

HB

256



HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 120
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Rep. Mike Doogan
Room 112
(907) 465-4940

Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Room 405
(907) 465-4919

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 21, 2008

To: Representative John Coghill
Chair House Rules

From: Representative Jay Ramras
Chair House Judiciary Committee

Re: Referral File for HB 256

Attached are the following documents, which represent the referral file for HB256:

- Governor's Transmittal Letter
- CSHB 256(JUD) 25-GH1076\E
- CSHB 256(RES) 25-GH1076\C with attached legal memo
- HB256 25-GH1076\A
- Draft Transmittal Letter, inclusive of sectional summary
- Answers to Commonly Asked Questions
- DFG Fiscal Note - 0
- Applicable Statutes
- Back-up
- Support/Opposition
- Bill History

SARAH PALIN
GOVERNOR

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May 10, 2007

The Honorable John Harris
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Harris:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to active game management. In general, the bill simplifies and clarifies the state's current intensive management law for big game and the state's "same day airborne hunting" law. This bill harmonizes these two currently inconsistent laws, and makes both laws more workable and consistent with other important game management laws, such as the state's subsistence law.

This legislation will provide direction to state regulators and biologists in accordance with the state's constitutional requirements to manage game under the maximum use, maximum benefit, common use, and sustained yield principles. Currently, in almost all cases, the Board of Game (board) must adopt a predatory control program before they can reduce hunting of an identifiable wildlife population, unless the board makes findings or there is an emergency action (both of which are complex and easily challenged.) The bill eliminates that unworkable process.

The bill clarifies statutory language requiring the board to identify moose, caribou, and deer populations that are important for high levels of harvest by humans, so that these important game herds will be managed for both abundant numbers and abundant harvest opportunities. This should assist courts and the public in understanding the goals and requirements of active management programs.

In addition, the bill defines the new term "active management", which is used in place of "intensive management." It also would eliminate several current definitions that have proven to be problematic for both the board and courts.

HOUSE BILL NO. 256

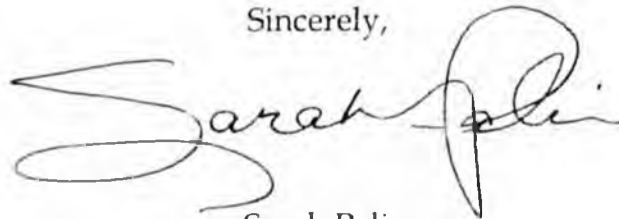
The Honorable John Harris
May 10, 2007
Page 2

This legislation eliminates the complex and problematic process the board now has to go through to authorize game management programs involving airborne or same day airborne shooting. It also makes it clear that Department of Fish and Game employees are allowed to shoot animals for public safety, scientific, or other legitimate governmental purposes on the same day that the employees have been airborne.

In summary, the bill takes two laws that were written to achieve almost exactly opposite purposes and rewrites them so that the state's game managers, courts, and public will have better tools to work together. The important principle of limiting use of airborne and same day airborne shooting of large predators is retained, while the process for conducting game management programs critical to meeting several of the state's constitutional mandates is made simpler, more workable, and legally defensible.

I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of the measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Palin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the beginning and a distinct "P" at the end.

Sarah Palin
Governor

Enclosure

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

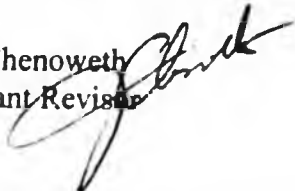
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2007

SUBJECT: Effective date of CSHB 256(RES)
(Work Order No. 25-GH1076\C)

TO: Representative Craig Johnson
Co-Chair of the House Resources Committee

FROM: Jack Chenoweth
Assistant Revisioner 

This was introduced into the first session as a bill with a "July 1, 2007" effective date, and the House Resources Committee, in its recent deliberations, did not see fit to delete or modify that date. Please consider asking the next committee of referral to consider an effective date change for the measure or preparing an amendment to make a change when the measure is debated on the floor.

JBC:ljw
08-078.ljw

Enclosure

DRAFT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to active game management and to the airborne or same day airborne taking of certain game animals. In general, the bill would simplify and clarify the state's current intensive management law for big game and the state's "same day airborne hunting" law, harmonize these two currently inconsistent laws with each other, and make both laws more workable and consistent with other important game management laws, such as the state's subsistence law.

The intensive management law is clarified and simplified as follows. First, the Board of Game (board) must identify moose, caribou, and deer populations that are important for high levels of human harvest. This requirement is similar to the existing requirements in the state's intensive management law, at AS 16.05.255(e) - (g), but focuses on moose, caribou, and deer -- the primary ungulate species in the state that are managed for high levels of human harvest for food. The language stating this requirement, in sec. 3 of the bill, would be clearer and less subject to misinterpretation than the language in the existing statute.

Next, under sec. 3 of the bill, the board would be required to set population and harvest objectives for the identified populations. This, again, would mirror requirements in the current intensive management law in AS 16.05.255(e) - (g). Opponents, and courts, have debated the current law's meaning in this regard, and whether active, or "intensive," management should be driven by population declines, or by harvest declines, or by both. The language in sec. 3 of the bill would help by clarifying that the board is to establish objectives that are both population and harvest-based, so that these important game herds would be managed for both abundant numbers and abundant harvest opportunities.

Section 4 of the bill would require the board to then adopt regulations that implement its identifications and objectives, such as by adopting seasons, bag limits, and other regulations that accommodate and foster high levels of use when population sizes allow, and that will increase the population sizes as necessary to approach or meet harvest objectives, when doing so would be conducive to achieving the objectives. The board would be required to adopt regulations it deems advisable to restore herd numbers and harvest levels when a population is depleted or reduced in productivity, including taking active management measures. These provisions also track a current statutory requirement, but with language that is clearer and would provide the requisite discretion the board needs to be innovative in tailoring its active management programs to the specific problems and circumstances in each area. It should assist courts and the public in understanding the goals and requirements of active management programs in areas where there is current confusion.

