

ACR 8 – Remove the West Nile Virus testing requirement for raptors.

SUBMITTED BY: Don Hunley

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Please remove the West Nile virus testing requirements, as per Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation Alaska Falconry Manual 9 Addendum dated March 29, 2013.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Removing the requirements to test birds for West Nile Virus will fix the regulation and the problem.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

a) for a conservation purpose or reason:

b) to correct an error in regulation: This will fix the regulation, a problem that the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation has already identified. See addendum attached.

c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? This will require falconers to give unnecessary vaccinations for raptors, costs hundreds of dollars in veterinary bills and requires unnecessary quarantines for up to 30 days each time a falconer travels outside of Alaska or imports a raptor.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. This is a simple regulatory fix that should have been corrected in 2013.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE. N/A

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. I am a falconer, and also Southern Vice President of the Alaska Falconers Association.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING. This ACR has never been previously considered as an ACR or a proposal.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

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ALASKA FALCONRY MANUAL 9

ADDENDUM

Date: March 29, 2013

Re: West Nile Virus and falconry bird import requirements.

Due to findings of recently published research the Department will no longer enforce West Nile virus testing or immunization requirements listed in Falconry Manual 9 for importing falconry birds. Specific findings that influenced this change are that raptors used in falconry do not generally produce a sufficiently high concentration of virus in the blood to pass the disease to mosquitos or lice that could infect other birds and that the virus requires nighttime minimum temperatures above 60 degrees Fahrenheit for extended periods to amplify in mosquito hosts. Therefore, environmental conditions throughout Alaska make it highly unlikely that the disease could be introduced by imported raptors.