

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004 8672

0985 HOUSE RESOURCES

The Tanana Valley Forest Use Survey:  
How households used the forest in the Tanana River Watershed  
from September 1999 to August 2000

A collaborative project of the University of Alaska  
Fairbanks, Alaska State Division of Forestry and  
the Alaska Boreal Forest Council.

by  
Scott Bates,  
M.S., Resource and Applied Economics

Submitted to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Management,  
Department of Economics as a project for partial fulfillment of the  
requirements of the Master of Science Degree in Resource and Applied  
Economics

Submitted: September 2002

Accepted: September 2002

## PREFACE

The purpose of this document is to report abstracted results from the Tanana Valley Forest Use Survey. The aim is to summarize the personal use harvest of selected non-timber forest products in the Tanana Valley by Tanana Valley households.

The subject matter of the survey has generated a great deal of interest. Presentations have been made to the Alaska State Board of Forestry and at the state Division of Forestry's annual resources meeting. A request from the Fairbanks North Star Borough for a breakdown of harvest and recreation data for the region of the Tanana Basin covered by the Borough has been received and requests for copies of the finalized report have been requested by employees from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A poster presentation was made at the first Alaska Non-Timber Forest Products Conference in Anchorage, Alaska in November 2001. This interest in the survey results suggests that the Forest Use Survey can become an important tool for land and natural resource managers who seek to make the most informed decisions possible. It will also serve as a tool for community members who desire to participate in the decision making process in an informed way.

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### Executive Summary

The Tanana Valley Forest Use Survey is aimed at creating a complete inventory of how households in the Tanana River Watershed use the natural resources around them. While much attention has been focused on hunting and fishing activities of Alaskan sportsmen and upon subsistence pursuits of Alaska Natives, general household use has not been looked at in depth so far. The survey collected data about what households harvested in the Tanana River Watershed. The area in question contains most of the Tanana Watershed and is approximately the size of the state of Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the Forest Use Survey is to provide information about natural resource use so that land and resource managers can understand the impacts of their management activities. Policy makers can understand potential conflicts that may arise from new and old policies. Community members who wish to be involved in the decision making process in an informed way will benefit from this data as well.

An important aspect of this project is that it is a collaborative project involving the state Division of Forestry, the University of Alaska and the Alaska Boreal Forest Council. A project of this nature could not be accomplished without such varied interests being involved. Collaboration can bring a very strong set of tools to such a varied project as this.

To gather the information necessary to fulfill the goals of the survey 1000 households in the Tanana Valley received a survey. Twelve percent of the surveys were returned as undeliverable. Of the surveys that were deliverable 474, or 54%, were filled out and returned. The respondents reported many activities such as harvesting moose, house logs and berries. They also reported collecting things like birch sap, diamond willow sticks and artist's conks. Data was also collected regarding recreational pursuits.

One way the data can aid in understanding the impacts that various activities have is to find values for those activities that are easily understood. For example, the data show that blueberry harvesting is very important in the Tanana Valley. Thirty-five percent of all households that responded reported picking an average of just over two gallons of blueberries. The potential harvest of blueberries is a total of 112,182 quarts for all households in the Tanana Valley. To purchase 112,182 quarts of blueberries in the year following the survey would have cost approximately \$1.78 million. Clearly the blueberry harvest may need to be considered when land and resource policies are considered. This survey provides this type of information about other uses as well.

### **Introduction:**

The Forest Use Survey (FUS) is a collaborative project involving the Alaska Boreal Forest Council, the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Management (SOM), UAF Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, UAF School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management (SALRM), and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

The FUS is an unprecedented attempt to inventory the ways in which households use the forest in the Tanana Basin. Collecting knowledge of the many, varied ways in which the forest is used can allow for more informed decision-making when land use and/or resource management is in question. A smaller attempt was made by The Alaska Department of Fish and Game to find out how households in the upper Tanana Valley use certain areas, but did not go into the depth that the present survey does. The FUS is part of a larger project called "Who's Who in the Woods" which is gathering information about how the forest is used, by whom and for what purposes. As "Who's Who" endeavors to bring together information about all users of the forest from subsistence and personal use harvests to research and recreation, the FUS is the means by which we will find out about the household component of forest use.

The idea for the FUS came about at a time when there was a question of whether to substantially change management of Alaska State forests to significantly favor logging and mineral exploration. People wanted to know what other activities were happening in the forest before they could reasonably answer the logging and mineral question. However, detailed information about forest use was simply not available. Thus the FUS was designed as a comprehensive questionnaire about how households use the forest, what and how much they harvest, and what recreational activities they participate in. With detailed information about harvest quantities we can arrive at minimum values that can be compared to the value of logging.

### **The Tanana Valley Forest Use Survey:**

The population from which we drew the sample for the Forest Use Survey is all households of the Tanana River drainage. The survey was mailed to 1000 households in the Tanana Valley. Approximately twelve percent of the surveys were undeliverable, reducing the sample population to 878. Ultimately 474 households responded after three mailings, resulting in a response rate of 54%. This response rate is sufficient to give us a 95% confidence level in the data. Table 1 summarizes the survey response.

**Table 1: Forest Use Survey sample summary**

Original Sample Size	1000
Number of respondents	474
Number of undeliverable	122
Adjusted sample size	878
Response rate	54.0%

Harvest data for six categories of food and other types of uses were collected:

1. Fishing
2. Harvest of tree products
3. Gathering of forest floor products
4. Hunting
5. Trapping
6. Recreation

On the basis of household size our sample matches the 2000 census figures for the Tanana Basin very closely at 2.78 persons per household in the sample and 2.8 per household in the census. When individual characteristics are considered, though, we appear to have greatly under-sampled the 20 to 30 age group as well as females and to have over sampled the middle age groups and males

Some validation of the sample is gained from a comparison of the estimated harvest of big game animals from the FUS sample to the harvest reported to ADF&G by hunters. We were able to compare the harvest of moose, black bear, brown bear, caribou and dall sheep. The survey estimates of the percentage of households that harvested big game are well within one standard deviation of the mean, while moose are barely within two standard deviations. Even though moose is far out from the mean, we can still say with 95% confidence that the percentage of the population of households that harvested moose is within 5% of the estimate. Since we were so close on the other species it seems reasonable to place confidence in the estimates from the other sections of the survey.

Section III of the survey dealt with the harvest for personal use of wood products, both timber and non-timber. Here the valuation was constrained to calculating replacement values. In order to ascertain timber prices, lumber mill in the Fairbanks area were queried. Prices for the other non-timber items were collected as possible from published sources such as ads in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Table 2 summarizes those replacement values that we could find. Not all of the products reported in the survey are amenable to this method however; such items are those that may not be purchased in a store if a harvest attempt fails and thus were not valued in this project. Table 3 summarizes those items harvested, but not valued.

**Table 2—Estimated potential personal use harvest and replacement cost for wood products harvested in the Tanana Basin**

Wood Product Type	Potential TV Harvest Quantity	Average Unit Cost	Replacement Value of Potential Harvest
House Logs	12,818 logs	\$33.60 per log	\$430,685
Saw Logs	52,722 logs	\$37.20 per log	\$1,961,258
Firewood	47,748 cords	\$109.33 per cord	\$5,220,289
Spruce Burls	4756 burls	\$6.00 per foot (raw)	\$28,536
Diamond Willow	20,718 sticks	\$10.50 per stick (raw)	\$217,539
TOTAL			\$7,858,307.00

While the simple replacement values cannot begin to place actual values on the harvest activities of Tanana Basin households, they can provide basic minimum values to provide a baseline for comparison. It must always be noted that the values people receive from their harvest will certainly include things that do not directly flow from the harvest. Time spent with family and friends, enjoyment of outdoor activities or a sense of self sufficiency are examples of valuable things which cannot be estimated by comparing the price of a thing in the store to the amounts that were harvested. It seems very likely that we could find that some people are just as happy to attempt harvesting blueberries and then buy blueberries in the store if the attempt fails, as they are if they have a successful harvest.

**Table 3—Wood also harvested for personal use, but not valued**

Wood Product Type	Potential Harvest
Pole Logs	30,956 Logs
Cones	1612 Bushels
Spruce Roots	887 Pieces
Birch Bark	16,929 Pieces
Conk or Punk	4192 Each
Christmas Trees	4514 Each
Birch Sap	36,317 Gallons

Section IV of the survey asked respondents about the harvest of non-wood items such as berries or mushrooms. Berries can be said to be a very important part of TV residents gathering activities. One third of all respondents reported picking blueberries. Prices were determined by querying produce managers at both Safeway and Fred Meyer in Fairbanks. Table 4 summarizes the replacement values of the potential harvest of berries picked for personal use by Tanana Valley households in the summer of 2000. Table 5 summarizes harvest the personal use items that could not be valued base upon the available information.

The final harvest portion of the survey is Section VI, which deals with trapping. Finding values for this area was relatively straightforward. Information from Alaska Department of Fish and Game about the prices Alaska trappers received for pelts in the 1999/2000 season were used to create the data in table 6

**Table 4—Estimated potential personal use harvest and replacement values of the wild berry harvest in the Tanana Basin.**

Wild Berries	Potential TV Harvest Quantity (quarts)	Average Unit Cost	Replacement Value of Potential Harvest
Blueberries	112,182	\$15.94 per quart	\$1,788,185
High-bush Cranberries	27,520	\$5.98 per quart	\$164,567
Low-bush Cranberries	75,555	\$5.98 per quart	\$451,821
Raspberries	88,998	\$5.86 per quart	\$521,527
Wild Strawberries	2942	\$3.54 per quart	\$10,416
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>307,197</b>		<b>\$2,936,516.00</b>

**Table 5—Non-wood also harvested, but not valued**

Non-Wood Product Type	Potential Harvest
Mushrooms	22,249 Pounds
Lichen	81 unknown
Medicinal Plants	2902 Pound
Plan's for Landscaping	35,511 Each

**Table 6—Potential harvest from trapping and estimated value of the furs to trappers in the Tanana Basin**

Species	Potential Harvest	Average Price per animal pelt	Value of potential harvest
Marten	5079	\$26.89	\$136,574.31
Lynx	2338	\$54.75	\$128,005.50
Fox	1532	\$31.97	\$48,978.04
Mink	484	\$13.14	\$6,359.76
Beaver	484	\$21.77	\$10,536.68
Wolf	322	\$213.75	\$68,827.50
Wolverine	161	\$233.75	\$37,633.75
Muskrat	81	\$1.47	\$ 119.07
River Otter	81	\$41.13	\$3,331.53
Coyote	81	\$22.17	\$1,795.77
Ermine or Weasel	162	\$4.00	\$ 648.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$442,809.91</b>

At this time we have not collected enough information to value the recreational activities of Tanana Valley households. However many activities were reported and are summarized in Table 7. We are currently unsure if the reported activities were the primary or secondary activities, thus we do not know how much of the wildlife viewing, for example, was done while hiking or driving, etc. A survey of Alaska Voters for ADF&G to find the values Alaskans place on wildlife viewing trips found that Interior Alaska registered voters placed a mean value on trips specifically meant to view wildlife at \$408. The mean value placed on the wildlife viewing experience for trips primarily meant for a purpose other than wildlife viewing was \$82.

We wanted to know how people characterize their use of the forest. Is their use primarily for subsistence or personal use or are the harvests used to supplement income or is recreation the primary use or is it some mix of some or all of these? In order to make respondents start thinking about the ways they use the forest, this question was asked as a warm-up to the survey. Respondents were free to choose as many options as they liked. Table 8 summarizes how respondents characterize their use of resources in the Tanana Valley, which we believe may be extrapolated to the general population. No inventory of land use would be complete without knowing how the users of the public lands feel about how those lands are managed. We gave respondents an opportunity to rate each of the government agencies with land management responsibilities in the Tanana River Watershed. How respondents rated these agencies is presented in table 9.

One question we asked that we present here was whether Tanana Valley residents would like to have a formal trail system in Alaska's Tanana Valley State Forest. A majority of respondents indicated they would prefer such a system of trails. The answers to this question are found in table 10. We wanted to know why our respondents live in the Tanana Valley. Note in table 11 that more than half of respondents answered each of the top five options. We can gain some intuition as to the most important properties from the information here. This survey question did not include the choices for University of Alaska and military. We realized, early in the data entry process, that these options should have been included and so added categories for them. Since four people said military here and 22 people listed military as occupation (see table 12 in full report,) we have to wonder whether more respondents would have given military as a reason they are here. The same may be true for the University of Alaska Fairbanks as well.

**Table 7—Potential Time Spent in Recreational Activities**

Activity	Potential Number of Days Spent in This Activity by Tanana Valley Residents
Air Boating	2996
ATV Riding	226,461
Backpacking	30,991
Bird Watching*	1,010,857
Camping	116,908
Catch and Release Fishing**	1997
Cross Country Skiing	200,032
Day Hiking	97,130
Dog Mushing	41,261
Down Hill Skiing	14,978
Leisure Driving	328,361
Flying Airplanes	26,835
Motor Boating	104,293
Mountain Biking	68,578
Non-motor Boating	16,599
Photography	342,521
Picnicking	17,719
Recreational Private Cabin Use	129,616
Recreational Public Cabin Use	7168
Rock Climbing	4434
Scenic Viewing*	1,709,279
Skiing	109,651
Snow Machine Riding	182,718
Snow Shoeing	30,534
Target Shooting	63,303
Wildlife Viewing*	979,692

\*Some respondents reporting these activities said they did them 365 days a year, so the estimates may overstate the potential by a great deal.  
 \*\*Not all angler respondents who did catch and release fishing told us that their report was for catch and release, so this estimate is likely very low.

**Table 8: Summary of how residents characterize their use of the Tanana Valley**

	# of responses	% of households
For recreation purposes	393	82.9%
For home use	209	44.1%
For Subsistence purposes	123	25.9%
To supplement our income	47	9.9%
Do not use Tanana Valley	44	9.3%
Other	34	7.2%

**Table 9: Ranking of government agency's management of public lands**

	1	2	3	4	5	Average
	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	
AK Dept. of Fish and Game	29	29	131	95	43	3.2
AK Div. Of Forestry	9	49	151	72	26	3.2
AK Div. Of Parks and Outdoor Recreation	15	47	157	82	36	3.2
Bureau of Land Management	55	78	109	44	17	2.6
US Fish and Wildlife Service	59	69	102	39	18	2.6
AK Div. Of Mining, Land and Water	33	55	114	35	12	2.8

**Table 10: Do you think the state forest should have a formal trail system?**

Yes	207	43.7%
No	179	37.8%
No Answer	72	15.2%

**Table 11: Why respondents live in the Tanana Valley?**

For the natural beauty	283
For the freedom offered here	257
For a job	248
For the recreation opportunities	248
Because of the people and community here	241
For a good place to raise children	205
Because you have family here	142
Other	61
University of Alaska Fairbanks	7
Military	4

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Forest Use Survey  
1999 - 2000**



**A collaborative project of**

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The Alaska State Division of Forestry  
The University of Alaska Fairbanks**

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## PREFACE

The purpose of this document is to report the results of the Tanana Valley Forest Use Survey. Section 1 discusses the survey history and results. Section 2 summarizes general questions and the demographics of the survey. Sections 3 through 8 of this report summarize the harvest and recreation uses reported by respondents.

