

SCI Alaska Chapter
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April 15, 2019

The Honorable Cathy Giessel, President of the Senate
The Honorable Bryce Edgmon, Speaker of the House
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senate President Giessel and House Speaker Edgmon,

SCI Alaska Chapter is in strong support of Governor Dunleavy's appointments to the Board of Game (BOG) and Board of Fish (BOF). We believe that the appointees represent the average Alaskan's point of view related to the harvest of fish and wildlife.

SCI Alaska Chapter is a leading advocacy group for the outdoor community in Alaska and has spent many years defending the rights of Alaskan's to access and utilize wild renewable resources. On several occasions in the past we have defended the State's right to manage its fish and game in alignment with our constitution. We have also been instrumental in supporting passage of important legislation for conservation and were the leading supporter of the wood bison restoration project.

Numerous surveys and research clearly show that the individual harvest of fish and wildlife for food is supported by an overwhelming majority here in Alaska and around the country. Governor Dunleavy's appointment of Al Barrette, Jerry Burnett and Orville Huntington to the BOG, and Karl Johnstone, Marit Carlson-Van Dort, Gerard Godfrey and Israel Payton to the BOF demonstrates his commitment to food security for individual Alaskans interested in filling their freezers through the time honored traditions of angling and hunting.

We encourage you and your fellow legislators to vote to confirm these well qualified Alaskans to the Board of Game and the Board of Fish.

Sincerely,

Jeff Garness
President

Trever M. Fulton

From: Nancy Bale <nancybale@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2019 11:15 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Board of Game nominees

My name is Nancy Bale. I have lived in Alaska for almost 47 years. During that time, I spent 20 winters living in the bush on the upper Tonzona River in GMU 19. I spent 25 summers working at a lodge in Denali National Park, the Kantishna Region, GMU 20C. I now live and work in Anchorage as a School Nurse. Over the years I have attended and participated in a number of Board of Game meetings and understand the process well. Please accept my comments on Board of Game nominees, listed below.

1. Al Barrette

a. At the Arctic/Western Meeting in Bethel, January 2017, Mr. Barrette introduced three proposals (5,6 and 7) to rename resident-only hunts for bear, caribou and sheep in several units as "subsistence," if there was a C & T finding for those species. These proposals were voted down by the board, but I still wonder at Mr. Barrette's reasoning when bringing them in the first place. From my knowledge, many hunters in a region where there is a positive C and T finding may be hunting recreationally, not for subsistence. To label all the hunts in that area "subsistence" is misleading. I was unable to raise this issue in oral testimony at Senate Resources, which would have given Mr. Barrette the opportunity to defend his position. I know this - **not all resident hunters in Alaska are subsistence hunters**, even in regions of the state where most game populations have been identified to have a positive C&T finding.

2. Although I understand that the governor is free to nominate whomever he sees fit to the Board of Game, I regret deeply the loss of the two board members being replaced by Barrette and Huntington. Nate Turner has served two terms, is Vice Chair, and has participated tirelessly in board deliberations and ad hoc meetings. He had potentially a long and productive career on the board ahead of him. Karen Linnell has strong knowledge of subsistence and of Unit 13, where she resides. I realize that Senate Resources cannot do anything about the loss of these individuals, but wanted to make the committee aware.

3. Although the Board of Game has no specific seat requirements, if all the nominees are confirmed, three of the 7 members will be from Interior regions (two from Fairbanks and one from Huslia). There will be no one from southcentral, including Unit 13, a very important Unit in game management for Alaska. The remaining four members reside in Juneau, Kodiak, Bethel and Kenai. Naturally, they are familiar with most state regions, but the balance will be less geographically representative going forward than it has been.

