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4640 Dale Road
Fairbanks, Alaska
January 23, 1975

Bob Hinman
Regional Game Supervisor
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Hinman:

The undersigned members of the Chena River Sportsman Club support any initiative to institute a predator control program in game management unit 20-A. This support includes aerial wolf hunting and/or a closed moose season. Though ordinarily many of us couldn't condone aerial hunting, we know this to be the only feasible approach in lowering wolf numbers. It's not by passing rumor that we believe the moose herd in 20-A to be in trouble and the wolf population to be extremely healthy. This is an area which we have in the past extensively utilized and base our beliefs on our past and current field observations.

- Jerry R. Pike Resident 34 years Fairbanks, Alaska
- Sandra Kay Pike Resident 21 years. 5660 Airport
- "Frankie" Stan Ripley Resident of Alaska for 20 yrs
- Lloyd W. Pike P.O. Box 60412 Fairbanks
- Joan B. Davis 5880 Airport Way Fairbanks
- Gene R. Davis 5880 Airport Way Fairbanks
- Ed H. Leonard 1401 Lathrop St. Fairbanks
- Dottie A. Leonard 1401 Lathrop, Fairbanks
- Margaret Wilkowskie 5th & ... Fairbanks
- Dorothy Thompson
- Mrs. Lorraine Kirk 1426-3rd ave., Fairbanks
- Fred Kirk 1426 3rd ave Fairbanks
- Burdick Kirk - "Bud"
- Peter Redfern 4735 3rd & Powerswood Fairbanks

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R.A. Kellough 4780 Dale Rd
" " " "
Jack Smith " " " "
David Wright 4763 5th St
" " " "
Barbara Wright
Marjory E. Pile P.O. Box 60412 apt 2000 Anchorage Alaska
Wm Elverson P.O. Box 3116 Fairbanks 7 years in
Dorothy M. Witkowski 4640 Hale Rd

CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS PAGE

Wären " Mc Monos Kody Dr. Fairbanks
Louie Mc Monos Kody Dr. Fairbanks
Roman E. Witkowski 4640 Dale Rd Fairbanks
Carl B. Pedersen 4735 Third + Barrenswood Fairbanks
Tom Bulute 4 1/2 mill. Badger Rd, Fairbanks
Roy Pederson 2611 Dale Rd 4
Dale DeWolf 1136 Hayes E.B.L. Alaska
4578 Wood River Pt F.R.T.s Alaska

Box 2052
Fairbanks, Alaska
January 16, 1975

Dear Editor:

The recent meeting at the TVSA clubhouse indicated that the arrogant, Watergate mentality has spread to all branches of government, including the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game must be notified that they will be placed on the "endangered" list if they persist in their arrogant plan to "poach" wolves in 20A.

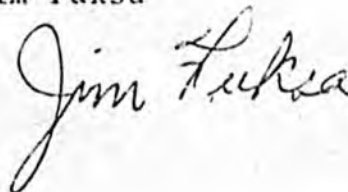
The wolves, as well as the moose and caribou belong to all the people of Alaska and not exclusively to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Wolf control must be carried out by private, licensed airplane hunters, licensed game hunters and licensed trappers. The wolf will then be the exclusive property of the successful licensed hunter, trapper or pilot.

A bounty of \$1,000 for each dead wolf with a minimum of 150 wolves taken from 20A (would be a cheap price to pay for the moose saved) would give the proper incentive to make the control program successful.

Sincerely,

Jim Fuksa

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Fuksa". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

1347 Rewak Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
January 18, 1975

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Gentlemen:

I am writing to protest your decision to institute aerial wolf hunting in Subunit 20A. I am an Athabascan Indian who was born and has lived his entire life in the Tanana Valley. For centuries my people have lived in harmony with the wolves and moose but with the advent of the white man everything that is Alaska is being destroyed. The white man has decimated the moose population and now proposes to attempt to destroy the wolves. With the incredible economic bias the white man has on everything I'm sure if he could think of a way to exploit the black spruce and river silt he'd attempt to wipe them out too.