The subject matter of the survey has generated a great deal of interest. Presentations have been made to the Alaska State Board of Forestry and at the state Division of Forestry's annual resources meeting. A request from the Fairbanks North Star Borough for a breakdown of harvest and recreation data for the region of the Tanana Basin covered by the Borough has been received and requests for copies of the finalized report have been requested by employees from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. A poster presentation was made at the first Alaska Non-Timber Forest Products Conference in Anchorage, Alaska in November 2001. This interest in the survey results suggests that the Forest Use Survey can become an important tool for land and natural resource managers who seek to make the most informed decisions possible. It will also serve as a tool for community members who desire to participate in the decision making process in an informed way.

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One way the data can aid in understanding the impacts that various activities have is to find values for those activities that are easily understood. For example, the data show that blueberry harvesting is very important in the Tanana Valley. Thirty-five percent of all households that responded reported picking an average of just over two gallons of blueberries. The potential harvest of blueberries is a total of 112,182 quarts for all households in the Tanana Valley. To purchase 112,182 quarts of blueberries in the year following the survey would have cost approximately \$1.78 million. Clearly the blueberry harvest may need to be considered when land and resource policies are considered. This survey provides this type of information about other uses as well.

## SECTION I

### Introduction

The Forest Use Survey (FUS) is a collaborative project involving the Alaska Boreal Forest Council, the University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Management (SOM), UAF Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, UAF School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management (SALRM), and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

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The idea for the FUS came about at a time when there was a question of whether to substantially change management of Alaska State forests to significantly favor logging and mineral exploration. People wanted to know what other activities were happening in the forest before they could reasonably answer the logging and mineral question. However, detailed information about forest use was simply not available. Thus the FUS was designed as a comprehensive questionnaire about how households use the forest, what and how much they harvest, and what recreational activities they participate in. With detailed information about harvest quantities we can arrive at minimum values that can be compared to the value of logging.

### Methods

#### Instrument Design

In designing the FUS—the full survey instrument is included in Appendix H—we wanted to learn about several aspects of household forest use in addition to harvest quantities. First, we wanted to know how people characterize their use of the forest. Is their use primarily for subsistence or personal use or are the harvests used to supplement income or is recreation the primary use or is it a mix of some or all of these? In the present survey we allowed respondents to pick as many as applied to them. However, in future surveys it may be better to ask households to rank the various characterizations if they wish to answer more than one. We also wanted to know why they live in the Tanana Basin; is it for a job or the beauty of the place or family reasons? Most importantly, in

order to be sure we have an accurate picture of forest use by Tanana Basin households, we also needed to ask personal information such as age, gender, education level and income. With this demographic information we can compare our sample of respondents to the population at large.

The survey was broken down into eight parts:

- I. Directions and the characterization question
- II. Fishing
- III. Harvest of tree products
- IV. Gathering of forest floor products
- V. Hunting
- VI. Trapping
- VII. Recreation
- VIII. Personal data

In parts II through VII we attempted to provide as comprehensive a list as possible to ensure the highest level of completeness. This comprehensive list resulted in a rather imposing seeming survey. For example we provided spaces in part IV for blueberries, high-bush cranberries, low-bush cranberries, raspberries, rosehips, mushrooms, lichens, medicinal plants, plants for landscaping and spaces for other types of gatherable items not in the list. We provided a break between each section with simple check box questions. These questions included yes or no questions, a ranking question concerning how they rate various state and federal agencies, and the question regarding why they live in the Tanana Basin. Since we ultimately achieved a return rate of 54%, the completeness may have paid off in terms of jogging people's memories as some reported handfuls and mouthfuls of berries. Had there not been a space for blueberries, for example, we might not have heard about a handful of blueberries that was reported and this may also apply to some of the larger amounts that were reported as well.

In addition to the expertise in survey design provided by SOM and SALRM, a number of focus groups provided guidance as well. Focus groups are a useful tool for determining just what the target audience of the survey will tolerate. Additionally focus groups can help to point out missing questions that ask for important information or questions that are meaningless. Using groups can generate a creative synergy that isn't possible through simple instrument pre-testing (Greenbaum, 1988).

### **Sampling and Mailing Procedure**

The sampling unit for this survey was the household. A random sample of 1000 households was drawn according to the zip codes that encompass the Tanana River Watershed. The survey procedure was designed roughly according to accepted techniques (Salant and Dillman, 1994). Four mailings were used:

## The Tanana Valley Forest Use Survey 1999-2000

- 1<sup>st</sup> mailing—Full Survey, including Alaskan Wild Berry Tea bags and a sample Birch Syrup Stick (FN)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> mailing—Thank You/Reminder postcards
- 3<sup>rd</sup> mailing—Full Survey
- 4<sup>th</sup> mailing—Full Survey

The first mailing went out in late September in order to follow the heaviest period of harvest, the summer months. Including Alaska made non-timber forest products was intended to be an incentive to complete the survey. However, the power of postal machinery to break open the syrup sticks was not considered. Many of the sticks broke open in transit making the survey difficult or impossible to fill out. It is not known how many of the syrup sticks broke in the mail nor how much the response rate may have suffered. Approximately 12% of the surveys were returned as being undeliverable. Ultimately 474 households responded after three mailings, resulting in a response rate of 54%. This response rate is sufficient to give us a 95% confidence level in the data.

### Database Design

Currently the forest use data reside in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets linked to Microsoft Access forms for data entry. Problems arose from the extensive information that we asked for in the survey. Each specific item we asked about—trout for example—has thirty-one variables: one for quantity, four seasonal variables, five variables for how the harvest area was reached (e.g. by paved road, by trail or by air) and twenty-one variables for where in the Tanana Basin that the harvest took place. With so many variables, we were unable to contemplate using only one spreadsheet for storing our data. Neither Excel or Access are able to have more than 255 variables in a single table, a number which is quickly eclipsed by the number of variables in a single section of the survey; the gathering section alone has 434 (14 x 31) data points.

The request for data from the FNSB pointed out problems with our ability to query the database. The Borough was only interested in certain areas of the map that we asked about. Ideally we would query the database about which activities occurred only in those specific areas. Unfortunately at this time the relationships between data items are not clearly defined and such a query was not possible. Work continues to bring the data into a relational database that will allow easy querying of the dataset. Data entry is essentially complete. Though some minor interpretation problems remain, these will not substantially affect analysis of the data set.

### Sample Validity

From our demographic data it appears that our sample may be very close to statistically representative of the Tanana Basin population, though some discrepancies need to be addressed. On the basis of household size our sample matches the 2000 census figures for the Tanana Basin very closely at 2.78 persons per household in the sample and

2.8 per household in the census. When individual characteristics are considered, though, we appear to have greatly under-sampled the 20 to 30 age group as well as females and to have over sampled the middle age groups and males. Thus we may be able to have more confidence in the harvest data due to its household nature than in the recreation data that are based on the experience of the person who filled out the survey.

Some validation of the sample is gained from a comparison of the estimated harvest of big game animals from the FUS sample to the harvest reported to ADF&G by hunters. We were able to compare the harvest of moose, black bear, brown bear, caribou and dall sheep. The survey estimates of the percentage of households that harvested big game are well within one standard deviation of the mean, while moose are barely within two standard deviations. Even though moose is far out from the mean, we can still say with 95% confidence that the percentage of the population of households that harvested moose is within 5% of the estimate. Since we were so close on the other species it seems reasonable to place confidence in the estimates from the other sections of the survey. Table 1 summarizes the comparisons.

**Table 1—Summary of comparison of FUS sample to ADF&G reports**

Species	Percent of sample households reporting	Percent of Tanana Valley households	Difference	One Standard Deviation
Moose	12.24%	15.24%	0.300	0.1505
Caribou	1.26%	0.99%	0.27	0.51
Black Bear	1.89%	2.31%	0.41	0.62
Brown/Grizzly	0.21%	0.28%	0.07	0.21
Dall Sheep	0.84%	0.86%	0.02	0.42

### Valuation Analysis

#### Valuation Methods

Some of the valuation analysis from this first survey must be confined to simple replacement values for much of the harvest. Because of the comprehensive nature of this first survey, respondents were not asked how much time was spent in their harvest pursuits. Nor were they asked whether they seek substitutes if their original harvest attempts are unsuccessful. For example, what do households do to make up for a failed moose hunt or a bad blueberry season? Another datum that would have been useful was how far they traveled to conduct the harvest. Therefore, some of the data collected in the harvesting and gathering sections have been valued according to what it would have cost had these items been purchased in Fairbanks, Alaska. Other items from those sections simply cannot be valued from the current data as they are not available for purchase, but must be gathered from the wild.

In finding values for the items harvested in the Tanana Basin, different types of values have necessarily been used. Ideally, we would use one type of valuation for all

items in order to find the range of values for each. Replacement values are easily understood and since we are limited to these values for some items it would have been ideal to use them for all items. Unfortunately we are not able to readily determine replacement values for the harvest from hunting or fishing. For example we cannot go to the supermarket and buy moose meat if our moose hunt comes up empty; nor is there a readily identifiable substitute for moose meat. This goes for all of the fish and game species that respondents reported. Thus for the purposes of this report net economic values (NEV) were used for the valuation of fish and game. Net economic values measure the amount of money that hunters and anglers would have been willing to pay above the actual costs they incurred on their respective trips. These values come closer to capturing the recreational value that these respondents received from their efforts. It is important to remember that having used the different values we are looking at different aspects of the demand for harvesting natural resources.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has done much work that can help to place values on the harvest reported in the hunting, fishing and trapping sections. Every year F&G conducts surveys about sport fishing and subsistence harvest. Big game hunters are asked to submit information about their hunting trips. Work to find net economic values of sport harvests have aided in the valuation of the harvest in this project. Additionally, work to find replacement values for the subsistence harvest have been helpful as well.

### Valuing the Fish Harvest

Fishing as reported in Section II is a very important part of harvesting pursuits in the Tanana Basin. The numbers reported here are problematic since an option to report fish that were caught and released was not offered. Thus the numbers are likely inflated due to released fish being reported and counted as harvested. The number of fish do exceed the number of fish reported in F&G's 2000 Sport Fish Survey (ADF&G, 2000) by half again as much to over 10 times depending upon the species when adjusted to exclude subsistence use as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2—Comparison of sample fish harvest estimate to ADF&G estimates**

Species	Estimated Total for Tanana Basin	Adjusted to Exclude Subs	Fish and Game Sport Estimate
Trout	116,971	77,551	54,832
Salmon	298,352	59,493	17,529
Pike	43,612	18,461	3467
Grayling	135,351	111,490	8560
Burbot	19,428	12,415	3740
Sheefish	9351	564	220
Whitefish	52,722	4353	385

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The present data set does not provide enough information to know whether we are seeing a large catch and release incidence or if quantities were misread or were misreported. The survey gave respondents the option to report in number of fish or in pounds. In data entry it was assumed that a number without some indication to indicate pounds, such as lbs. or #, was meant to report number of fish. Therefore the number may be inflated when, say, 100 pounds was actually counted as number of fish. Another problem encountered was that some reports were in pounds while others were in number of fish, which made tallying total number of fish difficult. Some respondents reported both pieces of data and the averages from these numbers were used to convert from pounds to quantity.

Placing a value on the fish harvest must be considered in light of the fact that there is a sport fish harvest and a subsistence harvest. These activities lie upon a continuum that runs from fishing purely for recreation to fishing purely for food. Thus placing values on the harvest is far from simple. In 1997 three surveys of sport fishers were conducted by the Department of Fish and Game that developed net economic values for trout, salmon, pike, grayling and burbot (Duffield, et al 2001a, 2001b, 2001c). These surveys cover a larger area than does the FUS as it covers most of Region III, however the investigators divided the region and derived values for an area which excludes the Seward Peninsula and the Copper River drainage leaving an area where the bulk of the population resides in the FUS area.

Using the net economic values (NEV) from Duffield, et al, values have been estimated for those fish species in the FUS that coincide with their study. Whitefish and sheefish were not included in that other study. More than half of the respondents reporting these two fish reported their use of them as subsistence. Estimates for the value of all fish caught were calculated based on the potential harvest determined from the FUS data as well as from the F&G estimates in order to provide a range of values.

**Table 3—Estimated net economic value of the sport fish harvest in the Tanana Basin**

Species	NEV for anglers	Estimated total value for Tanana Basin from FUS	Estimated total value for Tanana Basin from F&G
Trout	\$377.88	\$29,304,431	\$20,719,916
Salmon	\$79.94	\$4,755,946	\$1,417,256
Pike	\$251.92	\$4,650,530	\$873,407
Grayling	\$211.43	\$23,572,673	\$1,809,841
Burbot	\$508.83	\$6,254,861	\$1,903,024
Sheefish	\$286.00	\$161,304	\$62,920
Whitefish	\$286.00	\$1,244,958	\$110,110
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$69,944,703.00</b>	<b>\$26,896,474</b>

### Valuing the Harvest of Wood Products

Section III dealt with the harvest of wood products, both timber and non-timber. Here the valuation was constrained to calculating replacement values. Not all of the products are amenable to this method however. Birch bark, cones, spruce roots and shelf fungi were asked about and quantities reported. These are not items one may purchase in a store if a harvest attempt fails and thus were not valued in this project. Pole logs are another item that cannot be reasonably valued based on the amount of data collected. They might be likened to 2x4 or 4x4 lumber as one use might be to build a fish wheel if one is looking at possible subsistence uses or sheds on ones property in personal use. In order to ascertain timber prices, lumber mill in the Fairbanks area were queried. Prices for the other non-timber items were collected as possible from published sources such as ads in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

**Table 4—Estimated potential harvest and replacement cost for wood products harvested in the Tanana Basin**

Wood Product Type	Potential TV Harvest Quantity	Average Unit Cost	Replacement Value of Potential Harvest
House Logs	12,818 logs	\$33.60 per log	\$430,685
Saw Logs	52,722 logs	\$37.20 per log	\$1,961,258
Firewood	47,748 cords	\$109.33 per cord	\$5,220,289
Spruce Burls	4756 burls	\$6.00 per foot (raw)	\$28,536
Diamond Willow	20,718 sticks	\$10.50 per stick (raw)	\$217,539
TOTAL			\$7,858,307.00

**Table 5—Wood also harvested, but not valued**

Wood Product Type	Potential Harvest
Pole Logs	30,956 Logs
Cones	1612 Bushels
Spruce Roots	887 Pieces
Birch Bark	16,929 Pieces
Conk or Punk	4192 Each
Christmas Trees	4514 Each
Birch Sap	36,317 Gallons

While the simple replacement values cannot begin to place actual values on the harvest activities of Tanana Basin households, they can provide basic minimum values to provide a baseline for comparison. It must always be noted that the values people receive from their harvest will certainly include things that do not directly flow from the harvest. Time spent with family and friends, enjoyment of outdoor activities or a sense of self sufficiency are examples of valuable things which cannot be estimated by comparing the price of a thing in the store to the amounts that were harvested. It seems very likely that we could find that some people are just as happy to attempt harvesting blueberries and

then buy blueberries in the store if the attempt fails, as they are if they have a successful harvest.

