be very high in southeastern Alaska -- much higher than anywhere else the two species coexist. The major ecological differences between elk and black-tailed deer stem from the differences in body size and relative rumen capacities (elk being the larger in both factors): (1) elk need to eat more forage per day and cannot be as selective about what they eat as can deer; (2) elk can meet their requirements with a lower quality of forage than can deer; and (3) deer are better adapted to a diet high in browse and small-leaved herbs than are elk; while elk are better adapted to a diet of high-quality grasses (not muskeg

sedges) than are deer; both species do well on herbs (forbs). Where elk and mule or black-tailed deer coexist, they commonly have a high degree of ecological overlap but also differ importantly in the elk's preference for herbaceous-rich (herb and grass) forages and habitats. Southeastern Alaska, on the other hand, is relatively poor in herbaceous forages (compared to other regions of elk range -- including both Vancouver Island and Afognak Island), except for skunkcabbage patches, riparian habitats, and especially, lush herb communities in some subalpine habitats (very rare on Etolin and Zarembo Islands but much more common and important on several other islands). There is less opportunity, therefore, for dietary divergence between black-tailed deer and elk in southeastern Alaska than elsewhere in their overlapping ranges. Elk will rely heavily on major forages that are very important to black-tailed deer. Furthermore, although elk are more likely to benefit from young clearcuts than are black-tailed deer, their preferences for winter range will be very similar to those of black-tailed deer during periods of snow accumulation -- snow-free, southerly exposures under old-growth forest. The combination of dietary and habitat overlap at such times will reduce carrying capacities for deer to a disproportionate degree relative to the total land area occupied. Elk browsing of blueberry (to a much larger twig diameter than that taken by deer) will leave very little suitable browse for deer on shared winter ranges.

I am certain that elk cannot competitively eliminate black-tailed deer from ranges where overlap occurs. Small-leaved herbs and forage-sparse habitats will provide black-tailed deer with "refugia" that elk simply cannot afford to exploit. Those forages and habitats, however, contribute in only small ways to landscape carrying capacities, and black-tailed deer populations will be food-limited to much lower densities and productivity than would be the case without elk. The introduction of elk, therefore, would greatly exacerbate rather than reduce the conflicts between clearcut logging and deer carrying capacities -- especially as increasingly greater proportions of the landscape change into closed-canopy, second-growth forest in the near future. It is only in the very short term that elk can be added to the system at low ecological and political cost.

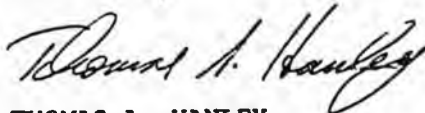
If, indeed, the current elk populations are reproducing well and increasing, then we should expect them to exhibit a colonization pattern that is characteristic of ungulates successfully introduced into new habitat: population increase and dispersal that moves in a wave-like fashion from the site of introduction to new habitat, the population increasing as new habitat is exploited and decreasing locally as exploited habitat is depleted. Elk population densities should be expected to reach much higher levels during such a wave than can be maintained by the long-term carrying capacity of the habitat. Vegetation changes are likely to be abrupt.

I don't want to be an alarmist: the above warnings are predicated on the assumption that the already introduced elk are, indeed, doing well -- surviving and reproducing successfully. ADF&G biologists believe that is the case, but nobody has really monitored the situation closely recently. In any case, however, several important points are very obvious: (1) the initial monitoring of the introduction has dropped-off in recent years to a level where current status is not well known; (2) the elk are expanding their range, and ADF&G is politically hamstrung and unable to control the emigrants through hunting; (3) SB 43 acts to speed and expand the whole process; and (4) successful introductions and population expansion pose a very significant threat to plant (and subsequently animal) communities of southeastern Alaska. It seems to me that at the very least, it is in the interest of the State of Alaska to ensure that the current expansion of range to islands other than Etolin and Zarembo be stopped (emigrants killed, as per the original plan), that no new introductions be added to the situation, and that the status of elk and habitat on Etolin and Zarembo Islands be monitored sufficiently to know how successful the introduction was (population density and rate of increase) and to document the effects on the local vegetation. That is my recommendation even if the elk are not doing well.

SB 43 is exactly the opposite of what is needed for a constructive and long-term resolution of this question and the successful introduction of elk to southeastern Alaska in a responsible manner for the best interests of the State of Alaska. If the legislature wants to improve the situation, it would be far better to limit the current population to the two "study islands" of Etolin and Zarembo and to ensure funding for monitoring its dynamics and interaction with the habitat. The latter would actually be in Senator Robin Taylor's long-term best interests too.

I hope you will find these considerations helpful. I would be happy to meet personally with you or any of the legislative staff to discuss them more fully.

Sincerely,



THOMAS A. HANLEY

cc: Maria Gladziszewski, Legislative Research Agency



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Research
Station

Forestry Sciences Laboratory
2770 Sherwood Lane, Suite 2A
Juneau Alaska 99801-8545

(907) 586-8811 • FAX (907) 586-7848

Reply to: 4000

Date: April 15, 1993

To: Ms. Maria Gladziszewski, Alaska Legislative Research Agency

re: Claus Svendsen dissertation and the subject of elk-deer competition

I've had a chance to review Claus' dissertation now and would like to respond directly to your call yesterday concerning questions about his Chapter 4 and the more general subject of elk-deer competition. I'm also enclosing copies of several other pages of the dissertation to help you see it in a broader context than just Chapter 4. I was a member of Claus' graduate committee that oversaw his research and approved the dissertation, but I was unable to attend the final defense (schedule conflict) and only now have been able to read the final copy of the dissertation itself.

It's important to keep in mind that Claus' research really centered on the phytochemical response of plants to clipping and its relation to the so-called carbon/nutrient balance theory of plant response to herbivory (Chapters 2 and 3). Chapter 4 was a very minor part of the research and of minor concern to the graduate committee; the dissertation could easily have been defended without the inclusion of Chapter 4 at all. Also keep in mind that dissertations are not considered "published scientific literature." Graduate committees frequently allow the student a bit more room for speculation about nonessential ideas in the dissertation than is allowed for the main ideas or would be allowed in a refereed journal article.

There are two major kinds of competition recognized in ecology: interference competition and exploitative competition. Interference competition occurs through behavioral aggression and dominance of one individual (or species) over another. In other words, it is a direct behavioral interaction where one individual socially interferes with another's access to some limiting resource. An example is male competition for mates within either elk, deer, or any of many other species. Another example could be African lions excluding a cheetah from the cheetah's recent kill. Exploitative competition, on the other hand, is much more subtle and occurs when two or more individuals (or species) utilize a common resource that is in short supply and limiting to their growth or reproduction. It can occur with absolutely no behavioral aggression taking place. An example is density-dependent food limitations within any species (e.g., domestic cows running out of food when 100 cows are put in a pasture that produces only enough grass to maintain 10 cows). Another example is exactly the situation that is of concern with the elk introduction to southeastern Alaska: elk and deer depleting the same, limiting food resources and thereby decreasing the amount of food that would be available in the absence of the other species -- and, *importantly*,





decreasing the population size, body size (or condition -- fat, etc.), or reproductive rate of one or both species. The latter point is important, because dietary and/or habitat overlap in itself is not competition; competition requires a measurable physiological or population effect resulting from the shared use of a limiting resource. It is this last point that makes exploitative competition a difficult phenomenon to prove in a field situation with large, wild animals.

Claus clearly explained the difference between the two kinds of competition (p. 11), and clearly stated that Chapter 4 was an analysis of *interference* competition. As he said, exploitative competition between elk and deer is the subject of much concern; (though it has been mostly inferential because of the logistical difficulties involved in actually proving its occurrence -- requiring the removal of one species from shared range and measuring the physiological response of the other species, while simultaneously controlling for variation in weather, etc.). He also clearly explained that interference competition, on the other hand, had not been studied specifically for elk and deer, and therefore he hoped to shed some light on that subject. *Interference competition is not the major concern when biologists talk about competition between elk and deer.* Even so, Claus' analysis of interference competition was, in my opinion, quite ambiguous. His data do indicate no major behavioral displacement of deer by elk, and in that sense are consistent with the idea of lack of interference competition. That part is reasonably clear, and that is the major conclusion of the chapter. The positive association that he prefers to interpret in a beneficial, predator-detection sense, however, can be equally interpreted in quite an opposite manner -- that both species were choosing the same microhabitat patches while foraging (and thereby potentially increasing the probability of exploitative competition). Claus acknowledges that problem (last paragraph of page 73) but remained more fascinated about the possibility of some beneficial aspect re predator avoidance. The committee let him speculate about the latter; it really isn't an important matter. Yet unfortunately, it is a few sentences that have been pulled out of context from this minor chapter that seem to be the substance of much debate in the Alaska legislature. (Now *that* is interesting!)

Finally, it is important to keep in mind that literature searches for empirical proofs of exploitative competition between elk and deer are essentially fruitless. First, because of the logistical difficulties of actual proof in the case of these two large, wide-ranging, wild animals, you'll find that most of the conclusions are inferential. More importantly, however, no matter what has happened elsewhere, it will not be the same circumstances that occur here (or elsewhere). Far more important than a search for empirical case studies is an analysis of the mechanistic processes involved in niche overlap (resulting in competition) and the nature of the interaction between elk





and deer here in this environment of southeastern Alaska. That was the subject of yesterday's letter to Bill Hudson.

I hope this helps. Best wishes with your research.

THOMAS A. HANLEY
Principal Wildlife Biologist



Rep. Bill Williams, Ch.
House Resources Committee
April 15, 1993

Enclosed are two letters to the editor of the Sitka Daily Sentinel which I prepared concerning the bill by Sen. Taylor to transplant elk to Southeastern Alaska. I understand your committee will be taking testimony on the bill soon. Please use my letters in your deliberations. CSSB 43 is an extremely poor idea which I urge your committee to reject.

Since preparing the letters to the editor I have found that there are currently no surplus elk in North America that would be available for transplant except for some from Yellowstone Park and some from game farms in Canada. Both those sources are heavily infected with two very virulent diseases which are transmissible to both man and other wild animals, TB and brucellosis, as well as a liver fluke which is also transmissible to other species of wildlife. We do not need or want these diseases and parasites introduced into our deer and other game herds.

I urge you all to use your good judgement and responsibilities and reject CSSB 43.

Thank you for your consideration and attention.

Loyal Johnson
4320 Vallhalla Drive
Sitka, AK 99835
747-3664



Editor
Daily Sitka Sentinel
112 Barracks Street
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Editor:

The proposed transplant of elk to Kruzof Island merits comment.

The wildlife literature adequately describes the history of introducing various forms of flora and fauna over the face of the earth. An easy to read book titled THE ALIEN ANIMALS, by George Laycock, summarizes many of the world-wide introductions. A publication of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game titled GAME TRANSPLANTS IN ALASKA describes the known transplants in Alaska. This publication is available for review at the Sitka Fish and Game office. Anyone who is interested in the amount of time, effort and money that has been spent on transplants should review these documents. These documents will provide insight as to why most wildlife professionals are opposed to transplants.

The reasoning behind wildlife introductions often boggle the mind. For instance, the European starling, a noxious bird that now occurs in all the United States (yes here in Sitka too) was released in New York by an admirer of Shakespeare who attempted to establish in America all the species of birds mentioned by Shakespeare. One of the more common rationales for transplants is simply that a species doesn't occur in an area. Another favorite is the desire for transplanted people to bring something along to remind them of home. Transplants for political gain are particularly perplexing to wildlife managers. Whatever the inspiration, most introductions have been failures or have resulted in adverse impacts to native flora and fauna. Unfortunately, there have been enough genuine successes to keep people inspired.

The idea of transplanting elk to Alaska dates back the dark ages of wildlife management when it was thought that the way to wildlife abundance was to kill off all the predators, not allow any consumptive use of females of most species, apprehend violators and, above all, transplant. A 1925 law enacted by the Alaska Territorial Legislature outlined a dazzling array of transplants that was to be conducted. Fortunately, that law has been repealed or we might still be trying to establish Siberian Blue Squirrels to the Seward Peninsula or mule deer to the Tanana Valley. However, many of the mandated transplants were undertaken and most failed.

There have been at least 8 releases of elk in Alaska. Only the one to Afognak Island succeeded in establishing a population. That transplant took place in 1929, and the animals flourished for some years, reaching an estimated population of 1200-1500 animals by 1935. A major die-off reduced the herd to an estimated 450 in 1972. The herd rebounded from the lows of the early 1970s but in 1980 another downward trend began, which continues today. Was that transplant a success? Who knows! It is still too early to predict the success or failure of the more recent transplant to Etolin Island, and it is still too early to know what competition might develop between the exotic elk and the native Sitka black-tailed deer. One thing is known about that transplant however, and that is how much money and man-hours it cost, money and man-hours that could well have been spent on more rewarding activities.

