

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

Introduced by Kennedy

12/23	Introduced
12/23	Referred to Fish & Game
1/04	First Reading
1/05	Hearing
1/12	Tabled in Committee

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

INTRODUCED BY KENNEDY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MONTANA CITIZENS, TO TRAP SURPLUS WILD ELK THAT ARE NOT EFFECTIVELY HARVESTED BY HUNTERS AND TRANSPLANT THE ELK TO ELK MANAGEMENT AREAS THAT HAVE NOT REACHED DESIRED POPULATION LEVELS; AND URGING THE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS COMMISSION TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSPLANTATION OF SURPLUS WILD ELK, SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE LAWS REGULATING TRANSPLANTATION OF WILDLIFE, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, elk are a valuable resource to Montana citizens in numerous ways, including hunting value, wildlife viewing value, economic value, and value as an important species in the state's ecological system; and

WHEREAS, while recognizing the value of normal trading of animals with other states for the mutual benefit of Montana citizens and wildlife, the trapping of surplus wild elk that are not harvested by hunters and their transplantation to elk management areas that have not reached desired population levels are preferable to having the surplus wild elk shipped out of state, provided that all

ecological concerns and public benefits are properly considered; and

WHEREAS, the trapping and transplantation of surplus wild elk would provide genetic diversity that would enhance isolated or scattered elk populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks be urged to trap surplus wild elk in excess of the carrying capacity of the habitat that are not necessary to sustain the health and population of a resident herd and that are not harvested by hunting, if the elk can be effectively trapped, and transplant the surplus wild elk to an elk management district that is capable of sustaining a viable elk population but that has not reached the desired level of population, such as relocation from the National Bison Range to the Ashley Lake area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department be urged to allow the citizens of Montana to assist financially and physically in the relocation of surplus wild elk to underpopulated elk habitats.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission be urged to authorize the transplantation of surplus wild elk when recommended by the Department,

SJR 0001/01

- 1 pursuant to the authority granted in section 87-5-714, MCA,
- 2 and subject to the provisions of law applicable to the safe
- 3 and ecologically sound transplantation of wildlife.

-End-