### Valuing the Harvest of Non-wood Vegetation

Section IV of the survey asked respondents about the harvest of non-wood items such as berries or mushrooms. Berries can be said to be a very important part of TV residents gathering activities. One third of all respondents reported picking blueberries. Prices were determined by querying produce managers at both Safeway and Fred Meyer in Fairbanks. Because of the buying power of these two chains these average values may be viewed as minimum values. Additionally, some of the wild berries and rosehips are purchased by local makers of jams and syrups. Table 6 provides values for the sale of these items, but these values must be viewed in light of the fact that not all of the harvested items would be of suitable quality to be sold.

**Table 6—Potential wholesale value of wild berry harvest in the Tanana Basin**

Wild Berries and other fruits from shrubs	Potential TV Harvest Quantity (approx. lbs.)	Purchase Price	Value of Potential Harvest Sales
Blueberries	149,576	\$4.00 per pound	\$598,304.00
High-bush Cranberries	27,520	\$2.50 per pound	\$68,800.00
Low-bush Cranberries	75,555	\$2.50 per pound	\$188,887.50
Raspberries	142,396	\$3.00 per pound	\$427,188.00
Rosehips	10,512	\$2.50 per pound	\$26,280.00
TOTAL:	310,825		\$1,309,459.50

**Table 7—Estimated potential harvest and replacement values of the wild berry harvest in the Tanana Basin.**

Wild Berries	Potential TV Harvest Quantity (quarts)	Average Unit Cost	Replacement Value of Potential Harvest
Blueberries	112,182	\$15.94 per quart	\$1,788,185
High-bush Cranberries	27,520	\$5.98 per quart	\$164,567
Low-bush Cranberries	75,555	\$5.98 per quart	\$451,821
Raspberries	88,998	\$5.86 per quart	\$521,527
Wild Strawberries	2942	\$3.54 per quart	\$10,416
TOTAL:	307,197		\$2,936,516.00

### Valuing the Harvest from Hunting

Section V asked about hunting in the Tanana Basin. As with fish we are able to obtain harvest estimates from ADF&G to help with the valuation of harvesting game animals. McCollum and Miller (1994a) estimated net economic values for big game

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animals as well as for waterfowl. This study calculates values for Alaska hunters across five basic regions of the state. Their interior region includes the Game Management Units that lie within the FUS area as well as several to the north and to the west. As with the fish studies above, the bulk of the population for the hunter NEV study resides in the area also considered by the FUS.

**Table 8—Non-wood also gathered, but not valued**

Non-Wood Product Type	Potential Harvest
Mushrooms	22,249 Pounds
Lichen	81 unknown
Medicinal Plants	2902 Pound
Plants for Landscaping	35,511 Each

Snowshoe hare, ptarmigan and grouse were not asked about in the McCollum study though they are taken in high numbers with respect to the other types of game. Valuing the harvest of these three animals would benefit from more knowledge of hunter effort and substitutes. Since this information is not currently available from the FUS data valuing these animals will be ignored for now. Table 9 summarizes the net economic values for the other game animals in the FUS. Wolf hunting had only one respondent reporting a value which happened to be the maximum value offered by the investigators. So to more accurately offer a value for wolf hunting

**Table 9—Potential harvest from the hunt and the estimated net economic value to hunters in the Tanana Basin.**

Species	Potential Harvest	NEV	NEV of Potential Harvest
Moose	4837	\$242.71	\$1,173,988.27
Caribou	484	\$194.12	\$93,954.08
Black Bear	726	\$226.39	\$164,359.14
Brown/Grizzly Bear	81	\$188.26	\$15,249.06
Dall Sheep	322	\$113.95	\$36,691.90
Wolf	81	\$193.11	\$15,641.91
Waterfowl	20,557	\$188.95	\$3,884,245.15
TOTAL:			\$5,368,568.60

**Table 10—Also hunted, but not valued**

Species	Potential Harvest
Snowshoe Hares	15,155 *
Ptarmigan	38,372
Grouse	55,543
*Includes estimated 9593 hares harvested by trapping, the only reported animal trapped for which there is not a value as fur.	

### Valuing the Harvest from Trapping

The final harvest portion of the survey is Section VI, which deals with trapping. Finding values for this area was relatively straightforward. Here again data from ADF&G come into play. Periodically Alaskan trappers are surveyed by mail to determine the characteristics of fur trapping in Alaska. In the Trapper Survey report are found the average prices paid for pelts during the period of this survey. These prices are used in the calculations here. (It should be noted, however, that a small portion of the harvest reported here was not sold and may coincide with subsistence use.)

### Valuing the Subsistence Harvest

Valuing the subsistence portion of the survey results presents a challenge also. Work by Robert Wolf (1996), an anthropologist with the Subsistence Division of ADF&G has presented estimates that tally replacement values based on \$3.00 per pound and on \$5.00 per pound. His calculations take into account the total number of pounds of all items harvested. Table 12 summarizes Wolf's calculations for Interior Alaska in 1990. Having calculated replacement values for the harvest of wood and non-wood items on an item for item basis, the food or shelter values have been calculated already. McCollum's (1994a) net economic values for hunting were based on answers to a survey to all hunters including Alaska Natives. Thus the hunting values should be inclusive of the subsistence value. The values calculated for the trapping harvest should be viewed as minimum values since adding value to the furs by making clothing would exceed these values. Since some respondents reported fish in both pounds and quantity we can calculate some rough replacement values in this category. These values are summarized in table 13.

**Table 11—Potential harvest from trapping and estimated value of the furs to trappers in the Tanana Basin**

Species	Potential Harvest	Average Price per animal pelt	Value of potential harvest
Marten	5079	\$26.89	\$136,574.31
Lynx	2338	\$54.75	\$128,005.50
Fox	1532	\$31.97	\$48,978.04
Mink	484	\$13.14	\$6,359.76
Beaver	484	\$21.77	\$10,536.68
Wolf	322	\$213.75	\$68,827.50
Wolverine	161	\$233.75	\$37,633.75
Muskrat	81	\$1.47	\$119.07
River Otter	81	\$41.13	\$3,331.53
Coyote	81	\$22.17	\$1,795.77
Ermine or Weasel	162	\$4.00	\$648.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$442,809.91</b>

**Table 12—Summary of Interior Alaska Subsistence Harvest and Replacement Value**

Area	1990 Population	Pounds Per Capita	Total Pounds Harvested	Replacement at \$3 per pound	Replacement at \$5 per pound
Fairbanks/Delta area	81,728	16	1,307,648	\$3,922,944	\$6,538,240
Interior	10,383	613	6,359,597	\$19,078,791	\$31,797,985

**Table 13—Estimation of Subsistence Fish Replacement Values**

Species	Estimated Number of Subsistence Fish	Estimated Pounds of Subsistence Fish	Replacement at \$3 per pound	Replacement at \$5 per pound
Trout	39,706	55,588	\$166,765	\$277,942
Salmon	235,873	15,567,763	\$4,670,292	\$7,783,820
Pike	24,761	103,995	\$311,985	\$519,975
Grayling	23,752	28,502	\$85,507	\$142,512
Burbot	6981	6981	\$20,943	\$34,906
Whitefish	49,128	49,128	\$147,385	\$245,642
Sheefish	9371	9371	\$28,114	\$46,856
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>389,572</b>	<b>15,755,848</b>	<b>\$5,430,991</b>	<b>\$9,051,653</b>

\*Burbot, whitefish and sheefish were not reported with both values. To achieve minimum values, one pound per fish is used, which is certainly less than typical weight.

## Recreation

At this time we have not collected enough information to value the recreational activities of Tanana Valley households. Many activities were reported and are summarized in Table 14. However, the questions were aimed at the individual who filled out the survey and not the household. Since we are not as certain that our sample of respondents is truly representative of the population of adults in the Tanana Basin we cannot be as certain of estimates from this section of the FUS. One important omission from this section was a question aimed at determining if the reported activities were the primary or secondary activity. Thus we do not know how much of the wildlife viewing, for example, was done while hiking or driving, etc.

McCollum (1994b) conducted a survey of Alaska Voters to find net economic values for wildlife viewing trips. Interior Alaska registered voters placed a mean value on trips specifically meant to view wildlife at \$408. The mean value placed on the wildlife viewing experience for trips primarily meant for a purpose other than wildlife viewing was \$82. While these numbers are interesting they are not useful to us in placing values until we are able to differentiate between primary and secondary pursuits. Still they do indicate the importance of wildlife to Alaskans.

### Recommendations for the 2002 Forest Use Survey Design

In order to create a set of time series data, the second survey should collect the same information as did the first survey. The harvest quantity information is valuable by itself as a resource use indicator. However ADF&G collects a large amount of hunting and fishing information and the new survey should aim to augment that data rather than repeat it. Trimming the size of the hunting and fishing sections could allow for more in depth data to be collected in the other sections. Additionally, we may want to ask how many trips are made to participate in activities rather than when the harvest is made; we know generally when salmon runs occur or when the berries are ready for harvesting.

It is important to acquire data that will lead to more meaningful valuation estimates. There are a variety of methods that may be used to obtain these. Among the possibilities are the Travel Cost Method whereby respondents reveal information about how far they traveled, etc. and estimates are calculated based on how much a trip to make the harvest would cost. TCM may not be terribly appropriate here as there are multiple destinations and multiple activities. The Contingent Valuation Method would pose a hypothetical situation to test a harvester's willingness to pay, perhaps for greater access to harvest potential or activity possibilities, or to test willingness to accept less access.

**Table 14—Potential Time Spent in Recreational Activities**

Activity	Potential Number of Days Spent in This Activity by Tanana Valley Residents
Air Boating	2996
ATV Riding	226,461
Backpacking	30,991
Bird Watching*	1,010,857
Camping	116,908
Catch and Release Fishing**	1997
Cross Country Skiing	200,032
Day Hiking	97,130
Dog Mushing	41,261
Down Hill Skiing	14,978
Leisure Driving	328,361
Flying Airplanes	26,835
Motor Boating	104,293
Mountain Biking	68,578
Non-motor Boating	16,599
Photography	342,521
Picnicking	17,719
Recreational Private Cabin Use	129,616
Recreational Public Cabin Use	7168
Rock Climbing	4434
Scenic Viewing*	1,709,279
Skijoring	109,651
Snow Machine Riding	182,718
Snow Shoeing	30,534
Target Shooting	63,303
Wildlife Viewing*	979,692
*Some respondents reporting these activities said they did them 365 days a year, so the estimates may overstate the potential by a great deal.	
**Not all angler respondents who did catch and release fishing told us that their report was for catch and release, so this estimate is likely very low.	

A survey that is as easy to fill out as possible is also important. The first instrument tried to do this by presenting as comprehensive as possible a list of harvestable and recreational pursuits. However, space was provided for handwritten answers, which has provided some of the interpretation problems we have experienced. Check boxes for responses may provide more readable answers and therefore be more easily entered into the database. Another problem with handwritten answers was that respondents were allowed to provide, or not provide as the case may be, their own units of measure. The largest cause of interpretation problems has been the lack of a set unit of measure. For example, birch bark has proven to have a number of ways in which it can be

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reported from pieces and rings to square feet to pounds. The next iteration of the survey should specify the units that can be reported.

Some additional information about how respondents would characterize the quality of the harvest will also be desirable. A question about how this years harvest compares to last year's harvest, or to the harvest 5 and 10 years ago. We might also want to ask questions that relate the level of harvest to accessibility of the resources. How local residents would react to changes in accessibility could be of great interest. One final change might be to ask a subset of our sample about whether, and how, they use a specific area in the Tanana Basin.

## SECTION II

### General Summary Data from the Forest Use Survey

The population from which we drew the sample for the Forest Use Survey is all households of the Tanana River drainage. The survey procedure was carried out as described by Salant and Dillman (1994), from which we expected to obtain a response rate of between 50% and 60% (p. 54.) We did in fact receive completed survey instruments from 54% of all deliverable addresses (table 1.) In order to be 95% confident that we have a sampling error of no greater than  $\pm 5\%$ , we needed to receive at least 384 completed surveys (p. 54.) Since we received 474 completed responses, we can be assured that we fall within this range.

**Table 15: Forest Use Survey sample summary**

Original Sample Size	1000
Number of respondents	474
Number of undeliverable	122
Adjusted sample size	878
Response rate	54.0%

In designing the FUS we wanted to learn about several aspects of household forest use in addition to harvest quantities. Respondents were asked when they harvested, how they used the harvest, how they reached the harvest and where they harvested. Since the task of reporting all harvests for a one year period might seem imposing, questions that were relatively simple to answer were provided as breaks between sections. These simple questions consisted of the sort that can be answered with a check mark or by circling the answer.

#### Warm-up Question: General Resource Use

We wanted to know how people characterize their use of the forest. Is their use primarily for subsistence or personal use or are the harvests used to supplement income or is recreation the primary use or is it some mix of some or all of these? In order to make respondents start thinking about the ways they use the forest, this question was asked as a warm-up to the survey.

In the present survey we allowed respondents to pick as many options as applied to them. However, in future surveys it may be better to ask households to rank the various characterizations if they wish to answer more than one.

**Table 16: Summary of response to general use of Tanana Valley Forests**

	# of responses	% of households
For Subsistence purposes	123	25.9%
For recreation purposes	393	82.9%
To supplement our income	47	9.9%
For home use	209	44.1%
Do not use Tanana Valley	44	9.3%
Other	34	7.2%

**Ranking Question: How do you rate the overall management of public lands in the Tanana Valley?**

No inventory of land use would be complete without knowing how the users of the public lands feel about how those lands are managed. We gave respondents an opportunity to rate each of the government agencies with land management responsibilities in the Tanana River Watershed.

**Table 17: Ranking of government agency's management of public lands**

	1	2	3	4	5	Average
	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent	
AK Dept. of Fish and Game	29	29	131	95	43	3.2
AK Div. Of Forestry	9	49	151	72	26	3.2
AK Div. Of Parks and Outdoor Recreation	15	47	157	82	36	3.2
Bureau of Land Management	55	78	109	44	17	2.6
US Fish and Wildlife Service	59	69	102	39	18	2.6
AK Div. Of Mining, Land and Water	33	55	114	35	12	2.8

**Yes or No Questions**

While these questions are meant to allow respondents to take a break from thought intensive questions, we by no means wanted to ask fluff questions. Thus in our first yes or no option (see table 4,) we asked a question of commercial interest as well as resource use. The next one asked a policy question (table 5) and the third asked about participation in interest groups (table 6.)