As a wildlife biologist with over 30-years experience in Alaska, with the last 20 of those years being here in Sitka, I will readily admit that I do not know whether or not elk would compete with Sitka Black-tailed deer on Kruzof Island. The published reports show that competition is a distinct possibility. An adult elk out weighs a deer by several hundred pounds so in times of nutritional stress when push comes to shove, a 100 pound deer would stand little chance when competing with an animal of similar food requirements 6-8 times its size. I know of no one in this area who is qualified to make a knowledgeable judgement regarding competition between elk and Sitka black-tailed deer either!

Competition can come in a variety of guises. Deer in the Sitka area are remarkably free of debilitating parasites and diseases. Being herd animals, which enhances transmission of diseases and parasites, elk are known to harbor a variety of parasites and diseases which might well be transmitted to our deer, even if the elk transplant is a failure. These conditions may or may not be detected by a cursory health examination.

While I can't offer learned observations on competition between elk and Sitka black-tailed deer, I do know that here in the Sitka area we are blessed with a favorable set of circumstances which provide us with the opportunity to enjoy one of the world's greatest big game animals, the Sitka black-tailed deer. Kruzof Island, together with remaining old-growth forest areas of Hoonah Sound comprise some of the finest Sitka black-tailed deer habitat in existence. These areas are easily accessible. Because of high deer densities and ease of access, these areas are heavily utilized by Sitkans as well as residents of other communities.

I think it would be a biological irresponsibility of the greatest magnitude to transplant elk to Kruzof Island.

We have a known quantity in the black-tailed deer and it would be sheer folly to take any actions that might jeopardize this magnificent resource. I only hope the responsible managers of the wildlife (Alaska Department of Fish and Game), the habitat (U.S. Forest Service), and the good citizens of Alaska, will exercise their professional responsibilities and good judgement to not allow this transplant to take place.

I further hope that Sen. Robin Taylor will stick to those issues which an elected legislator should be dealing with. Frittering away money from a dwindling state coffers, while burdening the Department of Fish and Game with an ill advised game transplant, is not one of those issues.

I urge those who are getting caught up in this issue to objectively review the history of transplanting plants, mammals, birds, and fish over the face of the earth and the dismal record of failures it has produced. It is far better to maximize opportunities with those species nature has presented us with than it is to continue searching for something exotic that is hoped to be bigger and better. It is my hope that those persons who are promoting elk transplants would redirect their efforts to a more meaningful cause, such as attempting to discourage clear-cut logging on the remaining areas of outstanding Sitka black-tailed deer habitat, areas which will be receiving increasing interest for timber cutting in the next few years.

In the mean time I will be happy knowing there is an outstanding and secure resource of Sitka black-tailed deer on Kruszof Island. If the urge strikes me to want to enjoy elk or mule deer or antelope or what have you, I will go to where those species occur.

Loyal J. Johnson
Sitka

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Page 2, Daily Sitka Sentinel, Sitka, Alaska, Wednesday, March 10, 1993

Elk Transplant

Dear Editor: This is a follow-up to my recent letter concerning Robin Taylor's bill (SB 43) to transplant elk to Kruszof Island. That bill has now come out of committee and with considerable modification. The bill now would require the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to release up to 100 elk at four specific locations in Southeast Alaska, including Kruszof Island and now stipulates that the project would be fully funded by the state of Alaska.

The elk transplant to Edojin Island in 1987 cost about \$5,000 per elk. Thus, if the full 400 elk are transplanted we are looking at an expenditure of about \$2,000,000 of state funds for a project that is in all likelihood doomed to failure, and which might indeed have some serious impacts on our Sitka black-tailed deer herds. I urge you to contact Sen. Taylor and express your objections at such a frivolous waste of state money on such a nonsensical project.

Loyal J. Johnson, Sitka

Carol A. Jensen
8451 Greenhill Way
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
(907) 344-7078

April 16, 1993

House Resources Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Members:

| | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 | | # of pages > 3 | |
| To | Rep. Williams | From | C. Jensen |
| Co. | | Co. | |
| Dept. | | Phone # | |
| Fax # | 465-3743 | Fax # | |

4-16-93

RE: SB 43, Elk Introduction

I will not be able to attend the teleconference on this bill, so I am faxing you my views.

I am strongly opposed to passage of this bill, for the following reasons:

1. Transportation of any wild animal is traumatic and physically dangerous to the animal. Adaptation to a new area is difficult, and certain death awaits many, if they survive the rigors of tranquilization and transportation. The trauma, injury and death to wildlife increases when unskilled, inexperienced volunteers do the work (which is proposed here).

2. With our without volunteers, this will be an expensive project and will "benefit" only a very few people. It will add another project for the already overburdened Fish & Game Dept. to manage, with less money. I am opposed to the relocation of wildlife only to be killed mainly for their heads to hang on the walls of a few hunters.

3. Habitat on some of these islands is being logged cut. Not only are we looking at a "Hagemeister Island" starvation problem for the deer, but also the elk in the long run. Why don't legislators learn from past mistakes? It is biologically, scientifically and environmentally unsound to introduce non-native species to areas with a finite amount of useable habitat. Eventually the food supplies on these islands will be exhausted (and how many elk die enroute to these other island?)

4. I am not alone in my opposition. I'm joined by a majority of the public, many legislators, the Fish & Game Dept., many Fish & Game Advisory Boards, and even "The Republican's Friend", The Anchorage Times (see enclosed 3/23/93 column by Jenkins). The concensus is that the legislature has no business passing laws such as this.

Senator Taylor's meddling and pressuring of the Game Board has put him at the top of many peoples' list as being one of the biggest jerks in Juneau. He is at the top of my "Jerk" list for this bill and many other statements, bills and actions. Please don't condone and approve his bills such as this one, just because he is a Republican and so are you.

5. This bill, along with SB 77 and SB 46 (Moose ranching) makes the Alaska Legislature look like a bunch of idiots in the eyes of not just Alaskans, but the rest of the country. This WILL have negative impacts for many years, on our tourism industry (which should be a strong, viable alternative from the oil industry), and the way in which the Federal Government deals with us on environmental and wildlife issues. Like it or not, we are the appointed caretakers of much of the State, which belongs to ALL OF THE U.S. If we are poor caretakers, plan to have much of the control taken away, and deservedly so.

6. MOST REGISTERED VOTERS IN ALASKA ARE NON-PARTISAN. You are doing a great disservice to the public everytime you vote merely "Along Party Lines". That is not why you were elected. Ramona Barnes has stated that, while "the Senate is voting that way, the House is not". I contend that the House so far has been just as guilty as the Senate. THIS NEEDS TO STOP!! You all need to start basing your vote on public input, your own reasonable judgement of each bill, your conscience, and the long-term ramifications of each bill. Thank you for this opportunity to address you.

Sincerely,



Carol Jensen
Daytime phone #800-478-2234
Encl-1

Elk today, Wart Hogs R Us tomorrow

By PAUL JENKINS

3/23/93

Cheap political meddling and bureaucratic cowardice have no place in wildlife management anywhere, but they're alive and well in Alaska. And the elk fiasco in Southeast Alaska is a good example.

Because state Sen. Robin Taylor has decided he wants to import elk for hunters in his district, the Alaska Board of Game is slip-flopping like a fish out of water and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's biologists mostly are ignored in favor of politics.

The biologists cannot talk about it, mind you, because of a directive from Fish and Game Commissioner Carl Rosier that all questions about the elk mess be directed to him.

Taylor is the guy who in 1987, over the vehement objections of state biologists, got the boneheads in the Legislature to order 50 elk transplanted from Oregon to 343 square-mile Etolin Island near Wrangell. At state expense.

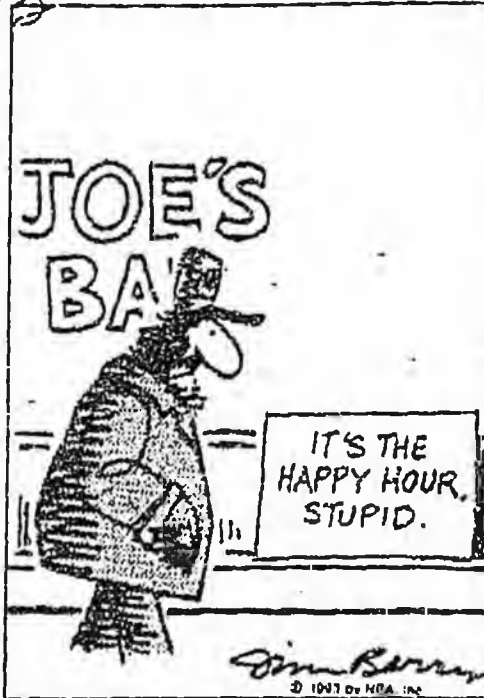
The biologists objected because elk can make life rough for Sitka blacktail deer, a native species with numbers so low in the Etolin Island area that hunting has been curtailed for years.

Elk also can carry diseases and they wander in herds, eating the deer out of house and home as they go. Of the five previous attempts to introduce elk to Alaska, only one, on Afognak Island in 1928, has been successful.

But the Wrangell Republican's elk were hauled onto Etolin Island, and then, as elk are wont to do, they scattered. About half initially were lost to wolves, bears and other factors.

Now they number somewhere between 75 and 100 and have gotten onto Mitkof, Shrubby and Brushy islands, and, under the elk management plan, they are not to be hunted until their population reaches about 250. And when that happens — in 40 to 50 years — biologists have projected a sustainable harvest of 20 or so animals each year.

The plan also called for containment of the elk to Etolin and Zarembo islands because nobody really knows what they will do to native deer if they spread to other islands or the mainland. Under the



plan, if they meandered off — as they have — the department would either live trap them and return them to Etolin or eliminate them through an open hunting season.

So the Game Board guys, appointed by the governor and allegedly working for the public to set policy for state game management, decided early last week, on Tuesday, to open a hunting season year-round on stray elk found anywhere in Southeast Alaska other than Etolin and nearby Zarembo islands.

But, whoops, Taylor has yet another bill in the Legislature to import up to 400 more elk, despite the same old, ignored objections. He told The Associated Press that elk, because of their nifty big antlers, are a favorite of hunters in his area. It's unclear how that can be, as none of the herd is supposed to be hunted yet.

What actually went on during the few days after the board's decision is unclear, but the Fish and Game's Rosier advised the board to reverse its decision after hearing from Taylor. What Rosier heard to make him roll over is anybody's guess. When I asked him if he had spoken to Taylor about the issue, he first indicated he had not; then that he had.

"He said he was unhappy with the Game Board's action, and unhappy with my staff," was all Rosier would say about his chat with Taylor.

"The board made the right decision. On the other hand they were taking an

action in opposition of a legislative. It doesn't do any good to be at war on these issues. Certainly the fact that the senator was unhappy had to be weighed."

The board, ever mindful of an unhappy Taylor, on Thursday dutifully reversed itself and canceled the hunt.

That decision was lousy public policy. We have elk spreading in all directions from the first wrong-headed transplant to Etolin Island. We have a board charged with setting game policy in Alaska hamstrung on the issue. We have Legislature toying with the notion of bringing in 400 more elk. If you believe Taylor and his friends that will be done free. If you believe anybody else it'll likely cost \$1.5 million.

And of course, we have a defanged and largely ignored Department of Fish and Game. Who needs their biologists? They just keep coming up with facts that run contrary to what politicians want to do.

To its credit, the board on Friday rightly went on record opposing any more elk transplants. But who cares? Taylor apparently wants them and that seems to be good enough for some people.

Now, if you think any of this is good news for Alaska, you probably live in Taylor's district and are lusting after big antlers.

Or you're like me. I see a tremendous opportunity to get rich in a state dumb enough to even consider the notion of farming moose, importing foreign species or leaving the fate of its native species in the hands of politicians.

Here it is.

Wart Hogs R Us. That's right, a ranch right here in Alaska for those who dream of hunting the wily, toothy African critters, but get airsick or sore fannies on long plane rides.

We can bring the beasts in by the dozens, at state expense, of course, turn them loose in Southeast Alaska and offer a great hunt for the aerially impaired.

I figure all I have to do is get a legislator willing to set wildlife policy for the Department of Fish and Game and the Game Board to approve the whole deal. And from this elk hunt fiasco in Southeast Alaska, it doesn't look like it should be much of a problem.

All we have to do is get Taylor on our side, and, voila, we're in pigs up to our pokes.

Paul Jenkins is an editor of The Anchorage Times.



