

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1993-1994 8672

8085 HOUSE RESOURCES

Regulation of animals held under Title 16 permits should be by the department of fish and game. Experimental animal husbandry permits are intended to test the feasibility of using surplus wildlife for game farming--not for zoological exhibition. Exhibition is currently regulated under Title 16 scientific/educational permits.

Page 9, lines 8-16:

Delete all material

Criteria for declaring game as surplus can best be achieved in regulations adopted under Subsection (a). Some of the criteria listed here are allocation matters that should be considered by the Board of Game (e.g., declaring animals in proximity to highways, railroads, urban areas as surplus: these are also the animals most in demand by the public for subsistence, sport hunting, viewing).

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

March 25, 1994

The Honorable Pat Carney, Chair
House Resources Subcommittee - SB 46
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Carney:

Pending legislation authorizing game farming (SB 46) continues to concern the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Natural Resources, and Fish and Game. We have reviewed the March 17 work draft from your subcommittee on game farming and the March 13 memorandum to you from Senator Mike Miller. Neither of these documents resolves major concerns expressed in our March 11 letter, which summarized the administration's unified position on game farming.

We also would like to correct a mistaken belief that the three agencies recommended transferring regulatory authority over the experimental animal husbandry permit from the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources. The position of the resource agencies remains that the Department of Fish and Game should regulate possession of animals held under experimental animal husbandry permits and the Department of Natural Resources should regulate game farming and the possession of game farm animals.

To reiterate, we propose changes in the legislation to limit game farming to elk, bison, muskoxen and reindeer. Under Title 16, an experimental animal husbandry permit would be authorized to allow individuals to raise moose. Regulations would be developed by DNR to allow the addition of moose and other native big game species to the list of species that could be game farmed.

We believe it is essential to separate the administration of game farming and experimental animal husbandry permits. The state would retain ownership of animals and their progeny held under an experimental animal husbandry permit and the sale of live animals or their meat would continue to be prohibited. The

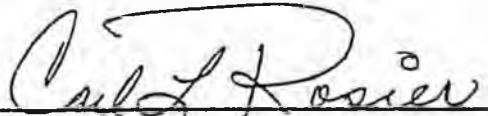
March 25, 1994

permittee would be able to use the meat for personal and family use and be able to sell antlers, hides, milk and other byproducts.

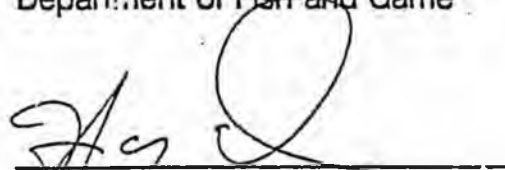
Finally, the newly proposed subsection, AS 16.40.010(f), should be deleted or completely reworked. As written, this subsection would be bad for game farming, experimental animal husbandry, and sound wildlife management.

We remain committed to the concept of game farming and would welcome the opportunity to work directly with your subcommittee, the House Resources Committee, and legislative legal counsel to devise a bill that could be supported by both the legislature and the administration.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game



Harry A. Noah
Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources



John A. Sandor
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation

cc: Representative Williams ✓
Representative Hudson
Representative Bunde
Representative Green
Representative James
Representative Mulder
Representative Finkelstein
Representative Davies



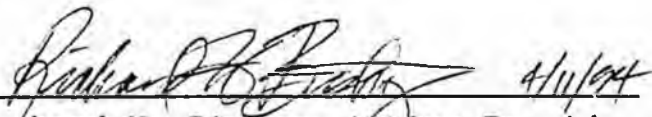
ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

2932 C Street, Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 563-4AOC
FAX: (907) 561-0800

To whom it may concern:

On April 10, 1994 delegates to the Alaska Outdoor Council's annual meeting reviewed the general issue of game farming, and SB 46 in particular.

The Council delegates took the following position: The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes game farming of moose, caribou and Sitka Blacktailed deer. If SB 46 is approved by the Legislature, it should do so only with the amendments jointly proposed by the Commissioners of the Departments of Fish & Game, Natural Resources, and Environmental Conservation.


Richard H. Bishop, Acting President
and Vice-President, Interior Region

MARCH 30, 1994

Representative William Williams
Chairman House Resources Committee

Dear Mr Williams,

HAVING NEVER written to the legislature before, I hope that this letter reaches the proper person. In regards to S.B. 46, The Moose farming issue, I would like to express my strong opposition to it.

I feel that allowing Moose farming would open us up to too many unacceptable risks including diseases, theft of wildlife and poaching.

I can understand the "farming" of non-indigenous species but NOT Moose.

Who would decide who was eligible to receive Moose for farming. The Moose of this state belong to ALL of us. Giving Moose to selected individuals removes Moose from the general population, thereby limiting our opportunity.

I'm sure that some of those who seek to own orphaned calves would be only too happy to illegally kill a cow Moose with the hopes that they could be there to provide a "good home" to the poor orphaned calves.

In a recent Fairbanks newspaper it was said that
one local advocate of Moose farming doesn't really
know what he wants to do with them. Ideas
included riding & milking!

Perhaps raising them like beef is some people's
thoughts. Then with the selling of Moose meat
being legal. Anyone who possesses Moose meat
out of season will claim to have bought it,
making for another loop-hole or story to try and
disprove for our game wardens.

Please don't allow this legislation pass just to
appease a very few people who only have their
own special interests in mind. The rest of us
Alaskans depend on our wildlife resources and
are not willing to accept the risks to a
healthy Moose population just because a few
ill-informed people want the state to make
them special by giving them something that
rightfully belongs to all of us.

respectfully,

Robert Mumford
2240 Cordes Way
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

Mary L. Bishop
1555 Gus's Grind
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-455-6151

March 31, 1994

*Rep. Bill Williams, Chairman
Home Resources*

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear *Rep. Williams*:

Everyone should have the right to fail or succeed in business enterprise. But NO ONE should have the right to do it at the expense of our state's healthy moose population.

I urge you to oppose moose farming in Alaska.

My adamant opposition to moose farming is based SOLELY on the risk it puts upon one of the most valuable assets we have in Alaska--our healthy moose herd. Scientific literature is replete with examples of wildlife disease related to confined wild ungulates. I have enclosed only one example. Wildlife disease experts can provide you with others.

There is no question that fenced animals will escape. In this day and age--when animal rights advocates are freeing research animals all over the U.S.--it will be a simple matter to cut a moose fence in Alaska.

Will escaped animals be diseased? Will disease spread to the healthy wild population--one of Alaska's greatest assets? The risk is too great; the potential benefit too small.

Contagious diseases like TB and brucellosis develop in confined ungulates. Additionally, there are severe nutritional problems: The "Northern Exposure" moose died; the best efforts of wildlife scientists have not been able to keep a confined moose alive more than 6 years--usually less.

Because of unfortunate experience, other states and provinces are moving away from ungulate farming--not toward it. ^{few}

This issue is like fish farming and ranching. It should receive the same careful consideration of disease and genetic implications to the free roaming, wild population.

Increased moose for eating, viewing and hunting should be provided by measures like SB 77--intensive management of free roaming wildlife populations. In my opinion, it is irresponsible to put this invaluable wildlife population at risk by passing SB 46--moose farming.

Sincerely,

Mary Bishop
Mary Bishop

TB outbreak scares wildlife managers

Disease could be devastating to wild elk & deer herds

By Steve Merritt

The threat of disease and parasites associated with the game ranching industry and their potential impact on wildlife and domestic livestock has long caused concern among wildlife managers and cattlemen. Game ranching advocates say these concerns are being blown out of proportion, that the facts are being sensationalized in an effort to diffuse the efforts of would-be game ranchers who simply want to diversify agriculture. The debate continues - are disease and parasite concerns really something to be worried about?

Today, more than ever before, it appears the answer to that question is yes.

Today, the game ranching industry is in the midst of a serious world-wide outbreak of bovine tuberculosis (TB), and the disease is rapidly spreading through game ranches across North America. The ramifications for wildlife are relatively unknown but potentially very serious; more is known about the risks to the cattle industry, where the ramifications are equally serious.

Nearly all of Wyoming's immediate neighbors have had recent problems with TB linked to game ranching operations:

- Officials in Montana and Colorado have had to quarantine and destroy TB-infected game ranch animals; investigations and testing to locate other infected or exposed animals are still being conducted.

- Officials in Nebraska had to destroy infected game ranch animals as well as 115 head of cattle that were apparently infected by the game ranch animals.

- A TB-infected beef cow imported from Alberta, possibly linked to a widespread outbreak of TB in Canada, was recently discovered at a slaughterhouse in Utah.

- South Dakota officials recently quarantined a game ranch with red deer and elk suspected of TB infections; cattle on the ranch are also under quarantine.

TB problems have also surfaced in Washington, Oregon, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin,



Photo courtesy Colorado DOW

A Colorado Division of Wildlife employee uses an ATV to drag a bull elk closer to veterinarians performing necropsies on a captive elk herd that was slaughtered because of bovine tuberculosis. One captive herd of game ranch elk in Colorado was completely destroyed, two others were quarantined and several others are suspected of exposure to the disease. Wildlife managers say they don't know how a disease like bovine tuberculosis could be controlled if it becomes established in wild, free-ranging elk herds.

Florida, New York and New Jersey. Several Canadian provinces, including Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, have been hit as well, with major outbreaks reported in Alberta and Ontario. Many experts monitoring the situation expect more infected ranches to soon be added to the rapidly-growing list.

The WG&FD's concern about TB obviously centers around wildlife, but its concern doesn't end there. The outbreak is also posing a major risk to the livestock industry as well as some risk to human health.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE UNKNOWN

The possible ramifications TB has for free-ranging wildlife - specifically, cervids like elk and deer - are relatively unknown. Some experts claim the risk of passing the disease to wildlife is minimal but

possible. They say TB has evolved over thousands of years specifically to infect cattle and that any infection in wildlife populations would be self-regulating. Other experts say TB can be passed to wildlife and that the end result can be disastrous.

Dr. Mitchell Essey, senior staff veterinarian for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's cattle diseases and surveillance staff, is one of the experts convinced that TB, if established in wild elk and deer, would be an unparalleled wildlife catastrophe.

"It's a picture you can paint as black as you want because that's the way it would be," Essey said. "I don't know what we'd do if TB gets established in wildlife populations - no one knows how we'd control it if it got into elk herds like those in Yellowstone National Park or in the Gunnison (Col.) area. The potential

ramifications are almost unconceivable."

Dr. Victor Nettles, director for the Southeastern Cooperative Disease Study, says Wyoming has "a perfect scenario for transmission from animal to animal."

"Tuberculosis is a valid concern, especially in your state because of the large number of elk and the presence of feedgrounds," Nettles said. "Wyoming is probably more vulnerable than any other state in the nation."

Margo Pybus, wildlife disease researcher for the Fish & Wildlife Division of the Alberta Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, agrees that the problem could potentially be very serious for wildlife but thinks the risks of

See TB, page 8

HUNTING · FISHING · TRAPPING

The Wildlife Trust Account:
what it is and what it does
for Wyoming's wildlife

Playing the drawing odds
game: how to avoid the no
draw blues

Record book
elk taken by
Powell



A study of the prevalence and economic significance of diseases and defects of slaughtered farmed deer

P. Selwyn* and S. Hathaway**

Abstract

A survey was undertaken in a deer slaughterhouse to record the diseases, defects, and productivity-related information that were detectable at postmortem meat inspection. A total of 4762 farmed deer were surveyed in 1988-89 over the period of highest throughput (October-January). Comparative data were drawn from a further two deer slaughterhouses and from national disease and defect statistics for slaughtered cattle. Farmed deer had a very different disease and defect status compared to cattle. Wounds and bruises were the most common defects, and resulted in an average loss of 26.9% in carcass value over all diseases and defect statistics.

Probable malignant catarrhal fever in a sika deer from an Alberta game farm

David L. Fritz, Michelle S. Mostrom, Leonard E. Lillie, Robert W. Coppock

Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) is a frequently fatal, sporadic disease characterized by generalized, fibrinoid necrotizing vasculitis (1). The disease is characterized by a profuse, mucopurulent, exspiratory grunt. Blood-tinged mucus drained from one nostril. On day 5, there was no ruminal or gastrointestinal motility. Death occurred on day 6. The three affected deer remained clinically normal for the remainder of the study.