**Table 18: Have you ever used Alaska wood products for a building project?**

Yes	201	42.4%
No	114	24.1%
No Answer	136	28.7%

**Table 19: Do you think the state forest should have a formal trail system?**

Yes	207	43.7%
No	179	37.8%
No Answer	72	15.2%

**Table 20: Do you belong to any outdoor activity or conservation groups?**

Yes	121	25.5%
No	285	60.1%
No Answer	51	10.8%

In future iterations of the survey the wood use question very likely would remain to track how local use of local products changes over time. The interest group question might also remain, though reworded to allow any person who belongs to any kind of group that would be interested in the outdoors or resource use. The policy question would undoubtedly address a different policy issue.

#### Multiple Answer Checkbox Questions

We wanted to know why our respondents live in the Tanana Valley. Note in table 7 that more than half of respondents answered each of the top five options. In the future we may want to ask people to rank these reasons rather than select the ones that apply. We can gain some intuition as to the most important properties from the information here, but had respondents ranked the choices instead, the numbers below might be very different.

This survey question did not include the choices for University of Alaska and military. We realized, early in the data entry process, that these options should have been included and so added categories for them. Since four people said military here and 22 people listed military as occupation (see table 12,) we have to wonder whether more respondents would have given military as a reason they are here.

**Table 21: Why do you live in the Tanana Valley?**

For the natural beauty	283
For the freedom offered here	257
For a job	248
For the recreation opportunities	248
Because of the people and community here	241

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For a good place to raise children	205
Because you have family here	142
Other	61
University of Alaska Fairbanks	7
Military	4

Sample Demographics

Table 22: Gender of respondents

Male respondents	379
Female respondents	82
Number who answered	461

Table 23: Age of respondents

Youngest	20
Oldest	92
Average	50.57
Number who answered	458

Table 24: How long in Alaska

Average	26.25
Number who answered	458

Table 25: Education level

Average	15.18
number who answered	460

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**Table 26: Occupation**

Unemployed	3
Retired	88
Disabled	1
Homemaker	7
Student	5
Trade/Blue Collar	99
Clerk/Sales	22
Management	35
Professional	148
Military	22
Self Employed	19
Number who answered	449

**Table 27: Household size**

Number of people--	
Average	2.78
Number under 18	0.71

**Table 28: Household income**

Under 10,000	10
10,001 to 20,000	22
20,001 to 30,000	33
30,001 to 40,000	41
40,001 to 50,000	41
50,001 to 60,000	64
60,001 to 70,000	47
70,001 to 80,000	45
80,001 to 90,000	27
90,001 to 100,000	31
100,001 to 150,000	49
Over 150,000	14
Number who answered	424

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# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: SB 149  
 (S) Publish Date: 5/6/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title Repeal certain timber sale requirements. BRU Resource Development  
 Component Forestry Mgt & Development  
 Sponsor Sen. Taylor  
 Requester (S) RES Component No. 435

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

There is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with implementation of this legislation.

Prepared by: Jeff Jahnke, Director Phone 269-8474  
 Division Forestry Date/Time 4/29/2003  
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner Date 4/29/2003  
 Agency Natural Resources

# Journal Text



05-06-2003 Senate Journal 1178  
SB 149

The Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 149 "An Act relating to timber and to the sale of timber by the state" and recommended it be replaced with

05-06-2003 Senate Journal 1179

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 149 (RES) "An Act relating to timber, to the sale of timber by the state, and to the management of state forests."

Signing do pass: Senator Ogan, Chair; Senators Seekins, Ben Stevens, Wagoner, Dyson. Signing do not pass: Senator Elton. Signing amend: Senator Lincoln.

The following fiscal information was published today:  
Fiscal Note No. 1, zero, Department of Natural Resources

The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Bill Root:



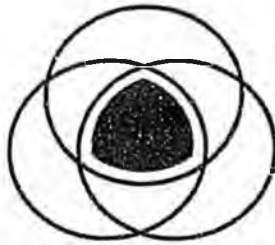
TO REPORT PROBLEMS WITH BASIS INQUIRY

LIVE KTOO STREAMS



[Return to Basis Main Menu \(23rd Legislature\)](#)

[Return to Legislature Home Page](#)



Community  
Ecology  
Economy

# ALASKA BOREAL FOREST COUNCIL



*Sustaining our partnership with the land*

May 15, 2003

**The issue:** If passed into law as currently written, CSSB 149(RES) " Timber/Timber Sales/State Forests" would change the primary purpose of the state forests.

**Why we are coming to you as a natural resource professional:**

1. To make you aware of the bill so that you can decide whether you want to offer testimony on it, and
2. To help the Alaska Boreal Forest Council (ABFC) focus its testimony. ABFC plans to testify when the bill is heard in House Resources . It may be scheduled as soon as Friday, May 16, 1 p.m. (For further information about committee schedule, check BASIS: or call the Legislature Information Packet, 452-4448).

**There are four critical reasons for our opposition to the current wording:**

1. It replaces multiple resource values with management emphasis on a single resource value. We feel it runs counter to the current professional standard for best forest resource management practices.
2. It clearly designates one use as primary above all others, thus giving multiple use consideration a lower status than current definition. This clearly runs counter to the intention behind creation of the Tanana Valley State Forest in 1983 (The specific wording is stated in a letter from Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp to District Forester Les Fortune, dated December 14, 1984). Most importantly, it runs counter to the stated requirements and wishes of the broad Interior Alaska community expressed repeatedly over the past decade through public opinion polls, community forest round tables and technical workshops (Documentation available).
3. If CSSB 149(RES) is signed into law as currently worded, it will almost certainly reduce the public's confidence in state forest management. If our experience over the past decade is valid, this could seriously set back many of the advances we've made in the debate over forest development in Interior Alaska over the past 10 years. The Alaska Boreal Forest Council does not want to see this happen. It is not in the best interests of our state, the resources, or the goal of developing sustainable forest-based economies throughout Interior Alaska.
4. While the most dramatic consequences of CSSB 149(RES) as currently worded would be long term, the short term impact is likely to be a change in the tenor of public participation in subsequent revisions of the TVSF Management Plan.

**What should the primary purpose of the state forests be?**

THE EXISTING STATE STATUTE describes the primary purpose in the establishment of state forests as follows: "The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is multiple use management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while perpetuating personal, commercial, and other beneficial uses of resources."

THE CHANGE PROPOSED BY CSSB 149(RES) IS "Repeal of Certain Timber Sale Requirements," would change the primary purpose of the state forests to read as follows: "The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources."

OPTION 1: ABFC would offer this amendment to CSSB 149(RES): "The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is forest management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of commercially valuable resources while allowing other multiple uses of public land and resources."

OPTION 2: ABFC would offer this amendment to CSSB 149(RES): "The primary purpose in the establishment of state forest is timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of commercial timber and non-timber resources while allowing other multiple uses of public land and resources."

**Please let us know as soon as possible:**

Which of the purpose statements (see above) do you feel is most in line with modern forest management standards?

Email: [jan.abfc@ak.net](mailto:jan.abfc@ak.net)

Thank you.

SB

151



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR THOMAS H. WAGONER  
CHAIR, SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
VICE-CHAIR, SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

## **SPONSOR STATEMENT** **CSSB – 151: Gas Pipeline Transportation Tariffs**

In 2000, the Alaska Legislature amended the Alaska Pipeline Act to make provisions for operation of a North Slope Gas Pipeline. One provision allowed for two classes of transportation service, “firm” and “interruptible.”

Basically, some shippers require “firm” availability of pipeline capacity and thus are willing to pay a guaranteed “reservation charge” to reserve the capacity. This charge is paid whether or not the space is actually used. The pipeline in turn guarantees this capacity will be constructed and made available. Others, who do not require firm service, can opt for “interruptible” service, which does not require payment of a reservation charge. The cost of this service is instead based on shipments actually made. However, these gas shipments are subject to interruption if space becomes unavailable.

When the 2000 amendments were enacted, the North Slope Gas Pipeline was the only gas transportation pipeline in the state proposing to provide such service. There is now a pipeline project in the Cook Inlet, the Kenai Kachemak Pipeline (KKPL), which proposes to provide “firm” and “interruptible” transportation service.

KKPL recently requested the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to authorize it to provide these “firm” and “interruptible” services. The RCA declined and posed the question of whether or not a contract carriage for gas pipelines elsewhere in the State was permissible, given the recent amendment that dealt exclusively with transportation of gas from the North Slope.

This legislation is necessary to clarify that the RCA has the authority to authorize “firm” and “interruptible” services for other Alaskan gas transmission pipelines.

The bill achieves this purpose by amending the provisions regarding “firm” and “interruptible” service to make them available to any natural gas pipeline carrier operating in the State. It also adds definitions of a “natural gas pipeline” and “natural gas pipeline carrier”.

SS CSSB 151 H(RES) 4-29-03 mj

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 2  
 Bill Version: SB 151  
 (S) Publish Date: 4/2/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: DCED  
 Title Gas Pipeline Transportation Tariffs BRU Regulatory Commission of Alaska (399)  
 Component Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
 Sponsor Senator Wagoner  
 Requester Senate Labor & Commerce Component No. 2417

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0  
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

Please see analysis continuation.

Prepared by: Dave Harbour, Chair Phone 907-276-6222  
 Division Regulatory Commission of Alaska Date/Time 4/1/03 10:17 AM  
 Approved by: Edgar Blatchford, Commissioner Date 4/1/2003  
 Agency Department of Community & Economic Development

FISCAL NOTE #2

STATE OF ALASKA  
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 151  
Gas Pipeline  
Transportation Tariffs

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

While not explicitly stated, the services allowed by this bill are typically regarded as contract carriage. The 2000 Legislature allowed it for transportation of natural gas from the North Slope, partially to bring State statutes into accord with FERC rules for interstate gas transport. This language expands the statutory recognition of contract carriage to all parts of the State. Because common carrier language is retained in AS 42.06, RCA retains the ability to provide any and all shippers access to transport service on intrastate pipelines through its regulatory processes.

There are no fiscal impacts on RCA for this bill, however it is expected that where producers elect to own and operate a pipeline, which is allowed under state statute, contract carriage with service under these statutory terms will be proposed to RCA in pipeline tariff filings. RCA will consider this under the statutory public interest standard.

RCA's budget is funded through the Regulatory Cost Charge (RCC) mechanism and direct charge mechanisms. No general funds are allocated for support of the agency. The RCC is recalculated each year and allows the agency to recover its operating costs through an assessment on the revenues of the utilities and pipeline carriers it regulates. The RCC is capped at 0.8 % of regulated utilities annual gross revenues.




# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR THOMAS H. WAGONER  
CHAIR, SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
VICE-CHAIR, SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

---

DATE: April 29, 2003  
TO: Rep. Bud Fate, Chair  
House Resources Committee  
FROM: Senator Tom Wagoner   
RE: CSSB 151 Hearing Request

---

I respectfully request that you schedule this bill for hearing at your earliest convenience. This is the companion to HB 204, which was moved out of your committee on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Perhaps you would consider waiving the bill from committee because you have previously heard the HB 204.

In any event, I am attaching information for your bill packet.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR THOMAS H. WAGONER

CHAIR, SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

VICE-CHAIR, SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Sectional Analysis

### SB – 151: Gas Pipeline Transportation Tariffs

**Section 1:** Amends 42.06.350(c) by deleting all reference to “north slope” as it refers to gas lines; the purpose is to broaden the legislation to include other pipelines.

**Section 2:** Amends 42.06.630(6) by deleting all reference to “north slope” as it refers to gas lines; the purpose is to broaden the legislation to include other pipelines.

**Section 3:** Amends 42.06.630(8) by deleting all reference to “north slope” as it refers to gas lines; the purpose is to broaden the legislation to include other pipelines.

**Section 4:** Amends 42.06.630 by adding new paragraphs that define “natural gas pipeline”, “natural gas pipeline facility” and “natural gas carrier”.

**Section 5:** Immediate effective date of the bill.

SA SB 151 S(L&C) 4-29-03 mj

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1 CORRECTED  
 Bill Version: SB 151  
 (S) Publish Date: 4/4/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 4/1/2003 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title: Gas Pipeline Transportation Tariffs BRU: Resource Development  
 Component: Oil and Gas Development  
 Sponsor: Wagoner  
 Requester: Senate Labor and Commerce Component No. 439

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
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**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

SB 151 would modify the Alaska Pipeline Act (AS 42.06.055-.640) to allow for contract carriage on all natural gas pipelines over which the State has jurisdiction. At present, only a pipeline bringing North Slope gas to outside markets can clearly offer contract carriage service. All other gas pipelines under the Pipeline Act must provide service as common carriers.

\*\* It is difficult to predict the effects that this bill might have on revenues, because it is difficult to predict the effects of contract carriage pipelines on gas exploration and development.

Continued on next page.

Prepared by: Mark D. Myers Phone 269-8800  
 Division: Oil and Gas Date/Time 4/1/2003  
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner Date 4/1/2003  
 Agency: Natural Resources

FISCAL NOTE #1 CORRECTED

STATE OF ALASKA  
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 151

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

For pipelines that are owned by non-affiliated pipeline companies, contract carriage could reduce uncertainty of future throughput. This would reduce capital costs, which in turn could encourage pipeline construction and facilitate gas exploration and development. However, for pipelines that are owned by affiliated producers, contract carriage may not provide greater assurance of throughput; the pipeline company may know the volumes that its affiliated producer wants to ship. Meanwhile, contract carriage on a pipeline owned by an affiliated producer could potentially be used to impede pipeline access for non-affiliated producers. This could hinder natural gas exploration and development and ultimately result in a negative fiscal impact for the State. For the Kenai-Kachemak pipeline, however, these dynamics are unlikely as only 63% of the line's total capacity has been contracted for.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1 CORRECTED  
 Bill Version: SB 151  
 (S) Publish Date: 4/4/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 4/1/2003 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title Gas Pipeline Transportation Tariffs BRU Resource Development  
 Component Oil and Gas Development  
 Sponsor Wagoner  
 Requester Senate Labor and Commerce Component No. 439

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>**</b>
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

SB 151 would modify the Alaska Pipeline Act (AS 42.06.055-.640) to allow for contract carriage on all natural gas pipelines over which the State has jurisdiction. At present, only a pipeline bringing North Slope gas to outside markets can clearly offer contract carriage service. All other gas pipelines under the Pipeline Act must provide service as common carriers.

\*\* It is difficult to predict the effects that this bill might have on revenues, because it is difficult to predict the effects of contract carriage pipelines on gas exploration and development.

Continued on next page.

Prepared by: Mark D. Myers Phone 269-8800  
 Division: Oil and Gas Date/Time 4/1/2003  
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner Date 4/1/2003  
 Agency: Natural Resources

**FISCAL NOTE #1 CORRECTED**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. SB 151**

**ANALYSIS CONTINUATION**

For pipelines that are owned by non-affiliated pipeline companies, contract carriage could reduce uncertainty of future throughput. This would reduce capital costs, which in turn could encourage pipeline construction and facilitate gas exploration and development. However, for pipelines that are owned by affiliated producers, contract carriage may not provide greater assurance of throughput; the pipeline company may know the volumes that its affiliated producer wants to ship. Meanwhile, contract carriage on a pipeline owned by an affiliated producer could potentially be used to impede pipeline access for non-affiliated producers. This could hinder natural gas exploration and development and ultimately result in a negative fiscal impact for the State. For the Kenai-Kachemak pipeline, however, these dynamics are unlikely as only 63% of the line's total capacity has been contracted for.

