

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.

Add roof rat (*Rattus rattus*) and house mouse (*Mus musculus*) to the list of “deleterious exotic wildlife” as follows:

(52) “deleterious exotic wildlife” means any starling, English sparrow, or raccoon; any Norway rat, **roof rat (*Rattus rattus*)**, **house mouse (*Mus musculus*)**, rockdove or Belgian hare that is unconfined or unrestrained; and any feral ferret or feral swine;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation wrote “Wildlife and People at Risk: A Plan to Keep Rats Out of Alaska” in 2007.¹ The plan compiled a comprehensive list of international, federal, state and local agencies and entities that were expected to protect Alaska from invasive rodent species. The Board of Game was included; however, its role was not specified. In Table 3, under the categories of “Legal and Policy” and “Wildlife and Habitat Restoration” the Board’s role was described in question marks. But the board has the legal authority to identify an invasive species as “deleterious exotic wildlife” and has done so for several species.

Both roof rats and house mice have become established in Alaska, although neither species is as widespread or destructive to human property or wildlife as brown (Norway) rats. Nevertheless, all three species – brown and roof rats and house mice – are considered species of concern by the plan,¹ and roof rats and house mice are considered two of the world’s 100 worst invasive species by the IUCN’s Invasive Species Specialist Group.² Adding the two species to the state’s list of “deleterious exotic wildlife” is a necessary step to fulfill the board’s role in protecting Alaska from invasive rodent species.

¹ Fritts, E. 2007. Wildlife and people at risk: a plan to keep rats out of Alaska. Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/species/nonnative/invasive/pdfs/invasive_rodent_plan.pdf

² Lowe, S., M. Browne, S. Boudjelas, and M. De Poorter. 2000. 100 of the world’s worst invasive alien species. Invasive Species Specialist Group, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). http://www.issg.org/pdf/publications/worst_100/english_100_worst.pdf

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