SCWDS BRIEFS

A Quarterly Newsletter from the SOUTHEASTERN COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE DISEASE STUDY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA ATHENS, GEORGIA 30602

Gary L. Dozier, Editor Phone (706) 542-1741 FAX (706) 542-5865
Volume 8 April 1992 Number 1

Malignant Catarrhal Fever

During December 1991, a private veterinarian in Andalusia, Alabama, contacted SCWDS because one of his clients had death losses in captive deer. After state authorities examined the deer, it was determined that the disease was MCF. MCF is an uncommon and almost always fatal disease seen in captive deer. In addition to our native deer, sika deer, red deer, blackbuck antelope, and bison also are susceptible. All of these animals suffer from irreversible, fatal disease. The risk of virus transmission is enhanced by confinement near sheep or zoological animals of the wildebeest subfamily (wildebeest, topi, hartebeest, bloubok). For example, an MCF outbreak killed 23 of 28 white-tailed deer in a small New Jersey zoo in 1990 (see *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, April 1992). In the recent case in Alabama, the potential for MCF virus exposure at the auction cannot be ignored, but the animals could have been infected prior to passing through the sale barn. Increased marketing of captive ruminants for game farming is likely to continue and could result in a greater prevalence of MCF. Persons should be alert to this disease and contact state authorities when MCF is suspected.

...continued

Gross and microscopic lesions of naturally occurring tuberculosis in a captive herd of wapiti (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*) in Colorado

Jack C. Rhyan, Dennis A. Saari, Elizabeth S. Williams, Michael W. Miller, Arthur J. Davis, Arach J. Wilson

Abstract. A *Mycobacterium bovis*-infected herd of captive wapiti (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*) depopulated after lesions of bovine tuberculosis were confirmed in 8 of 10 tuberculin tuberculous animals >1 year of age. 26 had gross lesions suggestive of tuberculosis, and 23 had acid-fast bacilli associated with the lesions. Lesions were the most frequently affected sites. Most lesions grossly and microscopically resembled abscesses or ovine caseous tuberculosis. However, some lesions resembled abscesses or ovine caseous tuberculosis. Immunohistochemical techniques labeled few to numerous bacilli.

Until recently, bovine tuberculosis was an unusual and sporadic disease in cases involved captive and wild animals. With recent developments in the prevalence of the disease, significant reports on wildlife and laboratory animals.

Reports on Wildlife and Laboratory Animals of *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* in a wildlife park

Ely, DVM, PhD, R. J. Holland, DVM
Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory where determined to be caused by *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*. Also during the same time Department of Wildlife was analyzed tissues for *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* were American Goldfinch, 20 miles of the park.

Colorado was vectors of the lesions of lymph nodes in cattle; 1 minute.

The Park reports of North

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id

Mycobacterium bovis infection in North American elk (*Cervus elaphus*)

Charles G. Thoen, William J. Quinn, Lyle D. Miller, Larry L. Stackhouse, Bradford F. Newcomb, James M. Ferrell

Abstract. A naturally occurring outbreak of *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in captive wild elk (wapiti) in Montana was confirmed by microbiological examination. Twenty-eight of 143 elk responded to *M. bovis* purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin injected intradermally in the cervical region. Comparative cervical tuberculin skin tests conducted within the park indicated that PPD tuberculin tests were more sensitive than PPD tuberculin tests conducted within the park.

A 3-year-old male sika deer from a small, privately owned herd in central Illinois.

Mycobacterium bovis infection in a captive herd of Sika deer

Michael L. Mirsky, DVM; Daniel Morton, DVM, PhD; John W. Picht, DVM; Howard Gelberg, DVM, PhD

6/17/92

3/22/94



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee
 committee name
 committee on Moose Farming, dated 3/8/94
 bill/subject

I might add the Mat-Su Borough Agriculture and Forestry Board representing all areas of the Mat Su and alot of farmers, foresters, supports this bill.

Signed:

Testifier

Robert Shumacker

Representing (Optional)

P O Box 3712, PALMER 99645

Address

(907) 746-4453

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on HB 46, dated 3-9-94
bill/subject

I WOULD LIKE TO GO ON RECORD, AGAIN, AS SUPPORTING THIS BILL. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT MOOSE FARMING WOULD HELP IN INCREASING WILD HERD POPULATIONS. THIS WAY THERE COULD BE CLOSED HUNTING SEASON IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS A LARGE HUMAN POPULATION WITHOUT AFFECTING THE NEED FOR FOOD FOR THOSE WHO HUNT FOR FOOD.

I STILL OPPOSE RESTRICTING IMPORTING MOOSE FOR MOOSE FARMING. THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT. I KNOW ONE MAIN CONCERN IS DISEASE, BUT CONTROL WILL HELP. WE ALSO HAVE TO BE CONCERNED FOR LOCAL DAIRY & BEEF FARMERS THAT DISEASES ARE NOT TRANSMITTED TO THEIR ANIMALS. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT JUST ANYONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A MOOSE FARM, ESP. IF RAISING MOOSE FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION. PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH MOOSE FARMING SHOULD BE AWARE OF SPECIAL FOOD NEEDS FOR MOOSE, VACCINATIONS AGAINST DISEASES, & BRANING OR EARTAGGING TO PROTECT ANY ANIMALS THAT MAY ESCAPE.

Signed: Chevenne Walker CHEVENNE WALKER
Testifier

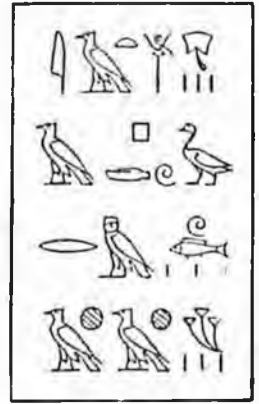
SECF
Representing (Optional)

HT 62 BOX 5360 DECTA JCT, AK 99737
Address

895-1024
Phone No.

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ALASKA CHAPTER



March 18, 1994

Hon. Bill Williams, Chairman
Resources Committee
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Rm. 128
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: CSSB 46

Dear Rep. Williams:

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society wishes to register its opposition to SB 46, the "moose farming" bill. The Wildlife Society is a national organization of wildlife research, management, law enforcement, and administrative professionals with over 8,000 members nationwide and 340 members in the Alaska Chapter. The Chapter recently adopted a position statement on importing, transplanting, and ranching game in Alaska, which I have enclosed. This position statement reflects the experience and judgement of knowledgeable professionals in Alaska, as well as experience of colleagues with whom we've discussed this issue from other states, Canada, and Scandinavia.

Although there are some areas of the world where game ranching is appropriate, Alaska is not one of them. Alaska still has an abundance of free-ranging native wildlife species and relatively intact ecosystems that are available to the public for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses. As our position paper presents in greater detail, game ranching could jeopardize these wildlife resources by competing for wildlife habitat, introducing diseases to native wildlife populations, increasing opportunities for poaching, and generating pressure to reduce natural predators. An additional consideration is the philosophical implications of reducing species currently held in public trust to the status of privately-owned livestock. The United States has a long tradition of holding native wildlife for the common good of all, rather than the economic benefit of a few.

Again, the Chapter urges you to vote against CSSB 46, or any similar legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard Shideler

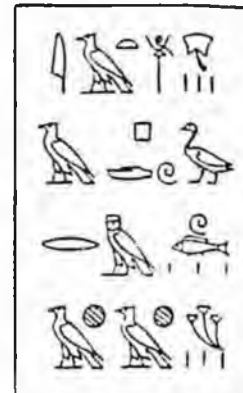
Richard Shideler, President
1833 No Way Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Encl

cc: Rep. Bill Hudson
Rep. Con Bunde
Rep. Joe Green
Rep. Eldon Mulder
Rep. David Finkelstein
Rep. John Davies
Rep. Pat Carney
Sen. Mike Miller

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ALASKA CHAPTER



POSITION STATEMENT OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ON IMPORTING, TRANSPLANTING, AND RANCHING GAME IN ALASKA

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. Plains 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. Other proposed legislation would require resource-management agencies to transplant exotic species such as elk to areas where they do not currently occur.

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 ranched 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, rangiferine 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 ranched 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 ranched or herded eventually will escape captivity through accidents or inadequate fencing or herd husbandry. For example, ranched 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.

Larry Holmes
Chairman Anchorage
Fish and Game Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 454
Girdwood, AK 99587

March 31, 1993

The Honorable Rick Halford
President of the Senate
Room 111
State Capitol
Juneau 99801-1132

Dear Senator Halford:

The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee opposes unanimously:

- 1) SB 43, requiring elk to be transplanted to certain Southeast Alaska islands where they are not indigenous;
- 2) SB 46, to allow moose farming; and
- 3) SB 77 and HB 141, to require intensive management of game species.

The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee is an elected body that represents Anchorage hunters, anglers, and many other types of wildlife users of a consumptive and non consumptive nature; in fact we have more than a dozen user interests represented on our committee.

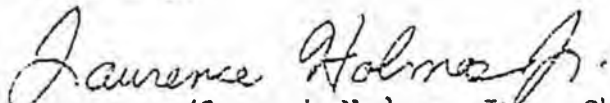
We are unanimous in opposing these bills because they all share the common error of bringing the legislature into issues of fish and wildlife management at a level best left to the Department of Fish and Game. We believe the legislature's role in fish and game is best one of general guidance rather than specific direction. Historically, the legislature has wisely left such specific issues as these to the agencies with the necessary expertise. In fact, the need for such expertise is the very reason the legislature established such agencies in the first place.

Each bill raises concerns best left to departmental discretion. Regarding SB 43, the impact of elk on deer has been of concern to Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists. The potential for disease transmission to and displacement of the indigenous black tail deer by elk needs to be studied further before we expand elk herds in southeast Alaska. From a user's perspective, certainly many Southeast Alaskans value deer in the freezer each winter more than an occasional shot at an elk.

Regarding SB 46, we think moose farming raises concerns of disease, and in our opinion, has no place in Alaska in that it abuses Alaska's native species and diminishes appreciation of wild stocks. Good hunting will only survive with good ethics. It won't survive if we turn our game stocks into merely wild versions of farm animals.

Regarding SB 77 and HB 141, we think this is the worst of bills. It guts the discretion that is wisely placed in the Board of Game to rely on agency expertise and instead directs the board to pursue intensive management of certain species for consumptive use to the detriment of other species and other uses. As hunters, fishers and other users we appreciate Alaska as a wild place. We don't want it turned into a game farm.

Sincerely,



Laurence (Larry) Holmes Jr., Chairman
Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

LH:rlj

cc: Members of the Senate
Members of the House



DATE

February 12, 1994

FROM

House Resource Committee (all members)
 Chair/Representative Bill Williams

THOMAS J. CLASSEN
 P.O. BOX 80507
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99708

FAX LINE

465-3793

Tel: (907) 479-2303
 Fax: (907) 479-3569

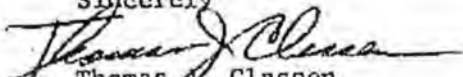
TOTAL PAGES (Including Cover Sheet)

1

I refer to Senate Bill 46 "An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming." The idea of confining a wild animal for the purpose of commercial exploitation is extremely repulsive to me. Alaska is advertised as the "Last Frontier" although it is rapidly being despoiled, the last frontier image should be retained for as long as possible. Wild animals held in captivity for the purpose of monetary gain is not appropriate to this image. Do you realize that every idiot with 20 acres of land will become a moose farmer. Good tax right off as the project could not possibly become viable. No one also ever thinks of the animal suffering involved. Wild animals confined suffer terribly something a compassionate human race would not inflict on any creature. Remember the confined moose in Alaskaland? What a pitiful sight. Moose are browsers and need to roam. They also do not do well on a diet of commercial food. Their systems require the woody pulp found in their natural foods. I also suppose this project will become eligible for State agricultural grants a governmental waste of State funds. Agricultural projects of any type are not suitable in this arctic area. Not one has ever proved viable. The investment required to properly set up a farm is certainly not affordable by our prospective Fairbanks farmer and the risk element from a business point of view is very high. This all equates to a shoe string type of operation and means added suffering for the animals.

I would like to remind you of our infamous Fairbanks chicken farm. A typical shoe string operation destined for failure right from the start. The State poured one million into this failed venture. The guy absconded with the funds leaving dead and dying chickens everywhere. Let's not have another disaster like this one. This is not the country for agricultural projects. I urge you to throw SB 46 into the waste basket

Sincerely


 Thomas J. Classen

To:

Representative Williams

fax # 465-3793

April 19, 1994

LETTER FROM A MOOSE

Why do you Legislators want to treat me as a cow?

Why do you want to fence me from my freedom that I have enjoyed for thousands of years?

Why do you want to let entrepreneurs experiment with my species?

Why do you want for me to be tied to a gas pump for tourists to taunt and torment?

Why do you want to spend more millions of state dollars to prove Moose farming, like all previous ventures were disasters i.e. dairy farming, pig and chicken and musk ox, fox and barley farming!

Why do you want to degrade, humiliate and domesticate me when I am one of your states greatest wild assets?

Lastly, does Sen. Miller own stock in chain-link fencing?