4. I have co-authored two past proposals for no wolf kill areas adjacent to Denali National Park. I expect to introduce one at a future Board of Game meeting. I believe that I have the right to expect any nominee to listen carefully and not have a pre-formed opinion about such proposals, and to ask careful questions. I know from reading the statute that the Board of Game has broad allocative powers, powers that include limiting hunting opportunity where Alaskans have given a good reason, not even necessarily a biological reason, but a good allocative reason why it should be done. I know the legislature understands this authority of the Board, even if some who approach you and seek to advise you do not. Contrary to what you may have heard, a proposal to limit the take of one species next to a national park is a legitimate state action and does not constitute an attempt to "expand the park," even if some approach you with that assertion. Some of the oral public comments made during the confirmation hearing were misleading in this way.

The Board of Game is for all Alaskans.

Thank you,
Nancy Bale

nancybale@gci.net

Trever M. Fulton

From: Lin Davis <molin@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2019 6:01 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Fwd: BOG NO for Mr. Al Barrette

opps wrong address...

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lin Davis <molin@gci.net>
Subject: BOG NO for Mr. Al Barrette
Date: April 13, 2019 at 6:37:13 PM AKDT
To: Senate.resource@akleg.gov

April 12, 2019

Dear Senate Resources Committee:

Thank you for taking public testimony on the Board of Game/BOG appointees.

I want to urge you to vote No on Al Barrette. I listened to his 4/12/19 testimony before your committee and also his session in the House Resources Committee. Mr. Barrette's answers cause me to question his fitness for this position.

I am concerned that he has not demonstrated the professional judgment and communication skills needed for a BOG position. Today Representative Spohnholz's questioning uncovered that Mr. Barrette had been responsible for removing a designated subsistence area for Bethel. She asked him if he had talked with the people of Bethel before this removal, and he answered, "No." and the Rep replied, "Don't you think that was a necessary step?"

Serving on the BOG requires the highest level of communication skills. The Bethel situation appears to show a lack of basic communication.

In 2010 the Legislature rejected Mr. Barrette for a BOG position. At that time, many testifiers pointed out that his businesses profited from BOG decisions. Today he testified that he ended his wolf trap manufacturing business five years ago, but he continues his tannery business. For me, this appears to be an ongoing conflict of interest. The BOG has been plagued with charges of self-serving for many years, and I hope the board can clear its perceived conflict of interest.

In Mr. Barrette's previous public service work, many Alaskans have reported that he has a long history of decisions that favor non-resident hunters and a long history of not considering other perspectives, like non-consumptive users. And his 15 years of Advisory Council work show that he does not support fair chase hunting standards, as other testifiers have detailed. He is passionate about what many Alaskans regard as egregious bear and wolf killing methods. He also posted a YouTube video where he skins a wolf and makes extreme statements. His behavior does not demonstrate the professionalism needed for public service.

PLOS Biology just published a very critical article about the management of Alaskan bears and wolves, and Bill Sherwonit reported in an ADN opinion piece that the BOG is very upset. Now all eyes are on the Board of Game. Has the BOG been promoting backwards and egregious predator management practices?

With heavy scrutiny heading toward the BOG, Alaska can do better than Al Barrette.

The Board needs someone with a science background and a history of respectful listening to the needs of many user groups.

Additionally Mr. Barrette's decision-making on the Advisory Council has not always sided with common sense public safety. He has supported decreased snare/trap protection around trails, schools and other public use areas. Nearby residents, hikers, skiers have lodged concerns about traps being too close and endangering children and pets. They report being ignored. Alaska needs a BOG member with professionalism and the highest level of communication skills. Please vote No on Mr. Barrette.

Thank you for considering these points.

Sincerely,

Lin Davis

26 year Juneau resident and retired State worker

Trever M. Fulton

From: Alan Batten <alanbatten@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:57 PM
To: House Resources; Senate Resources
Subject: Board of Game appointees

Dear Representatives and Senators,

I urge you to reject the Governor's appointment of Al Barrette to the Board of Game. Mr. Barrette has frequently and loudly expressed his extreme views regarding predator control. Similar views are well-represented on the Board already. I would prefer to see more members with a more holistic ecological view of wildlife management, and more members representing non-consumptive uses of wildlife.