SB

155

# ALASKA STATE SENATE



Session:  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-2327  
(907) 465-5241 Fax

Interim:  
119 N. Cushman, Suite 201  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-8161  
Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

**Senator Ralph Seekins**  
District D

## **SB 155 Sponsor Statement**

### **An Act Relating to Predator Control Programs**

Senate Bill 155 alters language within Section 16.05.783 of the Alaska Statutes relating to the Regulation of Fish and Game. These alterations provide the Fish and Game Board and Commissioner with necessary tools in the management of game populations throughout the state.

The first alteration clarifies Legislative intent with respect to airborne predator control programs. The second alteration provides for game population objectives to be taken into consideration in determining whether or not a predator control program should be implemented.

As an example, if the minimum game population objective is met, but the harvest level is not, a management decision—under current law—cannot be made even if it is determined that predators are limiting the game population. The second alteration allows the Board to use both prey *and* game population objectives when making a determination with respect to the use of a predator control program.

Senate Bill 155 makes changes that will allow the Fish and Game Board as well as the Department of Fish & Game to better manage wildlife by *balancing* predator and game populations based on the best science available.

THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENT(S)  
ARE  
POOR  
ORIGINAL  
COPIES

Testimony On SB-155  
Alaska Outdoor Council  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 31, 2003  
By: Carl L. Rosier

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. For the record my name is Carl Rosier and I am here today to testify on behalf of the Alaska Outdoor Council. For those who may not know me I was employed with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for almost 30 years and finished my career as Commissioner under the Hickel Administration. The Outdoor Council is a statewide association of 40 plus outdoor recreation groups with a membership that exceeds ten thousand Alaskans. The organization promotes good conservation of our fish and wildlife resources, sustainability of wildlife habitat, protection of public access and fair allocation of fish and game resources for all Alaskans.

The Council supports the provisions of SB-155 and its companion bill HB-208. These bills deal with clarification of airborne or same day airborne as a tool for predator control in areas identified by the Board of Game that require control measures for recovery of low or declining prey populations of game species. You as legislators have the benefit of supporting one of the finest Boards of Game I have personally observed in many years. The newly appointed members are solid long term Alaskans that have been managers of the resource, carried on businesses dependent on those resources and know and appreciate the benefits to all Alaskans from well managed game herds

It is unfortunate that this new Board has been somewhat hamstrung by direction from the third floor that control with the use of helicopters will not be approved. Helicopters are by far the most efficient, humane and economic method for conduct of a control program. Keep in mind also that we are focusing here on a control program, not a hunting action in which "fair chase" becomes a consideration. Be aware also that AOC is not advocating the extermination of all predator as we have been accused of in the past.

The current Board of Game has identified three game management units 13, 16-B and 19-D that require immediate control action. All three areas have experienced tremendous drops of over 70% in moose densities during the last ten years. Units 13 and 19-D have had previous Board control plans gathering dust on the shelf for several years. Implementation of these plans was never permitted under the previous administration with the resultant continued decline in the moose populations. Action at this time is critical in order to just stop the decline and begin a long re-building process of the moose herds in these areas.

We have three minor suggestions that will in our reading of the bill, strengthen it and better protect aircraft owners that may choose to participate in a Board approved control program. The first is insertion of the words "in identified game management units" following the word "shooting" on page 1 line 8. A second suggestion is insertion of the words "harvest management objectives adopted" following the words "based on" page 1 line 10. A third suggestion is the addition of a new section (a) (3) that reads "Prior to taking a wolf, wolverine, fox or lynx either airborne or same day airborne a person must obtain a permit issued by the Commissioner", page 2 last line.

Game management over a broad area of the state is in need of returning to a policy of intensive management. The natural cycle policys endorsed by the last administration have created hardships for all Alaskans and permitted many populations to decline into the catch term "Predator Pit". A long term commitment to intensive management is necessary to bring these populations back and to protect herds that are healthy. Passage and hopefully the action to follow will start us back on that path. It is only a small step but the bill is a step in the right direction and will benefit all user groups as well the wildlife resources.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee

on SB155, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(bill # / subject)

I am very much in favor of land and shoot hunting/trapping as a means of reducing predation. I have an extensive background in wildlife conservation and have been an avid hunter and trapper all my life, having participated in land and shoot trapping for over 20 years.

I am concerned that the inclusion of wolverine, fox, and lynx in your proposals may result in limited support from people who would otherwise be very supportive of the idea.

Being primarily scavengers or predators of small animals and birds, these species pose little threat to moose or caribou populations.

My biggest concern is that wolverine populations may be over exploited in some areas as an unintended consequence of otherwise sound predator reduction efforts. I know from personal experience that wolverines can be extremely vulnerable to land and shoot hunting/trapping. They travel extensively across open terrain during late winter and many times are much easier to locate than wolves. Wolverine fur prices are currently higher than for wolves. There's absolutely no doubt that every wolf hunter out there would stop to pick up a \$300-350 wolverine incidental to his wolf hunting activities. It's purely a matter of economics. Simply put, wolverines are potentially more profitable than wolves to the average hunter/trapper. A 30 pound wolverine takes up less room in the airplane than a 100 pound wolf. He's often easier to locate than a wolf, usually being encountered in open, treeless terrain where he can easily be harvested without expenditure of additional fuel. Often wolverines are encountered incidentally, in a vulnerable situation, while the pilot is tracking wolves across the country. It's a no brainer to conclude that such a wolverine will end up in the back of the supercub as it continues to look for wolves.

It's also my fear that, given the opportunity, many hunters/trappers would target wolverines rather than wolves for purely economic reasons in those areas where wolverine populations are the most vulnerable if it were legal to do so. Wolverine populations are not as prolific as wolves and can be over exploited much more easily, especially if you have a whole "air force" of aerial wolf hunters out there paying \$3.00 or more for a gallon of aviation fuel.

I think it may be difficult to sell land and shoot fox and lynx hunting to the public in the name of predator reduction as well, but at least those populations would not be put

in jeopardy by the practice. I think there's a lot of support for your ideas, especially if we can focus our attention on the reduction of predation on moose and caribou.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Charles R. Rodgers P.O. Box 293 Aniak, AK. 99557 Currently in Soldotna at 262-5547



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the 5 JUD  
 committee on SB 155, dated 03/31/03  
 committee name  
 bill/subject

My name is Aloia Stikwan, and I am representing Ahtna, Inc. The Ahtna People support land and street some day, airborne hunting in Unit 11 and Unit 13.

The caribou herds in Unit 11 and Unit 13 are at a low population, which is due to wolves, and bears preying upon the calves.

The Moose population is low in Unit 11 and Unit 13, too. The calves of the moose population are preyed upon by the high number of wolves and bears in these two units.

The Ungulate population will continue to decline, if nothing is done to protect their calves.

Brown Bears and Black bears should be added to the list of predators for Unit 11 and Unit 13. The Black and Brown Bears are numerous, and are killing the calves of caribou and moose.

Unit 13 is a popular and impacted place, during the hunting seasons for caribou and moose. This will help to reduce the ungulate populations, even more so.

Please read and take into consideration, when you vote on this - my statement.

The Copper Basin is and will become more impacted, the moose and caribou calves need to be protected from predators in Unit 11 and Unit 13.

Signed: Aloia Stikwan

Testifier

Ahtna, Inc.

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 649 Glennallen, AK 99588

Address

(907) 822-3476

Phone No.

*Chairman and members  
Senate Judiciary Committee*

**From:** Byron Haley <bwhaley4@gci.net>

**Date:** Mon Mar 31, 2003 7:16:31 AM America/Anchorage

**Subject:**

Testimony at the LIO Office Monday 3-31-03 By BYRON W. HALEY.

I AM BYRON HALEY A 54 YEAR RESIDENT OF FAIRBANKS, AK.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT H.B. 208 AND ALSO S.B. 155. THESE ARE THE KIND OF TOOLS NEEDED TO HELP TO GET A.D.F.&G. BACK IN THE GAME TO CONTROL THE PREDATOR POPULATION AND RESTORING ARE BIG GAME POPULATION. WE ARE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE IN UNIT 13 AND SUB. UNIT 19D ALONG WITH OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE OF ALASKA DUE TO THE LACK OF PREDATOR CONTROL. WHY DO WE HAVE TO WAIT TILL WE ARE IN A PREDATOR/PREY PIT SITUATION BEFORE WE TAKE ANY ACTION TO REDUCE THE PREDATOR POPULATION. WHEN YOU HAVE VERY LITTLE MOOSE CALF RECRUITMENT ALONG WITH THE LOSS OF SOME ADULT MOOSE YOU CAN NOT SCIENTIFICALLY MANAGE BIG GAME POPULATION WITH OUT EARLY PREDATOR CONTROL.

THANK YOU

BYRON W. HALEY

*Byron W. Haley*

1002 PIONEER ROAD

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-2818



MARC LESTER / Anchorage Daily News

rough trees while browsing near Middle Rock Road and Midden Way in the Stuckagain Heights neighborhood Friday. A calf also wandered

## Used cuts in education into House opposition

is: Schools priority,  
the alternative?

ERHAM  
SWS

- Gov. Frank Murkowski funding for schools is double in the state House. Speaker Pete Kott, R-Ea Monday that he expects strong support in the Re- rity to keep the \$20 mil- grants and student bus- vernor wants cut.

"I think there is enough importance put on K-12 education that most of the members I am talking to are going to be supportive of keeping it" in the bud- get, Kott said.

The House education budget sub- committee, a mix of Democrats and Republicans, recommends that law- makers reject the proposed cuts, which would hit Learning Opportunity Grants and pupil transportation by about \$10 million each.

The cuts would be devastating to

See Page B-3, CUTS



■ FOR MORE on the Alaska Legislature, including easy ways to contact legislators, visit [www.adn.com/legislature](http://www.adn.com/legislature)

## Bill 'a tool' to manage wolves

By JOEL GAY  
Anchorage Daily News

Sen. Ralph Seekins has introduced a bill to make it easier for the state to use aircraft while conducting wolf-kill programs.

The move comes amid renewed proposals to reduce predator numbers in the upper Susitna Valley, in the Nelchina Basin and around McGrath.

Critics called Senate Bill 155 an attempt to override science and popular opinion.

"It's terrible," said Paul Joslin, conserva- tion biologist with the Alaska Wildlife Alliance.

See Page B-2, WOLVES

## oters to underwrite a spending spree



maintaining  
sts are paid  
1 means they  
tax bill.  
ial bond is-  
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n 3, the \$7.27  
cost \$4.40 per  
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a year to op-

age Service Area bond, Proposition 4, will cost \$25.60 per \$100,000 almost entirely because of its size: \$39.95 million. Proposition 7, the \$4.99 million parks and recreation bond, will cost only \$3.38.

The same cost differential occurs in the school bonds. Proposition 9, \$41.79 million worth of mainly school repairs, will cost \$9.97 per \$100,000. Proposition 10, \$42 million for a new administra- tion building, will cost \$10.48, the dif- ference being operations and mainte- nance charges. Proposition 11, \$125.54 million to build and renovate schools, will cost \$33.16. That's because Prop- osition 11 is larger, and it carries and operations and maintenance price tag of \$2.4 million a year.

Okay, that was a blizzard of num- bers. What do they all mean?

Simply that city and School District officials are asking us to underwrite a spending spree. Should we?

That depends in part on what you think of the specifics of each bond. Do you think Girdwood needs a new li-

brary? Proposition 3 would build it. The bonds would also buy the land and pay for the of a new library in Eagle River, and remodel the Loussac.

But voters don't often make up their minds like that. We rarely know the specifics of these bond packag- es. Instead, some of us cast our votes based on how we feel about the type of spending involved. If you are for libra- ries, you'll vote for Proposition 3.

There's some sense to this. The fact is, the specifics aren't sure things; money from bonds doesn't have to be spent on the promised projects. It usu- ally is, but it doesn't have to be.

And the city isn't exactly over- whelming voters with information. Take Proposition 4. The information offered is a list of more than 50 proj- ects with a typical entry reading, "Bay- shore Drive surface rehab - 100<sup>th</sup> to Marathon Circle - design." How nec- essary is this project? Unless you drive that section of Bayshore, you'll never know. How much of the \$39.95 million does it cost? No way to tell.

So you're left to vote on wheth- er you think street and drainage im- provements are important, or whether you think the public works staff knows what it is doing.

Or you can vote based on your gen- eral sense of whether enough pub- lic money is being spent on road and drainage projects. My sense is that it is. Trying to build and maintain enough paved streets to handle the traffic in a northern city that relies en- tirely on the automobile and rests sub- stantially on wetlands is a losing prop- osition. We'll never have a complete set of nicely paved roads. The question is, what level of cracks and potholes are you willing to live with?

Or you can vote on your reaction to how much money the city already takes out of your pocket, and how much more it wants this time. You've got the numbers. You can do the math.

■ Mike Doogan's opinion column appears each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. Reach him at 257-4350 or [mndoogan@adn.com](mailto:mndoogan@adn.com).

## WOLVES: Bill aims to empower wildlife managers

Continued from B-1

"The voters of Alaska passed bailout measures twice that said they didn't want to use aircraft for same-day airborne hunting of wolves. What Ralph Seekins has done is tried to reverse that."

Other people praised Seekins, a Fairbanks Republican, for giving wildlife managers another way to boost moose and caribou stocks. Regardless of how wolf control occurs and who does it, said McGrath resident and Board of Game member Mike Fleagle, "we'd like to see it done."

Many hunters and rural Alaskans blame wolves for reducing moose and caribou populations in some areas, which has limited subsistence and sport harvests. But attempts to establish wolf control programs have met strong resistance.

A successful tourism boycott in the early 1990s killed one. In 1996, voters banned land-and-shoot hunting. After the Alaska Legislature tinkered with the law in early 2000, voters approved another ballot measure that fall that reiterated their opposition to same-day airborne hunting.

Seekins' bill would not allow airborne sport hunting but would make it easier for the Fish and Game Department to pursue wolf control in approved areas.

The Legislature approve a predator control program in the mid-1990s. But the hurdles written into the law, and former-Gov. Tony Knowles' reluctance to approve wolf control, kept the regulations out of public view, said David James, the Department of Fish and Game's regional game supervisor in Fairbanks.

"It's not like somebody's trying to cook up something that's not already on the books," James said. The department has had authority to conduct airborne and land-and-shoot hunting, but only if certain criteria were met.

"If it all fits that template, bingo, the commis-

“

*Game Board member Fleagle and the Alaska Outdoor Council would prefer the hunting be left to the public.*

”

sioner can approve it."

Seekins said his measure would make it easier for game managers to put "intensive management" into practice by clarifying what he said are gray areas in the law. For example, the new language specifically permits "airborne or same-day airborne shooting." The existing bill authorizes "shooting from the air."