Scientifically, morally, and financially, this SB 46 is a disaster and deserves to be killed.

Paddy Tatum
HC 66
Nenana, Ak. 99760
Ph. 582-2535
fax 582-2860



Testimony ON SB No. 46

3 #1 of 2

John Cramer

Director of Agriculture

The Department of Natural Resources currently to some extent regulates the farming enterprises in the state of ALASKA as well as products produced and transported into our state.

We also work in concert with the Dept. of ENVIRONMENTAL Conservation's State Veterinarian ON Domestic livestock as well as ELK.

This Bill establishes by statute most of the industry standards for game farming. Regulations will need to be developed to strengthen these standards with regard to: farm standards

- fencing
- handling
- quarantine
- Branding, marking tagging for identification purposes
- inter/intra state transportation
- nutrition

The Dept. of Natural Resources stands by ready wherever appropriate with other state agencies to assist and enhance the development of the game farming industry in Alaska for species farmed currently such as bison, wild boar and ELK and potential species musk ox, Caribou, moose etc.

SB 46

John Cramer

pg #2 of 2

Through the reduction in legislative and administrative barriers and development of increased market opportunities

The industry in the state needs to be regulated and in fact those currently involved in game farming have requested further regulations. These individuals have invested significant personal resources and realize the importance of regulating this enterprise.

* As far as Rep. Carney's question with regards to why not reindeer these are not considered a game animal.

John Cramer

POB 949

Palmer 99645

745-7200

To	LIO /JNU	From	LIO Sold.
Co.	Written testimony	Co.	for H(Res)
Dept.	to be put with	Phone#	SB 46.
Fax #		Fax #	

State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources committee name
 committee on CS 46 (FIN) , dated 4-19-93
 bill/subject

I support "an Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming."

The major concerns I had were addressed in the revisions of the bill.

Game farming is a major industry worldwide. Alaska has the opportunity to encourage ~~its~~ its farmers to participate in this very profitable enterprise.

Signed: Billie Hardy Billie Hardy
 Testifier

self

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 3391 Soldotna AK 99669

Address

262-9881

Phone No.

Missoulan Jan. 9, 1994

Game farm's fair game in West's wild debate

By GREG LAXES
of the Missoulian

D ARBY — In the past 18 months, Len and Pamela Wallace have put together one of the nation's largest herds of captive elk. More than 330 animals laze along the bottom of Rye Creek south of Darby.

Len Wallace and his ranch are pictured throughout the brochure of the two-year-old North American Elk Breeders Association, across the back cover of its quarterly journal, and in an ad calling his purchase of 140 elk from a Missouri game farm the largest elk transaction in history.

In those 18 months, Wallace has bought into both the leading edge of a new and growing industry, and into the controversy that engulfs it.

The breeders' association says

elk are the livestock of the future. Biologists say game farms pose a threat to native wildlife that's unprecedented in this century.

Elk meat is low-fat and almost without cholesterol, says the association's promotional material, and demand far exceeds supply.

Antler velvet supplies an eager Asian market, though price has dropped to its lowest in a decade. For the foreseeable future, says the association, prime breeding stock will command impressive prices, and old bulls bring high profits as the objects of controlled hunts.

Elk are three times cheaper to feed and pasture. To Wallace, they afford both a mystique and a profit.

"Elk are a grand animal; they have a grandeur," Wallace said. "But they're a crop. I have to keep my sensibilities here."

Opponents of game farms point to concerns about disease

and genetic pollution.

By mid-1992, Alberta officials had euthanized 2,600 captive elk to stop the spread of bovine tuberculosis, and will wait years to see if they successfully kept the disease out of the province's wildlife and cattle.

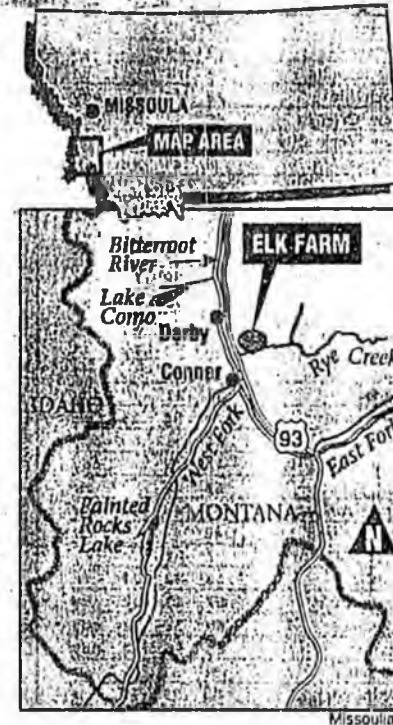
The Virginia Cattlemen's Association has asked for a ban on game farms because of the threat to the TB-free status of the state's livestock industry and the lack of definitive diagnostic tests.

Wyoming bans game farms, Oregon recently imposed a moratorium, and Montana, Colorado, Washington and Alberta have dramatically tightened regulations.

Game farms may usurp critical wildlife winter range and disrupt migration routes.

Biologists say the escape of captive animals is inevitable.

Twice in the past couple of years, Montana hunters have shot elk in the wild that were



probably game-farm hybrids, and biologists say genetic pollution would forever alter native species.

Valerius Geist, a University of Calgary professor and author,

(See FARM, Page A-8)

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

(continued)

refers to the underlying principles that guide wildlife management — tenets that all revolve around respect for wildlife and are responsible for the recovery of species nearly annihilated at the turn of the century.

"Game farming," he said, "violates every one" of the principles.

Wallace founded a couple of electronics companies and developed real estate in California. In May 1991, he bought the first of what would eventually be about 5,000 acres of steep open hills, timbered draws and creek bottom south of Darby.

"You cannot make any money on cattle," he said. "It looked to us like we could raise elk on the place, have the ranch be a going concern, pay the bills, and make a living here."

Elk production was good last spring, he said, though sales were less than expected, mainly because Darby's too far from the Midwest center of elk-raising.

But his emphasis, Wallace said, will be hunting on an 1,800-acre enclosure. He'll buy mature bulls to release, sell trophy hunts, and he expects to turn a profit in 1994.

"We have a facility that has to be close to the best in the country," he said. "We can provide a customer a very realistic hunting experience. We can walk them around until their tongue's hanging out."

As a representative of the game-farm industry, Wallace has done all the right things. He and his herd has genetically tested pure Rocky Mountain elk, and is free of tuberculosis and other common diseases. He endorses new state regulations, and sees few problems with complying.

But it's an uneasy truce between the industry and state wildlife officials. Officials say tests and rules don't protect enough. Game farmers have sued over new restrictions.

In Montana and in several other states, there's an uneasy truce between agencies that manage wildlife and those responsible for livestock.

"The advantages are all in the economic and agricultural sectors," said Rick Kahn, at the Colorado Division of Wildlife. "There's nothing good for wildlife that can be said about game ranching."

Many of the concerns over game farms revolve around health issues — and tuberculosis, which ranks near the top of potential health risks to wildlife domestic

worry.

In November 1990, Alberta officials found TB in a captive herd of about 30 elk near Edmonton. Provincial policy is strict: Not only are the infected animals killed, so are any animals with which they had contact.

"Experience has shown us this is the only possible way you can ensure the disease will not survive," said Stan Petran, of Agriculture Canada in Alberta. "Unless you take every one of them, there is always the chance it will come back and haunt you."

It took two-and-a-half years for Petran's staff to track elk sales and euthanize exposed animals. The effort ultimately "depopulated" 16 game farms, killed 60 percent of Alberta's captive elk, and cost the agency \$15 million in compensation alone.

Dr. Ann Fanning, of Alberta Health in Edmonton, said at first, livestock officials refused to believe the outbreak posed a health threat to people.

Her staff tested 600 people — veterinarians, ranch hands and workers in rendering plants — who'd been exposed to diseased elk. She ultimately treated 10 of them with a nine-month course of antibiotics.

There had been some transmission of the organism to humans as a result of handling the animals or their carcasses, she said.

Alberta officials traced the source of the outbreak to a Montana game farm near Yellowstone National Park. Montana officials traced other elk owner Welch Brogan had sold, and eventually found tuberculosis in four elk herds and two groups of captive allow deer.

Montana's rules are less stringent. Animals that react to TB tests are destroyed, but the rest of the herd is quarantined until it passes a series of tests over 15 months.

The deer herds were euthanized, said state veterinarian Don Ferlicka. Two of the elk herds have had their quarantines lifted, and two remain in place.

Until 1991, TB tests designed for cattle were used to test deer and elk, with inaccuracy some experts blame for outbreaks in Montana, Alberta and in several Eastern states.

"They were missing some TB," said Tom Thorne, wildlife veterinarian for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, whose research is partly responsible for that state's ban on game farms.

Now, the test has been adapted, but it still has limitations. For weeks or months after exposure, an infected animal may not produce enough antibodies against the slow-growing bacteria to react to the test.

The tests are intended to screen

more statistical certainty of discovering the disease. Accuracy suffers when applied to one or a few animals, as required when elk are sold, Thorne said.

"If you're looking at interstate commerce, where you're moving a few animals, you're going to miss some," he said.

If TB ever did get established in the wild, it would be a permanent source of infection for native species, game farms and cattle ranches.

"By the time it's discovered, there'd be no way to solve it," Thorne said. "You'll never get rid of it. In all likelihood, you'll lose your hunting opportunities for that elk herd, because of the risk to human health."

But disease may be the lesser threat to wildlife, critics say, compared to the introduction of genes from similar, non-native species.

"I don't know of any situation where disease has eliminated a species of animal," said Gary Burke, administrator of Fish, Wildlife and Parks's Criminal Investigation Division. "But genetic pollution, that's forever. Once it's here, it's always there."

Red deer are the European subspecies of elk. They're smaller, more aggressive, and they bellow like cattle instead of bugling like elk. They've bred with free-ranging elk in New Zealand and have been intentionally crossed on game farms here and in the United States.

"The red deer is a totally different animal," said Heidi Youmans, author of a Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks paper on game farms.

"If red deer or hybrids escape, they could eventually alter a wild herd's gene pool and behavior," Youmans said.

"It would be a tragedy," she said. "We would certainly have lost a very important legacy."

In Alberta, 11 percent of tested animals were hybrids, according to Youmans' figures. In Colorado, game farms found that 10 percent of the animals tested were hybrids, in 13 of 21 herds checked, and officials ordered them out of the state.

"There was too much risk to allow any hybrids to remain in the state," said Kahn at the Division of Wildlife.

Kahn modeled the results of 10 red deer or first-generation hybrids escaping into a herd of 500 pure wild elk. Within 60 years, 50 to 60 percent of the wild herd would have red deer genes.

"We feel confident there are significant threats to even a few red deer getting out and mingling with elk," Kahn said.

Montana game farmers point to genetic tests as a way to screen out the hybrids, and allow ranchers to keep them out of their captive herds.

The test reliably catches first-generation crosses, but gets less sensitive with subsequent generations, said its creator, Peter Dratch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Ore.

It's intended to screen entire herds for the presence of hybrid genes, Dratch said, not to draw conclusions about the purity of any particular animal.

"If they tell you the herd has tested 100 percent pure, they're misrepresenting the test," Dratch said. "I would never call this a purity test."

A year or so ago, Montana officials submitted samples to Dratch's lab from an elk killed in the wild near Twin Bridges. The sample was too old to be sure, but was probably a hybrid, Burke said. Last fall, a hunter shot a hybrid in Powell County.

"The test detects a problem," Dratch said. "It showed hybridization was occurring on game ranches within the range of native elk. Now, it's showing there are hybrids outside the fences."

How much genetic pollution would it take to change native elk into something else?

"It's stupid to play those sorts of games," Youmans said. "By the time you know, it's way too late."

Wade Hainstock, executive director of the North American Elk Breeders Association, said the threats are overblown.

"What you're looking at here is very much a political football used by people philosophically opposed to game farming," he said. He said domestic cattle face more risk of TB from imported beef and the dairy industry than from game farms, and genetic testing is too inconclusive to worry about the results.

Montana Audubon flatly opposes game farms, as does the National Wildlife Federation. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has yet to make a firm policy statement.

Wildlife managers say few things hurt the sport's public image more than hunting inside a fence. Geist, at the University of Calgary, predicts public pressure alone will spell the industry's demise.

"It is such a problem-generating industry," he said. "I have enough faith in North American society that it will eventually outlaw it."

Maybe. But only two of the 75 or so people who attended a public hearing last winter spoke against Wallace's game farm.

"I think the game farm industry has the overwhelming support of the people in the Bitterroot Valley," Wallace said. "I doubt I would have any opposition in any location in Montana."

That March, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks conducted surprise inspections on all 97 game farms in the state. On 90 percent of them, they found violations of then-relatively lax state laws, said Gary Burke, administrator of the department's Criminal Investigation Division.