Thank you,

Alan Batten
946 Smallwood Trail
Fairbanks, AK 99712-3122
alanbatten@acsalaska.net

Trever M. Fulton

From: Sean Cahoon <sean.cahoon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 8:42 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: BOG nominee
Attachments: Ripple et al. 2019.pdf

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the nomination of Al Barrette to the Board of Game. Mr. Barrette represents the most extreme wing of intensive game management and is an abhorrent choice for Alaskans who value non-consumptive use of wildlife resources and support sustainable harvest levels. His track record of opposing the Denali wolf buffer, voting in favor of bear baiting during peak tourist season, supporting trap permits in residential areas that put dogs and children in danger, and promoting failed predator control programs should be enough to sink his nomination. Furthermore, Mr. Barrette has repeatedly expressed his reliance on an extreme, literal interpretations of the bible to inform his management philosophy. This is an unacceptable method of wildlife management, which should rely on scientific evidence. Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Barrette owns a fur tannery and stands to directly profit from his position on the BOG. The legislature cannot allow this type of conflict of interest and corruption in our government.

I implore you to reject Mr. Barrette's nomination and demand BOG nominees that are informed, open-minded and conflict-free in order to preserve Alaska's precious wildlife for generations to come. Current wildlife management policies in Alaska are a relic of historical assumptions that have repeatedly been falsified by hypothesis-based research. The attached peer-reviewed article elegantly outlines the shortcomings of BOG decisions and suggests policy-makers begin making more informed choices. Now it's your turn. Deny Mr. Barrette this position and let's start managing Alaska's wildlife in a smarter way.

Thank you,

Sean Cahoon

PERSPECTIVE

Large carnivores under assault in Alaska

William J. Ripple^{1*}, Sterling D. Miller^{2aa}, John W. Schoen^{2ab}, Sanford P. Rabinowitch^{3ac}

1 Global Trophic Cascades Program, Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, United States of America, **2** Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, Alaska, United States of America, **3** United States National Park Service, Anchorage, Alaska, United States of America

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* bill.ripple@oregonstate.edu

Abstract

In Alaska, gray wolves (*Canis lupis*), brown bears (*Ursus arctos*), and black bears (*U. americanus*) are managed in most of the state in ways intended to significantly reduce their abundance in the expectation of increasing hunter harvests of ungulates. To our knowledge, Alaska is unique in the world because this management priority is both widespread and mandated by state law. Large carnivore management in Alaska is a reversion to outdated management concepts and occurs without effective monitoring programs designed to scientifically evaluate impacts on predator populations. Large carnivore management in Alaska should be based on rigorous science including the status and trends of carnivore populations.



OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Ripple WJ, Miller SD, Schoen JW, Rabinowitch SP (2019) Large carnivores under assault in Alaska. PLoS Biol 17(1): e3000090. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000090>

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Provenance: Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed

When Aldo Leopold saw “a fierce green fire dying” in the eyes of a gray wolf he’d just shot, he recognized that his actions taken in the hope of creating a “hunters’ paradise” of deer was ill conceived [1]. Most of the world now recognizes that apex predators have great intrinsic value as well as providing vitally important ecosystem services. In many cases, these services outweigh some of the inconveniences to humans associated with large carnivore populations [2]. At an accelerating rate during recent decades in Alaska, however, brown bears (Fig 1), black bears, and gray wolves have been targeted for significant reductions in abundance in the expectation this will result in more wild ungulates (moose [*Alces alces*], caribou [*Rangifer tarandus*], and deer [*Odocoileus hemionus sitkensis*]) available for hunter harvest. A management priority favoring wild ungulates over large carnivores acquired the force of law with the passage in 1994 of Alaska’s Intensive Management Law. This law effectively mandates management to reduce large carnivores and increase human harvests of wild ungulates. The Alaska Intensive Management efforts are occurring without rigorously collected data on the impacts of these management practices on large carnivores [3,4,5] and ecosystems [e.g., 2].