Jenkins

House Resources Chairman
Bill Williams

March, 21, 1993

MAR 24 1993

I am opposed to transplanting elk into Southeast Alaska. I feel that if elk were meant to be here than they would already be here. I live in Sitka and look forward to going hunting each fall. My family eats very little meat other than venison and fish. Due to various circumstances (hard winters and logging) the deer population in the Sitka area has dropped severely in the last few years. This has caused a reduction in the number of deer tags allowed each hunter to try to help the deer population here recover. Why would anyone want to introduce a competing specie, not native to the area, that has been proven to out compete deer here? The deer are building up again and we KNOW that they thrive here naturally. There are a lot of people who deer hunt in Southeast. There will not be elk to satisfy all the people nor will the deer be as abundant once the elk are introduced and there might not be either once this all shakes out so what is the point of this idea? So a few can look at the elk and marvel at their beauty? Beauty will not fill my stomach. I think that those individuals' that want to see elk so badly that they are willing to mess up the ecosystem around here should go to where the elk naturally live to see them and not mess this area up for everyone else.

For the Alaska Legislature to override the unanimous disapproval of the wildlife biologists and be even thinking about trying to force Fish and Game to transplant elk is, in my opinion, out of line for the legislature. The state hires wildlife biologists for a reason and that reason is that they have been trained in their fields and are more knowledgeable than those trained in different fields. Since when has the legislature been made up of wildlife biologists? Why does the State of Alaska even have a Fish And Game Department if the legislature feels it is their privilege to demand things that a few shortsighted people untrained in the subject desire? For that matter maybe the Department of Fish and Game should then be put to making up the state budget. Robin Taylor says the people in his district want elk here. He never asked me, nor anyone that I have talked to, so just who is in this district he presides over? Maybe he should take an official vote on this subject before he makes such bald statements and tries to force the introduction of competing non native species into this area along with the real chance of introducing diseases into the local deer population and spending lots of the states money for his own personal desires.

The state of Alaska is considering a state income tax. State

revenues are down. The legislature is cutting back money for many things including education. How can the legislature ever justify spending a large amount of money on a foolish frivolous and dangerous thing like transplanting elk as they cut spending in so many places. Maybe the money would better be spent on educating the legislature on the dangers of playing God with ALL of ours environment.

I urge you to throw out SB43. It will only lead to the demise of the deer and the wonderful recreational and subsistence hunting that we are so lucky to have while wasting the States money.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Nichols
305 Islander Drive
Sitka AK 99835

Carolyn Nichols

cc
House Finance Committee
House Resources Committee
Carl Rosier
Robin Taylor
Governor Hickel
Ben Grussendorf

Please give a copy to everyone in the Resources Committee.



March 24, 1993

MAR 26 1993

Representative Bill Williams, Chairman
House Resources Committee
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Response to Senate Bills 43, 46, & 77

Dear Representative Williams:

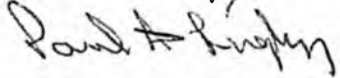
Shaan Seet opposes SB 77: An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive management of big game to achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest. This bill does not acknowledge the subsistence priority for the use of fish and wildlife resources within the State of Alaska, and will be detrimental to Native subsistence users.

Additionally, Shaan Seet opposes the elk transplantation proposal as contained in Senate Bill 43. This plan is not complete and until the possibility of harm to indigenous game stocks is removed from it, it should not be attempted. The State should maintain a conservative attitude about such proposals and should err on the side of conservation rather than taking a chance that could cause irreparable harm.

Representative Bill Williams, Chairman
March 24, 1993

Page Two

Please let us know what your views are on these bills. We
would appreciate it!

Sincerely,
SHAAN SEET, INC.

Paul A. Lingley
President

Peter Branson
P.O. Box 2073
Wrangell, AK 99929

Senator Robin Taylor
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

March 26, 1993

Dear Senator Taylor:

We request that you seriously reconsider your bill (SB 43) to have the state subsidize the introduction of up to 100 more elk into Southeast Alaska. A better proposal would be to defer this transplant and fund research to determine what effects the existing elk on Etolin and Zarembo Islands have had on the environment and Sitka Black-tail deer.

The publicity surrounding this bill has brought to light many possible negative aspects of introducing exotic species:

1. DISEASE: Animals imported from other parts of the country can bring with them diseases and parasites not found in Alaska. Diseases associated with elk include brucellosis, chronic wasting disease and bovine tuberculosis. Many diseases can be transmitted to other species including the Sitka black-tail deer and humans. Diagnostic tests do not exist or are not accurate enough to ensure a healthy animal for all diseases known to be carried by elk. The danger of disease and the difficulty in detecting a diseased animal have lead many other states and Canadian provinces to tighten their import and export regulations on game animals.

2. COMPETITION WITH SITKA BLACK-TAIL DEER: The long-term impact elk may have on deer in S.E. is unknown. Both species utilize similar forage and HABITAT, however, elk outweigh deer by several hundred pounds. During times of food shortage, it is likely that the deer will be pushed into more marginal areas. Because of their size, elk have more food sources available to them. They can reach higher and dig through deeper snow to forage and consequently are more likely to survive harsh weather. Deer tend to range vertically, grazing in alpine areas in the summer and moving down to the relatively snow-free low elevation old-growth forest in the winter. Elk, on the other hand, tend to stay in the lower elevations year-round, depleting deer forage critical to winter survival.

This problem is exacerbated by the fact that elk have been shown to degrade entire shrubs because of their ability to tear off and digest large woody stems. Deer, on the other hand, feed on smaller stems, which allows the integrity of

the shrubs to be maintained and the useful life of the shrubs prolonged.

Deer are more likely to be successfully hunted than elk (when and if a season is opened). Deer disperse in large areas singly or in pairs increasing the likelihood of being found whereas elk tend to herd. Over many generations, elk are likely to replace deer as the predominate ungulate in S.E. Alaska.

3. ELK TRANSPLANT IS A BAD USE OF STATE MONEY: During a session when rural school districts, senior centers, health clinics, child-support enforcement, public radio and a litany of other important state services are facing budget cuts, spending over \$1 million to transplant elk to benefit a few hunters seems frivolous at best.

Had we known these facts when elk were first brought to Etolin we would have opposed it then. No credible biologist has endorsed this plan -- in fact, AKF&G and the game board opposes it and has recommended keeping the Etolin and Zarembo population from spreading by allowing hunting on all other areas -- an idea we endorse.

Thank you for your consideration.

| NAME | SIGNATURE | ADDRESS |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Peter Branson | <i>Peter Branson</i> | Po Box 2073, Wrangell AK |
| Jude Nutter | <i>Jude Nutter</i> | P.O. Box 1618, Wrangell, AK 99929 |
| Alice Hanson | <i>Alice Hanson</i> | P.O. Box 1783, Wrangell, AK 99924 |
| Nel S Ellis | <i>Nel S Ellis</i> | Box 462, Craig, AK |
| Noah Hanson | <i>Noah Hanson</i> | Box 1783, Wrangell, AK |
| Burrell B Ford | <i>Burrell B Ford</i> | Box 231, Wrangell AK |
| Margaret B Ford | <i>Margaret B Ford</i> | Box 231, Wrangell AK |
| STEVE REED | <i>Steve Reed</i> | Box 2035, Wrangell, AK |
| Teresa Reed | <i>Teresa Reed</i> | Box 2035, Wrangell, AK |
| Joel H. Hanson | <i>Joel H. Hanson</i> | Box 1783, Wrangell, AK |

Alaska State Legislature

According to Robin Taylor there is no evidence supporting the claim that elk and deer will compete for the same food source, nor will the elk introduce any diseases to resident wildlife populations of Southeast Alaska. Mr. Taylor has not taken the time to contact the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game where in fact there is well documented evidence supporting why we should NOT introduce elk to Prince of Wales Island.

Biologists documented the movements and feeding behavior of elk on Etolin Island for a two year period. During this time the majority of the elk were found in the coastal fringes where the researchers found extensive browsing on blueberry bushes, plants which are very critical to winter deer survival. Elk also show high plasticity, which means they will eat anything from shrubs to conifers. On the other hand deer are much more selective and require much higher nutrient plants found in the forbes and sedges. When elk move through an area they will eat everything, this means a 71% overlap on food sources which causes a very severe food competition with the resident deer.

The potential for introducing devastating disease is enormous. The meningeal worm parasite is found in resident elk populations throughout the Western United States. This parasite targets the brain, and even though proponents claim each elk will be given a clean bill of health we have only a 50% probability of detecting the parasite. Even bovine

tuberculosis which is found in elk is not 100% detectable. The giant liver fluke is a flatworm which occurs in deer, elk, and moose. Although deer and elk can survive this infestation, moose do not. The flatworm will destroy the liver of a moose and eventually cause death. Elk can introduce this parasite. Do we wish to destroy the mainland moose populations?

On Vancouver Island, British Columbia elk were introduced to the endemic deer and wolf populations. Obviously the wolves prey on the smaller prey, the deer. However, as deer populations decline due to wolf predation the wolves turn to elk as an alternative food source. The wolf population remained stable and even increased, the last few remaining deer are taken along with the elk and finally the wolves starve.

Because of this evidence Alberta and British Columbia have installed moratoriums on any elk transplants. Do we have to make the same mistakes? I would think that any rational person can understand why we do not want elk on Prince of Wales Island.

Lewis Hiatt

P.O. Box 92

Crais, Alaska

99921

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER - TWS ON IMPORTING, TRANSPLANTING, AND RANCHING GAME IN ALASKA - PLEASE READ AND VOTE

DRAFT PROPOSAL - NOT YET VOTED ON BY MEMBER SHIP

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is dedicated to wise management of wildlife resources and their habitats. Alaska is unique in supporting native wildlife populations at historic levels over much of the state. These populations have great economic and cultural value to the state and its people as sources of food, fur, and revenue. Much of this value derives from wildlife being in its original, free-ranging condition where both consumptive and nonconsumptive users have access to this public resource.

English common law gave ownership of wildlife species to the ruler to be held in trust for the people. In reality, the only group that benefitted from this arrangement was the privileged class. In North America, free-ranging wildlife species traditionally have been held in common by the public. Private ownership of wildlife thus can only occur as authorized by government acting in the best interest of the people.

The Alaska Legislature has authorized private ownership of bison, muskoxen, and elk. Bison and elk are exotic (i.e., non-native) species that have been imported to Alaska and established as wild populations in several locations. Muskoxen were extirpated in Alaska in the 19th century and re-established in the wild with imported stock. Alaska also has an existing reindeer herding industry. Ownership of reindeer herds in Alaska is restricted to Alaska Natives by federal law, although non-Natives have challenged the law by importing reindeer from Canada. Recently, persons promoting game ranching as business ventures have proposed legislation authorizing private ownership of additional wildlife species, including moose.

Game ranching may have a place in some countries or regions of the world based on their unique conditions and institutions. In such situations, game ranching can provide an alternative to domestic livestock and may to some extent preserve the diversity and abundance of native ungulates. Alaska, however, has the opportunity to maintain its historic abundance of free-ranging wildlife species for the benefit of all its citizens without resorting to game ranching.

Game ranching or other private ownership of wildlife species threatens to diminish the abundance and quality of Alaska's wildlife resources. Wildlife species occupy the landscape regardless of land ownership, yet remain public property. It is common knowledge that commercial development of land often alters or eliminates wildlife habitat thereby reducing wildlife populations. The public may not realize that ranching or herding privately held wildlife may similarly reduce native wildlife populations through displacement, competition, disease, hybridization, poaching, and elimination of large predators.

Land occupied by ranches or herded game is land from which native wildlife species are excluded by fences or competition for resources. Habitat available for occupancy by free-ranging native wildlife is thus reduced, with concomitant reductions in their populations. Wild ungulates attracted to captive animals during the rut have been destroyed in several instances in other jurisdictions. In addition, there is no assurance that public lands would not be leased and fenced for game ranching. Public access to wildlife species for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses would be restricted by fenced ranges.

Importation and transportation of wildlife species poses the risk of spreading disease to free-ranging populations. Problems with disease have included bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in elk, bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) in elk, rangitenne brucellosis (*Brucella suis* biotype 4) in reindeer, and bluetongue in elk. Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis are transmissible to humans as well as to native wildlife. Other diseases and parasites potentially present in imported wildlife include anaplasmosis (*Anaplasma marginale*), meningeal worm (*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*), carotid artery worm (*Elaeophora schneideri*), and giant liver flukes (*Fascioloides magna*). Quarantine and/or veterinary treatment of imported, transplanted, and ranches game can reduce the risk of disease transmission to native wildlife, but these measures can fail if animals escape quarantine, if tests for disease are not foolproof, or if unscrupulous or lax individuals fail to adhere to proper procedures. Introduced parasites and diseases could diminish Alaska's wildlife populations.