Some of the infractions were minor record-keeping or fencing problems, due more to apathy or ignorance than malicious intent, Burke said.

But 24 had serious violations, and three months later, Burke's agents returned to 12 of them with search warrants.

Welch Brogan, dean of Montana's elk ranchers, was charged and convicted of possessing illegally captured game, a felony. A Livingston operator was charged with a misdemeanor for selling hunts on his game farm, but conducting them on public land. Several, including Darby resident Cal Greenup and Mark Ingraham of Kalispell, were charged with operating a game farm without a license. Greenup's charge was dismissed when he ultimately got a license, and Ingraham forfeited a \$65 bond.

Hamilton game farmer Chancy Ralls pleaded guilty to a record-keeping charge, and paid a \$65 fine.

Several game farmers had their pastures closed for fencing violations, officials are trying to revoke the license of another, and the attorney general's office is still considering charges against 12 others, Burke said.

Industry representatives say the move was political. The department was trying to justify a push for tighter regulations at the time, which it got from the 1993 Legislature.

But Burke said game farmers had asked to police themselves, and abused the privilege. Montana now has 107 game farms, more than 90 of which raise elk, and it has new regulations. Has the situation improved?

"Not quite yet," he said.

State plays it by book with farms

By GREG LAKES
of the Missoulian

HAMILTON — In early 1992, state officials realized the number of animals game farmers were reporting didn't match the numbers behind their fences, or what they were telling local tax appraisers.

The difference varied from several dozen for elk, to several hundred for white-tailed and mule deer.

PADDY TATUM
NATURALIST

February 11, 1994

HC 66 Box 27620

NENANA, ALASKA 99760

Dear Representative Williams:

You now have a chance to save the State of Alaska tremendous amounts of monies that could be directed to worthwhile and proven projects. I am referring to SB 46 the "Moose Farming" bill, the most abhorrent idea yet to come out of the Legislature.

It is a biological, scientific and financial disaster waiting to happen. Whereas deer, elk and reindeer have been successfully raised in some instances, altho many had problems, mostly with disease, moose are entirely unique, they have never been farmed successfully (not being a natural herd animal, no fence can hold them).

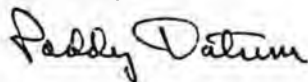
Ask yourself what is the real reason for the proponents of this bill? Is it for political cronies financial gain? Or a tourism gimmick at a far higher cost than can possibly benefit the State and residents who are actually the owners of the game.

Alaskans are the custodians, not entrepreneurs, of our wild game.

Please take a few minutes to read the enclosed information, although previously written, it is still most pertinent.

Thank you for your time. I'll be in touch on this.

Sincerely,



Paddy Tatum
HC 66 Box 27620
Nenana, Ak 99760

Ph. 582-2535
FAX 582-2860

Don W. Collinsworth, Commissioner

Public Communications
Box 3-2000
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2000
(907) 465-4113

1-800
474-
7346

Mr. Williams,
this is dated
material, but
still pertinent

Deputy Dir



ime



Alaska Department

April 23, 1990

Contact: Wayne Regelin 456-5156

Two bills pending in the Alaska Legislature would allow moose to be raised as domestic animals for commercial purposes and allow the meat to be sold.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game believes legalization of moose farms would start Alaska down the trail to private hunting preserves and potentially the European system of hunting. Only about 3 percent of Europeans are hunters because the cost is prohibitive and game meat can be purchased.

The foundations of wildlife management in the United States for most of the 20th century have been public ownership of wildlife resources and prohibition of the commercial use of those resources. Bison of the Great Plains and the North American waterfowl are but two examples of wildlife decimated by commercial meat hunters before such management principles took hold.

Alaska's wildlife resources are extremely valuable economic assets. Wildlife contributes approximately a quarter of a billion dollars a year to the state's economy through tourism, guiding, hunting, personal use and subsistence.

Tourists list the opportunity to see wildlife as their primary reason for visiting Alaska. But they want to see wildlife in the wild, not in roadside attractions and game farms.

The primary proponent of the legislation wants to capture 100 moose along the Alaska Railroad near Talkeetna to stock his commercial operation near Delta Junction. He claims their capture would reduce the number of moose killed by trains. A better method of reducing moose mortality along the railroad would be to support legislation that already has been approved by the House to require the use of pilot cars on the railroad and long-term habitat improvement along the railroad right of way.

Whether the moose are killed by trains or moved to moose farms, the result is the same -- fewer moose along the railroad.

Moose farming will require large acreage and interfere with the movements of other wildlife species in the area. The primary proponent wants to lease 4,000 acres of state land and fence it to contain his moose herd. This would remove habitat from wildlife production for general public use and enjoyment.

Moose are not herd animals. Stags with calves are loners and other moose seldom congregate in groups of more than four or five. To put more than 100 moose into a 4,000-acre enclosure would increase the potential for outbreaks of disease, which could be transmitted to wild moose or domestic species outside the enclosure.

Even worse, this legislation would allow people to own a few moose as a hobby or to promote their tourism businesses. Such roadside attractions are notorious for mistreatment of animals and Alaska steadfastly has prohibited such activity in the past. Do Alaskans really want to see moose, among the most noble symbols of our wilderness, being ridden, hitched to plows or chained at a gas pump?

Do Alaskans want to see game ranches where people pay thousands of dollars to shoot confined moose, reminiscent of the "Guns of Autumn," the television segment which produced a national uproar a few years back?

Allowing the sale of moose meat will create serious law enforcement problems and add an economic incentive to poachers. In the Canadian province of Alberta, where elk farms are common, the sale of elk meat is prohibited due to concerns over enforcement of poaching laws. Alberta has 115 game wardens; Alaska has 75 for an area more than twice as large.

From a purely economic point of view, game ranching has been successful in some parts of Canada, most notably in Alberta. No moose farms exist in Alberta because they are not profitable.

The Yukon Territory commissioned a study in 1986 to analyze the feasibility of game ranching. The report concluded moose are unsuitable for game farms because of disease problems when the animals are kept in close captivity. The most productive natural habitat in Alaska can support six or eight moose per square mile during the winter. The primary proponent of moose farming in Alaska plans to stock more than 16 moose per square mile throughout the year on his farm.

Much has been made of domesticated moose programs in the Soviet Union. The truth is, their only two moose "farms" failed in the early 1960s.

The state already has spent many millions of dollars trying to subsidize agricultural projects that had a greater chance of succeeding. We consider providing 100 publicly owned moose and removing 4,000 acres of publicly owned wildlife habitat another state subsidy and an extremely poor precedent.

Wayne Regelin
Deputy Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Concerns about game ranching

Richard Schneider

Involvement of the veterinary profession in the ranching of wildlife is increasing, as evidenced by the large game farming session at this year's WCVMA spring conference. At a recent wildlife management conference in Calgary, game ranching was discussed in detail, and a number of serious concerns about its expansion in Canada were raised. The following is a summary of these concerns, which I feel we as a profession must fully address before supporting this enterprise.

1. Poaching

Once a market for venison and other wildlife products is established, increased poaching is inevitable and it becomes more premeditated and organized. In Germany where such markets exist, there are approximately 65,000 *armed* wildlife protectors in contrast to Alberta where 115 *unarmed* wardens patrol a much larger land base (1). The African experience with elephant ivory (up to 80% of ivory on the market in recent years originates from nonlegal sources) demonstrates that strict laws and market controls can *not* stop poaching (2). In North America, our chronically underfunded wildlife agencies do not have the resources to combat the poaching that is even now taking place, let alone any increase. Finally, there are already two cases on record in North America where wild elk were corralled and then sold as private breeding stock.

2. Restricted public access to wildlife

The present system of wildlife management in Canada is based on public ownership of all wildlife and the absence of markets for wildlife meat and parts. Hunting rights are controlled by the Crown with equal access for all. The establishment of game ranching and associated markets would result in demands for hunting fees by land owners, as the wildlife on their land now would have monetary value. This is the situation in Germany and Texas, with the result that hunting is the domain of the elite. Another spin-off may be direct or indirect restriction of access to wildlife for nonconsumptive users. This is the major reason that fish and game associations and other wildlife groups such as the Canadian Wildlife Federation have come out strongly against game ranching.

3. Genetic pollution

With game ranching it is a fact that, with time, escapes occur. In Texas there are a number of exotic species which have escaped from game ranches and now constitute naturally reproducing wild populations. Introduction of exotic species has on many occasions around the world caused extirpation or extinction of native species (3). Even with the ranching of native species, genetic pollution is still a problem as the ranched animals are selected for large antlers, large body size, lean meat, and so on, and over time become maladapted to the natural environment.

4. Disease

Translocation of wildlife is an integral part of game ranching. As disease agents are often specific to certain species or locations, the possibility of introducing a biologically or economically devastating disease into susceptible wild or domestic populations must be considered. Examples of such problems which have already occurred include the introduction of *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* to moose and elk, *Brucella abortus* and *Mycobacterium bovis* to bison, and *Besnoitia* spp. to caribou (4-6).

5. Moral and spiritual concerns

A number of participants at the conference, which I believe have a strong support base among urban, non-consumptive wildlife users, voiced strong objection to any further domestication of wildlife. This is an ethical judgement by a segment of society which feels that wildlife has an intrinsic right to live in its natural setting. Native participants also echoed this view, with their philosophy that no one has the right to own wildlife (though they differed from the aforementioned group in regards to usage of wildlife).

6. Fencing

Game ranching where animals graze natural vegetation (the most common form of ranching in Alberta) requires that large tracts of land be fenced off. There are cases in the US where this has interfered with the migration and other movements of local wildlife.

7. Predator control

Game ranching is incompatible with predators. This may result in further lobbying for predator control, eroding efforts to have the government manage wildlife for biodiversity.

Department of Pathology, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1.

8. Humane concerns

The removal of antlers for the harvesting of velvet can be done in a humane manner, however, unless proper techniques are consistently carried out by all ranchers, the development of game ranching will be a retrograde step toward the humane treatment of animals. Tom Hughes, speaking on the moral perspective of game ranching, told us of witnessing antler removal without the use of any anesthetic.

9. Economics

There are a few hundred ranchers in Canada involved in game ranching, most of them in Alberta. The range-style ranchers contend that society is served through their use of lands from which there is presently little economic gain, leading to a stronger Canadian economy. Valerius Geist gives strong evidence, however, that "a policy giving market value to *living* wildlife generates more income than one giving economic value to *dead* wildlife" (1). For example, Germany, with its market for venison, elite hunting, and expensive poaching control, generates only about half the monetary value from wildlife as do Wyoming or Wisconsin with democratic hunting, nonconsumptive expenditures (which are three times the amount of consumptive expenditures), and relatively inexpensive poaching control (1). The bottom line is that game ranching, if developed in Canada, would be a subsidized industry (once poaching control, regulatory

infrastructure and so on have been paid for) *and* have all the detriments to wildlife and society noted above.

The issue is clearly very complex and different people will place different values on the various concerns noted above. Furthermore, there are good reasons for the continuation of the fur farming, fish farming, and even bison ranching that is already in existence. It is my contention, however, that all things considered, there is overwhelming evidence that the ranching of any new species of wildlife in Canada, and in particular native and exotic cervids, is inadvisable.

References

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TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.

122 FIRST AVENUE
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4897
PHONE (907) 452-6251 FAX (907) 451-8938

April 16, 1993

House Resource Committee Members
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear House Resource Committee Members:

I understand that SB 46, "An act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming" is being heard by your committee on Monday, April 19, 1993. You should be aware that the 43 member villages of Tanana Chiefs Conference, inc. are opposed to moose farming of any kind, at any level. Further, during the February meeting of the Executive Board of Tanana Chiefs Conference, the bill was reviewed and discussed and unanimously opposed. On behalf of Tanana Chiefs Conference, I respectfully request your rejection of this bill and I urge you not to pass it out of committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.


for Wil Mayo
President

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

April 5, 1993

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

Dear Representative Williams:

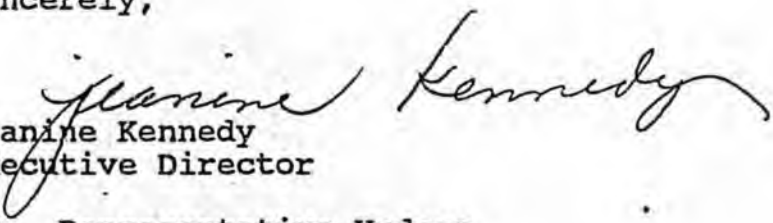
RURAL CAP is concerned that the legalization of moose farming and the sale of moose meat could have adverse effects to thousands of rural Alaskans who depend on the subsistence lifestyle.