Historically, gray wolves and brown bears were nearly extirpated in the conterminous United States because of persecution and habitat loss [6]. Similar reductions occurred



Fig 1. Alaskan brown bears in Denali National Park. Photo credit: J.W. Schoen.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000090.g001>

throughout the world (e.g., [2] for Europe). In Alaska, large areas of intact habitat for large carnivores persist, although in some areas, habitats and populations are depleted by human activities such as roads, logging, mining, and other development.

The Alaska Intensive Management law sets a management priority for high levels of harvests of wild ungulates in areas where these ungulates are “important for human consumption” (Alaska Statutes 16.02.255). The law specifies that Intensive Management must occur when the Alaska Board of Game makes a finding that the harvestable numbers of ungulates are insufficient to meet human demand for game meat. Under this law, before the Board can change hunting regulations to reduce human take of ungulate species, Intensive Management must occur. Although habitat management such as controlled burns to create early-succession moose habitat is an identified Intensive Management technique under the law, the most significant Intensive Management efforts have been implemented by liberalizing hunting regulations for large carnivores [3 for brown bears]. The lack of significant Intensive Management efforts from habitat improvement is precluded by scale, cost, and in the case of fire, threats to human structures [8]. In some places, termed Predator Control Areas, especially aggressive efforts include agency shooting of bears (both species) from helicopters, snaring of bears, and shooting female brown bears accompanied by cubs [3]. By 2017, the last remaining Predator Control Area for bears was eliminated. In wolf Predator Control Areas, allowed and utilized techniques include shooting of wolves by agency staff

from helicopters, land and aerial hunting by the public, and carbon monoxide poisoning of pups in dens. Alaska conveniently defines “predator control” efforts as occurring only in these Predator Control Areas; this allows the state to claim that “predator control” is ongoing in only a small portion of Alaska. However, the degree that Intensive Management is accomplished by liberalized general hunting regulations for large carnivores is far more geographically extensive than the Predator Control Areas. For brown bears, regulation liberalizations include techniques such as shooting bears in dens, baiting bears, long (sometimes year-round) open hunting seasons, elimination of resident tag fees, and liberalized individual harvest quotas of 2 per year [3]. In a state of about 1,509,600 km², 91% has been identified by the Alaska Board of Game as being important for human consumption of ungulates and therefore eligible for Intensive Management actions for one or more of the three wild ungulate species (compiled from 5 Alaska Administrative Code 92.108). Of this, the largest portion (60.1% of Alaska) is for moose (Fig 2).

Intensive Management regulations for all three species of large carnivores have been liberalized in increasing proportions of the state over the last 30 years. Reported kills of brown bears by hunters more than doubled during the last 30 years in a liberalized brown bear hunting area comprising 76% of the state [3]. Major liberalizations of hunting regulations for black bears and wolves also occurred, including expanded bag limits and extensions of seasons into times of the year when hides have little value.

Even Alaska’s 11 National Preserves managed by the United States National Park Service are not refugia from predator reduction regulations adopted by the state of Alaska. This is because a provision in the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act allows sport hunting in Alaskan National Preserves, and the state determines who qualifies as a sport hunter (normally all Alaska residents and often nonresidents). This means that Alaska’s predator hunting regulations generally apply on National Preserves even though this is inconsistent with National Park Service policy guidelines, which state:

“The Service does not engage in activities to reduce the numbers of native species for the purpose of increasing the numbers of harvested species (i.e., predator control) . . .” ([9] Section 4.4.3).

Since about 2010, the National Park Service in Alaska has resisted adopting some of the most extreme of the state’s predator-reduction hunting and trapping regulations in National Preserves. The National Park Service currently has the legal authority to do this (Federal Register, 80 FR 205, 23 October 2015). The federal administration that took office in 2017, however, is currently proposing to reverse this 2015 rule, thereby constraining the ability of the National Park Service to resist adopting Alaska’s liberal hunting and trapping regulations on National Preserves (80 Federal Register 64325, RIN 1024-AE38). Similarly, nationwide, the current administration is also attempting to require that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attempt to “align” hunting and trapping regulations on National Wildlife Refuges with regulations of the encompassing state. This constrains the ability of national wildlife refuge managers to manage hunting in ways consistent with national interests. In Alaska, this proposal makes it difficult for national wildlife refuge managers to resist adopting the state’s predator control regulations such as baiting for brown bears on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge [3]. If successful in forcing managers of National Wildlife Refuges to adopt state hunting and trapping regulations, national priorities for wildlife management within refuges could be compromised throughout the United States.