Individual animals or groups of animals that are ranches or herded eventually will escape captivity through accidents or inadequate fencing or herd husbandry. For example, ranches elk have escaped captivity in Alberta, as have African ungulates in Texas and bison and reindeer in Alaska. Wildlife that escapes captivity poses the risk of contaminating the genetic integrity and fitness of Alaska's wildlife species.

through hybridization. Native wildlife populations exhibit particular genetic adaptations to their environments. For instance, Alaskan caribou have significantly longer legs than reindeer, an adaptation having important implications for escape from predators, energy costs of locomotion, and ability to move and forage in deep snow.

An established commercial market for game meat introduces an incentive for large-scale poaching of free-ranging wildlife species and for illegal sale of game meat. A poacher could sell poached meat to an unscrupulous game rancher to mingle with ranched meat from the same species or could sell directly to an unscrupulous retailer. Unauthorized live capture of wild ungulates to supplement ranched breeding stock could also occur. A very large regulatory network and force of inspectors for tracking the origin of game meat in the commercial market would be necessary to reduce the incentive for illegal take and sale of game. The resources to adequately accomplish this level of oversight of game ranching are unlikely to be available in Alaska.

Game ranching would jeopardize populations of large predators. In North America, large predators such as bears and wolves have been eliminated from most areas supporting significant concentrations of domestic livestock. Persons engaged in game ranching almost certainly would view predators as threats to their economic livelihood and would generate pressure to eliminate large predators from areas in which game ranching occurred.

In addition to considering the risks to Alaska's wildlife species posed by game herding or ranching, or by resource-management agencies importing or transplanting exotic wildlife, the public should contemplate the philosophical implications of reducing species currently held in common to the status of privately-owned domestic livestock. Traditionally, consumptive users of wildlife have had a strong vested interest in maintaining healthy, abundant, free-ranging wildlife populations. More recently, nonconsumptive users also have supported legislation and policies that maintain wildlife habitats. Although captive wildlife may serve an educational role by providing highly managed viewing opportunities to the public, ranched game is unlikely to generate the incentive for maintaining large, relatively unmodified ecosystems currently engendered by free-ranging, native wildlife species. Alaska's wildlife has local, statewide, national, and international importance. In recognition of this, and in the interest of maintaining these valuable resources for the enjoyment and use of future generations, the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society finds that:

1. Skillful, professional management is required to assure the future of wildlife resources in North America;
2. Wildlife species in North America have traditionally been considered common property of the people, and public ownership of wildlife has benefitted both the public and the wildlife resources;
3. Reindeer herding by Alaska Natives is an economic benefit to those communities where herding has traditionally and continually been practiced since inception of the industry;
4. Private ownership of wildlife has led to unfair chase harvesting, inhumane treatment of captive wildlife, illegal commercial trade in wildlife and wildlife body parts, and escape of captive wildlife and potentially will reduce habitat for wild ungulates, impair public access to wildlife, decrease numbers of ungulates in a wild setting, disrupt the genetic integrity of native wildlife populations, and cause extirpation of large predators;
5. Exotic wildlife species, and to some extent native wildlife from non-Alaska stocks, imported to Alaska and subsequently transplanted within Alaska by resource-management agencies, pose many of the risks identified for ranched game;
6. Commerce in wildlife without a uniform system of disease inspection has facilitated introduction and transmission of non-native diseases and parasites, including bovine tuberculosis and bovine and rangeliferine brucellosis; and
7. The presence of free-ranging, native wildlife species has strongly contributed to the maintenance and protection of large, relatively undisturbed natural ecosystems.

In support of the preceding findings, the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society specifically recommends that:

1. Reindeer herding be limited to ranges traditionally and frequently grazed since inception of Native herding in Alaska and not be expanded to other areas of the state;
2. Research on range management, veterinary medicine, nutrition, animal husbandry, meat processing, and marketing be applied to enhance the value and productivity of reindeer herds as an alternative to expanding the distribution of reindeer to additional areas of the state;
3. Private ownership of elk, bison, and muskoxen for game ranching currently authorized by Alaska law be

repealed, with provisions for protecting the interests of persons currently ranching or herding these species;

4. Private ownership of wildlife species be prohibited with the exception of zoos, research institutions, and educational facilities authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the purposes of public education, protection and propagation of endangered species, and scientific study, and with the exception that individuals authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may possess raptors for the purpose of falconry;

5. Pending repeal of Alaska law authorizing private ownership of wildlife species for game ranching, the industry should be fully regulated, including testing and certification of disease-free status to control interstate and intrastate spread of animal pathogens and minimize the potential of disease transmission to free-ranging wildlife populations, licensing of persons engaging in game ranching, mandatory tracing of animals and animal products in commercial trade, and comprehensive monitoring and enforcement of all relevant regulations;

6. Importation of exotic wildlife to Alaska, and transplantation of exotic wildlife within Alaska, by resource-management agencies for purposes of establishing free-ranging populations be prohibited; and

7. Transplantation of native species (e.g., muskox) within Alaska for wildlife management purposes be accomplished with stocks already present in the state rather than with imported stocks.

Vote on Game Ranching Policy Statement

_____ **SUPPORT** Policy Statement

_____ **DO NOT Support** Policy Statement

Comments:

Mail your vote along with your conference registration to Ellen Campbell, 9399 Rivercourt Way, Juneau, AK 99801. If there is overwhelming support for the position, it will be provided to key individuals in the Alaska Legislature, given that the issue is currently before them.

DUES

Dues for membership in the Alaska Chapter are a real bargain - only \$5.00. The mailing label on the front of this newsletter shows the last year for which your dues are "paid up." If your label shows "92," please send your dues (payable to Alaska Chapter, TWS) to Ellen Campbell, 9399 Rivercourt Way, Juneau AK 99801, or - better yet - pay when you send your registration for the annual meeting.



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Resources, Community, and
Economic Development Division

B-248037

October 21, 1992

The Honorable Alan Cranston
United States Senate

Dear Senator Cranston:

As you requested, we examined the wildlife-cattle controversy taking place in the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park. This controversy centers on the possible transmission of the Brucella abortus organism from Yellowstone's free-roaming bison and elk herds to cattle grazing on lands outside the park boundary. The Brucella abortus organism causes brucellosis, a contagious disease that can cause abortions and infertility in domestic cattle.

Montana succeeded in eradicating brucellosis from its cattle herds in 1985, which allows Montana ranchers to transport their cattle to other states without first testing them for the disease. Ranchers who graze cattle near the Yellowstone Park boundary are concerned that brucellosis-infected bison and elk will transmit the organism to their cattle when the wildlife migrate outside the park boundary, thereby jeopardizing Montana's ability to freely transport cattle across state lines. The National Park Service's (NPS) policy is to not restrict the movement of the park's bison and elk populations. However, to reduce the risk of brucellosis transmission, the state of Montana has, since 1984, killed more than 1,000 bison that migrated across park boundaries into the state.

Concerned about the killing of bison, you requested that we gather information on (1) the scientific evidence that brucellosis can be transmitted from bison and elk to domestic cattle, (2) the economic damage that might be caused by such a transmission, and (3) the management alternatives for preventing or reducing the likelihood of such transmission.

Results in Brief

Resolving this controversy is difficult because many questions remain unanswered about the actual risk that brucellosis transmission will occur. Although research has proven that the Brucella abortus organism can be transmitted from bison and elk to cattle in experimental conditions, the likelihood of transmission occurring in the wild is not clear. Several factors indicate that the risk of transmission in the northwest area of Yellowstone Park may be low. For example, the most recent study of

Yellowstone bison showed that the Brucella abortus organism was found in about only 12 percent of the bison killed in the area. A study of 151 Yellowstone elk showed that the organism was found in none of them. Furthermore, NPS and Montana wildlife officials are unaware of any documented cases of brucellosis transmission from wildlife, including bison and elk, to livestock in the wild.

If, however, the organism is transmitted to cattle, several costs will be incurred, and the economic impact on Montana ranchers could be significant. According to federal rules, if a single cattle herd in a state that is free of brucellosis becomes infected with brucellosis, the herd must be slaughtered, and herds in the surrounding area must be tested to ensure the disease did not spread. If more than one herd is found to be infected, the state must implement a brucellosis testing program for certain cattle being sold within or outside the state. The test costs about \$2.50 per head, excluding the cost of roundup and handling. The Montana State Veterinarian estimates that the cost of testing cattle exported from Montana would have been \$438,000 in 1989.

Seven alternatives for managing the bison-cattle controversy are being developed by state and federal agencies. Alternatives being considered include establishing bison management areas outside the park (from which cattle would be prohibited) to provide winter range for bison; preventing bison from migrating from the park through various methods, including shooting; and attempting to eradicate the Brucella abortus organism, which would require trapping and testing bison, as well as slaughtering, neutering, or temporarily sterilizing them. A final bison management plan is expected to be available for public comment early in 1993.

Background

Yellowstone National Park, comprising 2.2 million acres of federal park land located in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, was established as the world's first national park in 1872. Surrounded by land managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service and some small, privately owned pockets of land, the park is part of the largest and most nearly intact ecosystem in the contiguous United States.

NPS, the Forest Service, and Montana's Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MDFWP) are responsible for the management of the northwestern area of this ecosystem in which both bison and elk reside. NPS is responsible for resources located within park boundaries; the Forest

Service manages the habitat within forest boundaries; and MDFWP is responsible for supervising Montana's wildlife, fish, birds, waterfowl, and game and fur-bearing animals.

NPS operates the park under a policy of natural regulation that relies on natural processes to control wildlife populations to the greatest extent possible. In the fall of 1991, NPS estimated the bison population in Yellowstone to be approximately 3,000 head divided into three herds—the Lamar Valley, or northern, herd, consisting of about 500 bison; the Mary Mountain herd, consisting of about 2,000 bison; and the Pelican Valley herd, consisting of about 500 bison. According to an NPS official, about 30,000 elk reside in the park. Approximately 20,000 are in the northern range. Some of these bison and elk are known to be infected with brucellosis, which was first detected in Yellowstone bison in 1917 and in Yellowstone elk between 1931 and 1933.

Bison and elk are migratory animals that sometimes cross the park boundary. In recent winters, bison migrated from the park, primarily onto Montana's private and Forest Service land that borders the park on the north and west. Beginning in an exceptionally severe winter in 1975-76, the northern movement peaked during the winter of 1988-89, with most of the 900 bison then known in the northern range either leaving the park or foraging near the boundary. The bison migration to the west has occurred since the winter of 1981-82 but has been less extensive than the northern migration. Park officials are concerned that, as man's winter activities—such as snowmobiling—continue in the park, bison from the Pelican Valley herd will travel westward along snowmobile trails, thus increasing the number of bison migrating out of the western boundary. Reasons for the migration include the bison's natural gregariousness or herding instinct, acquired knowledge of new foraging areas, and increased population. Several maps showing bison migration patterns appear in appendix I. The northern elk herd also migrates from the park, generally following the same direction as the bison but at higher elevations. Also, elk are more likely to travel farther from the park.

Montana's livestock industry is concerned about the migration of bison—and, to a lesser extent, elk—across park boundaries because of the risk that the Brucella abortus organism will be transmitted to and infect the cattle grazing on land outside the park. In cattle, brucellosis can cause abortions of the first calf after infection, although subsequent pregnancies can be carried to full term. The disease may also cause the birth of unhealthy calves and infertility in both sexes. Natural transmission of the

Brucella abortus organism in cattle is primarily through ingestion of the organisms present in large numbers in aborted fetuses, membranes, and uterine discharge. Transmission can also occur when a cow comes in contact with feed or straw that has been contaminated by infected fetal tissues and fluids. The Brucella abortus organism can be transmitted to humans, most likely as they handle infected material when helping with the delivery of a calf. Brucellosis in humans is called undulant fever. It is characterized by severe and often chronic flu-like symptoms, including high fever, chills, joint pains, backache, and loss of weight and appetite. The disease can recur but is curable with antibiotics. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, fewer than 100 human cases of brucellosis are reported each year.

Brucellosis concerns cattle ranchers not only because of abortion, unhealthy calves, and infertility but also because USDA and the states regulate the transport of cattle and bison infected with or exposed to¹ the Brucella abortus organism, which can restrict the ranchers' ability to sell livestock. Since a national brucellosis control program was first instituted in 1934, more than \$3 billion in federal, state, and industry funds have been spent trying to eradicate the disease. As part of the eradication effort, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with state animal health authorities and the livestock industry, has developed uniform rules for controlling and eradicating brucellosis in cattle and bison. (These rules, however, do not currently apply to elk.) Under these rules, states are classified as class-free, class A, class B, or class C, primarily depending on the rate of brucellosis infection in livestock in that state. Interstate movement of cattle is restricted in all but the class-free states. In class A states, which have an infection rate of no more than 0.25 percent, exported cattle must be tested before interstate shipment. In class B states, which have an infection rate of no more than 1.5 percent, exported cattle must be tested both before and after interstate shipment. In class C states, which can have infection rates greater than 1.5 percent, exported cattle must be tested twice before and once after interstate shipment. As of May 1992, 29 states, including Montana, were class-free; 19 states were class A; 2 were class B; and none was class C.