We feel there are a host of serious questions that cannot yet be adequately addressed, such as the threat of disease to both domestic and wild animal populations, problems of domesticated animals attracting bears and wolves, incentives to illegally harvest animals for income, and finally the enormous cost to the State.

While we believe strongly in increased economic opportunities, especially in rural Alaska, we cannot afford to do so while putting at great risk the subsistence economy which provides sustenance to rural Alaskans.

Thank you for considering our views as you debate the merits of legalization of moose farming.

Sincerely,


Jeanine Kennedy
Executive Director

CC: Representative Hudson
Representative Bunde
Representative Green
Representative James
Representative Mulder
Representative Finkelstein
Representative Carney
Representative Davies

Page 1/1

April 3, 1993

To Rep. Bill Williams, Chairman House Resources,

As a Biologist/Naturalist and a 26 year resident of Alaska I find SB 46 (Moose Farming bill) the most abhorrent idea yet to come out of our Legislature.

It's not often that I agree with the Alaska Fish & Game - but they and many other scientists and wildlife professionals present well founded biological data on why this is a bad idea.

I find it ludicrous to envision our wild moose, be it calf or adult, held in pens, corrals, and cages, tethered and taunted, their dignity destroyed by "Another Roadside Attraction" mentality, by the exploitations of a few who might financially profit from this degradation.

This is not what Alaska is all about.

I don't believe we can "Own" that which is meant to be a free-living being, and a very important part of Nature as wild.

Rather, we Alaskans are the custodians, not entrepreneurs, of our wild animals.

If anyone is interested, I have collected volumes of cases over the last two years of disastrous attempts to capture and raise wild ungulates in western states, in Canada and in Europe. Three problems that will surface are:

1. Infectious diseases such as bovine TB, and Brucellosis are likely in penned-up conditions
2. Moose are not a herding animal, but territorial, how is this going to be handled?
3. Opens a plethora of problems regarding poaching.

We all know what a disaster all attempts at agriculture and animal farming have been in the last ten years, not to mention the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on such failures.

Let's face it, the few people that would financially profit from this are those that need a "Gimmick Display" to lure tourists, or those that would receive huge state agricultural loans (does this smack of the multi-million dollar defunct Delta Farm Project, or the Point MacKenzie Dairy debauchery?)

May I please hear from you on this matter?

Please vote against SB 46

Sincerely,

Paddy Tatum

Paddy Tatum
HC 66 box 27620

Nenana, Ak. 99760 Fax. 582-2860

Ph. 582-2535

Carol A. Jensen
3451 Greenhill Way
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
(907) 344-7078

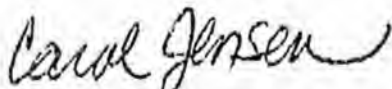
April 17, 1993

TO: House Resources Committee
FROM: Carol Jensen
RE: SB 46, Moose Ranching

I strongly oppose passage of this bill for the following reasons:

1. For the same reasons the Fish & Game Dept. opposes it. The threat of disease to wild stocks; the encouragement of even more poaching than we already have.
2. I have worked in the tourist business since 1982, and have talked to thousands of tourists. I also talk to many different people when I travel on my own vacations outside. These people DO NOT want to see wild Alaskan animals caged, penned, or chained. Even a safari type set up where people are driven through a fenced game "preserve" is not acceptable to most, because THIS IS ALASKA...the last wild, spacious outpost for truly free roaming animals. In the Lower 48, that has been all but lost, and the only way to see "wild" animals is in this type of setting. BUT WE FORTUNATELY ARE NOT AT THAT POINT YET. They don't come to Alaska to see zoos. Many that do go to the Alaska Zoo are saddened by what they see. They would much rather see the animal in the wild.
3. I do not want to see entire industries developed to warehouse and slaughter our wild game animals. The next step will be the cruel "factory farms" that we presently have in the Lower 48 that warehouse pigs and cattle.
4. Game farms and tourists traps with wild animals may also take away some of the anticipation and mystique from Denali and our other parks. Many people go to these parks to see wild animals...if they can pay a few bucks and see a moose, caribou or even wolf (yes, this bill could just be the start of more wild animal "farms"), they may decide to skip the trip to the parks, particularly if the weather is a deterrent (we get a lot of inclement weather May-August).
5. Animal abuse is very common within private businesses that exploit animals for profit (ie: many zoos, circuses, rodeos, the entertainment business and animal "parks"). The Animal Welfare Act is terribly inadequate and under-enforced. We don't need this here.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



Carol Jensen
(daytime phone: 800-478-2234)

please include in testimony on SB46 in House Resources R.2

TO: House Resources Committee
From: Gary V. Oskolkoff & Marla Kvasnikoff
RE: Moose Farming SB-46
DATE: April 16, 1993

Dear Committee Members:

We ask that you reject the proposed moose farming bill.

At this time a lack of data as regards the issue of moose farming will lead the State of Alaska into many problem areas:

ex: funding (although a zero budget is being proposed we believe this to be unrealistic)
grazing leases and regulations (also relating to the funding issue)
environmental and resource damage, waste and exploitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marla Kvasnikoff

Marla Kvasnikoff/and for
Gary Oskolkoff

*Box 39070 -
Ninilchik, AK
99639*

Bill Arvey
P.O. Box 81195
Fairbanks, AK 99708
April 2, 1993

State Representative Williams
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Juneau, AK

Dear Representative Williams;

I strongly urge you to reject the "Moose Farming Bill", SB 46.

Alaska's wild game animals should not be the objects of commercial ranching or farming for several reasons.

1. "Moose ranchers" will be afforded preferential use of a public resource, at public expense. Once recognized as commercial game ranches, these operations will become eligible for state assistance in the way of revolving agricultural loans, predator control, and whatever else can be dreamed up to gain access to the state till. This is not an unusual pattern, as past legislatures have funded plenty of turkey schemes that have diminished the state treasury while providing no known benefits. Some of us still hope that the experience of these losers would have led to a collective learning experience.

2. There are really no "surplus" animals available to provide startup herds for the proposed operations. The potential for abusive poaching of young and injured animals in the name of "ranching" is great. Even animals that die naturally from disease and starvation are fully utilized by predators and scavengers, many of which form the basis of the trapping industry.

3. Moose are wild, intractable animals that require large quantities of native vegetation in order to thrive. Implicit in the proponent's arguments are the requirements to provide large amounts of native willow and birch to feed out the captive animals. Therefore, what you may think will be a red meat ranching concept will quickly become a project to raise and cut vast amounts of feed, which is highly unlikely to even be possible.

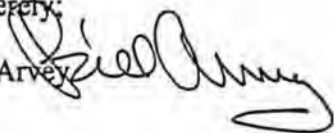
4. As with most other public-funded Ag projects that fail, when this baby folds up, as it surely will, the "rancher-farmers" will be back begging you (that is, us) for supplemental help, loan forgiveness, etc. I don't think the public will be happy to realize that they must subsidize or rescue yet another poorly conceived program.

5. Proponents argue that predators can be excluded and moose be kept in by fences at the perimeters. Fences will not prove effective at either in my opinion. Just as in other commercial ranching ventures of this type, predators will prove to be a problem, and demands for special predator control measures to protect investments will surely follow. Witness the current situation on the Seward Peninsula where commercial reindeer herders demand that natural predators (wolves and bears) be destroyed to protect herds that are utilizing public lands.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Bill Arvey



To	please include	From	in testimony on
Cd	SB 46 topics	Co.	so Resources
Dept.	Thanks-	Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	Uesta

April 15, 1993

To: House Resources Committee

From: Dave Bear
 P.O. Box 39283
 Ninilchik, AK 99639
 Ph. 567-3344 (hm) 283-5831 (wk)

Subject: Moose Farming-SB 46

I sincerely hope that each committee member will carefully and objectively examine the information before them regarding the subject issue. I have and I find the published support and justification for SB 46 to be offensive, outrageous, hypocritical, self-serving, outright fraudulent and a blatant demonstration of autocratic posturing by at least one politician and several appointed government officials.

* There was no public meeting in Ninilchik to discuss the subject issue.

* We have some of the finest fish and game biologists in the country here in Alaska but because the subject proposal is scientifically ridiculous their opposition has been silenced because it is in conflict with "someone's" political agenda. Our biologists have won awards for their efforts with the Moose Research Center in Kenai and have been rewarded by having it shut down. In some 25 years of actual hands on, gone out and did it, non-profit, non-politically motivated, scientific oriented study, they have proven that moose farming is a BAD idea. Why don't we listen to them(re. official position of The Wildlife Society).

* The State of Alaska Department of Agriculture has something less than an outstanding record of accomplishment as regards "providing greater consumer availability of quality Alaskan grown products in the marketplace through inspection, certification, labelling, marketing, and education programs." If you are to believe what you read in the newspaper the State has poured who knows how much money into existing, and past, programs and they have basically zilch to show for it.

* We are supposed to be in a budget crunch. Our schools and prisons(Wildwood) are being neglected or shut out altogether. Our roads and emergency service personnel are suffering greatly. BUT, the subject plan would "assure the availability of financing sources for agricultural operations that are financially viable"(our experts say this plan is not); "continue the State's investment in agricultural science and technology to protect and enhance the quality of Alaskan soils, seeds, plants, produce,

①

Katherine C.E. Smith
1193 Cooper Crt.
Homer, Alaska 99603

February 22, 1994

Chairman Bill Williams
Alaska State Legislature
House Resources Committee
Room 128
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Williams:

Re: SB 46 (Authorizing Moose Farming)

The following is a copy of my February 18, 1994 testimony via tele-conference on SB 46 to the House Resources Committee:

This is Katherine Smith, a resident of Homer. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist and 1983 Graduate of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks Master's program in wildlife management. I have been working with Alaska's big game species or as a consultant in game farming ever since.

I was Project Director and Manager of a private elk farm at high elevation in Hawaii where I oversaw construction of a state of the art quarantine and handling facility for elk, and importation of 50 head from the mainland in 1987. The herd is now up to several hundred animals and doing well as long as a rigorous health program and supplemental nutrients are provided. Even with year-round pasture and benign conditions in Hawaii, it is extremely expensive to keep fenced game healthy, and handlers safe. And elk are a herd animal, very tractable and easy to handle and provide for as compared to moose. Moose are more than a challenge--they are a mistake!

In winter, moose are wide-ranging browsers. They wander far as lone animals or cow-calf units seeking high quality, low availability willow, cottonwood, and birch buds and tender stems. When locked in by fences they quickly run out of this limited dietary requirement of high protein and roughage. Supplements are very costly, and as Charles Schwartz of the moose research center in Soldotna stated earlier in this teleconference, fencing and feeding moose creates conflicts and problems between animals which do not naturally group together.

With the high cost of game fencing, no one can afford to fence enough area to adequately provide for moose. Again, I agree with Charles Schwartz that animals are subjected to poor diet, inter-species aggression, and mishandling by caretakers who do not understand their needs or know how to provide for them. It is also very difficult to define what constitutes an "adequate handling facility" as stated in this bill. It would be even more difficult to regulate.

Moose are a proven poor choice for intensive game farming. In addition to the studies in Russia and Scandinavia cited

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

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Co.	SB 46 to the	Co.	Resources
Dept.	Thanks-	Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	Uesta

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①

animals, and other agricultural products, and the necessary knowledge transfer"(this probably means they'll shut down some other highly esteemed and long established study center); "facilitate the development and use of agriculture in conjunction with other Alaskan resource uses and needs". Where is all this funding going to come from?. I'm sure as hell not going to contribute.

* All of this land that the State is going to "make available for agriculture under a variety of provisions including fee-simple title with fair market value purchase or homestead credits". What exactly does that mean?. It sounds pretty dubious to me.

* The Department of Commerce & Economic Development makes statements that clearly are motivated by that all holy and most venerated, not to mention extremely profitable, of all endeavors, tourism. They make it sound like we're all going to starve to death unless this legislation passes. As far as a source of red meat is concerned, haven't these people heard of plain old cattle?. But then of course, what tourist is going to pull into the gift shop at Tok to look at and pet a Hereford or an Angus?.

* One of the major impacts of this legislation will be in the areas of law enforcement and quality control. This will naturally cost the State a great deal of money in terms of personnel and administrative costs. How can this be justified?.

Summary: There is a fixed amount of land in this country. As more people move to Alaska and those that are so inclined move further away from the cities there is less and less land, or wildlife habitat, left available for the animals. Unless this moose farmer is going to grow, on an annual basis, one tremendous amount of the kind of willows and other browse his moose like to eat, they will run out of food in their "pen" in very short order. I know for a fact that these guys will not eat just any old bush. So, more moose, more land & more food. Everything in nature, left alone of course, has a balance point. I contend that if you allow this ludicrous legislation to pass you will destroy that natural balance and cause harm beyond imagination. Please listen to the experts, they are the true stewards, when not politically pressured to do otherwise, of our resources. They, unlike the supporters of this legislation, are motivated by the perpetuation of a resource and truly "look to the future". The supporters of this legislation are a small, special interest group who apparently could care less how this legislation will impact future generations or other residents of the State. Please do not allow this legislation to pass. The personal satisfaction of knowing that you have done the right thing in the instant case is, in my opinion, worth a great deal more in terms of integrity and ethical behavior than the long remembered notoriety that most certainly will be given those responsible for passing this bill.