Recent ecological studies have demonstrated the fundamental importance of apex predators in stabilizing ecosystems [2,10,11]. The removal or significant reduction of large carnivores can trigger a chain of events that can create a downward spiral toward ecosystem simplification [10]. Because research strongly suggests that apex predators regulate ecosystem structure

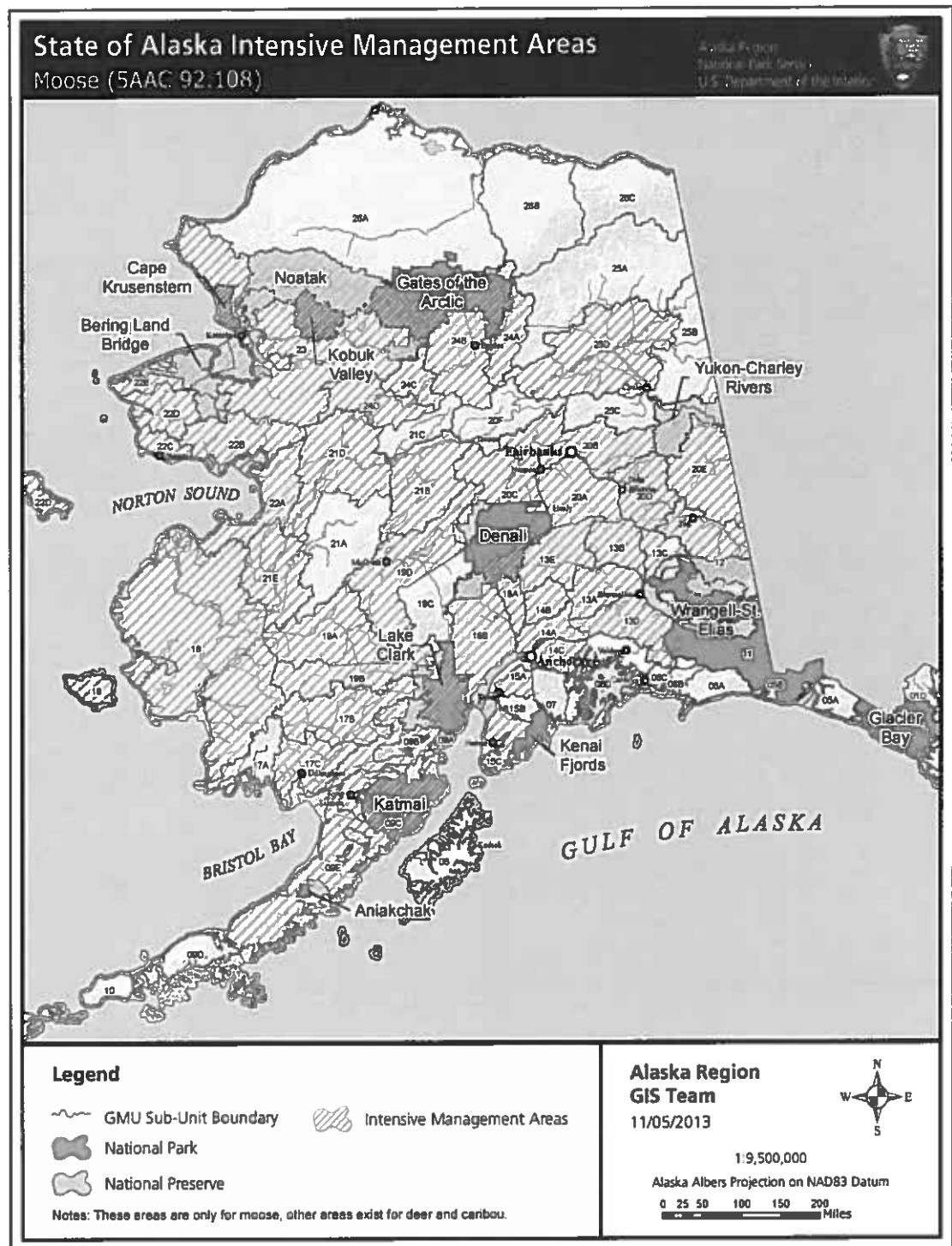


Fig 2. Areas in Alaska authorized for Intensive Management of large carnivores to benefit moose hunters (shown as crosshatched). Predator reduction (hairs and/or wolves) occurs in essentially all of these authorized areas through liberalized hunting regulations for large carnivores. Additional areas are similarly identified for caribou (including Unit 26 in the far north) and deer (southeast Alaska through Prince William Sound and Kodiak Island). Source: US National Park Service.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000090.g002>

and function, it would make sense for wildlife managers to carefully evaluate the ecological role of apex predators prior to implementing programs designed to reduce large carnivores. Hunting, especially selective hunting for large trophy animals, also can have adverse behavioral and genetic consequences for hunted populations [12,13]. A recent study concluded that Alaska's wolf predator control management, adjacent to the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve, had adverse impacts on wolf populations within the national preserve where there was no wolf control [14].

Science-based management of large carnivores in most of Alaska will require the political will and wisdom to repeal Alaska's Intensive Management law. Alternatively or additionally, it will require professional wildlife managers to resist adoption of predator reduction regulations that are not conducted as experiments and/or do not include adequate monitoring programs of both carnivores and ungulates; this was a key recommendation in the 1997 report of National Research Council [5]. Furthermore, in Alaska and other states, the U.S. Department of the Interior needs to meet its legal mandate to manage for natural and healthy ecosystems in ways that are in the national interest. In Alaska, this will require not aligning hunting and trapping regulations on National Park Preserves and National Wildlife Refuges with state regulations that are designed to reduce naturally occurring densities of large carnivores. The state