

Letter of Direction and Request

84 - 34 - GB
Board of Game, Spring, 1984

1. The Board of Game recognizes that one of the purposes of the transplant of musk oxen from Greenland to Nunivak Island in the 1930's was to provide a nucleus of animals for redistribution to their former historic range. It has been over thirteen years since the last transplant was completed of musk oxen to a new area of arctic coastal Alaska and over three years since a transplant was made to add animals to an existing herd.
2. The Board of Game requests that the department evaluate, within the limits of available resources and priorities, the feasibility of conducting another transplant from Nunivak Island to an appropriate area of the arctic coast with particular attention given to the area northeast of Cape Lisburne and south of Pt. Barrow.
3. In this evaluation, the department is requested to:
 - (a) summarize background information on the Nunivak Island transplant and subsequent transplants, including the population status and distribution of existing herds;
 - (b) summarize existing information on the suitability of potential release sites, including habitat considerations, competition between species, land ownership, and ease of access for release purposes;
 - (c) while conducting routine work activities in arctic coastal villages, discuss with local residents and organizations (e.g. advisory committees) the idea of additional musk oxen transplants and ascertain their views;
 - (d) estimate the costs of additional transplants to establish viable herds in selected areas;
 - (e) confer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine if a future transplant could be a cooperative effort;
 - (f) estimate the costs and staff resources involved with monitoring such a herd once transplanted; and
 - (g) estimate costs/benefits to the state from current musk oxen hunts and any future hunts which could be conducted from additional transplanted herds.

4. The department is requested to provide a report on this subject to the board at its December 1984 meeting.



Brenda Johnson, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Adopted March 29, 1984
Anchorage, Alaska
VOTE: 7/0