Next, the bill would define the key terms "high level of human harvest" and "active management." The first is relatively unchanged from the current definition, adding only the concept that the term is designed to achieve an ability to allocate a high level of harvest in the future, and does not require that the allocation be based on currently depleted numbers, as some have argued. The second term is new and is used in place of "intensive management." "Active management" is generally viewed as a broader term by wildlife managers, and encompasses strategies that may be useful in the state's varied terrain and conditions but that do not necessarily rise to the level of "intensive" management. Because it is such a broad term, no exhaustive listing of techniques is attempted, but predator control is included as one example so that there is clear legislative direction that this technique is an appropriate tool in the overall tool kit of the state's game managers. The bill also would eliminate several current definitions that have proven to be problematic for both the board and the courts, and that vary from existing legal authorities and common usages within the wildlife management community.

The above changes would tend to make the principles of active management more compatible with the state's subsistence law, AS 16.05.258, and give legislative direction in accordance with the state's constitutional requirements to manage game under the maximum use, maximum benefit, common use, and sustained yield principles in art. VIII, secs. 1 - 4, of the Constitution of the State of Alaska. Thus, managing for high levels of all human consumptive uses would be set out as the overall mandate. However, under the proposed changes, the board would be given more discretion to respond to declines in herd numbers or productivity while considering biological constraints, subsistence needs, and many other factors that it must take into account in regulating uses of these important game herds. Under current language, the board is essentially prohibited from significantly reducing the taking of a herd without adopting a predator control program, unless complex and legally vulnerable findings can be made or equally vulnerable emergency actions are taken. Thus, the board's sustained yield obligations, which must always come first, are significantly hampered by a complex, difficult to follow and defend, decisional process. The changes eliminate this unworkable process, allowing reductions to occur while retaining the obligation to always manage for abundance.

The bill would clarify and simplify the current "same day airborne hunting" law, first enacted by an initiative in 1996, in several ways. First, the bill would retain the overall prohibition against the airborne or same day airborne shooting of certain large predators, in keeping with the public votes in favor of declaring this practice to be illegal as an ordinary hunting practice, and it adds brown bears to the list of protected species. Second, the bill also would retain the idea that, in certain situations, game management priorities and biological concerns require that an exception to this general prohibition must be allowed so that important game management programs may proceed. However, the bill would eliminate the current complex, controversial, and problematic decisional process that the board has been required to use to authorize game management programs involving airborne or same day airborne shooting and substitutes a simpler process. Under the new language, the board would need to find that such a program would be

conducive to achieving population and harvest objectives set under the active management provisions described in this paragraph, or that it would be conducive to the health of a predator population. In other words, because the Alaska State Legislature would have again affirmed that predator control is an appropriate tool for the state's game managers to use, airborne or same day airborne predator control programs may be authorized when necessary to fulfill those active management requirements or when doing so would aid in helping the predators themselves as, for example, may be the case with the lice problem in Kenai Peninsula wolves. In either case, the program must be limited to the area necessary for the stated purpose. These changes should reduce judicial and public confusion over what standards apply to such decisions and, for the first time, mesh this statute with the active management principles set out in AS 16.05.255. These changes also would give the board more freedom to manage under the state's subsistence law, so that predator control may be used to assist with the recovery of herds necessary for subsistence uses in order that the reasonable opportunity mandate may be met.

The bill also would change a current exception to the "same day airborne hunting" law to clarify that it does not prohibit Department of Fish and Game employees from shooting wolves, bears, and other designated animals on the same day that the employee has been airborne for public safety, scientific, or other legitimate governmental purposes as outlined in AS 16.05.050. The bill additionally would repeal two current provisions of the statute that are redundant. AS 16.05.783(d), which currently authorizes the board to determine the parameters of any predator management or control program, is unnecessary because such powers are fully encompassed within other existing board authorities. AS 16.05.783(e), which prohibits the use of helicopters and state personnel without the commissioner's approval, is unnecessary because the commissioner already makes all fiscal, budgetary, and administrative decisions about such programs. AS 16.05.050 and 16.05.241. Finally, the bill includes a clarification that the airborne and same day airborne prohibition does not apply to the administration of drugs, often done with "dart

guns" from aircraft, and eliminates a problematic and unnecessary definition of "game management program."

Overall, the bill takes two laws that were written to achieve almost exactly opposite purposes and rewrites them so that the state's game managers, the courts, and the public would have less trouble understanding how they may work together and which legal requirements apply in which situation. The important principles of limiting use of airborne and same day airborne shooting of large predators is retained, while the process for conducting game management programs that are critical to meeting several of the state's constitutional mandates relating to game management is made simpler, more workable, and more legally defensible. In doing so, this bill addresses the same subjects that are currently pending in a ballot measure, designated as 05HUNT, to be placed on the ballot in 2008, in a holistic approach that harmonizes the essential underlying concepts of that measure in keeping with other important principles and processes required under AS 16 (Fish and Game Code).

I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of the measure.

Sincerely,

Sarah Palin
Governor

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions about HB 256

Submitted by:

Douglas Larsen, Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Kevin Saxby
Sr. Assistant Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law
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Anchorage, AK 99501

1. Isn't the bill just a response to current litigation challenging Alaska's predator control programs?

No, the bill was in draft well before any of the current lawsuits were filed. It was done in response to requests from several legislators to the Murkowski Administration that ADF&G and the Dept. of Law be tasked to suggest improvements to the Intensive Management law and the Same-day Airborne law. When the bill was completed, early in the Palin Administration, she agreed that it included improvements that she also supported, and ordered that it be introduced.