of Alaska also should be candid with the public about the absence of science supporting the efficacy of predator control programs to achieve established objectives with regard to ungulate harvests instead of making unsupported claims of “success” for wolf reduction efforts in publicly distributed booklets about Intensive Management (e.g., [15]). For bears, there are not even any claimed successes for increased harvests of adult moose or caribou resulting from increased bear harvests [3]. Appointments by the Alaska Governor to the Alaska Board of Game, which sets Alaska hunting regulations, should include members who recognize the importance and value of large carnivores both to ecosystem function [2] as well as to the state's economy and wildlife viewing enthusiasts [16]. Mechanisms and funding must be in place to ensure science-based management that includes adequate monitoring and research of predator–prey relationships and trends [3,5,17]. Information campaigns and other grass roots efforts by concerned citizens and nongovernmental organizations are likely needed to remedy current unsound management practices for large carnivores in Alaska.

Alaska is unique in the world as a place where brown bear, black bear, and gray wolf populations are intentionally targeted for population reductions in efforts to increase human harvests of wild ungulate prey species and this priority is mandated by state statute. Similar management priorities do not occur in Europe [7,18]. The situation in Europe, however, is complicated by the private ownership of wildlife in many countries, which creates economic incentives to control predators from landowners who lease hunting rights. Predators are controlled in some other areas of the world to reduce losses of domestic livestock. In parts of Canada, there are concerns that reductions in wolf abundance may be necessary to bolster woodland caribou populations depleted by habitat losses [19].

In most of the world, there has been a paradigm shift moving away from predator control to supposedly benefit ungulates [20]. Enlightened scientific management at the scale of ecosystems is needed to put Alaska back on the path to avoiding the errors in predator management experienced a century ago when Leopold first noticed the fierce green fire fading in the eyes of a dying wolf.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization: William J. Ripple, Sterling D. Miller, John W. Schoen, Sanford P. Rabinowitch.