More important, Seekins said, SB 155 allows managers to make a pre-emptive strike against predators.

Under the existing law, the Board of Game can seek predator control only when the prey population — generally moose or caribou — has dropped below previously specified levels. His bill would allow predator control regardless of the prey population.

"It gives you a chance to manage without focusing on just one objective," such as the number of moose around McGrath or caribou around Nelchina, he said.

If the board approves a predator control plan for an area — it already has for all or parts of hunting units 13, 16 and 19 — and can convince the commissioner of Fish and Game that wolf numbers should be trimmed, the commissioner could authorize airborne shooting.

"It's not a philosophical game," Seekins said.

"It's the constitutional responsibility to manage for sustained yield. All we're saying is give managers a tool to let them manage. Don't tie their hands."

Who would do the shooting is still a question. Though the existing legislation requires the shooting be done by a state employee, "it might be smart to make it employee, agent or permittee," Seekins said.

The intent is to kill the predators "efficiently, effectively and professionally," he said. "My intent is not to turn loose a bunch of wild-eyed guys in a Super Cub."

Game Board member Fleagle and the Alaska Outdoor Council would prefer the hunting be left to the public, Fleagle said.

"If private citizens are given authority under the state, that's just fine," he said. "In reality, there's probably a lot of people who would pay to participate."

Opponents of wolf control say there must be better ways to put more moose into Alaskans' freezers than by shooting wolves from the air, Joslin said.

"What's really needed are better solutions than going after high-controversy stuff — like working to improve habitat."

He said he doubts state biologists have accurate population estimates in most areas, which makes any decision to kill wolves premature.

And a recent poll by Dittman Research Corp. of Alaska suggests that state residents still don't approve of airborne or land-and-shoot hunting, Joslin said.

"The Legislature ought to be aware their constituents will be very opposed to what they're doing," he said.

■ Daily News reporter Joel Gay can be reached at jgay@adn.com or at 257-4310.

## STATE IN BRIEF

### SELDOVIA

#### Kit plane crashes; pilot h

Dennis Pollard, 44, was serious 1 p.m. Sunday when the home-b was flying crashed on takeoff u Federal Aviation Administration s

The engine suddenly lost po craft, about the size of a Super ( 150 feet in the air, according t Transportation Safety Board. Th land back on the runway in front investigator Clint Johnson said. T runway hard and the pilot suffere Johnson said.

He said Monday he spoke to P been admitted to Providence A Center.

—Anchor

### JUNEAU

#### Ship passengers might p

A bill calling for a \$100 head tax passengers was introduced Mond House. Freshman Rep. Carl Ga said he is sponsoring the bill bec to raise funds so the state does spending on education.

The Department of Revenue es could raise more than \$70 million a a projected 720,000 cruise ship visi

Gatto said the state constitution ka to be reimbursed for use of its said it's reasonable that tourists p joyment of the state's resources si hunters and loggers pay to use sl and timber.

House Bill 207 was assigned to ic Development, Trade and Touris tion and Finance committees.

—The A

## MYSTROM: The former mayor wants to return to the good old days

Continued from B-1

The Wuerch administration has been too cozy with unions and too careless with taxpayers' money, Mystrom said. Under Wuerch's watch, the city

### RICK MYSTROM

Birth date: January 2, 1944

Q. What political figure (current or his-

members in that district."

Mystrom said he thinks he usually tried to consult Assembly members.

"Maybe we didn't always go to the

time in clashing with t est and most powerful resenting Anchorage's and firefighters.

# wounded civilians overload hospitals

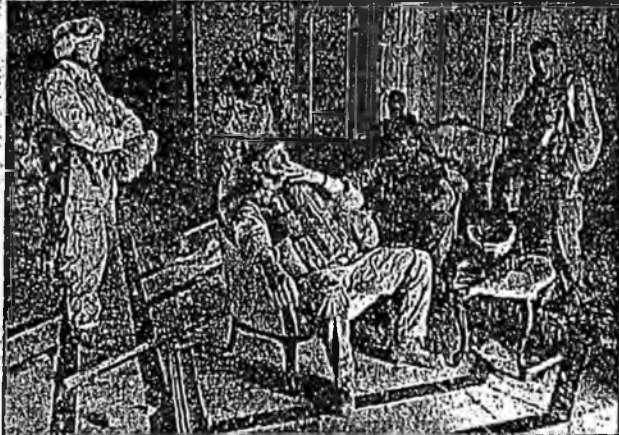
**CASUALTIES:** Weary, ill-equipped staffs tend to countless victims.

By ANTHONY SHADID  
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Its sirens wailing, the cream-colored ambulance barreled into the compound of Baghdad's Kindi Hospital. Doctors in blue scrubs — some of them working night and day — rushed forward, swinging open its doors.

Hussein on a stretcher, its leather still soaked in blood. They moved toward another stretcher, driving away hordes of flies, and rolled Abdel-Karim Youssef into an emergency room suffused with the stench of blood, dirt and disinfectant.

Both were swathed in cream to conceal their burns, over both of Hussein's arms, and along the face and hands of Youssef. The staff said nothing. The only sounds came from the slight



JOHN MOORE / The Associated Press

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Chad Touchett, center, relaxes with comrades from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, following a search in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces damaged after a bombing Monday in Baghdad.

See Back Page, CIVILIANS

## Key developments

- U.S. Army tanks rumbled through downtown Baghdad, seizing one of Saddam Hussein's palaces.
- A U.S. bomber struck a Baghdad building where Saddam and other regime officials were believed to be. It was not clear whether anyone was killed or wounded.
- U.S. Marines surged across a shattered bridge into Baghdad, opening the way for thousands more from the southeast.
- The U.S. military is testing samples from a site in Iraq where soldiers found metal drums containing possible chemical weapons.
- Coalition warplanes struck Iraqi positions in the fight to advance on the two northern cities still in Iraqi control.
- To read another in a series of profiles of Alaskans in the war, see Page A-4. More profiles are online at [www.adn.com/iraq/alaskans](http://www.adn.com/iraq/alaskans)

# Governor takes heat from hunters expecting aerial wolf control

**MCGRATH:** Backers of state sharpshooters in copters feel betrayed.

By JOEL GAY  
Anchorage Daily News

Gov. Frank Murkowski is under fire from hunters who feel betrayed by his reluctance to authorize aerial wolf control near McGrath.

"It's 180 degrees from what he was saying during the campaign," said Chuck Gray, a long-time pilot and guide and former publisher of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

Last week Murkowski said he would not allow state employees to shoot wolves from helicopters, instead leaving the wolf control to hunters and trappers on the ground around McGrath.

That's tantamount to doing nothing, Gray said. He and others fear Murkowski has caved in to political pressure or fears of a tourism boycott like the one launched after Alaska's last wolf-kill program in the early 1990s.

"I think he's adopted a policy predicated on and subservient to threats from animal welfare and environmental interests," said Greg Roczicka, a former

Board of Game member from Bethel.

Advocates of killing wolves to boost moose and caribou populations had hoped for a quick-start to wolf control this spring, taking advantage of snow cover to track the animals. If nothing gets off the ground now, it'll be at least next winter before any wolf control can realistically occur, they say.

Murkowski denies that his position on wolf control has changed. He still supports "active wildlife management," he said Friday in Anchorage. But there are other methods of achieving the same ends short of using helicopters and state sharpshooters, he said.

"We've maintained predator control in other areas of Alaska without gunning 'em down

by helicopter," he said. "I'm not convinced it can't be done with the involvement of local people."

Though Murkowski didn't elaborate on his reasons for leaving state employees out of the McGrath wolf kill, he did note that wolf control "has a volatility that goes nationwide. We have to recognize that."

See Back Page, WOLVES

## GAME SHOW HIJINKS

# 'Millionaire' contestant found guilty of cheating way to top prize

*Coughs from friend in audience gave clues, aroused suspicion*

By JILL LAWLESS  
The Associated Press

LONDON — An army major, his wife and a college teacher, were convicted Monday of using "coded coughs" to win the top prize on Britain's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

Charles Ingram maintained that luck, military training and strategy had helped him answer the \$1.55 million question — "A number 1 followed by 100 zeros is known

contest. Judge Geoffrey Rivlin upbraided the defendants for a "shabby schoolboy trick." But he spared them jail terms, giving them suspended sentences of a year to 18 months because they had been "shamed in the most public way and your reputations ruined." They were also ordered to pay thousands of dollars in fines and court costs.

"I am not at all sure that it was sheer greed that motivated this offense," he said. "I am sure all three of you



## INSIDE

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4/8/03 ADN

May 4, 2003

NKS

SUNDAY

# News-Miner



Mostly sunny with cool breezes continuing.  
High 52, Low 31  
Page A2

Alaska since 1903

May 4, 2003

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Sam Harrel/News-Miner  
Friend Ralph Perdue during a Celebration at Tribal Hall.

# remembered

# Predator debate resumes

By TOM MORAN  
News-Miner Juneau Bureau

JUNEAU—Land-and-shoot predator control got a step closer to reality Saturday afternoon as the state Senate passed a bill introduced by Sen. Ralph Seekins, R-Fairbanks, that would make the practice clearly legal. The bill faces a reconsideration vote today; if it passes, it can proceed to the state House.

"This bill allows the people who are responsible for managing game populations to actually manage, and to do it effectively, efficiently and humanely," Seekins said during a Saturday floor session.



Seekins' bill would allow Fish and Game employees or private hunters authorized by the Board of Game to engage in land-and-shoot killing of wolves and other predators as part of a predator control program, such as the one proposed for the McGrath area. It also would allow the board to consider more factors, including both predator and prey numbers; when deciding whether a predator control program is merited.

The bill would also lessen the role of the commissioner of Fish and Game in authorizing and controlling the scope of predator control. Seekins had introduced a bill substitute that would have theoretically allowed the board to implement some

## PREDATOR: Land-and-shoot bill

Continued from Page A1

forms of predator control without even needing permission from the administration and the governor.

However, according to Matt Robus of the Department of Fish and Game, it appears such an idea won't fly: He said earlier this week that the administration would still have to issue specific permits, or such a program would violate federal law.

Seekins' bill and a companion bill in the House are the latest chapter in the years of controversy surrounding predator control, which has been a thorn in the side of Alaska's governors for a decade. Opponents argue land-and-shoot wolf control has been condemned by the public in popular votes in both 1996 and 2000, and also contend that state-sponsored wolf killing would spark a tourist boycott of Alaska.

There has also been dispute over whether land-and-shoot hunting is legal already, despite the public votes; Seekins argues that it is, and says his bill would just clarify language to reflect that.

Seekins spoke in broad terms in favor of predator control Saturday, arguing that state moose

populations have dropped over time as predator numbers have risen.

"Something is killing these animals, and they are not being taken home to feed Alaskan families," he said.

He argued that the statute changes would increase the ability to manage game based on science. "They provide the Game Board and the department with the necessary tools to manage game populations throughout the state," he said.

Sen. Scott Ogan, R-Palmer, also spoke in favor of the bill. "We've got to do this for the sake of Alaskans, and for the sake of the Alaska lifestyle and those that depend on it, and for a myriad of other reasons," he said.

Sen. Kim Elton, D-Juneau opposes the bill. While Elton said he supports predator control, he noted that the land-and-shoot method had been roundly condemned by voters twice.

"We all understand that twice the public has voted on this one method of predator control," he said. "The voters spoke. They not only spoke, they shouted very loudly of what their desire was on this one method of predator con-

trol."

Seekins argued that the bill still fit within the bounds of those votes.

"We did not change the will of the people, we changed the way it's implemented," he said.

Elton also argued that it was a dangerous idea to limit the say of the Fish and Game commissioner. "It limits the latitude of one of the governor's cabinet members," he said. "I think we ought not to do that to this governor or for any future governor."

Seekins argued that the bill would just bring the commissioner's rights regarding predator control in line with his other rights. "No place else in any of our regulations or laws is a commissioner given veto power over the Board of Game or the Board of Fish," he said.

Elton's was the lone voice of dissent Saturday, though several other Democrats who may have opposed the bill were absent from the session. The bill passed 14-1.

Elton filed notice of reconsideration, meaning the bill is subject to a revote today.

Reporter Tom Moran can be reached at [tmoran@newsminer.com](mailto:tmoran@newsminer.com) or (907)463-4893.

## PROJECTS: Millions slated for Interior

Continued from Page A1

Wilken said the TCC had requested \$5 million total from the state and he hopes to continue funding in future budgets.

"It wasn't in the governor's budget, so we had to do a little nip-and-tuck to get that money," he said. "I've tried to ... gather up as much as I could, to show some state support."

Wilken also included \$300,000 for "electronic improvements" to the Carlson Center. Wilken said that money will go toward installing a new scoreboard at the center, a project expected to cost

close to \$1 million. Wilken said with the \$300,000, and \$175,000 from the state last year, the center can now turn to advertisers for additional funding.

"Now that they have the seed money, they're going to go out and get advertisers to sponsor the scoreboard, so it enables them to generate more dollars," he said. "It's a revenue generator, is what it is. Plus, it makes the place a lot more fun and a lot more marketable."

Other increases to the Interior were small but significant. Among them:

- The capital budget would give \$250,000 to the operation of the Nenana Student Living Center.

- It would fund \$275,000 for

around, with \$20 million dropped from runway reconstruction and \$17.5 million placed in taxiway reconstruction. The committee added another \$800,000 to the \$3.46 million included in the governor's budget to begin a study of renovating or replacing the airport's main terminal, while dropping \$500,100 of other planning money.

Besides the airport, the Senate proposal also retains millions of dollars proposed for Interior projects in Murkowski's budget, much of it earmarked for road funding. That includes:

- \$4.1 million to begin building a 25-mile road from the Elliott Highway to the community of Rampart.

- \$4 million to fund

Mother's Day  
May 11th

Day  
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Tulips

System.  
Elegant Spring  
bloom!  
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May's

# ALASKA STATE SENATE



Session:  
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(907) 465-2327  
(907) 465-5241 Fax

Interim:  
119 N. Cushman, Suite 201  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-8161  
Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

**Senator Ralph Seekins**  
District D

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 6, 2003

To: Office of Representative Hugh Fate

From: Senator Ralph Seekins

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph Seekins".

Re: Request for Hearing of SB 155

---

Attached please find Senate Bill 155 along with the corresponding Sponsor Statement and supporting documentation.

Senate Bill 155 alters language within Section 16.05.783 of the Alaska Statutes relating to the regulation of Fish and Game resources. These alterations provide the Fish and Game Board and Commissioner with necessary tools in the management of game populations throughout the state.

I respectfully request a hearing before your committee on this Bill at your earliest convenience.  
Thank you.



# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: SB 155  
 (S) Publish Date: 4/17/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title Relating to hunting on the same day BRU Wildlife Conservation  
airborne Component Wildlife Conservation  
 Sponsor Senator Seekins  
 Requester Senate Judiciary Component No. 473

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

Prepared by: Matthew H. Robus, Acting Director Phone 465-4190  
 Division Wildlife Conservation Date/Time 3/30/03 1:23 PM  
 Approved by: Kevin C. Duffy, Commissioner Date 3/30/2003  
 Agency Department of Fish and Game

# Public Testimony at March 6 Board of Game Meeting

Comments to the Board of Game

11/20/48

(TC-19)

Alaska Board of Game  
 19 D East Testimony  
 March 6, 2003  
 Donne Fleagle, Box 33, McGrath, Alaska 99627  
 General Manager, MTNT, Limited

My name is Donne Fleagle and I am the General Manager of MTNT, Limited, a for profit village corporation consolidated in 1976 from the villages of McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai and Telida. Our village corporation has 356 shareholders. All four of these communities rely heavily on harvested game and have since this area was populated in undocumented time.

I would like to congratulate those of you who were recently appointed to the Board and thank you for your willingness to serve our state. I would also like to express our area's thanks to the Board of Game for this opportunity to express our position on the moose concerns in GMU19D(e) once again.

I am a life long resident of GMU 19De raised in the area and chose this area to reside in when I became an adult. It has been a healthy place to grow up in and an excellent place to raise a family.

I once again have the pleasure of reiterating our areas position based on sound management techniques for the betterment of all wildlife populations. We believe that if measures are taken to reduce predation on our moose herd there would be many positive benefits. A few benefits would be an abundance of wildlife viewing, subsistence needs met, traditional and cultural uses continued, a healthy environment/habitat and it would definitely free up more Board of Game time and Fish and Game resources to concentrate on other issues needing attention.

Wolves have never been and will never be in any danger of being totally (and I use the word I've seen lately in the Alaska Daily News - "massacred" - from the face of 19D(e) despite the outlandish claims we read in the newspapers from those who are so easily led as to believe in such nonsense or are of themselves perpetuating these lies for their own financial and/or public relations purposes.

Rather than it being "disastrous," it would be very "beneficial" if the State did implement a predator control program.

The three main species that concern us are moose, wolves and bears. Out of the three species, wolves reproductivity rates are the highest. Bears being relocated is based on science and reproductivity rates. A bear does not deliver her first cub until she is 7. Normally bears will have two cubs and they will not be ready to breed on the average for 3 years afterwards if their cubs are weaned. Wolves have litter sizes on the average of 6 and a maximum of 11 annually. Moose on the other hand have 1 to 2 calves per year.

The calf mortality for 2001 was 75% due to bears and wolves. For 2002 with 2.5 months remaining, 55 out of 81 calves are dead and their demise can be attributed to 24 killed by wolves, 19 killed by black bears, 12 by grizzly bears and 1 unknown cause.

This is no surprise to us who live in the interior. We have lost our pet dogs to wolf predation for a few years now. Our yards are no longer a guaranteed safe place for our animals. The health and safety issues that we have raised in the past were only confirmed by the incident that happened in southeast to a little boy who was drug off by a wolf but was saved by his friend in the spring of 2000.

For almost 20 years we have seen our wildlife resources dwindle to the point of no return and for almost 10 years, we have been involved in the political system meant to address concerns such as ours. Neither has received the credibility or the action they are so deserving of. We are people who are not inclined to get involved in politics beyond our village boundaries.

Our way of life demands our full attention. We have jobs, families, we heat with wood which means we have to harvest that renewable resource and we live off the land which also means a fall harvest. Fish and caribou are not options for our geographical area. Idle time is a luxury and not a commodity. Generally we are not impacted by any population base outside our area however, when we witnessed our moose populations crashing, we began our study in National and State Politics and we have been rapid learners. We had to carve time out of our lives to appear at various board of game meetings and other functions. We had fund raisers to send our participants forward to deliver our message and our testimony. Our community has scraped together the funds to continue to travel, to speak out and proceed down this road and we intend to weigh in every chance there is when it has a direct impact on our wildlife and our area residents.

In 1995 the BOG addressed our concerns when we waved a red flag signaling to the outside world that an unhealthy predator to prey ratio existed. A Predator Control Program was passed. In 1996 our area petitioned the Board of Game to move up implementation of a Predator Control Program which was to be implemented in 1997. The Board of Game again responded after considering "sound science." Governor Knowles then asked a National Academy of Sciences to study predator management in Alaska and he even traveled to McGrath to meet with us in September of 1996. It was a great meeting. The end result? One of our locals was appointed to the Board of Game. Then the Governor wanted us to demonstrate public support so our area set out to get that. We succeeded. Our resolutions from various statewide organizations such as AFN are part of the record. When we jumped through that hoop all of sudden the ante went up and we were told we needed to get broad public support and it obviously had to come from organizations such as the Defenders of Wildlife, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, etc. none of whose resolutions we had. Unbelievable. So the McGrath Area decided to host a Rural Summit on Intensive Management and that was held in the spring of 2000. The Governor and the Wildlife Organizations previously mentioned as well as other such organizations were invited to participate. They chose not to. The end result of that very successful summit was the passage of SB 74 (and over ride of the Governor's veto I proudly might add) which was within 12 months taken away by ballot initiative.

The public residing west of the Alaska Range had again spoken about their spiritual and ethical opposition to wildlife management which they purport to own such as Mr. Doogan. As an owner, he has never come out to see his "farm" - to view the site of the "McGrath Ranch" or to view the Experimental Micro-management Area that was proposed or to see the "big game hunters" or to interface with those most affected who he refers to "Chief Complainer," "hunters," "the test bed" and cleverly uses words like "faminc." He doesn't like words like "wives, mothers, children, brothers, Aunts, Uncles, Grandmothers, Grandfathers, etc." because that would somehow I believe make us part of the human race and make us a very integral part of humanity. Instead he bunches us (all of us in our area) as McGrath Residents (when in fact it is our area) and truly believes that every person in McGrath wants all the moose meat they can get. He hasn't a clue.

And then there are others who speak about the need for diversity except when the cards are stacked in their favor. Now they pursue the tact of loss of tourism dollars to this state. That might impact one wildlife photographer who was on the adaptive wildlife management team who had the superiority to calculate what he and his household ate and then use that formula to suggest that is what our residents would be "entitled" to. What he didn't take into account by his own choice was our lifestyle where sharing is part of our community behavior, where large families often eat together and large community gatherings centered around a dinner are normal.

Then the water is further muddied by those on the opposite side of the persuasion than ours who bring in the rural-urban divide now that it suits their purposes.

It is always so incredible to me to watch these "sharp" minds and watch the double edged sword at work.

Our area has learned so much from these civilized, ethical, spiritual, educated, morally inclined individuals that just "howls" with a total disconnection to those of us who live west of those Alaska Range Mountains.

Do they love us? Sometimes if it suits their purpose. Do they despise us? Sometimes. It seems we are either categorized romantically as the most wise because we are indigenous people(s) or barbaric and ignorant.

The only response I have to any of the rhetoric is we would never allow any massacre of anything to take place, neither are we farmers, we all don't want all the moose meat we can eat, and we are not, contrary to popular published beliefs, more than the ordinary State Citizen who has been blessed to be brought up close to the land that has sustained our peoples for ever. Our land has been kind to us because of our thoughtfulness and our management of it!!

A large well funded effort seems to care a less for the health and welfare of our people that need proper food on the table untarnished and absolutely made in Alaska.

Outside impacts are not an issue. That's another myth. The area is closed to non residents and has been for some time. Non resident hunters passing through McGrath fly into areas where there are more moose.

Sidney Huntington told our area in 2000 and is still quite true today and I quote "Yes, you all know you have been in need of predator wolf control program for years. You have to harvest the resource to balance the moose, in this case, with the wolf ratio. It doesn't take that much to keep both segments on a healthy balance. To stand by and do nothing is crazy. This is what we depend on for food that most of us here in rural Alaska have used for so long. You all know right now, your species are having a shameful decrease because of pressure from some people outside the area. Public emotions are in control. Who is supposed to be taking care of our subsistence wildlife food resource? Or is that just a joke? Are we wards of the government? Who makes all the promises politically to their advantage? Where do we come in, only to see the very food we live on being eliminated senselessly? In this case, who will make us starve or make us go on to the shameful welfare? Probably all you'll get is false promises."

That is exactly what we have gotten from the Defenders of Wildlife, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance and the last Governor and his administration just to mention a few.

We have, and I proudly say this, continued to operate in our independent self sufficient way and because of our own local efforts have managed to impact our moose populations positively but it is not enough. It never will be but we are not ones to stand idly by and watch this public debate cost us our way of life.

Let me also say that we have been cooperative and willing to compromise. We have ourselves supported reduction(s) in our hunting seasons, supported non resident hunting in our area, were willing to close a 520 square mile area to all hunting called the Experimental Micro-Management area, etc.

In closing: there is nothing more important to our local residents than the availability of a healthy moose population for subsistence harvest. We have seen politicians meddle in this area now for too long, allowing political considerations to interfere in what should be professional biological decisions made by the Board of Game. We also strongly uphold that in order to satisfy the Sustained Yield Clause of the Alaska Constitution, action must be taken.

**Fax**

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To: MARK STOPHADate: 4/9

Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

(following this page)

From: Jim Marcotte

Acting Executive Director - Board of Game  
Boards Support Section  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599

Phone: 907-459-7215

Fax: 907-474-8558

jim\_marcotte@fishgame.state.ak.us



Mark,

Below is a list of the documents from the March 6, 2003 Board of Game hearing and March 7-17 meeting that I'm sending by fax today.

Included are the two items describing the Dittman Research poll as submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance (RC 10 and RC 21) along with some other items of interest.

I'll send by mail the additional materials addressing Unit 19D predator control received by the board during the meeting.

Please let me know if I can assist with anything else.

Thanks,  
Jim Marcotte

- List of documents submitted during the BOG meeting (RC 163)
- AWA public opinion survey report (RC 10)
- Summary of comments submitted to Wildlife Conservation Division (RC 14)
- Comments from Donne Fleagle (RC 19)
- Methodology used in AWA public opinion survey (RC 21)
- Copy of slides from ADF&G presentation (RC 22)
- Comments from City of McGrath (RC 34)
- Comments from Lewis Egrass (RC 35)
- Comments from Michelle John (RC 36)
- List of individuals who signed up to testify at March 6, 2003 hearing (RC 37)
- Comments from Vernita Herdman (RC 38)
- Copy of slides from ADF&G presentation (RC 140)
- Copy of slide from ADF&G presentation (RC 145)



## CITY OF MCGRATH

P. O. BOX 30 MCGRATH, ALASKA 99627  
PHONE (907) 524-3825  
FAX (907) 524-3536

RC 34

March 4, 2003

Department. Of Fish and Game  
Unit 19D East Information  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701


To Whom It May Concern:

A long-time McGrath resident Lewis "Lucky" Egrass, has been asked to testify on behalf of residents in the McGrath area regarding predator control. Lucky has been an aerial wolf hunter in the past, has trapped and as a local pilot has an opportunity to talk with people in the communities in this area. He also keeps track of where the wolf packs are as he is flying and knows pretty much the devastation of the wolf kills in the McGrath area. We support him as a representative voice for the City of McGrath.

The City of McGrath has been involved in various meetings dealing with the predator control issue and I think it is fair to say that the majority of the community is in favor of an aerial predator control program. The consensus in one meeting, which involved residents from Nikolai also, was the State should handle the program with helicopters because of the poor snow conditions we are experiencing this winter. The bottom line is that residents want the program to be effective. If the next best choice is to use local pilots to implement the program, then the community would be in favor of that.

Most of the residents of McGrath depend on the fall moose harvest for subsistence and see a real need for an aggressive predator control program. Many local residents are trying to trap wolves and some are successful, but this is not easily done and is not an effective way to reduce the number of wolves in the area.

Sincerely,

  
Edgar Cruise, Vice-Mayor

RC 35  
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Lewis F. Egrass  
PO Box 132  
McGrath, Alaska 99627  
(907) 524-3864

March 6, 2003

Alaska Fish & Game Board

RE: Wolf Predation Control

Who am I

I have been a resident of McGrath of 45 years. My father, Pete Egrass, came to Alaska from Wisconsin in the 1930s and my mother, Ann Jacobs Egrass, is an Athabascan Native American from the Yukon River village of Ruby, Alaska. I am one of five children. My parents owned the trading post in McGrath. My parents instilled a strong work ethic by making all of us kids pitch in with all aspects of the work to run our family from hunting and preparing moose, gathering wood, planting a garden, putting up fish and picking berries. In short, we were always busy, it was and is our way of life to this date. A couple of moose would carry a family of seven over the winter and throughout the year. I went to school in McGrath and I learned to fly in 1974 and became an air taxi pilot in 1979. This flying entailed 6000 hours in a Supercub with the remaining air taxi work in Western Alaska. I based my experience of over 12,000 hours of flight time around the McGrath area to support the current issues regarding predator control.

Hours flown in the Supercub consisted of private hunting and trapping and air taxi work with Alaska Fish and Game to survey the land within the 125 mile radius of McGrath for current surveys of moose, caribou, and other game populations with the biologists based out of McGrath.

What I know

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Through the 1980s the moose and caribou populations were high. I am finding out the Fish and Game did not keep accurate records because there was not a concern of the moose and caribou populations being threatened. At that time the wolf was classified as a fur bearer and was legal to harvest with an aircraft on a land and shoot basis with a trapping license. There was a small group of hunters throughout Alaska that harvested wolves using this method; and, to my knowledge there was approximately 1200 to 1500 wolves taken each year. This method also appeared to keep the moose population stabilized. Since this practice was halted ten years ago, my observations are that the moose population has declined better than 95% within the 125 mile radius of McGrath. I observed hundreds of moose killed by wolves around the McGrath area and the moose are declining. There has not been a cow-moose hunting season in the McGrath area since the mid- 1970s to preserve the moose, but the population still has declined.

The pressure from the wildlife groups throughout Alaska and the lower 48 States has forced the government to seize all predator control in Alaska. This has created problems for the Alaska State government on the subsistence issue that has been ongoing for years between the rural Alaskans depending on subsistence for survival and the urban Alaskans. I recall that 10 years ago there was plenty of game for everyone but now we are faced with rapidly declining game populations and there is not enough moose and caribou for all the rural and urban hunters.

Alaska Wildlife groups are putting out false information throughout Alaska and the lower 48 States about the wolf being threatened in Alaska. Just last night March 5<sup>th</sup> on Alaska State news, Paul Joslin stated that their survey showed that 75% of rural Alaskans opposed predator control. I have contacted all the villages in this area and none of them have any knowledge of this survey.

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This region has never seen any of Alaska Wildlife Alliance's biologists conduct any surveys or any studies around McGrath or in Western Alaska. Where is the proof?

Why I am here

The McGrath people have been fighting the issue of predator control since 1995 and their moose population is very threatened and moose may become extinct in a short period of time in this area. All areas of Alaska are having the same problems with declining game populations. The problem is only going to get larger for state government and the Game Board and the residents of Alaska. I am here to encourage the Game Board to find a solution towards preserving game populations before it is too late. And too late, is almost here.