In my opinion, through their inept "management" of the moose, the Department of Fish and Game have shown they couldn't "manage" their way out of a wet paper bag. The Department foolishly allowed a season on cow moose (due to some mystical insight they have into the moose's sex life) and allowed the herd to become depleted and now they plan to rectify their error by instituting aerial hunting of wolves. By some obscure twist of white man's logic these two wrongs will make a right. I say leave the wolves alone and if you're afraid of further depredations the wolves might make in the moose herd then I suggest you stake out Fish and Game employees for the wolves to eat.

Your feedlot mentality as regards Alaska's wildlife disgusts me. Alaskan residence does not guarantee anyone a chance at a moose in their freezer. I do not understand where you feel you received a mandate to provide a protein subsidy to the citizenry. Since most of us receive a pay check then let's do our hunting in the meat counter of our local grocery store.

My fondest wish is that you and your gun equipped aircraft stop meddling in Alaska's wildlife and return to the cesspool of the lower 48 states from whence you came. Leave Alaska to the moose, the wolves and the Indians. Possibly the land can be saved before you destroy it completely.

Sincerely yours,

Allan J. Renfroe
Allan J. Renfroe

cc; Governor Jay Hammond
Representative Mike Bradner
Ivan Thorall, Member, Alaska Fish and Game Advisory Board

5540 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
January 16, 1975

Gentlemen:

I feel that the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game has mismanaged the moose population in Game Subunit 20A. The recent decision of the Department to institute aerial hunting of wolves is nothing but an effort to lay blame on the wolf for the Department's wrongdoings.

In the fall of 1973, the Department was aware that the moose population in the unit had dwindled to less than half the number the area could usually support. The Department, therefore, decided to cut the population still further by authorizing a cow season. This only served to further deplete the population of moose.

Rather than use aerial hunting to correct the errors of the Department, I feel that it would be best to let nature take its course, close the area to hunting, and allow the ecology balance to right itself.

PAT JOHNSON

copies:

Representative Mike Bradner
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Mr. Ivan Thorall
912 E. Arnette St.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Governor Jay Hammond
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Senator John Butrovich
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

P. O. Box 81443
College, Alaska 99701
January 16, 1975

Governor Jay Hammond
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Aerial Wolf Hunting
in Game Management
Subunit 20A

Dear Governor Hammond:

At a Tanana Valley Sportsman's Association meeting on Tuesday, January 14, I was confronted with the awesome report by the Department of Fish and Game that aerial wolf hunting will begin in Subunit 20A before this spring. As a six-year resident of Fairbanks, my anxiety has grown yearly regarding such a move, and now that the reality is upon us, I see that my worries were not unfounded. Human error in environmental policy has caused a moose shortage, and as in the Lower 48, human ego is blindly and erroneously attempting to cover its own wrong doings by placing the blame on nature. Want more moose? Kill more wolves!

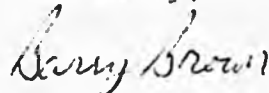
I'm certain you are aware of all the arguments, pro and con, regarding this subject. I myself am no expert by any means. But I do wish to voice my opinion and go on record as one more Alaskan opposed to such vicious and self-destructive human interference with a delicate eco-system. The Fairbanks Daily News Miner (1/15/75) quoted Hinman as saying that "the program (killing) will be as clean and well controlled as possible...the general idea is to get in there fast and hit hard and take at least 100 wolves a year and more if possible...such a hunt will not be a one time affair but will probably be a continuing program... it has to be, if the moose in the flats are to increase." In the same article, the News Miner also noted that there are an estimated 175 wolves in the flats.

One needn't be what Hinman labled an "outside extremist group" to see where this logic takes us: at 100+ wolves killed a year, plus the usual fur trappers' toll, it takes us to no more wolves. May God help his blind people.