2. Doesn't the bill remove all requirements for science-based decision-making on predator control decisions?

No, the Department's role as the Board's science advisor, among other things, is not affected in any way by this bill. There is no need to have individual directives to use science in specific statutes or for any particular Board decisional process because, under its general statutory authorities, the Department always produces all scientific data within its control that is relevant to any Board decision. The Department does not envision its role before the Board changing in any way as a result of this bill, nor does it envision any diminution of the Board's reliance on science.

3. Doesn't the bill remove requirements for a careful planning process before predator control is initiated?

This question is frequently asked, but it is deceptive. Much depends on what the questioner considers to be an adequate plan. Currently, the Department does prepare for the Board a detailed predation control implementation plan before predator control is begun, and a great deal of effort, data and public input goes into the creation of these plans. However, opponents argue that such plans are still not detailed enough, and a multi-year, much more expensive planning process involving lengthier public debate should be completed before any predator control may begin. The bill preserves what the state has always understood to be the legislative intent for predator control by requiring timely action to respond to prey population declines, supported by the same excellent planning efforts that are currently developed to support the Board's decisions.

4. *Doesn't the bill weaken the Same-day Airborne law?*

In several ways, the Same-day Airborne law is strengthened. For example, for the first time brown bears are added to the species protected under that law. Also, necessary changes are made so that ADF&G personnel will not run afoul of the law if they are required to dispatch nuisance or threatening wolves, wolverines or brown bears on the same day they have been in an aircraft. The use of tranquilizer guns and other non-lethal forms of "shooting" is also authorized for the first time. What some see as a weakened standard for same-day airborne predator control, the requirement that it be determined to be "conducive" to meeting population and harvest objectives, is important because it harmonizes the Same-day Airborne law with the Intensive Management law where, currently, they are essentially contradictory.

5. *Doesn't the bill make it less likely that intensive (or active) management measures will be adopted? I.E. doesn't it weaken the Intensive Management law?*

No, the bill simplifies the Intensive Management law down to its core principles and states those principles more clearly and forcefully. The Board will be required to identify moose, caribou and deer populations that are important to manage for high levels of human consumptive use and to set population and harvest objectives for those populations. For such populations, the Board will then have an affirmative duty to always manage that population to meet those objectives, including both times of abundance and times of depletion. If objectives are not being met, the Board will also have the obligation to adopt active management measures, including predator control, designed to meet those objectives. Problematic definitions and complicated requirements about what steps must be taken when have been eliminated, leaving the simple statutory duty to manage these important populations for abundance.

6. *How does this bill fit with the pending initiative on the Same-day airborne law.*

As stated above, the bill was drafted and introduced because ADF&G and the Department of Law, with the governor's approval, made commitments to various legislators to submit language that improves the Intensive Management and Same-Day Airborne laws. The bill should stand or fall on that basis. It is a comprehensive effort to rewrite these two laws in a way that makes them both workable, while preserving the important principles which underlie each one. Legislators and possibly voters, will make up their own minds about whether Alaska's predator and prey management is better with the bill or without it.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB 256
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB256-DFG-DWC-01-08-08 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: Active Game Management/Airborne Shooting RDU: Wildlife Conservation
 Component: Wildlife Conservation
 Sponsor: Rules by Request of the Governor
 Requester: House Resources Committee Component Number: 473

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES								
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()								
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this bill will not have any fiscal impact on the Department of Fish and Game.

Prepared by: Doug Larsen Director
 Division: Wildlife Conservation
 Approved by: Denby Lloyd Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4191
 Date/Time: 1/8/08 4:00 PM
 Date: 1/8/2008

Applicability of subsection (a). — Subsection (a) applies to allocation of fish resources between two commercial fisheries. *Pennock Mktg. Ass'n v. State*, 817 P.2d 917 (Alaska 1991).

In adopting a regulation for the allocation of herring stock between salmon, the Board of Fisheries had discretion to treat guided and unguided sport fishing as a single category and to make a separate allocation to the commercial trolling fishery. *Kuttler v. State, Bd. of Fisheries, Dept. of Fish & Game*, 963 P.2d 1007 (Alaska 1998).

If a cooperative fishery and an open fishery use the same type of gear in the same administrative area to take the same fishery resource, an allocation of resources to the cooperative would be an impermissible allocation within a single fishery under subsection (c) of this section. *Grimert v. State*, 109 P.2d 924 (Alaska 2005).

Allocation criteria addressed in earlier proposal. — Where the Board of Fisheries considered each of the seven allocation criteria for sockeye salmon with an earlier proposal and incorporated its previous deliberations on that proposal into a later proposal, the board properly addressed the allocation criteria for sockeye salmon under subsection (c). *Stepovak-Shumagin Set Net Ass'n v. State, Board of Fisheries*, 886 P.2d 632 (Alaska 1994).

Regulation delaying the commercial salmon fishing season was consistent with and reasonably necessary for purposes of conservation and development, was not arbitrary and was supported by reasonable objectives. *Stepovak-Shumagin Set Net Ass'n v. State, Board of Fisheries*, 886 P.2d 632 (Alaska 1994).

Regulation upheld. — In promulgating a regulation governing commercial herring fishing in Norton Sound, the board pursued a permissible objective (allocation of a fishery resource between resident and nonresident fishermen) and employed means within its powers, and the regulation itself was reasonable and nonarbitrary. *State v. Hebert*, 743 P.2d 392 (Alaska Ct. App. 1987), *aff'd*, 803 P.2d 863 (Alaska 1990).

Where a mixed stock regulation was the product of a four day meeting in which the fisheries board took a hard look at the issues and justified its decisions through written findings, and where the regulation was not so indefinite or uncertain that it could be overturned as facially vague or devoid of substance, it was a valid exercise of discretion. *Native Village of Elm v. State*, 990 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1999).

Regulation held invalid because inconsistent with statutes. — Regulation developed by the Board of Fisheries to identify customary and traditional uses of Cook Inlet salmon qualifying for subsistence priority and codified as 5 AAC 01.597 was held invalid because it was inconsistent with former subsection (b) and AS 16.05.940 and contrary to the legislature's intent in enacting the 1978 subsistence law, ch. 161, SLA 1978. *Madison v. Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game*, 696 P.2d 168 (Alaska 1985).