My most sincere thanks and appreciation for your time and consideration in this matter.

Katherine C.E. Smith
1193 Cooper Crt.
Homer, Alaska 99603

February 22, 1994

Chairman Bill Williams
Alaska State Legislature
House Resources Committee
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Moose are a proven poor choice for intensive game farming. In addition to the studies in Russia and Scandinavia cited

earlier, there are examples closer to home--the University of Alberta did studies as did the University of Saskatchewan, all concluding that moose are NOT suitable for game farming on any intensive basis. The land area required is too great to fence and the handling and feeding considerations make it uneconomical.

Meat and antler sales also present a problem. State Fish and Wildlife Protection is already overtaxed, under-staffed and under-funded in their efforts to check illegal take of moose. This bill will promote poaching and black market sale of meat by creating a market incentive.

Disease transmission to wild stock is also a very real problem when animals are confined, housed, trucked to new location, sold and traded. SB 46 unnecessarily places one of the State's most significant subsistence animals at risk and threatens the lifestyle of Native and rural Alaskans.

From one who has been in the game industry for a decade, I assure you that the State has nothing to gain from SB 46; it will in fact cost Alaskan's the health and welfare of moose, an important sport and subsistence animal. Substantial funds and personnel will also be diverted to administer, research and regulate this ridiculous bill. Promoting moose farming at a time when the State does not even have money for existing programs and needs, does not make sense. As such I respectfully urge the Committee to NOT foster this very harmful and costly legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Katherine C.E. Smith

cc: Suzanne Little
Gail Phillips
Alaska Environmental Lobby

93-68-BOG

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
RESOLUTION

RELATING TO THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF MOOSE

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Game has statutory responsibilities for the conservation and development of Alaska's game resources, and

WHEREAS, the game resources of Alaska provide great subsistence, recreational, aesthetic, and economic values to the state of Alaska through viewing, tourism, hunting, and guide-outfitting; and

WHEREAS, reducing public resources to private ownership for commercial use has been consistently opposed by the Board of Game for reasons which include:

- (1) allowing sale of moose meat would encourage poaching, and the illegal sale of wild moose meat and complicate enforcement of game regulations,
- (2) the possibility of disease introduction to wild populations from captive stock, and
- (3) allowing moose from captive stock to be bought and sold will diminish the overall value of wildlife, and the aesthetic values of Alaska,
- (4) the foundation for wildlife management in the United States is common ownership by state residents, and the private ownership would compromise successful long-term wildlife management, and
- (5) husbandry of moose is likely to involve requests for control of predators which pose a threat to penned moose,
- (6) research in Alaska has determined that confined moose quickly decimate native habitat and then must be maintained on a special supplemental diet costing approximately \$1800 per year per adult moose making moose farming a costly and likely unprofitable enterprise,
- (7) failure of these moose farming enterprises will place an additional financial burden on the state.

RESOLUTION NO. 9368 BOG
Alaska Board of Game
Page Two

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

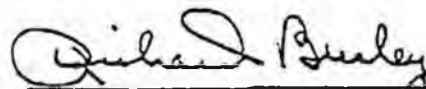
the Alaska Board of Game respectfully requests the Alaska State Legislature not to pass Committee Subsitute Senate Bill 46 which would allow private ownership of moose for commercial purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The Alaska Board of Game respectfully requests the Alaska State Legislature to resist all efforts to privatize and commercialize the husbandry of Alaska's game resources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that copies of the Resolution be promptly transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Chairman of the Senate and House Resources committees.



Richard Burley, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

ADOPTED: March 19, 1993
Anchorage, Alaska
VOTE: 7 Favor 0 Oppose

MARCH 30, 1994

Representative William Williams
Chairman House Resources Committee

DEAR MR WILLIAMS,

HAVING NEVER written to the legislature before, I hope that this letter reaches the proper person. In regards to S.B. 46, The Moose farming issue, I would like to express my strong opposition to it.

I feel that allowing Moose farming would open us up to too many unacceptable risks including diseases, theft of wildlife and poaching.

I can understand the "farming" of non-indigenous species but NOT Moose.

Who would decide who was eligible to receive Moose for farming. The Moose of this STATE belong to ALL of us. Giving Moose to selected individuals removes Moose from the general population, thereby limiting our opportunity.

I'm sure that some of those who seek to own orphaned calves would be only too happy to illegally kill a cow Moose with the hopes that they could be there to provide a "good home" to the poor orphaned calves.

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Chairman House Resources Committee

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In a recent Fairbanks newspaper it was said that one local advocate of Moose farming doesn't really know what he wants to do with them. Ideas included riding & milking!

Perhaps raising them like beef his some peoples thoughts. Then with the selling of Moose meat being legal. Anyone who possesses Moose Meat out of season will claim to have bought it, making for another loop-hole or story to try and disprove for our game wardens.

Please dont allow this legislation pass just to appease a very few people who only have their own special interests in mind. The rest of us Alaskans depend on our wildlife resources and are not willing to accept the risks to a healthy Moose population just because a few ill-informed people want the state to make them special by giving them something that rightfully belongs to all of us

respectfully,

Robert Mumford
2340 Cordes Way
Fairbanks, Ak 99709

**** ORDER SUMMARY ****

SPONSOR: HRES HOUSE RESOURCES CHAIRS: REP WILLIAMS
 PURPOSE: PUB PUBLIC HEARING LEGISLATIVE
 CONTACT: GAIL FORD TEL#: (907)465-2338
 CHAIRING SITE: JUNEAU CAPITOL CAP124

SPONSOR REMARKS(PUB): TESTIMONY:Y ALLOWED 2 MINUTE LIMIT
 PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL BE TAKEN ON SB310. STILL LISTEN ONLY ON SB46.
 TCN REQUESTED ON 04/20/94 AND HAS 5 UPDATES

**** AGENDA ****

- 1 SB 46 AUTHORIZE MOOSE FARMING
- 2 SB 310 STATE/PRIVATE/MUNI TIMBER OPERATION/SALE

**** PARTICIPATING LTOS ****

ANC ANCHORAGE	716 W 4TH. #200	LOCATION STAFF
COR CORDOVA	705 2ND STREET	LOCATION STAFF
FBX FAIRBANKS	119 N CUSHMAN ST	LOCATION STAFF
GLN GLENNALLEN	COMMUNITY LIB.	LOCATION STAFF
HOM HOMER LTC	124 W PIONEER #4	LOCATION STAFF
* JNU JUNEAU	CAPITOL CAP124	LOCATION STAFF
KOD KODIAK	112 MILL BAY RD.	LOCATION STAFF
MAT MATSU	165 E PARKS HWY.	LOCATION STAFF
NOM HOME	FRONT STREET	LOCATION STAFF
PSG PETERSBURG	101 GJOA STREET	LOCATION STAFF
SEW SEWARD	2001 SEWARD HWY	LOCATION STAFF
SIT SITKA	210 LAKE STREET	LOCATION STAFF
SOL KEN/SOL	34824 KALIFONSKY	LOCATION STAFF
VAL VALDEZ	STATE BLDG. #13	LOCATION STAFF

**** VOLUNTEER & OFFNET SITES ****

ZZZ OF1 OFFNET 1 PALMER JOHN CRAMER (907)745-7200

PARTICIPANTS IN: ANCHORAGE ANC

1	JIM SYKES		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 68	TALKEETNA	AK 99676 (907)278-7436
2	CARLY BOEHNER		TSFY. SB 310
	1851 BARRESTER	ANCHORAGE	AK 99508 (907)274-3621
3	JIM MJNTON		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 190121	ANCHORAGE	AK 99519 (907)248-1965
4	JIM SEALY	S.V.A.	TSFY. SB 310
	4330 SEELU CT	ANCHORAGE	AK 99502 (907)243-7001
5	JOHN REEDER	S.V.A.	TSFY. SB 310
	9600 SLALOM DR	ANCHORAGE	AK 99516 (907)346-1943
6	TABITHA GREGORY		OBSV. SB 310
	19530 PRIBILOF	EAGLE RIVER	AK 99577 (907)696-1215

PARTICIPANTS IN: CORDOVA COR

1 MR.	STEPHEN BOONAR	SELF	TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 2262	CORDOVA	AK 99574 (907)424-5427

PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS FBX

1 MR.	DANIEL LUM		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 70169	FAIRBANKS	AK 99707 (907)454-8143

PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS FBX

2 MS.	SYLVIA WARD	NAEC	TSFY. SB 310
	218 DRIVEWAY	FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-5021
3 MR.	LARRY MAYO		TSFY. SB 310
	282 HAY WAY	FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)479-2954
4 MS.	RONNIE ROSENBERG	GREEN PARTY	TSFY. SB 310
	841 NINTH AVE.	FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-6476
5 MS.	MARY SHIELDS		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 80961	FAIRBANKS	AK 99708 (907)455-6469
6 MR.	CHARLES SIMMONS		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 81724	FAIRBANKS	AK 99708 (907)479-0406
7 MR.	TED SWEM		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 82068	FAIRBANKS	AK 99708 (907)474-9324
8 MR.	FRED BROWN		TSFY. SB 310
	1469 HOLY CROSS	FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)479-0215
9 MR.	DALE HAGGSTROM		OBSV. SB 310
	2349 STEVENS AVE.	FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)455-6242
10 MR.	FRED PRATI		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 72981	FAIRBANKS	AK 99707 (907)000-0000
11 MS.	SATIVA QUINN		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 254	ESTER	AK 99725 (907)458-8251
12 MR.	NIKE WALLERI	TANANA CHIEFS	OBSV. SB 310
	122 FIRST AVE. #600	FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-8251

PARTICIPANTS IN: GLENNALLEN GLN

1 MR.	DAVID HILL		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 12	COPPER CENTER	AK 99573 (907)822-3420
2 MR.	ROBERT FRISBIE		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 635	GLENNALLEN	AK 99588 (907)822-3062
3 MR.	MARTIN MARICLE		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 412	GLENNALLEN	AK 99588 (907)822-3414

PARTICIPANTS IN: JUNEAU JNU

1 MS	KATYA KIRCH		TSFY. SB 310
		HAINES	AK (907)766-0000
2 MS	BARBARA KELLY		TSFY. SB 310
		JNU	AK (907)000-0000
3 MR	CHRIS ??		TSFY. SB 310
		JNU	AK (907)000-0000
4 MR	DAVE KELLYHOUSE	F&G	TSFY. SB 46
			AK (907)000-0000
5	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
6	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
7	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
8	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
9	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
10	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
11	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
12	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
13	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
14	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
15	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
16	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
17	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS

LTN1100-R01
04/20/94

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK

PAGE 03
19:00:28

TCN: 40685 DATE & TIME: 04/20/94 15:30 TO 18:00 STATUS:6 ADJOURNED

PARTICIPANTS IN:JUNEAU

JNU

18	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
19	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
20	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
21	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
22	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
23	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
24	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
25	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
26	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
27	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
28	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
29	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
30	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
31	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
32	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS

PARTICIPANTS IN:NOME

NOM

1 MS.	ROSE	ATUK-FOSDICK	KAWERAK, INC.	TSFY. SB 46
	BOX 1485	NOME		AK 99762 (907)443-5231

PARTICIPANTS IN:SEWARD

SEW

1 MR	CHARLES R	BOOTH	SELF	OBSV. SB 46
	PO BOX 102		SEWARD	AK 99664 (907)224-5751

PARTICIPANTS IN:KEN/SOL

SOL

1 MR.	CHUCK	SCHWARTZ	SELF	OBSV. SB 46
	390 ENDICOTT DR		SOLDOTNA	AK 99669 (907)262-7548

PARTICIPANTS IN:VALDEZ

VAL

1 MS.	NANCY	LETHCOE	AWRTA	TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 1353		VALDEZ	AK 99686 (907)835-4300
2 MR.	GREG	WILLIAMS	KCHU	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
	PO BOX 467		VALDEZ	AK 99686 (907)835-4665

PARTICIPANTS IN:OFFNET 1

ZZZ OF1

1 MR	JOHN	CRAMMER		OBSV. SB 46
			PALMER	AK (907)745-7200
2	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. SB 46
				AK (907)000-0000

TCN: 40300 DATE & TIME: 02/18/94 09:15 TO 10:00 STATUS:7 STATS. IN

**** ORDER SUMMARY ****

SPONSOR: HRES HOUSE RESOURCES

CHAIRS: WILLIAMS

PURPOSE: PUB PUBLIC HEARING

LEGISLATIVE

CONTACT: MARY MCDOWELL

TEL#: (907)465-3715

CHAIRING SITE: JUNEAU

CAPITOL

CAP124

SPONSOR REMARKS(PUB): TESTIMONY:Y ALLOWED
TCN REQUESTED ON 02/18/94 AND HAS 10 UPDATES

99 MINUTE LIMIT

**** AGENDA ****

1 SB 46 AUTHORIZE MOOSE FARMING

**** PARTICIPATING LTOS ****

ANC ANCHORAGE	716 W 4TH, #200	LOCATION STAFF
DJT DELTA JCT.	JARVIS CTR. #210	LOCATION STAFF
FBX FAIRBANKS	119 N CUSHMAN ST	LOCATION STAFF
HOM HOMER LTC	126 W PIONEER #4	LOCATION STAFF
* JNU JUNEAU	CAPITOL CAP124	LOCATION STAFF
MAT MATSU	165 E PARKS HWY.	LOCATION STAFF
SOL KEN/SOL	34824 KALIFORNIA	LOCATION STAFF

PARTICIPANTS IN:DELTA JCT.