Men wiped out the wolves in most of the southern states. It kept the cattlemen and hunters happy. And Alaskans are still under the maniacal illusion that every man should get his moose. Where does that attitude lead us when the human population is doubled? Alaskans must realize, before we kill all the wildlife, that they don't have to kill moose to survive. Times change, and so must attitudes. Killing wolves is only another paranoid human gesture to cover the real problem, the problem being how to keep

the voters happy and still keep Alaska the beautiful place it is. I hope that logic (through public education) will replace greed as the motivating force in Alaskan residents--and government representatives--in the handling of our wild friends.

Sincerely,



Barry Brown

cc: Jim Brooks
Bob Hinman
Representative Don Young
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Mike Gravel
Fairbanks Daily News Miner

Dear Sirs:

My husband and I came to Alaska one year ago. We came on a voluntary basis, tickled to death to have the opportunity to live in the "last Frontier".

We are both outdoors people. We love to back-pack, camp, fish and while I go but don't carry a gun, we both enjoy hunting. In the fall of 1974, we went moose hunting in the 20A area. We were both surprised to find that a cow as well as a bull moose could be hunted. My husband had misgivings about killing a cow. He was told that the reason for this ruling was that there were so many of them, it wouldn't matter. So after hunting four days and getting no shot at a bull, he took a cow.

Now we are told that the hunting season in 20A will be closed next year and probably for several years thereafter because the moose population has dropped to a level that is endangering the herd. And at the same time we are told that the wolf population in the area must be weeded out because they (quote)"are giving unfair competition to the hunters".(unquote)

First of all, I am not at all convinced that the wolf population in the area is as large as Department of Fish and Game would lead us to believe. And if it is, I do not feel that this is a justification to open war on them. As much as I enjoyed that moose in the freezer and on my table, I would gladly forfeit it to a wolf. I am not in favor of aerial hunting of the wolf in order to right a wrong done by mankind. Mismanagement has caused the imbalance in the area. Now let's just get out of there and let nature right the wrong.

The idea of wolves on the outskirts of town does not terrify me. It reminds me of where I am, in the "Last Frontier". Where else in the world do I have a chance of hearing and possibly seeing a wolf in the wild? It's things like this that brought me here and I love it. Leave the wolves alone.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. V. Owen

Mrs. J. V. Owen

Fairbanks Resident and Proud of it.

January 16, 1975

Dear Sir:

I have never written a letter of protest before in my life, but after attending the meeting of the Tanana Valley Sportsman's Association last Tuesday night, January 14, 1975, I feel moved to say something about the moose vs wolf controversy.

1. By their own admission, the Department of Fish and Game has made gross errors in the counting and estimating of the number of moose in the 20A hunting area. And yet they speak authoritatively of the estimated number of wolves in the area. Their admission of error in the first instance does not inspire confidence in the second.
2. I do not buy their estimate of the number of moose consumed in one year by the wolves in 20A, ie., 300-400 calves and 300-400 adult moose for a pack of 175 wolves.
3. When asked repeatedly about their policy of both cows and calves being taken from the 20A area, the representatives from Fish and Game refused to answer. In my opinion, this was certainly mismanagement.
4. The problem is too many hunters with too few restrictions and too long a hunting season not too many wolves.

My solution to the problem that exists is not to open war on the wolves. Close hunting in the area indefinitely. Let nature take it's course and set it's own level. It is not the wolf that is endangering the moose herd in 20A...it is the hunter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sherry Owen
Mrs. Sherry Owen
204 Eureka
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

L 16 January, 1975

Robert Hinman:

I have watched and listened to the recent furor about moose management in Unit 20-A. I wish to make two points to you.

1) Anyone who could see past the Tanana River from Fairbanks could predict the current levels of moose in Unit 20-A. Mel Buckholtz said that the ADFG could not predict the rapid increase in harvest. I say they could. The road that the military pushed across 20-A to the Blair Lakes Bombing Range gave new late--season access to 2 and 4 wheel drive trucks. This impacted the Gold King area with snow machines and skyrocketed the harvest. People like trapper Jim Smith told this to the Fish & Game Biologists, but this could not be seen from the College Road Office. I made a written proposal to the Board to eliminate mechanized ground vehicles from 20-A which would have decreased the harvest to acceptable levels and avoided the present crisis. As you may remember, I was criticized in the newspaper with the statement that I did not want the weasels competing with my horses. This remark was from one of those who do things only for personal reasons and cannot look forward in game management but only rearward. I repeat, the present moose situation was predictable and your office was repeatedly warned.

