

RC16

Dear Board of Game:

I am not in favor of House Bill 202 sponsored by Eric Feige. This bill would increase the application fee for bison drawing permit from \$10 to \$20. I don't mind paying a little extra for bison if I know that 100% of the cost will be used towards bison management. Paying for fencing and property damage is not beneficial to the bison. I don't agree that hunters should pay for property damage the bison cause or pay for fencing to exclude bison from land. If a landowner wants to exclude wildlife from their property then they should have to pay for the fencing. If a moose come onto my property and destroys my fruit trees or eats my garden I do not call DFG and expect them to pay for damages or give me money to build a fence. The moose were here first and if I don't want them on my property then I need to build a fence. The bison were in Delta Junction long before the farmers showed up and if they want to keep them off their property then they should have to pay for their own fencing. I think this is a very slippery slope to start paying for fencing and property damages caused by wildlife.

On a separate note, not associated with HB202 but also involves bison management. I understand that the Delta Bison Working Group (DBWG) has recommended that the herd be reduced from 360 (precalving to 275-325 (precalving)). This is the most sought-after tag in the state and the DBWG want to reduce the herd?! Why? Could it be because of a handful of vocal property owners? According to the 2014-2015 Alaska Drawing Permit Hunt Supplement, almost 20,000 hunters applied for DI403 & FI404 permits in 2013. I, and am I'm sure at least 20,000 other Alaskans would like to see the bison herd sized increased, not decreased.

Sincerely,

Dave Sinnett
Palmer, AK