Applied in *Meier v. State, Bd. of Fisheries*, 739 P.2d 172 (Alaska Ct. App. 1987); *Tongass Sport Fishing Ass'n v. State*, 866 P.2d 1314 (Alaska 1994).

Quoted in *Interior State Airboat Ass'n v. State*, 16 P.3d 686 (Alaska 2001).

Cited in *Reynolds v. State*, 666 P.2d 1313 (Alaska Ct. App. 1982); *Longeseter v. State*, 668 P.2d 1369 (Alaska Ct. App. 1983); *State v. Eluska*, 698 P.2d 174 (Alaska Ct. App. 1986).

Sec. 16.05.253. Operation of stationary fishing gear. (a) The Board of Fisheries may require a person who holds a limited entry permit or an interim-use permit under AS 16.43 to be physically present at a beach or riparian fishing site during the operation of net gear or other stationary fishing gear at the site, except when the permit holder is at or traveling to or from the location of

- (1) a sale of fish caught in the gear; or
- (2) other stationary gear of the permit holder.

(b) In this section, "fishing site" means fishing site as defined by the Board of Fisheries and includes any structure used for providing shelter in support of the operation of the net gear or other stationary fishing gear. (b) 1 ch. 94 SLA 1982, am. § 1 ch. 11 SLA 1983.

Sec. 16.05.255. Regulations of the Board of Game; management requirements. (a) The Board of Game may adopt regulations it considers advisable in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) for

(1) setting apart game reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries in the water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to the approval of the legislature;

(2) establishing open and closed seasons and areas for the taking of game;

(3) establishing the means and methods employed in the pursuit, capture, taking, and transport of game, including regulations, consistent with resource conservation and development goals, establishing means and methods that may be employed by persons with physical disabilities;

(4) setting quotas, bag limits, harvest levels, and sex, age, and size limitations on the taking of game;

(5) classifying game as game birds, song birds, big game animals, fur bearing animals, predators, or other categories;

(6) methods, means, and harvest levels necessary to control predation and competition among game in the state;

(7) watershed and habitat improvement, and management, conservation, protection, use, disposal, propagation, and stocking of game;

(8) prohibiting the live capture, possession, transport, or release of native or exotic game or their eggs;

(9) establishing the times and dates during which the issuance of game licenses, permits and registrations and the transfer of permits and registrations between registration areas and game management units or subunits is allowed;

(10) regulating sport hunting and subsistence hunting as needed for the conservation, development, and utilization of game;

(11) taking game to ensure public safety;

(12) regulating the activities of persons licensed to control nuisance wild birds and nuisance wild small mammals;

(13) promoting hunting and trapping and preserving the heritage of hunting and trapping in the state.

(b) [Repealed, § 12 ch 52 SLA 1986.]

(c) If the Board of Game denies a petition or proposal to amend, adopt, or repeal a regulation, the board, upon receiving a written request from the sponsor of the petition or proposal, shall in addition to the requirements of AS 44.62.230 provide a written explanation for the denial to the sponsor not later than 30 days after the board has officially met and denied the sponsor's petition or proposal, or 30 days after receiving the request for an explanation, whichever is later.

(d) Regulations adopted under (a) of this section must provide that, consistent with the provisions of AS 16.05.258, the taking of moose, deer, elk, and caribou by residents for personal or family consumption has preference over taking by nonresidents.

(e) The Board of Game shall adopt regulations to provide for intensive management programs to restore the abundance or productivity of identified big game prey populations as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals of the board in an area where the board has determined that

(1) consumptive use of the big game prey population is a preferred use;

(2) depletion of the big game prey population or reduction of the productivity of the big game prey population has occurred and may result in a significant reduction in the allowable human harvest of the population; and

(3) enhancement of abundance or productivity of the big game prey population is feasibly achievable utilizing recognized and prudent active management techniques.

(f) The Board of Game may not significantly reduce the taking of an identified big game prey population by adopting regulations relating to restrictions on harvest or access to the population, or to management of the population by customary adjustments in seasons, bag limits, open and closed areas, methods and means, or by other customary means authorized under (a) of this section, unless the board has adopted regulations, or has scheduled for adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board regulations, that provide for intensive management to increase the take of the population for human harvest consistent with (e) of this section. This subsection does not apply if the board

(1) determines that intensive management would be

(A) ineffective, based on scientific information, (B) inappropriate due to land ownership patterns; or

(C) against the best interest of subsistence uses; or

(2) declares that a biological emergency exists and takes immediate action to protect or maintain the big game prey population in conjunction with the scheduling for adoption of those regulations that are necessary to implement (e) of this section.

(g) The Board of Game shall establish population and harvest goals and seasons for intensive management of identified big game prey populations to achieve a high level of human harvest.

(h) *(Repealed, 2006 Ballot Measure No. 6.)*

(i) For the purpose of encouraging adults to take children hunting, the board shall establish annual hunting seasons in appropriate areas of the state for big game, other than bison and musk ox, that are open before school start in the fall and before regular hunting seasons begin. Only a resident child accompanied by a resident adult or a child accompanied by the child's resident parent, resident stepparent, or resident legal guardian, may take big game in an area where a season established under this subsection is in effect. The adult, parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who accompanies the child may only assist the child in taking big game. A big game

animal taken under this subsection must be counted against the bag limits of both the child and the adult, parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who accompanies the child. In this subsection,

(1) "adult" means an individual who is 21 years of age or older;

(2) "child" means an individual who is not more than 17 years of age and not younger than eight years of age.