2) The second point. You may decide whether or not to institute further wolf controls in Unit 20-A. As a dues-paying sportsman, I say do it the most reasonable way possible. Do not put Fish & Game in the expensive business of wolf control when there are sportsmen (who pay your salary) who want to do it for nothing, under permit, and for recreation. I think that just because some Fish & Game personnel want to kill some wolves is not reason to force the sportsmen to pay their way to take away the sportsmen's recreation. Be reasonable. Look at the Yellowstone Elk Herd.

This is intended to be constructive. That is why I write to you instead of to the newspaper. In closing, you will have to get your finger on the pulse of what is happening. Too many of your biologists do not feel the pulse due to their own personal calouses. You will have to begin restricting mechanized ground access to hunting areas or more of Alaska's game will go the way of the Unit 20-A moose and caribou.

Joe Nava

cc Robert Rausch

P.O. Box 2658
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707
January 15, 1975

Mr. Ivan Thorall
912 Barnette St.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Thorall:

The recent decision to open Subunit 20A to aerial wolf hunting is an attempt by the Department of Fish and Game to appease the hunters by punishing the wolves for the departments mismanagement of the moose population in the Interior. The days of hunting a moose as a supplement to one's income went out in Alaska along with the stern wheeler. The average hunter is not a man living off the land. Mr. Average Hunter owns wither a \$10,000 aircraft, a \$3,000 ATV, a \$3,000 riverboat or a \$2,500 snow machine along with a \$6,000 pickup truck (which is probably 4 wheel drive). His income is in excess of \$8.00 per hour, he lives in a modern home and takes vacation time to hunt. The year is 1975, not 1938. It's time to manage the game for all the people of Alaska and not just the meat hunter.

I find aerial hunting of wolves abhorrent. I am aware that aerial hunting will not wipe out the wolf population forever in the Subunit but it is a brutal unsportsmanlike method of "correcting" the department's bungling. If any predator must be removed from Subunit 20A I suggest that man be removed permanently and the wolves be left alone. I write as a 30 year old life long Alaskan who would rather see hunting eliminated completely than see the Interior treated as a meat locker for its human residents. Don't make the wolf pay for man's mistakes.

Sincerely,

Ann Renfroe

cc: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks
Governor Jay Hammond
Representative Mike Bradner
Senator John Butrovich

George E. Gordon
P.O. Box 80323
College, Alaska 99701
January 8, 1975

State of Alaska
Dept. of Fish & Game
1300 College Rd.
Fairbanks, Alaska

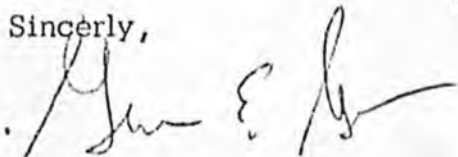
Dear Sirs:

The recent articles in the Daily News Miner concerning depletion of moose in the Tanana flats appears to be a blatant attempt on the part of your department to cover up an example of complete mismanagement of this renewable resource by inept personnel.

Wolves certainly aren't responsible for this fiasco, the causes are obviously setting seasons that are too long and bag limits that allow taking of any moose that moves, ie cows and calves as well as bulls. No wonder there aren't enough sick moose for the wolves.

In your attempts to now rectify the gross mistakes of the past it would make the difficult decisions on complete closure and destruction of guiding in the area and aerial wolf hunting more palatable to sportsmen if your department would admit to making these mistakes rather than trying to cover them up with a public relations campaign such as you've started in our local paper.

Sincerely,



George E. Gordon

cc: Editor - Daily News Miner,
Dept. of Fish & Game, Juneau, Alaska

THE WOLVES OF CORONATION ISLAND

by

Harry R. Merriam ¹
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Introduction

On October 27, 1960, four timber wolves (Canis lupus ligoni), all approximately 19 months old, were released on Coronation Island in Southeast Alaska. At the time of the transplant deer were present on the island but there was no knowledge of prior occupancy by wolves. The wolves were taken from a den on Kuiu Island when about one month old and were held in captivity until their subsequent release.