DJT

1 MR.	DON QUARBERG	DELTA JUNCTION	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99737 (907)895-4215
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PARTICIPANTS IN:FAIRBANKS

FBX

1 MR.	BUD BLISS	GAME FARMING	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99709 (907)451-8652
2 MR.	STANLEY NED	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99701 (907)452-8251
3 MR.	JEREMY WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000
4 MS.	OPAL WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000
5 MR.	DOUG WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000
6 MR.	HAROLD GILLAM	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99701 (907)452-2534
7 MS.	SANTIVA QUINN	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99701 (907)452-8251
8 MR.	FOREST WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000
9 MS.	CRYSTAL WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000

PARTICIPANTS IN:HOMER LTC

HOM

1 MS.	KATHERINE SMITH	HOMER	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99603 (907)235-5448
2 MR.	CHRIS RAINWATER	HOMER	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99603 (907)235-6278

PARTICIPANTS IN:JUNEAU

JNU

1 REP	BILL HUDSON		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
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TCN: 40300 DATE & TIME: 02/18/94 09:15 TO 10:00 STATUS:7 STATS. IN

PARTICIPANTS IN:JUNEAU

JNU

2 REP	JOE GREEN		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
3 REP	DAVID FINKELSTEIN		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
4 REP	PAT CARNEY		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
5 REP	ELDON MULDER		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
6 REP	JEANNETTE JAMES		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
7	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
8	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
9	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
10	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
11	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
12	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
13	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
14	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
15	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
16	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
17	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
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19	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
20	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
21	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
22	TO	TESTIFY		TSFY. ALL ITEMS	
23	TO	TESTIFY		TSFY. ALL ITEMS	

PARTICIPANTS IN:MATSU

MAT

1 MR.	JOHN CRAMER	PALMER	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99645 (907)745-7200
2 MR.	DOUG WITTE	PALMER	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99645 (907)745-7200

PARTICIPANTS IN:KEN/SOL

SOL

1 MR.	KRIS HUNDERTHARK	SELF	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99672 (907)262-9368
2 MR.	CURT SHUEY	SELF	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99669 (907)262-9368



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: April 19, 1993

PLACE: Capitol, Room 124

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

CSSB 43 Elk Transplant
 CSSB 46 Moose Farming

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Dave Kelleyhouse	ADFG				465-4190	(Y) N	CSSB 43
Bill B Wood	Wood Farms				262-5135	(Y) N	CS SB 46
JANS McMillon	AK ENVIR. Lobby				463-3366	(Y) N	CSSB 43, 46
GENE THERRIAULT	DIST 33				465-4777	(Y) N	CSSB 46
SEN. Mike Miller	DIST Q				465-4976	(Y) N	SB 46
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2-18-94

PLACE: Capitol, Room 124

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 SB 46 - Authorizing mose farming
 SJR 13 - Opposing export on North Slope crude oil

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Gloria Gill	AK ENVK LOBBY AET	POB 22151 Juneau AK	99802	463-2266		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	SB 46
Wayne Regelin ✓	ADFG	POB 4 25526 Juneau		465-4190		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	SB 46
Kit Buelstene	DEC	40 Wolloughby Km 105 Juneau	99801	465-5250		<input type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N	SB 46 - only to answer questions
Charles Schwartz ✓	ADFG	Soldotna AK			763-43	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	SB 46
Gloria Gill	AK ENVK LOBBY	POB 22151	99802	463-2266		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	✓
						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	
						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	
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						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	

S B

77

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/9/94
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Frank, Taylor, Miller
REPRESENTATIVES Therriault, James

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive
2 management of big game to achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest."

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

4 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that providing for high
5 levels of harvest for human consumptive use in accordance with the sustained yield principle
6 is the highest and best use of identified big game prey populations in most areas of the state
7 and that the big game prey populations in these areas should be managed accordingly.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.255 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

9 (e) The Board of Game shall adopt regulations to provide for intensive
10 management programs to restore the abundance or productivity of identified big game
11 prey populations as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals of the board
12 in an area where the board has determined that

13 (1) consumptive use of the big game prey population is a preferred use;

14 (2) depletion of the big game prey population or reduction of the

1 productivity of the big game prey population has occurred and may result in a
2 significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population; and

3 (3) enhancement of abundance or productivity of the big game prey
4 population is feasibly achievable utilizing recognized and prudent active management
5 techniques.

6 (f) The Board of Game may not significantly reduce the taking of an identified
7 big game prey population by adopting regulations relating to restrictions on harvest or
8 access to the population, or to management of the population by customary
9 adjustments in seasons, bag limits, open and closed areas, methods and means, or by
10 other customary means authorized under (a) of this section, unless the board has
11 adopted regulations providing for intensive management to increase the take of the
12 population for human harvest consistent with (e) of this section. This subsection does
13 not apply if the board

- 14 (1) determines that intensive management would be
15 (A) ineffective, based on scientific information; or
16 (B) inappropriate due to land ownership patterns; or
17 (2) declares that a biological emergency exists and takes immediate
18 action to protect or maintain the big game prey population in conjunction with the
19 scheduling for adoption of those regulations that are necessary to implement (e) of this
20 section.

21 (g) In this section,
22 (1) "identified big game prey population" means a population of
23 ungulates that is identified by the Board of Game and that is important for providing
24 high levels of harvest for human consumptive use;
25 (2) "intensive management" means management of an identified big
26 game prey population to enhance, extend, and develop the population to maintain high
27 levels or provide for higher levels of human harvest, including control of predation and
28 prescribed or planned use of fire and other habitat improvement techniques.

8-LS0276W
Utermohle
3/5/94

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Frank, Taylor, Miller
REPRESENTATIVES Therriault, James

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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9 adjustments in seasons, bag limits, open and closed areas, methods and means, or by
10 other customary means authorized under (a) of this section, unless the board has
11 adopted regulations providing for intensive management to increase the take of the
12 population for human harvest consistent with (e) of this section. This subsection does
13 not apply if the board

14 (1) determines that intensive management would be

15 (A) ineffective, based on scientific information; or

16 (B) inappropriate due to land ownership patterns; or

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28 prescribed or planned use of fire and other habitat improvement techniques.

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE FINKELSTEIN

TO: HCS CSSB 77() "V" version

Page 1, line ~~8~~ 9

Delete "shall [MAY]"

Insert "may"

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE FINKELSTEIN

TO: HCS CSSB 77() "V" version

Page ²~~4~~, lines ~~2-15~~: 21

Delete all material and insert: Add ~~new~~ new section:

new (f) (f) "(e) The Board of Game may not adopt regulations requiring the department to conduct intensive management programs, notwithstanding (a)(11) of this section, unless the board has taken all reasonable measures under (a)(1) - (10) of this section to reduce the take of the identified big game population."

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCS CSSB 77(RES)

Revision Date: 3/8/94
 Title: An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive management of big game
 Sponsor: Senator Sharp
 Requestor: House Resources

Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 BRU: Wildlife Conservation
 Component: Wildlife Conservation
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this bill will not result in additional costs initially because action by the department will be required at an indeterminate time in the future. The actual costs of implementing any given "intensive management" project would depend upon the nature and scope of the project. See attached sheets for examples of costs of past and current intensive management programs.

Prepared By: David G. Kelleyhouse, Director *DKK*
 Division: Wildlife Conservation
 Approved by Commissioner: Ch. Z. Rosen
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4190
 Date: 3/8/94
 Date: 3/8/94

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 For further distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

Without knowing which big game population may be "identified" as requiring "intensive management," the length of time over which the management program must be implemented, the type of habitat where the big game population occurs, the size and location of the population within the state, and other complicating factors (e.g., annual weather variations and harvest levels allowed by the Board of Game), the costs to the department of implementing programs authorized by this legislation cannot be predicted.

There are 12 big game species in Alaska consisting of innumerable distinct populations. A given moose population, for example, may benefit from control of wolves, brown bears, or black bears, improvement of browse using manual crushing techniques, a prescribed burn, or some other type of "intensive management," such as timber management. It is not feasible to prepare cost estimates for every potential intensive management proposal for every big game population in every part of the state.

The following examples are costs (uncorrected for inflation) of selected management programs:

1983-84 Moose Habitat Improvement Projects

\$42.0 was appropriated for browse management in the Moose Creek Management Area in the Matanuska Valley. With that funding, 150 acres of timber were "chained." 75 acres of previously cut areas were scarified, and trails were built to afford access for personal and commercial wood cutting programs, including 2300 acres for timber harvest.

\$155.0 was allocated for Kenai Peninsula work, including purchase of one used 40-ton Le Tourneau tree crusher, machine repairs and maintenance, personnel costs, fuel, and miscellaneous costs. Approximately 3,000 acres were treated annually for 25 years at a cost of \$32/acre with post-crushing burning.

Tok Habitat Rehabilitation Programs

\$25.0 was allocated for the Tok River Moose Habitat Improvement Project in 1983 for crushing of 400 acres of riparian willow, increasing browse supplies by 800,000 to 1,200,000 lbs annually by fall 1985. Effects were expected to last until 1995.

\$14.0 was spent preparing for the Tok River prescribed fire in 1984. An area of 500 acres was to be burned at a relatively high cost because the fire was adjacent to private property, utility lines, and the state highway, requiring added control capabilities. A timber sale resulted in the harvesting of about 250 mmbf from the area. Where road systems allow, blading and crushing of decadent willow-dominated winter range (i.e., stand rejuvenation rather than stand conversion) also can be cost effective for relatively small areas, and browse can be produced for about \$.10/moose/day. Costs to totally feed a population of 900 Tok River moose over winter would be about \$11.0 annually.

Delta Junction Habitat Improvement

FY84 estimated costs for various phases of the bison habitat improvement programs are as follows: Delta River prescription burn (12.0); helitorch, parts and supplies (7.0); clearing (12.0); bison depredation control (5.0); personnel (24.0); fertilization (18.0); TOTAL (78.0). The objectives were to provide winter range for approximately 400 bison and reduce bison depredation on agricultural crops in the area.

Wolf Control

Estimated costs of reducing wolf predation on depressed moose and caribou populations in Alaska for fiscal years 1976-1984, as reported to the Board of Game in March 1984: operational costs include wolf survey and population estimates; trapping and collaring; analysis, reporting, and administration; wolf reduction and recovery. The FY94 costs for the reduction effort in GMU 20A are based upon preliminary assessments.

<u>GMU</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Operating Costs</u>	<u>Personnel Costs</u>
19A & 19B	1979-80	13.0	30.0
20A	1976-83	150.9	120.0
	1993-94	100.0	85.0
20B	1981-84	118.8	113.0
20D	1981-83	25.6	31.0
20E	1982-84	112.9	87.0
23 & 24	1977-78	9.4	12.6

This does not include costs that may be incurred in the planning process, holding public meetings, responding to public inquiries or objections related to predator control programs, and additional expenses to the Boards Support Section, Division of Administration.

SB 77 Draft Version "W" and
Sectional analysis prepared by
Sen. Sharp

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS
of Draft # Version/W
of HCSCSSB-77

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings: Providing for high levels of harvest for human consumption is the highest and best use of the game resources of most areas of the state.

SECTION 2. AS.16.05.255 is amended by adding new subsections (e), (f), (g) to read:

Subsection(e) the Board shall adopt regulations to provide for intensive management programs to restore the abundance or productivity of a big game prey population where the Board determines that:

(e)(1) consumptive use of big game prey population is a preferred use;

(e)(2) big game prey populations are declining and would, or are, resulting in the reduction of human harvest of the game population;

(e)(3) it is feasible to attain enhancement of abundance of big game prey populations.