NPS began efforts to reduce the likelihood of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle more than 20 years ago. Under various plans, NPS personnel have shot bison inside the park that approached specified boundary areas, hazed or herded bison back into the park; placed cattleguards and fences

¹Exposed cattle and bison are those that are part of a herd known to be infected with brucellosis or that have been in contact with animals that are infected with brucellosis.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

January 26, 1993

The Honorable Robin L. Taylor
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

FEB 00 4 1993

Dear Senator Taylor:

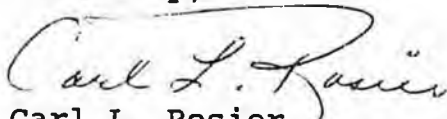
I am sorry for not getting back to Mr. DeWitt or you sooner, but the controversy which has developed since the fall meeting of the Board of Game has demanded constant attention. I had planned a meeting in November with Dave Kelleyhouse on the topic of additional elk introductions, but the wolf control controversy took center stage. That meeting has now been rescheduled.

I have recently been made aware of problems that have developed in southern coastal British Columbia as a result of elk introductions. These problems involve wolf-deer-elk predation which has driven deer populations to lower densities than had occurred previously in the absence of elk. Deer hunting opportunities have been lost and elk hunting opportunities have failed to compensate.

The original elk introduction to Etolin Island in Alaska has already resulted in inadvertent introduction to Zarembo Island. There may also have been inadvertent introduction of elk to Prince of Wales Island, but that has not been verified yet. In view of the undesirable situation in Canada and the relatively short time since the Etolin introduction, additional elk introductions should be approached cautiously.

I suggest that you, Dave Kelleyhouse, and I get together to discuss the topic soon.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner

cc: Senator Fred Zharoff
Representative Jerry Mackie
Representative Bill Williams
Rom Somerville
Dave Kelleyhouse
Dave Anderson
Bob Dewitt

To: Alaska Legislators
Re: Elk Transplants

The Sitka Conservation Society cannot support elk transplants, both for fiscal and biological reasons. There are many better uses for the money; the cost conceivably being over half a million dollars (based on the previous elk transplant expenses). We need to deal with the problems we have, rather than introducing new problems.

Biologically, there is too much potential for competition which will adversely affect deer, as well as potential disease introduction. Many transplants of new species worldwide have ended up with disasters so biological caution is well-justified. Evidence from Afognak Island that competition from elk is adversely affecting deer, plus the knowledge that elk and deer will eat the same food sources, should be heeded.

There seems to be a grave potential that ADF&G will have to make this project #1 in their budget, at great cost to their other operations, since their budget is inadequate anyway.

As a suggestion for better uses of the money: Many developing fisheries in Alaska are hampered by the lack of research money to answer even such basic questions as how many fish are there in the population. Until this question is answered appropriate quotas cannot be established, management must be conservative to protect the resource, and capital cannot be attracted to the fishery with an uncertain future. It seems to be the vogue in political circles to blame ADF&G for problems in the fisheries and to cut their budget. No one seems to realize that unless fisheries are well-managed, based on good biological research, the likelihood of a crash is high, which means everyone loses the capital they've invested in the fishery. Good management is the gateway to continued development.

Defeat this bill and support ADF&G in researching existing problems.

Sincerely,

Page V. Else

Page V. Else, President
Sitka Conservation Society

*And since this is such an emotional issue
we would like a teleconference on this issue.*

Juneau, Alaska
March 28, 1993

Rep. Bill Williams
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Williams:

I hope you will not support the foolish initiatives that would have the Legislature manage game in Alaska. Of specific concerns are SB 43, requiring elk transplants on four more islands including Prince of Wales Is., and SB 77, promoting predator control.

Since statehood Alaska has developed a substantial tradition of good fish and game management. Part of that tradition is that the legislature does not do the managing. These new moves, if successful, combined with Hickel's often poor appointments to the Fish and Game boards, will have a destructive effect on that tradition. Fish and game management in Alaska is always a hot issue. If these bills pass, management by the legislature may become the rage, with Anchorage legislators leading the way and rural people and the natural scheme of things falling aside.

Sitka blacktail deer are a wonderful part of Southeast Alaska. I have lived in various parts of Southeast Alaska all my life, and I hunt deer, as do my husband and son. They can withstand considerable hunting pressure (witness Douglas Island) as long as their habitat is intact and roads are kept to a minimum.

Unfortunately, new Forest Service EISs for major timber projects predict a 75% decline in deer habitat in parts of Southeast Alaska, including Prince of Wales Island, as a result of logging (e.g. the Draft EIS for the Central Prince of Wales timber project). To that must be added the effects of very extensive roading, which increases hunter access to the remaining deer. It is incredible that the very legislators who support this mass destruction of wildlife habitat and more roads (e.g. Senator Robin Taylor) also favor introducing a competitor species. Robin Taylor wrote a column for the Juneau Empire in which he stated it is a "fact that elk, deer and moose appear to thrive in the logged areas of Southeast Alaska" (Juneau Empire 3/26/93). I have no information about the adaption of elk and moose, but numerous studies have shown that clearcuts are harmful to deer, as the Forest Service itself now recognizes. Clearcutting immediately reduces winter habitat, which is the critical point for maintenance of deer populations. Clearcuts do initially provide summer forage, but once the forest canopy closes in, perhaps 20 years after the cutting, even summer forage disappears. The forest is a thick mass of small trees and almost nothing grows on the forest floor for a century or more. Unfortunately, even tree thinning has proved to provide little improvement in the habitat quality of even-age second growth forests.

Although I am not opposed to predator control in all cases, I believe the predator control bill is also misguided, another bill sponsored by people who have no sense of the land and no idea of how our ecosystems work. It is also a program for urban and out-of-state hunters. Two unfortunate effects of its passage are likely to be further interference in Alaska game management by the Federal government and more boycotts of Alaska travel by tourists.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

Judy Brakel
Judy Brakel

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

April 2, 1993

Representative William K. Williams
Chair, Game Resources Committee
State Capital Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

RurAL CAP is concerned about negative impacts to subsistence by the introduction of elk into Alaskan Coastal forests, which Senate Bill 43 would authorize. We see several possible adverse impacts to subsistence users.

First, biological and historical evidence warns that the introduction of species into areas where they are not or have not been indigenous poses extreme risks of introduction of diseases, such as brucellosis, and bovine tuberculosis, which could infect the native Sitka black tailed deer.

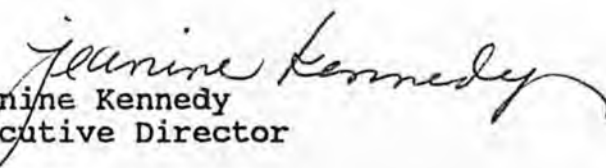
Second, the introduction of elk would cause competition with indigenous species with consequences of decreased populations of species dependent upon by subsistence users, in particular Sitka black tailed deer.

Third, if elk were introduced in Southeast, they would not be available for subsistence priority hunting since they are not a traditional subsistence species. This would create an unfair advantage to other users. There would be increased hunters in the field, coupled with diminishing numbers of indigenous species because of increased habitat competition.

Finally, transplanting elk could cost up to 1.25 million dollars. At a time when the legislature is contemplating large cuts to the ADF&G budget we cannot afford such costly and risk ventures.

We sincerely hope you and members of the committee will give careful consideration to the negative impacts Senate Bill 43 would have on subsistence users in Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,


Jeanine Kennedy
Executive Director

RESOLUTION NO. 93-12
CITY OF CRAIG

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT FURTHER STUDIES BE
CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF ELK TRANSPLANT
ON INDIGENOUS SPECIES BEFORE ANY TRANSPLANTS ARE
AUTHORIZED

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 43 as proposed by the Alaska legislature, mandates the transplanting of elk on Prince of Wales Island; and

WHEREAS, the transplanting of elk on Prince of Wales Island has not been studied to determine the effect that the introduction of a non-indigenous species would have on resident game populations, especially the Sitka Blacktail Deer; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Blacktail Deer is a subsistence animal for both residents and non-residents of Prince of Wales Island and has been an essential element to the subsistence lifestyle for centuries and continues to be essential to this day; and

WHEREAS, it is not known whether the introduction of elk to Prince of Wales Island will have a long term negative effect on the Sitka Blacktail Deer population by reducing habitat through competitive browsing;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the City of Craig requests that before any elk are transplanted on Prince of Wales Island, studies be conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to show conclusively that the introduction of elk will have no effect on the indigenous deer populations of Prince of Wales Island.

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislature amend any legislation calling for the transplanting of elk on Prince of Wales Island to require the above mentioned studies and that transplanting is enabled to take place, not mandated, only after these studies conclusively show that the indigenous deer population on the Island is not placed at risk.

APPROVED

4-1-93

Dennis Watson
for _____
MAYOR DENNIS WATSON

ATTEST

Helen Gray
HELEN GRAY-CITY CLERK

93-67-BOG

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
RESOLUTION ON ELK IN SOUTHEAST**

WHEREAS elk are not native to Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS the introduction of exotics has resulted in serious wildlife problems throughout the world; and

WHEREAS studies in the Pacific Northwest have indicated that deer and elk use many of the same food plants, many of which are important for Sitka black-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS elk are larger than deer and have a relatively larger rumen, they are capable of utilizing lower quality food plants than Sitka black-tailed deer; additionally elk browsing can eliminate plants otherwise available to and necessary for deer; and

WHEREAS insufficient time and research have occurred to evaluate the implications of the 1987 Etolin Island elk transplant; and

WHEREAS elk on Afognak Island provide lower hunter opportunity and success and lower yield of meat than Sitka black-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS all exotic elk introductions to deer range in North America have resulted in habitat degradation and/or substantial reductions in deer numbers; and

WHEREAS disease and parasite transmission from introduced elk to native wildlife species has occurred elsewhere and is difficult to prevent or reverse; and

WHEREAS costs and staff time necessary for additional elk transplants reduce division opportunities for management of important native species; and

WHEREAS Department of Fish and Game management plans require that elk introduced to Etolin and Zarembo Islands be confined to those islands; and

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Alaska Board of Game opposes additional elk transplants into Southeast Alaska.



Richard Burley, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

Adopted March 19, 1993
Anchorage, Alaska
Vote: 7 Favor and 0 Oppose

Carl L. Foster, Commissioner

Public Communications
Box 3-2000
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2000
(907) 465-4112



Alaska Department of Fish & Game

NEWS

March 16, 1993

Contact: Bruce Dinnford 465-4369

ANCHORAGE -- In an effort to stem the spread of transplanted elk in Southeast Alaska, the Board of Game on Tuesday established a liberal hunting season in areas surrounding the transplant site.

Board members and Division of Wildlife Conservation biologists expressed concern that the spreading elk population could out compete the Sitka blacktail deer native to the deer.

Fifty Roosevelt and Rocky Mountain elk from Oregon were transplanted, by legislative edict, to Etolin Island in 1987. Almost immediately, some of the elk moved to adjacent Zarembo Island. About half of the transplanted elk died, most of them killed by wolves or bears. But the population rallied and has grown to an estimated 75-100 animals.

As the elk increased, they began moving to other nearby islands. Elk have been seen on Mitkof, Shrubby and Brushy islands. Under the management plan developed in conjunction with the transplant, any elk which left Etolin or Zarembo was to be eliminated or removed.

The hunting season approved by the board will be open year-round for either sex everywhere except Etolin and Zarembo. The regulation will go into effect July 1.

 FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO
 TO: Mandi @ (H) 225
 DEPT: F&G FAX #: 2332
 FROM: D. O'Shane PHONE: 6140
 CO: FAX #: 3793
 NO. OF PAGES: 2
 7-17

The management plan calls for hunting to be allowed on Etolin and Zarembo when the population reaches 250.

Research in the Pacific Northwest indicates that elk and deer eat many of the same plants and that elk browsing leaves little for deer.

Because the elk are hard animals, they offer less hunting opportunity than deer which tend to be more evenly distributed. Afognak and Raspberry Islands, north of Kodiak, are the only other places in Alaska where elk exist. Elk hunting on Afognak and Raspberry is by permit only and the success rate runs about 16 percent. For deer, the two islands are open to general hunting and the success rate is about 85 percent.