Wolves are indigenous to most of Southeast Alaska with the exception of Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof Islands. The Sitka black-tailed deer (Odocoileus hemionus sitkensis) is present in varying degrees of abundance throughout Southeast Alaska and normally is the major food item for wolves. In areas where deer and wolves co-exist wolves must influence deer populations, but the importance of this relationship has not been demonstrated. Deer populations in this northern region fluctuate greatly depending on the severity of the winter. Many people feel wolves should be controlled to provide more deer for the hunter and a bounty system initiated by the Territorial Legislature in 1915 is still in effect.

The objectives of the project are to determine the impact of wolves on a deer population, factors which control wolf numbers and changes in the habitat induced by the introduction of a predator species.

¹ Presented at the 15th Alaskan Science Conference, Fairbanks, Alaska, September 2, 1964.

Transplant Site

Coronation Island is situated at the outer edge of the Alexander Archipelago in Southeast Alaska, approximately 80 miles southeast of the town of Petersburg (55° 53' North latitude, 134° 15' West longitude). It is about ten miles long by three and one-half miles wide containing an area of 30 square miles. The shore line is irregular, indented by several bays and exposed on the west and south to the sweep of the Pacific Ocean. The ground formation is predominantly limestone and the highest point on the island is 1,960 feet. About 80 per cent of the island is forested, 11 per cent muskeg, 6 percent subalpine and the remainder, rock, alder slide and water. Forest cover is primarily Sitka spruce (Picea sitchensis) and western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla) with smaller amounts of yellow cedar (Chamaecyparis nootkatensis) present. The influence of the marine climate results in milder winters with less snow accumulation than in most other areas of Southeast Alaska.

Pre-wolf Conditions

In 1959 when the author first visited the island, deer densities were not high compared to many other areas of Southeast Alaska; however, because of mild winters the deer population had probably remained stable for many years. In spite of the low deer density utilization of food species was so great that available forest understory was almost completely removed. The more palatable food species such as red huckleberry (Vaccinium parvifolium), blueberry (V. ovalifolium), black current (Ribes bracteosum), elderberry (Sambucus racemosa), skunk cabbage (Lysichitum americanum), ground dogwood (Cornus canadensis) and deer heart (Fauria cristi-galli) were present only

in locations inaccessible to deer. Even unpalatable species as rusty menziesia (Menziesia ferruginea), sword fern (Polysticum munitum), devils club (Oplopanax horridus) and hemlock and spruce reproduction were missing from the forest floor.

Klein (1963) demonstrated that deer on Coronation Island (especially males) were about 20 per cent smaller than deer of equivalent age on better ranges of Southeast Alaska. He also showed that the nitrogen content of rumen samples from Coronation Island deer was significantly less (4.47 compared to 6.42 for gross sample) than from Woronkofski Island, one of the better deer ranges which also supported a wolf population.

Remains of deer carcasses within the beach fringe evidenced some annual mortality and examination of bone marrow indicated it was probably from malnutrition.

Post-wolf Conditions

In October, 1960, two male of two female wolves were placed on the island. At least one pup was born in the spring of 1961. In July, 1961, both of the original females were killed by a fisherman; only one was lactating. In June, 1962, positive evidence of only two wolves was found. In April, 1963, an additional adult female was placed on the island. In August, 1963, a family group of three pups and two adults was seen. Tracks indicated the presence of two additional adult wolves. In July, 1964, a family group of four adults and two pups, two groups of three adults each and a single adult were seen. Some of these sightings may have been duplications; however, there are at least seven adults and two pups on the

island at the present time. In July, 1964, fresh wolf tracks were encountered on all beaches. A well-defined wolf trail was present in the beach fringe along the entire northern shore of the island and trails were also present on the island proper.

Wolf scats have been collected and analyzed each year since the transplant. Table 1 lists the food items identified.

