

Five transplanted elk killed

Five more of the radio-collared elk transplanted to Etolin Island this winter have died or have been killed by predators, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

This brings to eight the known mortality from the 50 elk originally transplanted.

Lack of familiarity with the terrain

and forage contributed to the initial mortality, officials said. The remaining elk have dispersed throughout the island at this time, possibly seeking calving areas.

Many of the elk are pregnant. Calving this spring could help assure the success of the transplant.