In other action, the board expanded a one-buck registration deer hunt on Mitkof Island to include the Lindenburg Peninsula near Petersburg. Kuiu Island and the remainder of Kupreanof Island were opened for two bucks, the same bag limit in effect for Game Management Unit 3 south of Sumner Straits. The area was closed to deer hunting nearly two decades ago because of low deer numbers. But biologists say deer densities now are comparable to those on nearby islands and the mainland where hunting is allowed.

And the board authorized a registration permit goat hunt on part of Revillagigedo Island. No mountain goats existed on the island prior to 1981 when about 20 were moved there from elsewhere in Southeast Alaska. The population now numbers about 170. Twenty more goats were moved to a different part of the island in 1991, but they will not be subject to hunting.

10

Elk

Transplants from Oregon wandering wider than expected

By NIKKI MURRAY JONES
Daily News Staff Writer

An elk carcass found on Farm Island in October 1993 shows the animals are spreading out from their Etolin Island home.

The cow carcass was located by Doug Larsen of the Ketchikan Alaska Fish and Game, who tracked its radio collar.

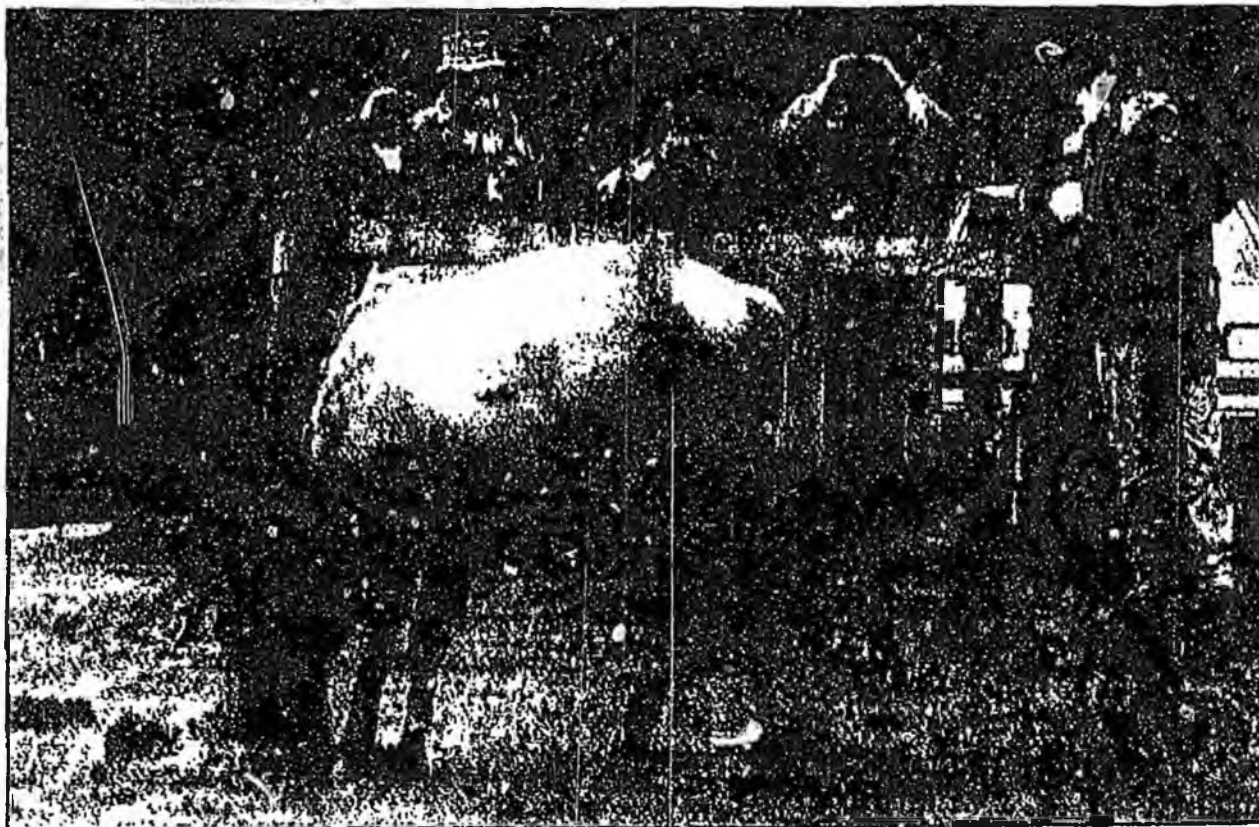
Petersburg biologist Charlie Land investigated and said it was a Roosevelt elk from the original transplant in 1987, according to Larsen, who is the Ketchikan Area wildlife biologist.

The find on Farm Island, at the mouth of the Stikine River, indicates the elk could be dispersing more widely than expected, he said.

Larsen said biologists aren't hearing any more collar signals because the life expectancy for the devices is four years.

"It's getting more and more difficult to locate the elk as radio collars go off the air," Larsen said.

The department transplanted 33 Roosevelt elk and 17 Rocky Mountain elk from the Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area in Oregon to Etolin to establish an



Roosevelt elk like this one presently at Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area in Jewell, Ore., were transported to Etolin Island in 1987.

Photo by The Associated Press

elk population in Southeast, said Larsen.

Ten elk wore radio collars, and three of the collars were operating as of October. He estimates the elk population is 100 to 150 animals.

Biologists tried to put three refurbished collars on the animals in January, but were unable to get to the elk, said Larsen.

He and Juneau biologist Vern Beier flew with Ketchikan Pulp Co. pilot

Allen Zink to Etolin.

They located a herd on the west side of the island, but the animals were in a heavily forested area. Biologists weren't able to bring the animals into the open to tranquilize them with darts, said Larsen.

Biologists also collected deer and elk pellets in January and will return to Etolin to collect more in February, March and April, said Larsen. The

pellets will be sent to Washington State University in Pullman for an analysis of animal diets.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, which provided 1993 funding for refurbishing the radio collars, is interested in the pellet study, said Larsen.

Representatives from Montana attending the North American Wildlife Conference in Anchorage, will stop off in Southeast to join biologists in March.

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

Elk Transplant

Dear Editor: The proposed transplant of elk to Kruzof Island merits comment.

The wildlife literature adequately describes the history of introducing various forms of flora and fauna over the face of the earth. An easy to read book titled "The Alien Animals," by George Laycock, summarizes many of the world-wide introductions. A publication of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game titled "Game Transplants in Alaska" describes the known transplants in Alaska. This publication is available for review at the Sitka Fish and Game office. Anyone who is interested in the amount of time, effort and money that has been spent on transplants should review these documents. These documents will provide insight as to why most wildlife professionals are opposed to transplants.

The reasoning behind wildlife introductions often boggle the mind. For instance, the European starling, a noxious bird that now occurs in all the United States (yes, here in Sitka, too) was released in New York by an admirer of Shakespeare who attempted to establish in America all the species of birds mentioned by Shakespeare. One of the more common rationales for transplants is simply that a species doesn't occur in an area. Another favorite is the desire for transplanted people to bring something along to remind them of home. Transplants for political gain are particularly perplexing to wildlife managers. Whatever the inspiration, most introductions have been failures or have resulted in adverse impacts to native flora and fauna. Unfortunately, there have been genuine successes to keep people inspired.

The idea of transplanting elk to Alaska dates back to the dark ages of wildlife management when it was thought that the way to wildlife abun-

dance was to kill off all the predators, not allow any consumptive use of females of most species, apprehend violators and, above all, transplant. A 1925 law enacted by the Alaska Territorial Legislature outlined a dazzling array of transplants that was to be conducted. Fortunately, that law has been repealed or we might still be trying to establish Siberian blue squirrels to the Seward Peninsula or mule deer to the Tanana Valley. However, many of the mandated transplants were undertaken and most failed.

There have been at least eight releases of elk in Alaska. Only the one to Afognak Island succeeded in establishing a population. That transplant took place in 1929, and the animals flourished for some years, reaching an estimated population of 1200-1500 animals by 1965. A major die-off reduced the herd to an estimated 450 in 1972. The herd rebounded from the lows of the early 1970s but in 1980 another downward trend began, which continues today. Was that transplant a success? Who knows! It is still too early to predict the success or failure of the more recent transplant to Etolin Island, and it is still too early to know what competition might develop between the exotic elk and the native Sitka black-tailed deer. One thing is known about that transplant however, and that is how much money and man-hours it cost, money and man-hours that could well have been spent on more rewarding activities.

As a wildlife biologist with over 30 years experience in Alaska, with the last 20 of those years being here in Sitka, I will readily admit that I do not know whether or not elk would compete with Sitka black-tailed deer on Kruzof Island. The published reports show that competition is a distinct possibility. An adult elk outweighs a deer by several hundred pounds so in times of nutritional stress when push comes to shove, a 100-pound deer would stand little chance when competing with an animal of similar food requirements 6-8 times its size. I know of no one in this area who is qualified to make a knowledgeable judgment regarding competition between elk and Sitka black-tailed deer either!

Competition can come in a variety of guises. Deer in the Sitka area are remarkably free of debilitating parasites and diseases. Being herd animals, which enhances transmission of diseases and parasite, elk are known to harbor a variety of parasites and diseases which might well be transmitted to our deer, even if the elk transplant is a failure. These conditions may or may not be detected by a cursory health examination.

While I can't offer learned observations on competition between elk and Sitka black-tailed deer, I do know that here in the Sitka area we are blessed with a favorable set of circumstances which provide us with the opportunity to enjoy one of the world's greatest big game animals, the Sitka black-tailed deer. Kruzof Island, together with remaining old-growth forest areas of Hoonah Sound comprise some of the finest Sitka black-tailed deer habitat in existence. These areas are easily accessible. Because of the high deer densities and ease of access, these areas are heavily utilized by Sitkans as well as residents of other communities.

I think it would be a biological irresponsibility of the greatest magnitude to transplant elk to Kruzof Island.

We have a known quantity on the black-tailed deer and it would be sheer folly to take any actions that might jeopardize this magnificent resource. I only hope the responsible managers of the wildlife (Alaska Department of Fish and Game), the habitat (U.S. Forest Service), and the good citizens of Alaska, will exercise their professional responsibilities and good judgment to not allow this transplant to take place.

I further hope that Sen. Robin Taylor will stick to those issues which an elected legislator should be dealing with. Frittering away money from a dwindling state coffer, while burdening the Department of Fish and Game with an ill-advised game transplant, is not one of those issues.

I urge those who are getting caught up in this issue to objectively review the history of transplanting plants, mammals, birds and fish over the face of the earth and the dismal record of failures it has produced. It is far better to maximize opportunities with those species nature has presented us with than it is to continue searching for something exotic that is hoped to be bigger and better. It is my hope that those persons who are promoting elk transplants would redirect their efforts to a more meaningful cause, such as attempting to discourage clear-cut logging on the remaining areas of outstanding Sitka black-tailed deer habitat, areas which will be receiving increasing interest for timber cutting in the next few years.

In the meantime, I will be happy knowing there is an outstanding and secure resource of Sitka black-tailed deer on Kruzof Island. If the urge strikes me to want to enjoy elk or mule deer or antelope or what have you, I will go to where those species occur.

Loyal J. Johnson, Sitka

MY TURN

Juneau Empire
3-16-93

Elk transplant a bad use of state money

By LOYAL J. JOHNSON

I have learned that Sen. Robin Taylor is pursuing having 75 to 100 elk introduced to each of four locations in Southeast Alaska - Kruzof, Gravina and Prince of Wales islands and the Cleveland Peninsula. As a 20-year resident of Southeast with 30 years experience as a wildlife biologist, I would like to offer a few thoughts on this issue.

The reasoning behind wildlife transplants or introductions is often mind-boggling. For instance, the European starling, a noxious bird that now occurs in all of the United States, including Southeast Alaska, was released in New York by an admirer of Shakespeare who attempted to establish in America all the species of birds mentioned by Shakespeare.

One of the more common rationales for transplants is simply that a species doesn't occur in an area.

Transplants for political gain are particularly perplexing to wildlife managers. Whatever the inspiration, most introductions have been failures or have resulted in adverse impacts to native flora and fauna. Unfortunately, there have been some genuine successes to keep at least some people inspired.

The idea of transplanting elk to Alaska dates back to the dark ages of wildlife management when it was thought that the way to enhance wildlife abundance was to kill off the predators, apprehend violators and above all, transplant.

Transplants for political gain are particularly perplexing to wildlife managers. The idea of transplanting elk to Alaska dates back to the dark ages of wildlife management.

