

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
RESOLUTION ON ELK IN SOUTHEAST**

WHEREAS elk are not native to Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS the introduction of exotics has resulted in serious wildlife problems throughout the world; and

WHEREAS studies in the Pacific Northwest have indicated that deer and elk use many of the same food plants, many of which are important for Sitka black-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS elk are larger than deer and have a relatively larger rumen, they are capable of utilizing lower quality food plants than Sitka black-tailed deer; additionally elk browsing can eliminate plants otherwise available to and necessary for deer; and

WHEREAS insufficient time and research have occurred to evaluate the implications of the 1987 Etolin Island elk transplant; and

WHEREAS elk on Afognak Island provide lower hunter opportunity and success and lower yield of meat than Sitka black-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS all exotic elk introductions to deer range in North America have resulted in habitat degradation and/or substantial reductions in deer numbers; and

WHEREAS disease and parasite transmission from introduced elk to native wildlife species has occurred elsewhere and is difficult to prevent or reverse; and

WHEREAS costs and staff time necessary for additional elk transplants reduce division opportunities for management of important native species; and

WHEREAS Department of Fish and Game management plans require that elk introduced to Etolin and Zarembo Islands be confined to those islands; and

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Alaska Board of Game opposes additional elk transplants into Southeast Alaska.



Richard Burley, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

Adopted March 19, 1993
Anchorage, Alaska
Vote: 7 Favor and 0 Oppose