Subsection(f) requires the Board of Game to initiate intensive management at the time they take action to reduce the human harvest levels via reducing or eliminating open seasons, restrictive methods and means, etc.

(f)(1) Exceptions: intensive management would not be required where the Board determines it would be ineffective based on;

(A) scientific information; or

(B) inappropriate due to land ownership patterns.

(f)(2) allows for emergency closures or restrictions.

Subsection(g)(1) defines "identified big game prey population."

Subsection(g)(2) defines "intensive management."

8-LS0276B
Utermohle
2/22/94

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77() .
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY .

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Frank, Taylor, Miller
REPRESENTATIVES Therriault, James

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive
2 management of big game to achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest."

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

4 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that providing for high
5 levels of harvest for human consumptive use in accordance with the sustained yield principle
6 is the highest and best use of identified big game resources in most areas of the state and that
7 the identified big game resources in these areas should be managed accordingly.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.255(a) is amended to read:

9 (a) The Board of Game shall [MAY] adopt regulations under [IT
10 CONSIDERS ADVISABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH] AS 44.62 (Administrative
11 Procedure Act) to provide for the management of game, and for intensive
12 management of identified big game populations to maintain or restore high levels
13 of sustained yield for human harvest where the board has determined that
14 consumptive use of those big game populations is a preferred use, by [FOR]

1 (1) setting apart game reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the
2 water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to the approval
3 of the legislature;

4 (2) establishing open and closed seasons and areas for the taking of
5 game;

6 (3) establishing the means and methods employed in the pursuit,
7 capture, and transport of game, including regulations, consistent with resource
8 conservation and development goals, establishing means and methods that may be
9 employed by persons with physical disabilities;

10 (4) setting quotas, bag limits, harvest levels, and sex, age, and size
11 limitations on the taking of game;

12 (5) classifying game as game birds, song birds, big game animals, fur
13 bearing animals, predators, or other categories;

14 (6) methods, means, and harvest levels necessary to control predation
15 and competition among game in the state;

16 (7) watershed and habitat improvement, and management, conservation,
17 protection, use, disposal, propagation, and stocking of game;

18 (8) prohibiting the live capture, possession, transport, or release of
19 native or exotic game or their eggs;

20 (9) establishing the times and dates during which the issuance of game
21 licenses, permits, and registrations and the transfer of permits and registrations between
22 registration areas and game management units or subunits is allowed;

23 (10) regulating sport hunting and subsistence hunting as needed for the
24 conservation, development, and utilization of game;

25 (11) requiring the department, within the department's ability, to
26 conduct intensive management programs to restore the abundance or productivity
27 of a big game population as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals
28 of the board in an area where the board has determined that

29 (A) depletion of the big game population or reduction of the
30 productivity of the big game population has occurred and may result in a
31 significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the big game

1 population; and

2 (B) enhancement of abundance or productivity of the big
3 game population is feasible.

4 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05.255 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

5 (e) The Board of Game may not significantly reduce the taking of an identified
6 big game population by adopting regulations relating to restrictions on harvest or
7 access to the big game population, or to management of the population by customary
8 adjustments in seasons, bag limits, open and closed areas, methods and means, or by
9 other customary means authorized under (a) of this section, unless the board has
10 adopted regulations providing for intensive management to increase the take of the big
11 game population for human harvest consistent with (a)(11) of this section. This
12 subsection does not apply if the board

13 (1) determines that intensive management would be

14 (A) ineffective, based on scientific information; or

15 (B) inappropriate due to land ownership patterns; or

16 (2) declares that a biological emergency exists and takes immediate
17 action to protect or maintain a big game population in conjunction with the scheduling
18 for adoption of regulations necessary to implement (a)(11) of this section.

19 (f) In this section,

20 (1) "intensive management" means management of a big game
21 population to enhance, extend, and develop the big game population to maintain high
22 levels or provide for higher levels of human harvest in accordance with the sustained
23 yield principle, including control of predation and prescribed or planned use of fire and
24 other habitat improvement techniques;

25 (2) "sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in
26 perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular human harvest of game resources of the
27 state at harvest levels that do not significantly impair the productivity of the game
28 resource or game habitat.

8-LS0276V

Utermohle

2/10/94

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77()
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A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the powers of the Board of Game and to intensive
2 management of big game to achieve higher sustained yield for human harvest."

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

4 * Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that maximum sustained
5 yield is the highest and best use of the game resources of the state.

6 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.255(a) is amended to read:

7 (a) The Board of Game shall [MAY] adopt regulations under [IT
8 CONSIDERS ADVISABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH] AS 44.62 (Administrative
9 Procedure Act) to provide for the management of game, and for intensive
10 management of identified big game populations to maintain or restore high levels
11 of sustained yield for human harvest where the board has determined that
12 consumptive use of those big game populations is a preferred use. by [FOR]

13 (1) setting apart game reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the
14 water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to the approval

1 of the legislature;

2 (2) establishing open and closed seasons and areas for the taking of
3 game;

4 (3) establishing the means and methods employed in the pursuit,
5 capture, and transport of game, including regulations, consistent with resource
6 conservation and development goals, establishing means and methods that may be
7 employed by persons with physical disabilities;

8 (4) setting quotas, bag limits, harvest levels, and sex, age, and size
9 limitations on the taking of game;

10 (5) classifying game as game birds, song birds, big game animals, fur
11 bearing animals, predators, or other categories;

12 (6) methods, means, and harvest levels necessary to control predation
13 and competition among game in the state;

14 (7) watershed and habitat improvement, and management, conservation,
15 protection, use, disposal, propagation, and stocking of game;

16 (8) prohibiting the live capture, possession, transport, or release of
17 native or exotic game or their eggs;

18 (9) establishing the times and dates during which the issuance of game
19 licenses, permits, and registrations and the transfer of permits and registrations between
20 registration areas and game management units or subunits is allowed;

21 (10) regulating sport hunting and subsistence hunting as needed for the
22 conservation, development, and utilization of game;

23 (11) requiring the department to conduct intensive management
24 programs to restore the abundance or productivity of a big game population as
25 necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals of the board in an area where
26 the board has determined that

27 (A) depletion of the big game population or reduction of the
28 productivity of the big game population has occurred and may result in a
29 reduction in the allowable human harvest of the big game population; and

30 (B) enhancement of abundance of the big game population
31 is feasible.

1 * Sec. 3. AS 16.05.255 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

2 (e) The Board of Game may not reduce the taking of an identified big game
3 population by adopting regulations relating to restrictions on harvest or access to the
4 big game population, or to management of the population by customary adjustments
5 in seasons, bag limits, open and closed areas, methods and means, or by other
6 customary means authorized under (a) of this section, unless the board has adopted
7 regulations providing for intensive management to increase the take of the big game
8 population for human harvest consistent with (a)(11) of this section. This subsection
9 does not apply if

10 (1) the board determines that intensive management would be

11 (A) ineffective, based on scientific information; or

12 (B) inappropriate due to land ownership patterns; or

13 (2) in conjunction with adoption of regulations under (a)(11) of this
14 section, the board declares that a biological emergency exists and takes immediate
15 action to protect or maintain a viable big game population.

16 (f) In this section,

17 (1) "intensive management" means management of a big game
18 population to enhance, extend, and develop the big game population to maintain high
19 levels or provide for higher levels of human harvest in accordance with the sustained
20 yield principle, including control of predation and prescribed or planned use of fire and
21 other habitat improvement techniques;

22 (2) "sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in
23 perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular human harvest of game resources of the
24 state at harvest levels that do not significantly impair the productivity of the game
25 resource or game habitat.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT P

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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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Senate

FROM: Senator Bert Sharp

DATE: February 11, 1994

RE: SB 77, Board of Game - Intensive Management of Game

1. Establishes legislative intent and direction for the Board of Game.
2. Requires intensive management of an identified big game whose population is in decline and not at a "maximum sustained yield level.
3. Article 8, Section 4 of the Constitution mandates use of maximum sustained yield in resource management. This bill defines maximum sustained yield for the first time as it is applied to game.
4. If the level of game is such to require reduction on human harvested numbers, intensive management must be initiated to minimize the "time of scarcity." Human harvest historically accounts for only 3-5% of total harvest.
5. Curtailing human harvest without curtailment of the predator factor which is responsible for over 80% of the annual harvest only results in a reallocation of the reduction of human harvest over to that available for predation harvest. After all, they hunt 365 days a year compared to 5 - 20 day hunting seasons for people.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

CSSB - 77(Res)

By: Senator Bert Sharp

SECTION 1. AS 16.05.255(c): is amended to provide for game management, and to include intensive management of identified big game populations to achieve higher yield for human harvest. This would target areas where the Board determined that consumptive use was a preferred use of that area.

SECTION 1. AS 16.05.255(a)(11): is added to require the Department of Fish and Game to conduct intensive management programs to restore the productivity of a game population necessary to achieve human consumptive goals of the Board in areas where the Board has determined;

(A) game populations are declining and would, or are, resulting in the reduction of human harvest of the game population;

(B) it is feasible to restore the abundance or productivity of game populations; and

SECTION 2. AS 16.05.255(e): is added to require the Board of Game to provide for intensive management implementation where beneficial to achieve sustained yield goals prior to or simultaneous with any Board action which would significantly reduce the human consumptive use harvest level.

SECTION 2. AS 16.05.255(f)(1): is added to define the term "intensive management."

"SUSTAINED YIELD"

A Constitutional Based Definition

Article 8, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution provides that:

Fish, forest, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

Unfortunately, however, a definition of "sustained yield" as applied to wildlife, is not found in the Alaska Constitution nor Alaska Statute or case law.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game have with regularity indicated that their mandate is to manage Alaska's wildlife and fisheries consistent with the sustained yield principle. However, to date the Board has not defined this term of art nor provided the Department with a working definition which could be invaluable in developing and maintaining management philosophies consistent with this phrase's meaning.

The definition which should be adopted is as follows:

"Sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular periodic human harvest of Alaska's wildlife resources consistent at levels where significant impairment to the productivity of wildlife and wildlife habitat does not occur.

This proffered definition has legal basis found in both federal and Alaska statute.

The "Sustained Yield Act of 1944," 58 Stat. 146., P.L. 78-283, defines sustained yield as follows: "Sustained yield" of the several products and services means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land. (16 U.S.C. 583.)

The multiple-use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, 16 U.S.C. 528, adopted this same definition.

The Alaska legislature has borrowed the federal definition and in the Alaska Forest Practices Act found at A.S. 41.17.950(17), provides that: "Sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of forest land and water without significant impairment of the productivity of the land and water, . . .

In statute promulgated by Alaska's Department of Natural Resources the following definition of sustained yield is provided:

". . . The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the State lands consistent with multiple use; . . ." A.S. 38.04.910(10).

The proffered definition also finds broad support in the proceedings of the Alaska Constitutional Convention. While it may be argued that the majority and members of the Constitutional Convention had in mind no set definition of "sustained yield," it is clear that the members of the Committee on Natural Resources intended a "conscious application, insofar as practicable, [of the] principles of management intended to sustain the yield of the resource being managed." Alaska Constitutional Convention Proceedings, page 2457.

The constitutional concept of sustained yield found in Article VIII, Subsection 4, must be construed along with the clause that follows it, "subject to preferences among beneficial uses."

The framers of our constitution understood that, without that modifying language to "steer" the sustained yield principle, sustained

yield itself would be "meaningless" and "ineffective." Alaska Constitutional Convention Proceedings, page 3054.

In fact, in the commentary which accompanied the final word of the Alaska Constitution, the Committee on Natural Resources states that:

"Sustained yield" is recognized as a principle applicable to the administration of plant and animal life subject to the immediate authority of the State. The provision applies generally to wildlife and fisheries anywhere in the "highest beneficial public use" in recognition of its not being in the public interest to preserve certain parasitic or predatory organisms destructive of more beneficial plant and animal life." Alaska Constitutional Convention, volume 7, page 98.

Elsewhere in the commentary the framers of the Alaska Constitution indicated that they were not satisfied with U.S. Forest Service's narrow interpretation of "sustained yield."

"We have in mind no narrow definition of 'sustained yield' as is used, for example, in forestry, but the broad premise that insofar as possible a principle of sustained yield shall be used with respect to the administration of those resources which are susceptible of sustained yield, and where it is desirable. For example, predators would not be maintained on a sustained yield basis." (Emphasis added.) Alaska Constitutional Convention Proceedings, page 2451.

Once adopted, this definition would withstand judicial review and most likely be followed by the Alaska Supreme Court.