Table 1. Food items contained in wolf scats from Coronation Island.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Scats</u>	<u>Frequency of Food Items (% in total scats collected)</u>		
		<u>Deer</u>	<u>Harbor Seal</u>	<u>Other</u>
1961	146	78	43	2
1962	18	89	(checked only for deer)	
1963	45	89	53	27
1964	77	95	32	14

The primary food item of the wolves has always been deer. The incidence of deer remains in scats has increased from 78 per cent in 1961 to 95 per cent in 1964. Harbor seal (Phoca vitulina) is the second most important food item. It is not known whether these animals are actually killed or are dead animals which wash up on the beaches. Seals are common in the area and have been observed hauled out on gravel beaches at least 100 feet from the waters edge. Under these circumstances wolves could probably kill them. Most scats contained some wolf hair and other miscellaneous food items including mink, land otter, mice, birds and crabs. A large number of freshly broken cockle clam shells (Clinocardium spp.) were noted in the timber immediately adjacent to the beach. Tooth marks indicated that wolves had broken and probably eaten the clams. These clams are usually

only a few inches below the surface in sandy intertidal areas and could easily be dug by wolves.

Since the introduction of wolves deer numbers have been reduced. In 1959 deer were not as abundant on Coronation Island as in most other areas of Southeast Alaska, however, evidence of deer was common. Table 2 lists deer observations per day before and after the wolf introduction.

Table 2. Deer observations on Coronation Island.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Man-Days</u>	<u>No. Deer</u>	<u>Deer per Day</u>
1959	6	49	8.2
1960	Wolf Introduction		
1961	9	32	3.6
1962	3	6	2.0
1963	8	1	0.1
1964	7	1	0.1

In 1959 well-defined deer trails were present. By 1964 these trails had grown over with vegetation and were difficult to locate. However, some evidence of deer was present throughout the island and at least one fresh deer track was seen on each beach searched.

When the island was first visited in 1959 carcasses of deer were common within the beach fringe. Examination of the bone marrow showed that death was usually from malnutrition. In 1964 the remains of 11 deer were found. Only fragments of bone and hair were usually present, but in all instances except one the marrow was white and solid.

The most dramatic change on the island is the vegetative cover. Previously nearly every available plant was utilized by deer. The forest was open and park-like compared to the dense understory usually found in

Southeast Alaskan forests. Species which are generally unpalatable showed heavy use. This is the only site in Southeast Alaska where the writer has seen Sitka spruce hedged by deer. Inaccessible sites, such as roots of overturned trees, supported lush growth of several species of vegetation which were absent from the forest floor. Some plants of Vaccinium ovalifolium, V. parvifolium and Menziesia ferruginea, which had at some time in the past become established and grown too tall for deer to reach, had dense clump of dead, browsed stubs about their bases.

In June of 1962 there were already signs of a decrease in utilization. Unpalatable species such as Menziesia ferruginea, Oplopanax horridus and the fern Polysticum munitum were beginning to appear. More desirable species as Cornus canadensis and deer fern (Blechnum spicant) were also becoming apparent. Careful observation revealed many small shoots of Vaccinium ovalifolium and V. parvifolium springing from hidden root systems. By July, 1964, changes in the vegetation could not be mistaken. The forest floor supported dense mats of Cornus canadensis and large clumps of Polysticum munitum. In many places the ground was green with small plants of Menziesia ferruginea. Fauria crista-galli and Lysichitum americanum were present on the wetter sites and the old Menziesia ferruginea and Vaccinium spp. plants had lush green shoots about their bases which were less than four years old.

Conclusions

Wolves have now been present on Coronation Island for almost four years. They successfully adapted to wild conditions and produced pups at two years of age. At least one of the original males was still alive when four years

old (observed tagged animal). Wolf litters usually average seven or eight pups. Assuming a 1:1 sex ratio at birth and taking into account the death of the two original females during their second year, the maximum population at the present date could be 6 adult males, 5 adult females, 40 year-old animals and 40 pups; a total of 91 wolves. The actual population does not approach this number. Observations indicate there are between 7 and 11 adult and yearling wolves and 2 pups on the 30 square mile island at the present time. This is probably the highest wild wolf population per unit area in existence today. The presence of large amounts of wolf hair in some scats indicates that intra-specific strife may account for the slow increase in wolf numbers. Although their reproductive potential is great, wolves may rarely attain it. We have knowledge of three separate litters born on Coronation Island since 1960; however, the maximum number of pups known in any one litter is three.