We the people of McGrath do not want to wipe out the wolf, we just want to re-build our moose population for subsistence to continue as a way of life.

There are approximately 2200 moose within the city limits of Anchorage. This is more moose than in the 5000 square miles around McGrath. Moose do well in Anchorage because there are no wolves and bears killing them. I read in the Anchorage Daily News that when wolves or bears come into the city they are quickly removed as they are a threat to the population. If I was a moose... I would want to live in Anchorage, too.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

Lewis F. Egrass

RC 36

Michelle John, MA  
Executive Director  
4Rivers Counseling Services  
PO Box 229  
McGrath, AK 99627  
(907) 524-3867/(800) 478-3781  
E-mail: [mojo@mcgrathalaska.net](mailto:mojo@mcgrathalaska.net)

March 6, 2003

Alaska Fish & Game Board

**I BELIVE THE WOLF THREAT OF SUBSISTENCE FOOD SUPPLIES IN ALASKA IS A MENTAL HEALTH CONCERN.**

I service the mental health needs of nine (9) remote villages in the Iditarod region of Alaska (approximately 48,000 square miles with a population of 2500). I work in a climate that celebrates the inherent wisdom of global peoples and offers a multi-cultural frame with which to explore the commonalities and differences in understanding the human condition. I have experienced the intimacy of life in the Bush and have grown to understand and appreciate the subsistence lifestyle of the communities that I serve as their counselor.

Given my desire to support the preservation of subsistence life in the Bush, I plan to research the importance of native tradition to positive mental health among Alaskan Native Americans. There seems to exist strong correlation between decreases in traditional, subsistence living and intimate struggles to retain a native traditional lifestyle, such as hunting techniques and the traditional preparation of cooking game, passed down from generation to generation. Therefore, the decline of subsistence food supplies, such as moose, directly may lead to the destruction of native culture and traditions.

A case may be established for the therapeutic necessity for the preservation of native traditions when working with Alaskan Native Americans. Future research offers native tradition helps foster positive identity and self-confidence, to decrease alcohol and drug consumption, and to decrease suicide rates. To not respond to Alaska's need for continued subsistence food supplies with a predator control response is to cripple a Native Nation of Alaskans.

To respond to efforts to stabilize the moose population in this region with wolf predator control measures is to:

- Enhance the preservation of Native traditions in the State of Alaska
- Enhance the quality of mental health services to the people of Alaska
- Insure Food to the people of this area and prevent starvation, among other options.

Stay Tuned In.

*Michelle John, MA*  
Michelle John, MA  
Executive Director  
4Rivers Counseling Services  
McGrath, Alaska

Board of Game Public Hearing on Predator Control in GMU 19D East MARCH 6, 2003  
 Public Testimony Sign up

	Representing	Subject / Related RC
1.	Marty Caress Denali AC	McGrath Area
2.	Gordon Haber Self	Predator Control
3.	Bill de Creeft Self	McGrath Predator Control
4.	Priscilla Feral Friends of Animals	McGrath Predator Control
5.	Vernon Logan Mt Yenlo AC	McGrath Area
6.	David McHoes Self	McGrath Predator Control
7.	Donne Fleagle MTNT, Lmtd.	McGrath / RC 19
8.	Kelly Vrem Self	McGrath Wolf Control
9.	John Hillsinger Self	GMU 19D Predator Control
10.	John Abrams Self	Pro-Predator Control
11.	Alan Dick Self	Truth
12.	Stephen Shoults Self	Compare Predator Control in Wisconsin
13.	Dorothy Keeler Self	Oppose Predator Control in McGrath / RC 16
14.	Steffen Strick Self/McGrath Native Village	Wolf Control
15.	Lewis Egrass Tanana Chiefs Conf.	Wolf Control
16.	Mike Tinker Fairbanks AC	Unit 19D East Predator Control
17.	Joel Bennett Defenders of Wildlife	
18.	Andrea Veach Self	Oppose Predator Control
19.	Glenn Fredericks Georgetown Tribal Council	GMU 19D
20.	Blair Wondzell Self	Support predator control
21.	Randy Bozelle AK Wilderness Rec & Tour Assoc.	Effects of Pred Control
22.	James Demientieff Self	Pro- aerial hunting
23.	Paul Joslin Self/AK Wildlife Alliance	Predator Control/ RC 10
24.	Gary Dawkins Self	Predator Control
25.	Mike Smith Tanana Chiefs Conference	Predator Control
26.	John Schandelmeier Paxson AC	Predator Control
27.	Vernita Herdman RuralCap	Predator Control
28.	Heather Erin Gott Self	Predator Control
29.	Debbie M Cardwell Self/AK Wildlife Alliance	Wolf Mgmt/Hybrid / RC 17

RC 37

Board of Game Public Hearing on Predator Control in GMU 19D East  
Public Testimony Sign up

Name	Representing	Subject / Related RC
30. Rod Arno	AK Outdoor Council	GMU 19D East
31. Peter Shephard	Self	GMU 19
32. Harriet Bly	Self	Oppose Predator Control
33. Mike Stephenson	Self	Wolf/bear Predator Control
34. Robert Fithian	AK Prof. Hunters Assoc	GMU 19D
35. William Martin	Self	Predator Control & Board process
36. John Glass	Self	Homestead in McGrath
37. Jeff Hermanns	Self	Predator Control
38. Mary Ann Woodward	Self	Oppose Predator Control
39. Erica Diaz	Self	Against hunting
40. George Siavelis	Self	Predator Mgmt GMU 19
41. Tom Carpenter	Self/Copper Riv/PWS AC	Wolf control
42. Mike Cowan	Self	Predator Control in GMUs
43. Lynn Keogh	Self	Predator Control
44. Kenny Barber	Self	Predator Control
45. Greg Roczicka	Orutsaramiut Native Council	GMU 19D & Predator Control

RC 38

Testimony Before  
the  
Alaska Board of Game  
Anchorage, Alaska  
March 6, 2003

Submitted By Vernita Herdman, Advocacy Coordinator  
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman; Members of the Board; and those members of the public who, by their presence today, demonstrate their interest in the subject of predator control in Alaska.

My name is Vernita Herdman. I am Inupiaq; and I was born and raised in the Native Village of Unalakleet. I am the advocacy coordinator for the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, a statewide, private non-profit corporation based in Anchorage. I would like to add that I am a tribal advocate; that is my occupation and I look at most subjects within that context.

In my testimony today I would like to begin by taking a somewhat unorthodox approach to the issue of predator control. I hope that you, Mr. Chairman, and members of your Board, will exercise patience and goodwill as I move from philosophy to pragmatism and finally, to politics and reason.

I take the philosophical approach because that is where the public debate about this issue has led us. I also choose this perspective because it ultimately must lead to a discussion that can happen (as we Native people like to say) "in a good way": i.e., a dialogue that takes into account the viewpoints, experience and needs of all Alaskan citizens who may have an interest in what will be the Board's decision.

Let me begin by saying that there is not one person in this room who can state with any certainty when they will die, how they will die, or why. All of these circumstances rest in the hands of our Creator. All of us were born without consent; and though some choose to wrest control of their fate by resorting to suicide, it is my personal feeling that even then, they do not "succeed" in gaining any control over their ultimate destiny.

Why would I begin with such statements? I do so because I want to highlight the fact that "wildlife management" is an oxymoron. By definition, no human being – or group of human beings – can control the instincts and impulses of wild creatures – any more than anyone is able to control the instincts and impulses of man. While I applaud your efforts to manage wildlife, I also doubt your claims to success.

A little over two years ago, on February 8, 2001 this Board reviewed a document entitled, an "Experimental Program to Rebuild the Moose Population in GMU 19D." It is my understanding that the recommendations made in that document were never entirely carried out.

That report carries a brief history of attempts by the territory and State of Alaska to control and manage the ratio of predator populations to those of the species used by those predators for food. I noted with interest that just five decades ago, widespread wolf control was carried out by federal agents as a matter of policy. The report goes on to say that even after statehood, aerial shooting of wolves continued "throughout interior Alaska" until 1971. The cessation of aerial hunting was mandated by passage of a federal law abolishing airborne predator control.

Even then, land and shoot hunting was allowed until 1996, when it was banned as a result of "a statute...passed by ballot initiative to prohibit this method of hunting." *Enter the factor of public opinion as a force within this debate.*

I began my testimony by saying that I am Inupiaq. As such, my three brothers and three sisters and I were raised by my parents in a place and at a time when public policy ran in our favor; no one in the territorial, State or federal governments questioned the fact that Alaska Native communities had an absolute need to rely on wildlife resources for not only cultural survival, but as a matter of physical health and economic need.

My father and mother supported us almost exclusively with food derived from the land, air and waters surrounding Unalakleet. My father had a contract with the Coast Guard, to set out the buoys guiding mariners from the Unalakleet River into and out of Norton Sound. The contract paid approximately \$400 annually. Aside from a few hundred dollars from commercial fishing, a family of nine persons survived on fish, migratory birds, seal, the odd gift or barter of beluga *maktak*, reindeer, *oogruk* (bearded seal), a variety of greens, roots and berries. Each fall my mother hand-sewed a pair of sealskin *maktaks* for each of her children. As often, she re-tailored hand-me-down or gifted coats into new parkas for us all, using a Singer treadle sewing machine -- I clearly recall that machine sounding into the early morning hours while the rest of her family slept.

My father used and maintained a team of sled-dogs, even after others began using snow-machines. The number of sled dogs my father kept remained at a pretty consistent level of fourteen. I assume that my father arrived at this number as the result of a personal cost-benefit decision, based on how much dog food he and my brothers could consistently gather to keep the dogs healthy throughout the year; and how many dogs were needed to ensure efficient and timely travel on their various winter hunts.

I mention this aspect of my growing up because, in a microcosm, it illustrates the factors that you as a Board need to weigh before making your decisions about 'wildlife management'. I also want to say that this is an area of my life in which I learned earliest about the concept of idealism vs. pragmatism.

I told you that my father maintained his team at fourteen dogs, year after year. This begs the question, how did he do that, given the nature of all animals to procreate? He had neither the scientific means, nor the financial resources to practice any form of birth control. Given his social, economic and cultural circumstances, even if he had the money, my father would have scoffed at the idea of practicing artificial means to

"control" the population of a team of dogs viewed by him as not only his property, but as essential to the survival of his family. In any case, the average efficient life of a sled dog is not that long -- even a dog that is a pet and not a working animal, has a relatively short average life.

When I was twelve or thirteen years old, my oldest brother went off to boarding school in Mt. Edgecumbe. Some time during the following spring, my mother sent me to find the next oldest boy in our family, who was three years younger than me. Mom said she needed Fuddy (his nickname) to chop some wood for the kitchen stove. I saw Fuddy coming up the path from the ocean side of our house. I called to him, saying he needed to chop some wood; he went directly to that task and I remember that he seemed to be swinging the ax with unusual vigor, and that the expression on his face was rather grim for a nine- or ten-year-old's. I found out years later, why.

When he was in his twenties, Fuddy and I were talking about the 'good old days' in the village; by then our family had lived for some years in Anchorage. That was when he told me that after our oldest brother left, Fuddy became responsible for the unwelcome and gruesome task of culling dogs to keep Dad's team at fourteen dogs. The day we both remembered was the first time he had been handed a gunnysack of squirming puppies and an ax, and been told to take them "down the beach" to kill.

Over a decade after the fact, I saw that my brother, an adult, fought extreme emotions still battling within him; and we wept together. Even as we wept, however, we did not revile this practice. As products of a family and a community that remains reliant on subsistence to this day, we cannot afford to idealize a way of life that, as a tribal advocate, I consider to be one of the nation's and this State's treasures.

Yesterday morning, I stood on my back porch, smoking. The back of our house faces upon an alleyway. As I smoked, a woman came into view, walking through the alley; she appeared to be alone -- but very shortly, there appeared in her wake an older white dog, walking in a straight line, obviously hers. I turned to share the moment with my husband, who stood with a cup of coffee behind me, inside the patio doors. We exchanged grins of bemusement.

No wolf in the wild would behave as that dog did, trailing a master or mistress in docile fashion; that is the difference between domestic animals, and "wildlife".

With regard to the force of public opinion that has played into this debate, I mentioned that back in the '40's and '50's, aerial wolf hunts took place as a matter of public policy. Now I ask you if you see, as I do, any coincidence in the fact that the popular media, which now imposes itself into our every waking moment, was in its seminal stages during those years?

Since then, Walt Disney and other filmmakers have changed the public's perspective of wildlife. Rather than the cruel face of the wolf in the old story of Little Red Riding

Hood, Disney, for example, portrayed thinking, feeling, *speaking* animals in movies such as *Bambi*, *101 Dalmatians*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *The Jungle Book*.

Today wildlife documentaries on the Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel and the Outdoor Channel have convinced a large sector of the public in American and in Alaska, that viewing animals in (for the most part in artificially "wild" settings) is a more acceptable activity than to kill and eat them for survival. As a result, the public view is that it is tantamount to a sin to kill wildlife for any reason. Yet a majority of the 200-plus tribal communities in this State continue to rely on healthy fish and migratory bird stocks, and pristine habitat <sup>which support</sup> for caribou and moose populations, <sup>populations that we believe exist</sup> for our people to kill and to eat.

I personally love the face of a wolf; our Inupiaq word for the wolf is the same used by the Canadian Inuit in the movie, *Never Cry Wolf*. we, too, call this animal 'amaguq'. But even as I admired the acting, the cinematography and even the plot contained in that movie, I never lost my head. The movie showed wolves as fierce hunters only in the dream state of Farley Mowat, who wrote the book. In all of the waking scenes, wolves were portrayed as loving, playful, loyal creatures. That is the ideal portrait of a wolf.

Participants of the Alaska Native Wolf Summit, which took place in McGrath February 1-2, 2000, related a more realistic view of the nature of wolves. These village people came to McGrath from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, the Seward Peninsula, far north Interior communities, and the Bristol Bay area, as well as from the Copper River region. During the Summit they talked about the habits of wolves as a matter of outrage. They talked about wolves preying on sled-dogs and pet dogs; about their worry about small children walking to school in the dark morning of winter, in places where wolves could be heard howling from hill to hill above the villages.

They also talked about wolves running in packs, not preying upon the weakest or the sickest of the moose population, but of giving chase to healthy bulls, running them in an almost strategic fashion toward fields of deep snow, where the bulls were then over-powered and killed. The villagers told of cases where they had come upon such animals slain as if for sport; where only the 'choicest' parts of the moose were eaten, and then abandoned. The people talked about how the sizes of individual wolf packs have grown since the issue of predator control forced the Knowles administration to abandon a State role in predator 'management'.

As a tribal advocate, I want to say that too often our people are portrayed as being primitive societies, without capability to plan and to organize, much less to take strategic action. The planning, implementation and follow-up for the McGrath Summit belies that public image. Villagers set about addressing an agenda more or less set by Governor Tony Knowles in a letter dated February 24, 2000, to the people of the McGrath. He asked them to present him with a "consensus recommendation" for "an adaptive management program".