(j) In this section,

(1) "harvestable surplus" means the number of animals that is estimated to equal the number of offspring born in a game population during a year less the number of animals required for recruitment for population maintenance and enhancement, when necessary, and the number of animals in the population that die from all causes, other than predation or human harvest, during that year;

(2) "high level of human harvest" means the allocation of a sufficient portion of the harvestable surplus of a game population to achieve a high probability of success for human harvest of the game population based on biological capabilities of the population and considering hunter demand.

(3) "identified big game prey population" means a population of ungulates that is identified by the Board of Game and that is important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use;

(4) "intensive management" means management of an identified big game prey population consistent with sustained yield through active management measures to enhance, extend, and develop the population to maintain high levels or provide for higher levels of human harvest, including control of predation and prescribed or planned use of fire and other habitat improvement techniques.

(5) "sustained yield" means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of the ability to support a high level of human harvest of game, subject to preferences among beneficial uses, on an annual or periodic basis. (§ 3 ch 206 SLA 1975, am § 5 ch 151 SLA 1978, am §§ 10, 11 ch 122 SLA 1984, am §§ 4, 5, 12 ch 52 SLA 1986, am § 1 ch 6 SLA 1989, am § 2 ch 13 SLA 1994, am § 2 ch 54 SLA 1996, am §§ 4 — 6 ch 76 SLA 1998, am § 1 ch 20 SLA 2000, am § 1 2005 Ballot Measure No. 6, am § 1 ch 68 SLA 2001, am § 1 ch 132 SLA 2003, am § 4 ch 87 SLA 2005)

Revisor's notes. — Subsection (g) was enacted as (h) and paragraphs (1) (2), and (3) were enacted as (j)(1)-(3). Paragraphs (1) and (2) were enacted in 1991, at which time former (g)(1) and (2) were renumbered as (h)(3) and (4), and relettered as (i) in 2000 and as (j) in 2001.

Former subsection (h) was enacted as (i) relettered in 2000. Subsection (i) was enacted as (j) relettered in 2001, at which time former subsection (i) was relettered as (j).

Cross references. — For restriction on maximum age of and age and sex of person or multiple age without in age of the game population, see AS 16.05.200(a).

For legislative history in connection with the enactment of (j), (1), and (2) and (4), former (1)-(4) of this section, see C.F.R. ch. 12, SLA 1994 in the Temporary and Special Acts. For legislative findings relating to the 1998 amendment to paragraph (1)(4) formerly (h)(4) and the enactment of paragraphs (1)(1), (1)(2), and

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(c) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under (a) of this section that the person took the bear in defense of life or property if the person who took the bear shows by a preponderance of the evidence that

(1) the necessity for the taking was not brought about by harassment or provocation of the bear by the person who took the bear;

(2) the necessity for the taking was not brought about by the negligent disposal of garbage or the creation of a similar attractive nuisance by the person who took the bear; and

(3) the person exhausted all other practicable means to protect life and property before the bear was taken.

(d) Notwithstanding (a) — (c) of this section, the department may authorize the taking of a problem brown or grizzly bear within one-half mile of a solid waste disposal facility at any time, if the taking of the bear is necessary to protect the public and is consistent with sound game management principles.

(e) In this section

(1) "criminal negligence" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900(a);

(2) "property" means

(A) a dwelling, permanent or temporary;

(B) an aircraft, boat, automobile, or other conveyance;

(C) a domestic animal;

(D) other property of substantial value necessary for the livelihood or survival of the owner;

(3) "solid waste disposal facility" means a facility for the disposal of solid waste, other than sewage, for which a prior authorization has been issued under AS 46.03.100. (§ 1 ch 64 SLA 1989, am § 1 ch 136 SLA 2004)

Cross references. — For penalties for class A misdemeanors, see AS 12.55.035(b)(5), 12.55.036, and 12.55.135(a).

Effect of amendments. — The 2004 amendment, effective July 1, 2004, substituted "prior authorization" for "permit" in paragraph (e)(3).

Sec. 16.05.783. Same day airborne hunting.

(a) A person may not shoot or assist in shooting a free-ranging wolf or wolverine the same day that a person has been airborne. However, the Board of Game may authorize a predator control program as part of a game management plan that involves airborne or same day airborne shooting if the board has determined based on information provided by the department

(1) in regard to an identified big game prey population under AS 16.05.255(g) that objectives set by the board for the population have not been achieved and that predation is an important cause for the failure to achieve the objectives set by the board, and that a reduction of predation can reasonably be expected to aid in the achievement of the objectives; or

(2) that a disease or parasite of a predator population;

(A) is threatening the normal biological condition of the predator population; or

(B) if left untreated, would spread to other populations.

(b) This section does not apply to

(1) a person who was airborne the same day if that person was airborne only on a regularly scheduled commercial flight; or

(2) an employee of the department who, as part of a game management program, is authorized to shoot or to assist in shooting wolf, wolverine, fox, or mink on the same day that the employee has been airborne.

(c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both. In addition, the court may order the aircraft and equipment used in or in aid of a violation of this section to be forfeited to the state.

(d) When the Board of Game authorizes a predator control program that includes airborne or same day airborne shooting, the board shall have the prerogative to establish predator reduction objectives and limits, methods and means to be employed, who is authorized to participate in the program, and the conditions for participation of individuals in the program.

(e) The use of state employees or state owned or chartered equipment, including helicopters, in a predator control program is prohibited without the approval of the commissioner.

(f) In this section,

(1) "free-ranging" means that the animal is wild and not caught in a trap or snare; and

(2) "game management program" means a program authorized by the Board of Game or the commissioner to achieve identified game management objectives in a designated geographic area. (§ 1 1996 Ballot Measure No. 3; am §§ 1 — 4 ch 2 SSSLA 1999; am § 2 ch 20 SLA 2000, am § 2 2000 Ballot Measure No. 6; am §§ 1, 2 ch 124 SLA 2003)

Revisor's notes. — Paragraph (f)(2) was enacted as (d)(3) and relettered as (d)(2) in 1999. Subsections (d) and (e) were enacted as (e) and (f) and relettered in 2003 at which time subsection (d) was relettered as (f).