Compared to most other areas of Southeast Alaska the present deer population on Coronation Island is low, but in spite of extremely heavy predation, wolves have not eliminated the deer and in fact are presently utilizing them more than earlier. Deer numbers have been reduced; however, examination of bone marrow indicates that the remaining deer are in better condition than before wolves were present.

Changes in vegetative cover since the wolf introduction show that ranges in Southeast Alaska subject to heavy deer use recover rapidly when the pressure is released. Plants which appear to have been eliminated quickly re-established.

Literature Cited

- Klein, David R. 1963. Physiological response of deer on ranges of varying quality. Ph.D. Thesis. Univ of British Columbia Vancouver, British Columbia.

April 23, 1975

Re: The annihilation of the wolf population in Alaskan wilderness

In recent news coverage I witnessed the practice of the shooting of wolves from hovering helicopters. The object of this practice was to protect herds of wild elk, on whom the wolves reportedly feed, in the interest of hunters who complain that wolves seriously depleted their supply. I understood that this practice was to be temporarily suspended in order for the legislature to study the situation.

Because of this moratorium, I thought that this might be the best time to ask you to address yourselves to the work of Farley Mowat whose study of wolves in Canada has been printed in a work made popular under the title Never Cry Wolf (Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 1963). Mr. Mowat studied the Canadian wolf at close range for a year as a government appointed biologist. His work is noteworthy in that it discloses facts which deny many long-accepted myths regarding the wolf. Among these are the following, which I will only briefly list in hopes that brevity will cause you to read what I write, and perhaps arouse your consideration to his writing, in the interest of a just decision on your behalf for the wolf population under your care and control:

- 1) The wolf does not consist on a basic diet of large "deer" (in Canada the caribou), but rather, surprisingly, of small rodents, even fish.
- 2) The wolf is not a fast runner and can only overcome the weakest or sickest animal, thus, "helping" Nature weed out the poorest animals with the result of strengthening the herd.
- 3) After careful study, Mowat discovered that often the depletion of these herds was caused not by the wolf, but rather by the hunters themselves, or by the native people who need much meat for the feeding of dog teams, but, for obvious reasons, were not anxious to report the actual numbers of their kill because of bounty laws.

These I think are only a few of the most important facts which you need to consider when making a decision which may very well cause the extinction of an animal misjudged and persecuted by man for centuries. Unfortunately, in this century man has the capabilities to destroy the last of any animal he so chooses. For this reason, he must be especially regardful to the facts, and not to special interest groups; otherwise he may find himself responsible for a new member in the post offices' long series of "extinct animal" stamps. I, therefore, implore you to direct yourself to the work of Farley Mowat, Never Cry Wolf. Fortunately, it is an engaging and easily readable work. Also, it is brief. This is in the interest of those whose time I am certain is cramped. In their same interest I will myself be brief. Thank you for your attention. In hopes my voice will be heard and regarded, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Joy Shea

Joy Shea
647 North Santa Cruz Avenue
Los Gatos, California 95030

cc: Alaskan State Legislature
Governor Raul H. Castro
Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel
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Mary Hayes, Secretary

S T A T E M E N T

February 6, 1975

to the

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

regarding

PREDATOR CONTROL IN ALASKA

Our group wishes to go on record as strongly endorsing predator control in Game Management Unit 20A. Further, we wish to call to your attention that game herds are being seriously reduced in many areas of Alaska at this time, in some cases due to hunting, but mainly wolf predation as shown by the poor moose and caribou calf survival. We believe an expanded control effort on wolves beyond 20A is warranted as soon as possible. In particular, the Nelchina, Eagle-Circle, Tanana, Galena and Bettles areas.

