



## Alaska Outdoor Council

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# House Budget Subcommittee Recommendations for FY 07 ADF&G Budget is **INADEQUATE**

March 10, 2006

Division of Sportfish (DoSF) **requested \$1,445.7K (K=1,000) in General Funds (GF)** for personal services and risk management costs, including:

\$809.7K increased PERS (retirement) costs;

\$442.0K negotiated salary increases;

\$58.1K increased health insurance premiums;

\$135.9K increased risk management premiums.

Division of Wildlife Conservation (DoWC) **requested \$750.0K in GF** for personal services and risk management costs, including:

\$421.6K increase PERS (retirement) costs;

\$230.5K negotiated salary increases;

\$27.5K increased health insurance premiums;

\$127.1K increased risk management premiums

- The subcommittee authorized NO general fund GF monies for either division, but did allocate \$704.1k of questionable federal funds and **\$708.4K of Fish and Game Funds (FGF)** for these increased costs in DoSF and \$391.4K of federal funds for DoWC.
- Fish and Game Funds should NOT be used for state “over head” expenses, at a time when the data necessary to increase personal use, sport, and sport guided allocations for fisheries, as well as the extensive data needed to satisfy the courts regarding game management programs is so sorely needed.
- Salaries, retirement and insurance are legitimate general fund expenditures.
- These expenses are contractual obligations, without GF the DoSF will further cut fisheries management and enhancement, and DoWC will cut big game management.
- **THE ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL STRONGLY SUPPORTS FULL GF FUNDING FOR PERSONAL SERVICES IN BOTH DoSF AND DoWC.**

AOC/ADF&G FY07 Budget

AS 16.05.251(e) directs the Board of Fish (BOF) to allocate fishery resources based on certain criteria, including socio-economic impact. Currently the board is allocating fish for personal use, sport, and guided sport based on 13 year old data. Division of Sportfish **requested \$500.K of FGF monies** to complete a current survey. The subcommittee allocated only \$150.K

- A portion of license fees go to the Fish and Game Fund for fisheries management and enhancement. Yet, the subcommittee refused to allocate back FGF monies for this purpose.
- **THE ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL STRONGLY SUPPORTS FULL FGF FUNDING FOR SPORT FISHERY ECONOMIC SURVEYS.**

**DoWC requested \$2,900.0K GF for big game management and research.** The subcommittee recommended \$600.0K in GF money, \$2.3 million less then the governor asked for.

- The Board of Game needs the information from these activities to meet their statutory obligations, which were passed into law by the state legislature, in order to manage game on the Sustained Yield principle enshrined in Alaska's Constitution, Article 8, Section 4.
- Further, we **MUST** have updated information to defend predator management programs.
- Management of our wildlife resources are a legitimate use of **state GF monies.**
- **THE ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL STRONGLY SUPPORTS FULL GF FUNDING FOR BIG GAME MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH.**

**Hunting and fishing harvests for individual Alaskans will not improve without this needed funding. Contact the Governor's office and state elected Representatives and Senators and let them know you want the necessary funding to make Alaska's renewable wildfood harvest available for human use.**

# TAKE ACTION...CALL JUNEAU...LET 'EM KNOW YOU'RE MAD

Tell them to:

- Use general funds to pay increased salaries, not Fish and Game Funds!
- Fully fund the sport fish economic study with Fish and Game Fund monies.
- Fully fund big game studies, accurate field data is essential for allocation.

Speaker of the House **John Harris** 1-888-465-4859

House Majority Leader **John Coghill** (former AOC Legislator of the Year) 1-877-465-3719

House Finance Committee Co-Chair **Mike Chenault** 1-877-469-3779

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