Effect of amendments. — The first 2000 amendment, effective July 20, 2000, inserted "or agent" in two places in paragraph (b)(2).

The second 2000 amendment, effective January 4, 2001, by referendum deleted "or agent" following "employee" in two places in paragraph (b)(2).

The 2003 amendment, effective June 15, 2003, rewrote subsection (a) and added subsections (d) and (e).

Sec. 16.05.785. Effect of failure to remove old markers. If the Board of Fisheries by regulation uses department markers to establish waters closed to commercial fishing and the state fails to remove the old markers when new markers are posted to establish waters closed to commercial fishing, commercial fishing is expressly permitted in the waters between the new markers and the old

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Quoted in *Bobby v. Alaska*, 718 F. Supp. 764 (D. Alaska 1989)

Sec. 16.05.782. Taking of brown or grizzly bear near solid waste disposal facility prohibited. (a) Except as provided in (d) of this section, a person who with criminal negligence takes a brown or grizzly bear within one-half mile of a solid waste disposal facility is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

(b) In addition to the penalty imposed by law under (a) of this section, the court shall order forfeiture of the hide and skull of the bear, but if the hide and skull are not salvaged and delivered to the department then the court shall impose an additional fine of up to \$10,000.

(c) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under (a) of this section that the person took the bear in defense of life or property if the person who took the bear shows by a preponderance of the evidence that

(1) the necessity for the taking was not brought about by harassment or provocation of the bear by the person who took the bear;

(2) the necessity for the taking was not brought about by the negligent disposal of garbage or the creation of a similar attractive nuisance by the person who took the bear; and

(3) the person exhausted all other practicable means to protect life and property before the bear was taken.

(d) Notwithstanding (a) — (c) of this section, the department may authorize the taking of a problem brown or grizzly bear within one-half mile of a solid waste disposal facility at any time, if the taking of the bear is necessary to protect the public and is consistent with sound game management principles.

(e) In this section

(1) "criminal negligence" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900(a);

(2) "property" means

(A) a dwelling, permanent or temporary;

(B) an aircraft, boat, automobile, or other conveyance;

(C) a domestic animal;

(D) other property of substantial value necessary for the livelihood or survival of the owner;

(3) "solid waste disposal facility" means a facility for the disposal of solid waste, other than sewage, for which a prior authorization has been issued under AS 46.03.100. (§ 1 ch 64 SLA 1989; am § 1 ch 136 SLA 2004)

Cross references. — For penalties for class A misdemeanors, see AS 12.55.035(b)(5), 12.55.036 and 12.55.135(a).

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(c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both. In addition, the court may order the aircraft and equipment used in or in aid of a violation of this section to be forfeited to the state.

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Secs. 16.05.786, 16.05.787. Duty of big game transporters to report violations; registration of big game hunting base camps, cabins, and lodges. (Repealed, § 18 ch 37 SLA 1989.)

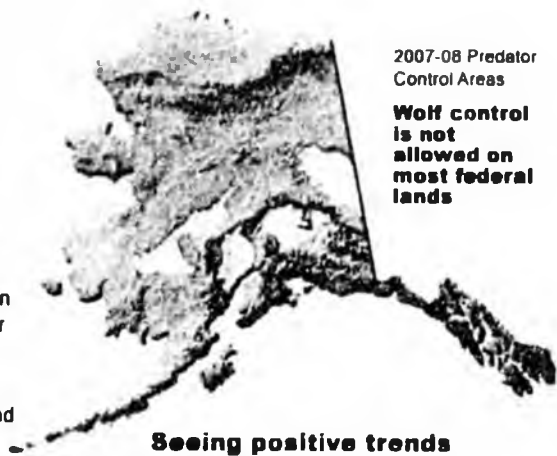
Sec. 16.05.788. Examination fee. (Repealed, § 24 ch 32 SLA 1971.)

Sec. 16.05.789. Prohibition on hunting adjacent to highway between Yukon River and Arctic Ocean. (a) Hunting with firearms is prohibited north of the Yukon River in the area within five miles on either side of the highway between the Yukon River and the Arctic Ocean.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. (§ 2 ch 177 SLA 1980)

Some things to consider about predator control

- Wolves and bears are skilled predators, and may kill up to 80% of the moose or caribou that die each year.
- Predator control programs are active on less than 10% of the state's land mass.
- Predator control is a regulated effort to reduce the number of wolves and bears in order to increase the number of moose or caribou.
- Predator control is not hunting. Only authorized individuals may participate, and fair chase standards do not apply.
- There is no indication that wolf or bear control programs have had a permanent adverse effect on either local or statewide wolf or bear populations.
- ADF&G will continue to closely monitor the effectiveness of wolf and bear control as there is still much to learn.



2007-08 Predator Control Areas

Wolf control is not allowed on most federal lands

Seeing positive trends

Areas with active predator control in 2007-08 include the upper Susitna, Talkeetna, Nelchina and Copper Basins; the McGrath area; the upper Yukon and Tanana Basins; and part of Cook Inlet.

Results from these five areas are preliminary but indicate the beginning of increased moose calf survival and moose population growth.

Board of Game and the public process

Alaska's hunting and trapping regulations are made by seven people appointed by the governor and approved by the legislature. This independent group is the Alaska Board of Game.

The Board of Game listens to all concerned members of the public, along with local Fish & Game Advisory Committees, and ADF&G biologists, in their effort to promulgate regulations that respond to people's concerns, while also considering the need for long term conservation and sustainable harvest of game populations.

It is the Board of Game, under the Intensive Management Law, that directs ADF&G to undertake predator control.

There will always be controversy surrounding predator control. Some people oppose the manipulation of wildlife populations for human benefit, while others demand management practices that allow hunters to harvest a higher percentage of wildlife annually.