Our group is well aware of the squabble with the anti-hunting groups that is sure to ensue and that this initial effort in 20A must be performed as cleanly and smoothly as possible. We also believe that the Game Department is underestimating the magnitude of the undertaking in Unit 20A. We first believe that they are underestimating the number of wolves in 20A (see attached article by a biologist-guide residing full time on Wood River in the middle of 20A). And, secondly, we believe they are overestimating the effectiveness of Super Cubs in taking wolves in 20A. It is our belief that something over 70 percent of 350 wolves must be taken to effect any control. We believe that Super Cubs, given enough time, might effect a 40 percent take. But beyond that we think the Department, Legislature, Governor and Game Board should be prepared to use a helicopter for the remainder of the job. In fact, it could be done much more effectively right from the start using a helicopter. We suggest, however, that up to 40 percent of the wolves could be removed at no cost to the state if shooting permits are issued to individuals of proven capabilities and integrity immediately; then be prepared to use a helicopter during March to complete the job.

However it is done, we want to reiterate that our group endorses this long overdue effort to manage a few acres of Alaska for the benefit of the hunting public rather than as a national park.

"Concerned Sportsmen"

February 7, 1975

Kay Poland, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Madame Chairman:

I have provided a folder for each member of the Resources Committee. In it you will find copies of letters from constituents in the Fairbanks area on the wolf subject. I am also including a copy of the February issue of the Alaska Magazine as a part of my presentation; I direct your attention to page 15 of that issue--the title of the article "I Live with Wolves" by Dolores Cline Brown. In the article a Yákon Territory resident recalls a series of battles won and lost in a continuing war with wolves near Mayo. I have provided you with this copy of the Alaska Magazine because the case so nearly parallels that in interior Alaska at this time.

I can also tell you some stories of the increases in wolves in the interior particularly in the Goodpaster River Valley. This is a large area north of Big Delta where I have a string of trapping cabins, and try to spend a good amount of my summer time, usually amounting to at least 45 days out of the summer and fall--certainly almost every weekend of most summers. I have not, however, spent any winter time on the river since 1970; prior to this time I trapped and spent a portion of most winters on the Goodpaster. I have myself observed many wolf kills or the aftermath of them in this area. In 1972 just from the weekends that we spent on the river, I could have directed you to eight separate wolf kills. In 1972 on August 28 while traveling up river shortly after dark, with several other passengers in my boat we found ourselves in the middle of a wolf pack of 13 wolves on the bank of the river about three miles above its mouth. We were within 150 feet of these wolves for approximately three minutes. It was a large well-fed pack. In the fall of 1974 I again hunted the same area only on the weekends in September. My brother-in-law accompanied me on these hunts and at one time in a large meadow area covering a couple sections within two miles of where the wolves were cited the previous year he had the occasion to be up in a look-out tree at the time when nine wolves went through the flats. This compares to wolf sightings by myself or members of my family in previous years to maybe seeing one or two wolves in a year.

Kay Poland

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February 7, 1975

I believe that part of the great increase in wolves in the Goodpaster Drainage is due to the fact that the pioneers who made their homes on the river for many years are no longer there, Lawrence Johnson having died in 1958, and Slim Carroll having passed on in the Spring of 1967. Since that time there are no permanent trappers living on the river year around and trapping for a living. The hard winters and the over generous cow moose seasons have certainly been other factors that have led to the serious decline of moose in the Goodpaster Drainage. However, I believe that the prime cause has been and continues to be predators. This is part of Unit 20 and I request its inclusion in any wolf control program developed subsequent to this meeting.

Sincerely yours,

John Huber

JH:pg

To: Kay Poland, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee

Re: Wolf Control

From: John Huber

Date: February 7, 1975

Mrs. Patty Dyer called from Fairbanks regarding the meeting held in Fairbanks last night on wolf control. The attendance was 100% hunters, trappers and guddas. She wanted to add her opinion that if the wolf predators were going to be controlled, that human predation should be controlled also.

John Huber