Writing – original draft: William J. Ripple, Sterling D. Miller, John W. Schoen, Sanford P. Rabinowitch.

Writing – review & editing: William J. Ripple, Sterling D. Miller, John W. Schoen, Sanford P. Rabinowitch.

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Trever M. Fulton

From: aknorthwind@arctic.net
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:51 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Governor's Appointees for the Board of Game

Dear Sir or Madam,

As an Alaska resident I have great concerns about the Governor's announced appointee to the Board of Game, Mr. Al Barrette. It is improper and unethical to place a person into a position where he/she will supposedly represent all the people of the state, when that person has obvious personal bias as to how the laws of that office should be written.

*Mr. Barrette owns and operates the Fairbanks Fur Tannery.

*Mr. Barrette manufactures and sells wolf traps.

*Mr. Barrette has been a permitted gunner in aerial hunting of wolves. He has been quoted in a 2010 Alaska Daily News article as saying, "I will definitely be a representative for the trappers".

*Mr. Barrette has voted AGAINST restricting trapping in residential areas in Healy despite strong local support from Healy residents who voiced concerns about their pets being caught in traps.

*Mr. Barrette has opposed the Denali Buffer Zone and has supported preventing consideration of reinstating the buffer zone for at least six years.

*Mr. Barrette suggested that the BOG authorize using a snow machine to pursue wolves in the area that had previously been a buffer zone adjacent to the park.

Given Mr. Al Barrette's obvious bias toward hunting and trapping we feel he cannot possibly represent the many Alaskans who do not agree with those practices that he promotes. Please do not allow his appointment to the Board of Game.

Sincerely,

Joanie Martinez
PO Box 222
Moose Pass, Alaska 99631

Trever M. Fulton

From: Pat Irwin <pat49below@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:19 PM
To: House Resources; Senate Resources
Subject: BOG

To whom it may concern:

Please do not appoint Mr. Al Barrette to the Alaska Board of Game.

Here's just a few of Mr.Barrette's past controversial actions that illustrate to me that he is NOT a good choice for the BOG:

- Favoring non-resident hunter rights over resident and subsistence hunter rights
- Extreme radical and sometimes downright cruel proposals (such as snowmachining down wolves)
- Outwardly supports trapping and bear baiting in areas that causes danger to nearby residents & pets.
- Does not support fair chase hunting standards
- Has a record of voting on issues that benefit his own business interests rather than recuse himself from those votes.
- Has admitted and proven he does not take into account public testimony and does not consider other perspectives other than his own.

Please do not appoint Mr. Barrette. There are many other knowledgeable *and less controversial* choices for the Alaska Board of Game.

Please appoint someone who will help the BOG make balanced, educated, economically sound, and sustainable (21st century) decisions for Alaska.

Thank you for your time,
Pat Irwin
939 Ocean Dr Loop
Homer, AK 99603

907 435 7077

Trever M. Fulton

From: Gary <gary@qualitysales.net>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 3:10 PM
To: House Resources; Senate Resources
Subject: Board of Game Appointment

As a lifelong Alaskan, business owner, and student of the outdoors; I want to strongly urge you to support the nomination of Allen Barrette to the board of game.

I have assisted Fish and game both enforcement and research offices. Sustained yield concept and balance is extremely important. Allen is the MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE AND INFORMED prospect we have the opportunity to appoint. Allen is open minded and his decision making would be balanced for the good of the resource and diverse user groups.

Please do not miss the opportunity to add his expertise to the board..

Gary

Gary Nance
President
Quality Sales Foodservice
1900 Phillips Field Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907-458-0000

Trever M. Fulton

From: robin song <robinsong2004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 2:59 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Gov's appointee to BOG

Greetings;

I am strongly apposed to the Governor's appointee to the BOG- specifically Mr. Barrette. We do not have a fair and balanced BOG, and it is because of people like him, who owns a Tannery and who sells wolf traps, that it remains that way. He has no interest in protecting Alaska's wildlife and should not be on the BOG. He advocates bear baiting and abolishing the Denali Park buffer zone which protects wolves. He is blatantly self-serving and short-sighted. Please place people on the Board who are willing to protect Alaska's beleaguered wildlife.