It is not expected that one single management approach will satisfy everyone. Therefore, the Board of Game directs ADF&G to use different management strategies in different parts of the state to provide for different values and demands.

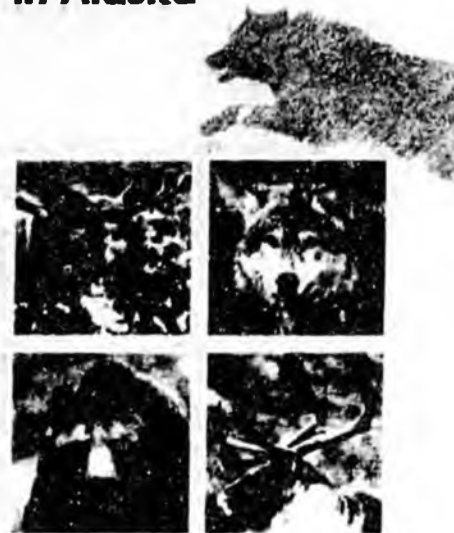
ADF&G is committed to maintaining healthy caribou and moose populations and healthy wolf and bear populations. The department will continue to manage Alaska's wildlife populations with the health of all wildlife, sustainable harvests, and conservation as guiding principles.

Visit www.wildlife.alaska.gov. Click on the 'Management/Research' section, and scroll down to the link on 'Wolf Control in Alaska.'

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game printed this publication in December 2007 at a cost of \$0.24 per unit, to inform the public about predator management.

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Understanding and Predator Control In Alaska



from the
Division of Wildlife Conservation

of the
Alaska Department of Fish & Game



When moose or caribou populations drop below a certain number, the intensive management law goes into effect.

First...

Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists carefully study all the possible causes of declining moose or caribou numbers. They look at the quality of habitat, the health and reproductive rate of the herd, harvest levels by humans, and the impact of predators. They then undertake the action(s) that will most likely increase moose or caribou numbers.

Their options include:

• **Improving habitat**

In some cases habitat improvement has involved controlled fire or vegetation crushing to generate new plant growth. However, reduced habitat quality or inadequate nutrition are not typically causes of moose or caribou population declines in Alaska.

• **Reducing hunting**

If hunting pressure is thought to be the cause of the decline, wildlife managers may reduce the season or impose strict harvest quotas. Some communities with declining moose populations have even voluntarily opted for moose hunting moratoriums.

• **Easing predator trapping/hunting regulations**

Where excess pressure from predators—typically wolves or bears—is creating the decline of moose or caribou populations, managers may increase the quota or relax restrictions on how people may hunt or trap predators.

Then...

If other methods are inadequate to reverse declining moose or caribou populations, and studies indicate significant predation from bears or wolves, the Board of Game may direct ADF&G to undertake predator control.

Non-lethal methods tried

Various forms of non-lethal predator control have been tried in Alaska, including sterilization and relocation of wolves; offering predators alternative food sources during calving; and capturing and relocating bears. While these techniques have had moderate success, they are difficult, labor-intensive, expensive, and take biologists away from other important wildlife management work.

Reduce but don't eliminate predators

Lethal predator control involves killing wolves, and sometimes bears. The intent is to reduce their numbers enough to allow moose or caribou populations to increase—but not to completely eliminate predators. The long-term goal is *increased* numbers of moose or caribou, *increased* harvest by humans, and *sustainable* populations of wolves and bears.

In order for predator control to succeed...

- predation must be a major reason for the decline of the moose or caribou population;
- it must cover a large enough area;
- it must be continued long enough to allow for several years of moose and caribou calf survival;
- it must cover all species of predators affecting the moose or caribou population;
- harvest of prey populations by people must be reduced or eliminated; and
- there must be adequate habitat to support an expanding moose or caribou population.

The long-term goal of predator control is to increase numbers of moose or caribou to allow for increased harvest by humans, while maintaining healthy and sustainable populations of wolves and bears.



A little history about...



Alaska's

Intensive Management Law

Harvesting wild game is extremely important to many Alaskans. Participating in the hunt, helping with butchering, and sharing the benefits of economical, wild-grown meat are long-standing traditions in Alaska.

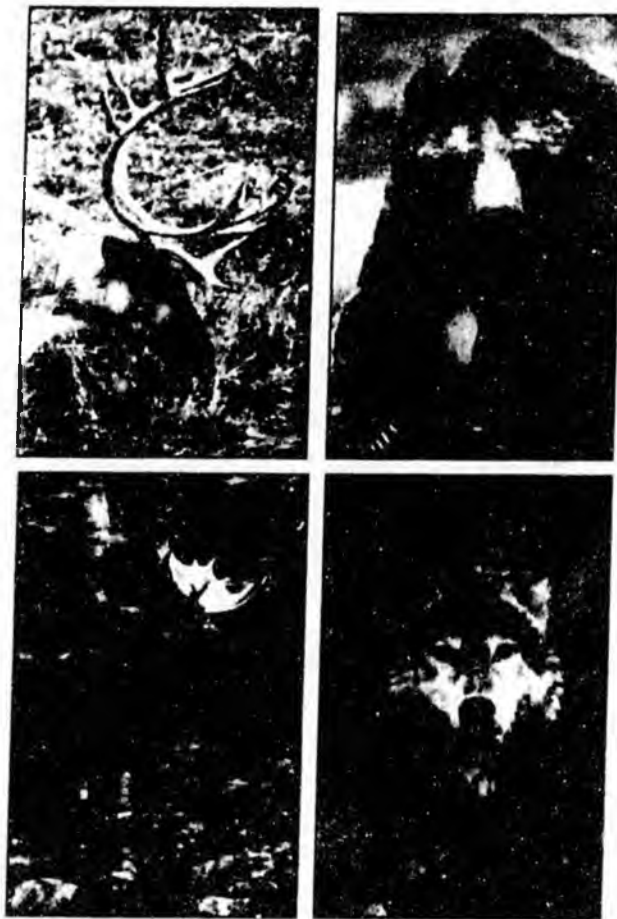
The Alaska Legislature recognized the importance of wild game meat to Alaskans when it passed the **Intensive Management Law** in 1994.