A 1925 law enacted by the territorial Legislature outlined a dazzling array of transplants that were to be conducted. Fortunately, the law was repealed or we might still be trying to introduce Siberian blue squirrels into the Seward Peninsula or mule deer to the Tanana Valley.

There have been at least eight releases of elk in Alaska. Only the one on Afognak Island in 1929 succeeded in establishing a population. Was that transplant a success? Well, in terms of establishing a population, it was. But if it was and is such a success, why are Kodiak biologists opposed to moving Afognak elk to Kodiak Island? I understand that it's at least partly because of concerns over direct competition with the established Kodiak deer population.

And what about the 1987 introduction of elk into Etolin Island? Is it considered a success? Well, following six years of monitoring the herd's status, biologists have concluded that elk have indeed become established on the island and have even dispersed to adjacent islands.

Does this establishment of elk equate with success? I would con-

clude that it's too early to say.

Based on Fish and Game's reported radio-tracking information and sightings, 75 to 100 elk are estimated to reside on and adjacent to Etolin Island. These few elk on more than 900 square miles of habitat would not be expected to result in noticeable conflict at present. However, as elk numbers increase, competition between elk and deer could become a concern.

Competition between elk and deer has been reported from areas where elk and deer coexist. An adult elk outweighs a deer by several hundred pounds, so during times of nutritional stress, a 100-pound deer would be at a distinct disadvantage for limited food.

This problem is exacerbated by the fact that elk have been shown to degrade entire shrubs because of their ability to tear off and digest large woody stems. Deer, on the other hand, feed on smaller stems, which allows the integrity of the shrubs to be maintained and the useful life of the shrubs prolonged.

I think it would be biological irresponsibility of the highest magnitude to transplant additional elk into Southeast when we don't even

know what the impacts associated with the Etolin transplant will ultimately be. We are fortunate in having a known quantity of Sitka black-tailed deer, and it would be sheer folly to take any actions that might jeopardize this magnificent resource.

It is far better to maximize opportunities with those species nature has provided us with than to continue searching for something exotic, that is, hoped to be bigger and better.

I wish that Taylor would stick to issues that an elected legislator should be dealing with and leave biological issues in the hands of professionals who have the training to make the best judgments about anticipated impacts.

I further urge members of the public to look into this issue and evaluate the legitimacy of spending ever-dwindling state dollars on ill-advised transplants that are opposed by wildlife professionals.

If there is a desire to spend money on elk, why not channel it into obtaining information about the existing elk on Etolin Island? Wouldn't it be better to spend a fraction of the anticipated transplant costs to obtain some insights about deer and elk interactions now than to look back 50 to 100 years from now and see just how good we really had it, or wish we'd been a little less zealous in our efforts to extend elk range in Alaska?

LOYAL J. JOHNSON
Loyal J. Johnson of Sitka is a retired wildlife biologist.

Senate OKs elk, moose, wolf bills

By IAN MADER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Senate has approved three bills that would tinker with nature to increase the amount of game available in Alaska for hunting, eating and viewing.

The bills would allow moose ranching, order state officials to import more wild elk into the state, and give the Game Board more authority to increase game stocks through "intensive management."

The latter measure does not mention wolves, but critics say it is a mandate for the board to order wolf kills to increase caribou and moose populations.

The bills passed Thursday largely on majority-minority lines and were to be sent to the House, pending possible reconsideration votes today. House Speaker Ramona Barnes, R-Anchorage, said it was too early to gauge House support for the measures.

Sen. Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell and sponsor of the elk bill, said the measures would add to the state's quality of life.

"Ask any Alaskan why he came to Alaska, and he'll say he came to hunt and fish," Taylor said. "You can't hunt if you don't have anything to hunt."

'Ask any Alaskan why he came to Alaska, and he'll say he came to hunt and fish. You can't hunt if you don't have anything to hunt.'

— Sen. Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell

'When you start getting into ranching animals, it definitely takes away from the characteristics that make Alaska unique.'

— Stephen Wells, Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Recent declines in caribou in Interior Alaska prompted state officials to propose aerially killing some wolves, which prey on caribou. The idea was dropped after an international outcry and tourism boycott.

Many discouraged hunters said the state caved in to pressure from environmental and animal-rights groups in the Lower 48 states.

"I view all these bills as kind of a reaction to the state not having actively managed game," said David Kelleyhouse, director of the

state Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Conservation Division.

Kelleyhouse said the department supports the concept of intensive management contained in Senate Bill 77, but is opposed to some details in the bill. The department dislikes the elk and moose proposals, he said. SB 77 passed 11-8.

"I would much rather support the intensive management of our native species rather than bringing in exotic species or penning

and farming moose," Kelleyhouse said.

Elk are not native to Alaska and could seriously harm deer populations; bringing too many moose together in close quarters could breed diseases that could spread to the wild, Kelleyhouse said.

Manipulating the state's game stocks ought to be left up to experts, he said.

Elk already have been brought to Afognak and Kodiak islands in the Gulf of Alaska, and to Etolin Island in Southeast Alaska.

Taylor's bill, SB43, would require state officials to bring between 75 and 100 elk to each of four islands in Southeast: Kruzof, Gravina, Cleveland and Prince of Wales. It passed 12-7.

The moose-ranching bill, SB46, would allow moose to be corralled, raised and slaughtered commercially. Doug Welton, a Fairbanks-area man who has lobbied for the bill for the past two years, has said he would like to have live moose at his gift shop as a tourist attraction.

A similar bill passed the Senate last year and died in the House.

During lengthy Senate debates Wednesday and Thursday, Democratic senators tried unsuccessfully to amend the bills to limit their effects.

JUNEAU EMPIRE

FRIDAY
March 19, 1993

'The Voice of Alaska's Capital City'

PERS CORP.

JUNEAU, ALASKA

20 PAGES, 3 SECTIONS

Game Board relents, protects elk

By IAN MADER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After an appeal by a state senator, the Board of Game has reversed its decision to allow hunters a shot at transplanted elk that have strayed from Etolin Island in Southeast Alaska.

The state board on Tuesday had unanimously authorized the elk hunting season to protect Sitka blacktail deer, which compete with the elk for food.

On Thursday the board voted 4-3 to reverse that decision after an appeal to Fish and Game Commissioner Carl Rosier by Sen. Rob-

in Taylor, R-Wrangell, who wants the state to move more elk to the region.

Rosier said today he advised board members to reverse their decision after hearing from Taylor.

The board's earlier decision would have provided an elk season for any areas of the region except Etolin and Zarembo islands. Board members were concerned that the spreading elk population would displace the native deer. The estimated 75 to 100 elk in Southeast are not native to Alaska.

The earlier announcement was

seen as politically damaging to a bill of Taylor's that would force the state to import up to 400 more elk to four other islands in Southeast.

"He felt that the board basically was deciding state policy in competition with the Legislature," Rosier said. "Several of the board members were upright about this.

"The Game Board should certainly be part of that process. But on the other hand nobody wants to get crosswise with the Legislature."

Taylor says elk, with their majestic antlers, are a favorite

among hunters who live in his district. The Senate passed the elk transplant bill last week and sent it to the House.

Rosier said the board decided to wait and see what kind of support the elk bill has in the House before making any further decisions on elk hunting.

The state Department of Fish and Game adamantly opposes bringing any more elk into the state until long-term studies determine whether they are a serious threat to deer and the region's ecology.

Board members were meeting

at an Anchorage hotel and could not immediately be reached for comment.

Taylor said he was pleased with the reversal. He said the original decision was based on bad information supplied by Fish and Game biologists. Taylor said biologists have been feeding the board biased information to pursue their own agendas.

"The same people who led the board down the primrose path on the elk, they're the same people who led the board down the path on the wolves," he said.

Please turn to Elk, back page

Cleanup OK'd at oil tank



Senate OKs control over car brokers

be addressed," Duncan said.

But Senate Majority Leader Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell, said it's difficult to get anything done in a legislative session that's been marked by so much name-calling and mistrust.

"Things have been so strident down here from Day 1 that there has been very little communication between the majority and the minority," Taylor said.

The Hickel administration is staying out of the debate.

"We are waiting to see what the Legislature comes up with, and also want to see what President Clinton does on a national basis," said state Health and Social

ward writing their own plans rather than wait for federal action.

Last week, the Washington state Senate approved one of the nation's most ambitious programs to control costs and guarantee medical care for everyone.

Some Alaska legislators want action here, too. They contend home-grown plans will do the best job of solving the state's problems. And they argue that Clinton is unlikely to impose any federal solution on a state making an honest effort at reform.

Others argue that if the state moves too fast, Alaska might be out of step with national changes.

The Legislature is expected to have two plans from which to choose. The first, developed by the state task

force, would negotiate discounted services from doctors and hospitals, then extend coverage to all Americans.

The task force plan would guarantee coverage to all Alaskans through a state system that probably would contract with a single private insurer and would limit payment to doctors and hospitals, in effect rationing health care.

The second plan comes from Alaska doctors, hospitals and others involved in providing health care.

Their plan calls for a "pay or play" system where employers either provide insurance or pay a penalty tax to the state to finance universal coverage. Doctors, hospitals and insurers would be forced to limit their fee increases.

Elk...

Continued from Page 1

The Game Board, whose members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature, sets policy for state game management.

"They realized there was probably some educational information they needed and didn't have when they made the first decision," Taylor said.

The Legislature in 1986 approved a Taylor bill to transplant 50 elk from Oregon to Etolin Island near Wrangell, over the objections

of state biologists. At first many of the elk were killed by wolves and bears. But now they are thriving and migrating across shallow waters to other islands.

Taylor says deer and elk coexist fruitfully on Afognak and Raspberry islands near Kodiak, the only other places in Alaska where elk live. Federal officials brought elk and deer there in the 1920s.

But Bruce Dinneford, a manager with the Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Conservation

Division, said those islands are different cases because both species were transplanted there. The area has been closed to deer hunting for nearly two decades because of low deer numbers.

Studies by Canadian officials have shown that elk regularly out-compete deer for food on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Dinneford said. Fish and Game is also concerned that any new transplants could bring disease and parasites to Alaska, he said.

Tank...

Continued from Page 1

"We can take whatever actions are necessary to remove the threat of a pollution incident in the waters of the U.S.," he said.

A contractor is expected to re-

move the water that lies on top of the heavier fuel oil, then mix the oil with wood chips to make it easier to take out and burn. Rome said the tank will be steam-cleaned after it is empty and soil around the tank will also be re-

moved.

Keen had offered several proposals to clean up the property, and Rome said it would be preferable for the owner to do the work but that Keen's proposals were inadequate.

Health...

Continued from Page 1

Everything above that point would be covered; everything below would not.

"In an ideal world you'd like to cover everything," Wyden said today, adding that the state plan would "concentrate on keeping people well."

Medicaid provides health

income of \$991 for a family of three. Single men and women without children also would be covered for the first time.

Critics say the plan amounts to health rationing for the poor. But advocates say too many deserving residents living below the poverty level receive no Medicaid cover-

tended to try to block the program in Congress.

Waxman, chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees Medicaid, said he would not oppose the plan as long as the state comes up with enough money so that further reductions in benefits can be made.

"She has such a calming effect on the children and a genuine caring. She would work one-on-one with children who wanted to do a special game or special reading," Wilbur says.

Janes would often go to the library to pick out books that would be of interest to a particular child, Wilbur says. "She always went the extra mile to show caring toward the individual child."

Schelle says she, too, is impressed by Janes' ability to tune in to the needs and interests of young people.

"She is concerned with more than just helping (Mark) with academics. She is looking toward his future and thinking of how to nurture his interests and abilities.

"That is a rare gift."

And going the extra mile is a gift that seems to keep Janes not only looking young, but highly energetic.

She went back to college to get her teaching credentials at age 40, after raising her three children. Janes majored in history — a subject she still enjoys teaching to Mark.

"I stop a lot to discuss things with him," she says of her teaching style. "Mark is very interested in American history. Sometimes we also talk about the different problems people have in the world today."

Janes admires her foster grandson's interest in architecture and his observations of color and art. "He has a lot of talents."

And Mark's admiration for Janes is clearly evident in the way he describes what he most admires about his tutor. "She is more active than a lot of people her age. She skis, hikes, goes boating. She is a real active outdoors person."

Ginny Gerber also admires Janes' energy and involvement as a teacher.

"I work, take care of my family, and I teach Mark and I sleep," Gerber says, "but Peggy makes sure she exercises every day and she has her church activities."

Bible ban asked

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) — A book lover raised Cain when he tried banning the Bible from public library shelves.

James Petersen says he has no complaint with the Good Book. He chose it to make a point that banning books is bad — period.

"My intentions were not to hurt, to insult or to degrade anyone's faith," Petersen said Wednesday at the Fairbanks North Star Borough library advisory commission unanimously voted to keep the Bible.