Thank you,
Robin Song
Talkeetna

Sent from my iPhone

Trever M. Fulton

From: Francis Mauer <fmauer@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 2:05 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: Confirmation of Mr. Barrette for AK Board of Game

April 12, 2019

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

I am a 48 year resident Alaska hunter and write to express my concerns regarding the confirmation of Mr. Barrette for the Alaska Board of Game.

Many of you may remember, Mr. Barrette was denied confirmation by the Legislature nine years ago, in part for an apparent conflict of interest regarding his tannery business and also heavy public opposition to his aggressive support for predator control which could yield more animal skins for his enterprise.

In addition to the conflict of interest concern, it is important to understand Mr. Barrette's support for extreme and unethical methods for killing predators. His views on such actions puts him beyond the bounds of acceptable wildlife management and ethical standards. His presence on the Alaska Board of Game will have a corrupting influence and be an embarrassment for the State of Alaska.

As Alaskan hunter who cherishes fair-chase hunting, I respectfully urge you to vote no on the confirmation of Mr. Barrette. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Fran Mauer

Fairbanks, 99712

Trever M. Fulton

From: Beth Terry <cottonwoodcabin2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2019 1:52 PM
To: Senate Resources
Subject: RE: Governor's Appointees for the Board of Game

Dear Senators,

I am a 55 year resident, a lifelong Alaskan. I am not a hunter, though I fish and love to receive wild game from friends who do hunt. I am testifying today on the Governors Appointees for the BOG, because it has come to my attention that the Board of Game has once again become very unbalanced, without much representation from the part of the community that my family and I inhabit, which are those of us who get a lot of enjoyment from viewing wild animals when we are out and about in the forest. For example, a few weeks ago I saw a large male lynx stalking a hare on my property here on the Hillside in Anchorage. It made my day, heck, it made my week! I just wish that I'd had my camera handy.

Many years ago I came to the conclusion that the human population in Alaska had gotten to the point that if everyone in the state were to hunt, that we soon would either be completely out of wildlife, or the people that I know who have been lifelong hunters would not get to go out every year to get their game, that it would be something that they would only be allowed to do every other year or even less often. And so I decided that I would leave that activity for the people who really enjoy it, who would feel a drastic lowering of the quality of their life if they could not go out on their annual fall trip. And so I took myself out of the "consumption class", and put myself into the "viewer class" (mostly). But this works both ways.....and when trapping and hunting are managed solely by people who only see the value of an animal in it's fur, antlers, or meat, then it becomes unfair to the rest of us. One glaring example of this are the Denali wolf packs which have been wiped out by a handful of trappers and hunters. The idea that one guy who wants to make a mere \$75 a pelt on a few wolves is able to adversely affect a half a million people per year who want to see those wolves is ridiculous. Then you throw in all the business owners who lose out when tourists choose to go to Yellowstone instead of Alaska, where they actually have a good chance of seeing wolves. And then you throw in all the people like me who fund our retirements by doing VRBO rentals, and how many millions of tourists, and how many Alaskans have been adversely affected?

In light of this, I am very concerned by the lopsidedness of the makeup of the current BOG. I ask you legislators to demand a more balanced makeup for the BOG, and in particular to vote against confirmation of Mr. Al Barrette, whose extremist views on fair chase are so out of sync with my own beliefs that I find them to be inhumane and disgustingly cruel. I would also strongly urge the legislature to push for a board who considers science, and who sees the benefit to our state of reinstating the buffer zones around Denali. As Oil and Gas jobs decline, those of us who have relied on that industry are having to turn more to tourism dollars. It is time for a more balanced approach than the current one which places one user groups desires above everyone else's.

Thank you for your time.

Beth Terry
Lifelong Alaskan
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Anchorage, AK