

3PM RM-152
Wallborn

Record

CHAIRMAN AND LADIES AND GENTLEMAN OF THE COMMITTEE MY NAME IS MIKE COLPO "For the COLPO" I AM HERE TODAY TO TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF SB397. I AM ON THE BOARD FOR MT SPORTSMAN FOR WILDLIFE AND AN ALASKA MASTER GUIDE AND OUTFITTER AND MT AND WYOMING GUIDE AND HAVE SEEN THE ADVERSE EFFECTS NOT ONLY ON MONTANA BUT OTHER STATES AND PROVINCES. ~~OPONENTS~~ OPONENTS OF THIS BILL WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT HB73 WOULD SOLVE THE WOLF ISSUE IN MONTANA AND HOW WE HAVE TAKEN 37.7% OF THE WOLF POPULATION THIS PAST YEAR AND COMING UP WITH AN ABRITARY NUMBER OF 530 WOLVES. ~~left.~~

Leave

~~GRANTED HB73 WILL HELP~~, BUT THOSE NUMBERS ARE NOT FACT. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT FWP HAS NO IDEA WHAT THE REAL NUMBERS ARE AND IN PAST TESTIMONY AT FWP COMMISSION HEARINGS THIS PAST YEAR THAT WAS STATED BY FWP. SO WHAT IS THE REAL NUMBER? WITHOUT THOSE NUMBERS WE NEED TO HAVE INTENSE MANAGEMENT TOOLS IN AREAS WHERE UNGULATE POPULATIONS ARE IN STEEP DECLINE. OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH IN ALBERTA AND ALASKA HAVE DONE JUST THAT, ALBERTA HAS A 10 MONTH HUNTING SEASON WITH TRAPPING AND AERIAL GUNNING AND ONLY TAKES 45% OF THE POPULATION A YEAR AND THE MEAN NUMBER REMAINS THE SAME. ALBERTA, B.C. AND YUKON STUDIES SHOW 65% - 70% NEEDS TO BE TAKEN PER YEAR TO HAVE DECREASE IN THE MEAN POPULATION NUMBER. ALASKA HAS TAKEN A SIMILAR APPROACH AND I HAVE BEEN THE RECIEPIANT OF THAT WITH INTENSE WOLF AND BEAR MANAGEMENT IN LOW MOOSE AND CARIBOU NUMBERS AFTER INTENSE AERIAL GUNNING, TRAPPING, MORE AGGRESIVE HUNTING AND BAG LIMITS THOSE UNGULATE NUMBERS BOUNCED BACK AND ONLY THEN DID THE DEPT. RELAX THE INTENSE APPROACH. IDAHO HAS TAKEN THE SAME APPROACH IN AREAS WHERE UNGULATE POPULATIONS HAVE DECLINED GREATLY AND IS NOT IN FEAR OF GOING BACK TO "ENDANGERED STAU" AND WILL ALSO RELAX INTENSE PREDATOR MANAGEMENT WHEN UNGULATE NUMBERS STABILIZE. SINCE THE REINTRODUCTION OF WOLVES INTO MT. THE DYNAMICS OF PREDATOR/PREY RELATIONSHIP HAS CHANGED FOR THE WORSE AND MONTANA NEEDS TO HAVE A CHANGE. THESE ARE FACTS AND THESE POLICIES HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO WORK.

Baiting

SINCE THE BLACK BEAR ~~AND LION~~ ISSUE HAS BEEN AMENDED OUT OF THIS BILL THIS SHOULD CLEAN UP THE ISSUE OF CONFLICTS WITH GRIZZLY BEARS. THOUGH IT IS FACT THAT BLACK BEARS AND MTN LION ARE HAVING AN ADVERSE EFFECT IN CERTAIN AREAS ON THE UNGULATE POPULATIONS AND ARE IN NEED OF INTENSE MANAGEMENT. BLACK BEAR AREAS SUCH AS REGION TWO WHERE A RECORD NUMBER OF TAKE HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY THAT IS A SIGN OF HIGH POPULATION. FWP HAS ALSO STATED IN THE PAST IT DID NOT KNOW EXACT NUBERS OF BEARS OR LIONS AND UNTIL 2011 IN A STUDY DONE BY FWP THAT ONLY 1037 BEARS ON AVERAGE WERE TAKEN. WE'VE HEARD A NUMBER 1400 LAST YEAR AND 1500 THIS YEAR, BUT NO ONE HAS ACTUALLY SEEN THOSE NUMBERS EXCEPT FWP. AS OUR MOOSE, MULE DEER AND SOME AREAS ELK NUMBERS ARE IN DECLINE WE NEED INTENSE PREDATOR MANAGEMENT. AS WE KNOW OUR HUNTINER NUMBERS ARE IN DECLINE AND SO IS REVENUE FOR FWP SO THAT MEANS FWP NEEDS TO MANAGE UNGULATE NUMBERS FOR THE HIGHEST YEILD TO SELL ELK AND DEER TAGS. MOST HUNERS ARE ELK AND DEER HUNTERS NOT PREDATOR HUNTERS. THESE PREDATORS EAT MEAT 24 - 7 AND 365 DAYS A YEAR AND UNGULATES ONLY HAVE YOUNG ONE TIME A YEAR. THIS IS A GOOD BILL AND A GREAT

ever

MANAGEMENT TOOL SO ON BEHALF OF THE "TRUE SPORTSMAN OF MONTANA" PLEASE PASS THIS BILL. THANKS YOU.

I would also like to leave a copy with the Secretary for the minutes.