A security guard was hired specially for the meeting after officials reported some threatening phone calls. There were no disturbances.

Petersen said he filed the complaint, which called the book obscene and pornographic, after some residents last year supported banning a comic book that depicted violence and sex.

The library board retained "Billy Budd, R.G.B." but urged limited access. Patrons must request the book from the library's reserve desk.

Yukon mines get support

JUNEAU (AP) — The Yukon government has offered to back a \$29 million loan to Toronto-based Curragh Resources to keep two mines operating and nearly 800 miners working.

The loan guarantee would go toward developing a new ore deposit at one of the company's two Yukon mines, which export the ore through the port at Skagway in Southeast Alaska.

The loan would be worth about \$23 million in U.S. dollars.

Curragh has temporarily laid off almost 600 of 800 employees at the zinc and lead mines near Faro and Watson Lake, Yukon. The mines represent the largest non-government employer in the Yukon.

Conditions for the loan guarantee include that the money only be used for the Faro mine, that the company close one of its

mines in British Columbia, and that its headquarters be moved to Whitehorse, Yukon.

Lyle Drown, a spokesman for the Yukon government, said that some conditions were negotiable.

The loan guarantee is a major risk for the 30,000 residents of the Yukon, Drown said. "We are talking enormous dollars for a government of our size."

Curragh, whose officials did not return a phone call for comment, has said it is seeking up to \$50 million for the Yukon mines.

Low zinc and lead prices were a primary factor in the financial troubles of Curragh. They also have claimed the Greens Creek mine on Admiralty Island, which plans an indefinite shutdown in April.

The Greens Creek closure will put 230 miners out of a job.

Rules won't impact mines

JUNEAU (AP) — The Clinton administration's proposed reforms of the Mining Act of 1872 probably would not affect the Alaska-Juneau or Kensington gold mines, government and industry officials say.

If Congress follows recommendations of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, gold extracted from federal lands would be taxed at a royalty rate as high as 12.5 percent.

The A-J mine is on private, city and state land. Some of the Kensington mine would be on U.S. Forest Service land. But the ore is on land patented at the turn of the century, which means it is privately controlled and would not be affected, said John Kato of the federal Bureau of Mines.

Babbitt also has urged an end to patenting fees as low as \$2.50 an acre.

The changes would apply only to lands patented in recent years.

Miners say a 12.5 percent royalty would hobble the industry, while reformers say the

industry would only be paying its fair share for public resources.

Steve Borrel, executive director of the Alaska Miners Association, said the Clinton administration bills would make it unfeasible to mine about 40 percent of the proven mineral reserves on federal land. U.S. investment would flee to other countries more receptive to mining, Borrel said this week.

Minerals recovered from federal lands are not taxed under the mining law, though companies pay corporate income taxes on profits associated with those minerals.

David Stone, spokesman for Kensington partner Echo Bay Alaska Inc., said other proposed reforms to the mining law may change the way the company does some things, but will not significantly affect the project.

Borrel said the two Juneau projects should not see any major effects unless the developer finds their ore extends into unpatented, federal land.

Board of Game reverses itself, will not allow longer elk season

By SCOTT HOWLEN
Daily News Staff Writer

By a 4-3 vote Thursday, the Alaska Board of Game rescinded its Tuesday establishment of a liberal hunting season for elk in the Sitka area near the original Southeast Alaska island.

Fifty elk were originally transplanted to Sitka Island in 1987 by legislative action. Some elk moved to Zarembo Island, adjacent to Sitka.

After the original number was almost halved by predators, the population grew to the present estimated 75 to 100 animals. Elk have been seen on Mitkof, Shrobbly and Busby islands.

On Tuesday, the game board voted

7-0 to approve an open, year-round hunting season for elk of either sex on any Southeast island except Sitka and Zarembo.

Reasons given for the action by board members and Division of Wildlife Conservation biologists was that the elk population was spreading and could out-compete the Sitka Blacktail Deer already native to the islands for food.

But the game board reversed itself during its meeting in Anchorage Thursday morning. The board first voted 6-1 to reconsider the elk hunt, according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game spokesman Michelle Syteman. The board then voted 4-3 to rescind the hunt.

Syteman and other Fish and Game spokespersons were unable to give detail as to why the issue was reconsidered. Fish and Game Commissioner Carl L. Rosier could not be contacted for comment.

However, Sen. Robin Taylor R-Wrangel, said that public comment after Tuesday's announcement was "incredible" and played a part in the reversal.

"People were absolutely aghast," he said.

Taylor, an outspoken critic of the elk hunt, said that the purpose of the hunt was "the complete and total eradication" of elk from the area. He also said that the concept of competition for

forage between elk and deer was unfounded.

The Department of Fish and Game press release announcing Tuesday's elk-hunt decision cited Pacific Northwest research indicating that elk and deer do share common foods and that elk browsing leaves less for deer.

But Taylor said that elk and black-tailed deer have co-existed on Alaska's Afognak Island since 1927. The elk eat different things at different elevations than the deer, he said.

"There are 10 times more Sitka black-tailed deer on Afognak than elk," Taylor said.

A combination of information and public comment brought the board to

rescind the hunt, Taylor said. They at last had the information they had to consider.

Alaska brief

Far 'local' bidder?

FAIRBANKS (AP) — The city's definition of "local bidder" may allow a bidder with headquarters in Anchorage

contract if officials declared Gaston a local vendor.

BRC officials say Gaston has three temporary offices at work sites in the

win the contract to build the hospital, despite the slightly higher bid.

The preference rule allows the city

to pay as much as 5 percent or \$50,000 more for a contract if the winning bidder isn't a local business.



Adopt-A-Pet

ANIMAL PROTECTION

Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Cats

1. 6 year old declawed neutered male grey short hair named Smokey.
2. 6 month old male short hair orange Tabby named Terrance
3. Adult female long hair Calico.
4. Adult female short hair Calico.
5. 5 month old female grey short hair.

Longevity

EDITOR, Daily News:

Cutting off the Longevity Bonus would be a disaster to many. Mostly the hand the wields that are legislators, the governor's administrative workers have no worry about their future. They will draw retirement pay and Social Security and other stipends for being employed by the State government. Quite a few senior citizens do not earn retirement benefits. In fact, we are barely surviving because of the rapidly rising cost of living. Dear Governor and Legislators, find a way to continue to give the longevity Bonus to people who dearly depend on it!

In the national arena, they are propping to swing the ax on Social Security beneficiaries. Those beneficiaries have earned their Social Security and need it for existence.

Why don't we look at waste in big government spending. Aids to foreign countries alone is a sickening project. These aids are supposed to help foreign countries develop. Fraud and mishandling takes over, losing billions of U. S. taxpayers' accumulated funds.

In my own small program funding, I have to produce evidence that I have produced something using the first half of funds received, before I can get remaining funds for my Cultural Education Program.

A few years ago I applied for funds to build a canoe — don't laugh. My grandfather did not ask for funds to build the canoe he used to paddle to Alaska. Anyway, the builder of the canoe for Tsimshian Cultural Education in 1980 had to show proof that he had completed one-third of the structure and only then could he draw one-third of his contract earnings. When he was two-thirds done he drew the

other one-third when finished he was given the entire contract funds. Why can't the big U. S. government do the same thing? For each million dollars spent by foreign countries, they should show proof that said million was used for the purpose intended!

The surest way to show faith in campaign promises by President Clinton, of course, is to cut his own salary and advise Congress to do likewise. That way people wielding axes will show proof that "I have cut my own income; I can cut spending even if it hurts you."

The cutter should show that he can take the cut before others suffer.

Amen.

RUSSELL HAYWARD
Metlakatla

Whose failure?

EDITOR, Daily News.

As (1) the loving parent of a very sincere hospital employee and (2) as a member of the hospital's governing board my motive in questioning the general tenor of your recent Publisher's Corner column about the deplorable drug tampering problem at Ketchikan General Hospital may well make you consider my views doubly suspect. Further, I am well aware of the old cliché about the futility of arguing with anyone who buys ink by the barrel. Nonetheless what's fair is fair.

Your Publisher's Corner article was headed "The failure to disclose" and goes on to state that the Daily News' former publisher serves as a member of the hospital's advisory board. I understand that at its regular meeting following the hospital administration's gaining knowledge of the tampering problem, this matter was brought to

the attention of the advisory board and it was discussed openly and at length. Either the former publisher did not attend that meeting of the advisory board in which case your column might more aptly have been headed "The failure to attend" or, if he were there and missed the importance of what was being discussed, the column could have been headed "The failure to listen."

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace recognize the importance of serving well the medical needs of each community in which they have a presence. The Sisters place great reliance on input from their advisory boards and attempt to obtain members in a manner that represents a good cross-section of each community. By their very nature, the advisory board members represent their community. There is plenty of blame to hand out over this catastrophe. I do not believe you are being fair to heap all of it on the administration of Ketchikan General Hospital.

There are a thousand things that quietly go right at KGH for even one thing that goes wrong. Perhaps your future reporting will recognize this positive ratio of one thousand to one. Your good article in this morning's paper about the arrival of Dr. Herron would represent a fine start.

Very truly yours,
WALTER M. SHUHAM
Ketchikan

Bias, biology

EDITOR, Daily News:

Surprise, Surprise, the ADF&G biologists are against transplanting elk. Your Wavemaker article on March 11,

1993 regarding elk transplants once again displays the illogical and preservationist bias of our ADF&G biologists. In this particular instance the so-called "expert" states that ADF&G doesn't recommend transplants and vaguely threatens that, depending on how old we are, we may see the results in our lifetime! He then rambles on to say that wolves kill deer more than they kill elk, and that the habitat couldn't support both elk and deer in high numbers.

Let's not forget that deer and elk have lived together over most of the Western United States for many centuries. And thanks to a transplant program that took place many years ago, elk and deer have lived together on Afognak Island for more than 60 years. Elk hunters are limited on Afognak by a permit system. If elk numbers rise to undesirable levels they can easily be controlled by hunting, especially since elk are herd animals.

One would hope that ADF&G would offer scientific advice on "what areas would be best suited for elk transplant," or perhaps even something about "what habitat conditions are preferable to sustain a healthy, viable herd while sustaining and enhancing the biological diversity of the area." Dream on.

The real point of this letter is that once again we have been shown that the ADF&G biologists have a preservationist bias and prefer to block or discourage any development or management of our natural resources. Why do we keep funding those obstructionists, and reducing funding for hatcheries and other enhancement projects?

Sincerely,
DONALD C. HARBOUR
KETCHIKAN

uk's war novel
published.
to Palace an-
on of Princess
and, the Earl of
s of marriage.
se of Represent-
broadcasts of

st Jim Bakker
his P.M. misis-
sex and muncy
sica Hahn, a

U.S. Commis-
ed that the
gencies had
olding docu-
ment Romkl
subpoenas

ish soldiers
they were
beaten by
ish Republic
d, Northern

perat Paul
Presidential
Governor Bill
to capture

mer White
viser Brent
tor Patrick
HansKung
60.



March 18, 1993

Senator Robin Taylor
Room 30
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Senator Taylor,

To follow up my phone call to your office on March 16th concerning S.B. 43.

First I am wondering where the public input supporting this Bill came from. I have, myself, just recently been made aware of the Bill at a Prince of Wales Advisory Council meeting. The P.O.W. Advisory Council represents all the communities on Prince of Wales Island. Only one of the representatives at this meeting was aware of S.B.43, and all of the membership present were flabbergasted that this measure had passed through the Senate without our comments. (Also notable, those present were opposed to introducing elk to Prince of Wales).

Since learning of S.B.43 I have questioned sport and personal use hunters in Craig and have yet to find any support for the Bill. All those I have talked with firmly believe that the addition of elk to this area can only bring harm to native deer population.

I also see no fiscal note attached to this legislation, it would no doubt be substantial. Senator, there are many on going and proposed projects and programs in this area where this kind of money would be a lot better spent. I strongly urge that S.B.43 be reconsidered and at the very least that Prince of Wales Island be deleted from its text.

Sincerely,

Dennis Watson, Mayor
City of Craig

cc: Senator Zharoff
Representative Mackie
Representative Williams
Senator Halford
Representative Barnes

Mary
I'd can not tell you how surprised
(not pleasantly) that P.O.W. residents were
that this Bill passed through the
Senate.

If the Senate chooses not to reconsider
it is my hope that the House will take
a more serious look at this issue before
taking any action.

The biological and environmental implications
of this Bill are extremely far reaching
and deserve more consideration than they
have been given.

Please pass these concerns along to the
Representative. Also you might try and
dig up some info on what happened to
Afganah deer paper and when elk were
introduced.

Thanks
Cindy