This law requires the **Alaska Board of Game** to identify moose and caribou populations that are especially important food sources for Alaskans—and to insure that these populations remain large enough to allow for adequate and sustained harvests by people.

If the moose or caribou populations drop below what the Alaska Board of Game determines is needed for continued harvests by people, the Board works with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to undertake **intensive management** of that population, which may include predator control.



Predator Management in Alaska



**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
November 2007**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) administers all programs and activities free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. The department administers all programs and activities in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write:

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203

Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240.

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(Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646

(FAX) 907-465-6078

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Predator Management in Alaska

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
November 2007

Table of Contents

1.0 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT.....	2
2.0 THE ISSUE.....	2
2.1 Definition of Predator Control	2
2.2 Alaska's Range of Values.....	3
2.3 Why and When Predator Control is Used.....	4
3.0 HISTORY	5
3.1 Pre-Statehood	5
3.2 Post-Statehood.....	5
4.0 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS	5
4.1 Constitutional Mandate.....	5
4.2 Intensive Management.....	6
5.0 MAKING DECISIONS	6
5.1 Alaska Board of Game.....	6
5.2 Alaska State Legislature.....	7
5.3 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.....	7
5.4 Federal Management Authorities.....	8
6.0 THE ROLE OF SCIENCE	8
6.1 Predators and Prey	8
6.2 Monitoring and Managing Predators and Prey.....	9
6.3 Wildlife Surveys	9
6.4 Limiting Factors.....	10
6.5 Monitoring Habitat and Nutrition	12
6.6 Habitat Enhancement.....	13
6.7 Predator Control as a Management Tool.....	13
6.8 Can Predator Control Work?.....	14
6.9 Numbers of Predators Removed.....	15
6.10 Duration of Control	16
6.11 Alternatives to Lethal Predator Control.....	16
7.0 PREDATOR MANAGEMENT RESULTS.....	17
7.1 Pre-statehood Efforts.....	17
7.2 Post-statehood Efforts	18
7.3 Status of Current Programs.....	18
8.0 CONCLUSIONS	24
9.0 RESOURCES	25

1.0 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

As the primary agency charged with managing resident wildlife populations in Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has a responsibility to provide the public with the best information regarding its management programs, including predator control. Continuing scientific, legal, and general public attention to predator management accentuates the need for ADF&G to inform Alaskans about their wildlife resources and how they are managed. These concerns are the impetus for this report.

This paper offers an overview of the social, legal, and biological bases for predator control in Alaska. It presents ADF&G's perspectives on predator management, lays out the reasons for specific wildlife management actions, describes the scientific information assembled by ADF&G that affects decisions on implementing predation control, and explains how ADF&G evaluates results. Abbreviated versions and other forms of this paper will be made available to help inform the public on this important issue. This document will be updated as new information and findings become available.

2.0 THE ISSUE

2.1 Definition of Predator Control

Big game species in Alaska, including predator populations, are affected by and managed primarily through regulated hunting and trapping. In contrast, predator control is a program used when other management techniques are not effective to reduce the limiting effects of predation on prey populations (e.g., moose, caribou, deer, Dall sheep, mountain goats). Predator control is intended to ultimately allow a higher sustainable harvest of prey in a particular area. The initial objective in a control program is a reduction (not elimination) in numbers of predators in the shortest possible time, in a specified area, followed by maintenance of predators at this temporarily lower level to enable the prey population to increase. After harvest and prey population goals set by the Alaska Board of Game (board) and ADF&G have been met, and predator populations have begun to increase in response to increased food resources, regulated hunting and trapping harvests of predators need to be sufficient to limit the growth of those predator populations. If these activities are insufficient, predator control programs may be reinstated.

Techniques used in predator control programs are determined based on what can be effective. For example, in many remote areas where ground access is difficult, the only effective method of reducing numbers of wolves is through the use of aircraft, in either land-and-shoot or aerial shooting. Land-and-shoot involves landing, exiting an aircraft, and shooting, whereas aerial shooting involves shooting from a flying aircraft.

Predator control is not the same as hunting and is not conducted under the same regulations as hunting or trapping. Hunting and trapping involves taking animals on a sustainable basis for food, to satisfy cultural needs, for monetary gain (trapping) and for recreation. They are governed by laws and regulations prescribing methods, means, and bag limits, and hunting involves the fair chase ethics of the individuals participating.

Hunting and trapping are broadly available to citizens who qualify for and purchase the appropriate licenses and tags. Take of predators by conventional hunting and trapping may be increased through liberalized seasons and bag limits to reduce the effects of predation on prey populations.

If conventional harvest is insufficient to produce the desired effect, predator control programs may be undertaken. Predator control is intended to reduce predator numbers while still retaining viable populations, and often employs methods not available to conventional hunters. These methods include: 1) aerial shooting (taking or attempting to take an animal by discharging a firearm from an airborne aircraft), 2) land-and-shoot (using an aircraft to locate an animal, landing the aircraft, exiting the aircraft, and immediately shooting or attempting to shoot the animal), and same-day-airborne shooting (taking an animal without waiting until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the person was airborne). Special permits are required to authorize members of the public using aircraft for predator control. Although the hides of wolves and bears taken under control programs must be salvaged, fair chase ethics are not applied to predator control programs.

Predator control is typically undertaken to benefit people (to maintain or increase the harvest of caribou and moose by people for food), not necessarily because it is needed to benefit moose, caribou, or deer populations. Predator control can be used to 1) allow prey populations to increase, 2) reallocate the harvest of prey by predators to people, 3) stabilize or prevent growth of predator populations, or 4) halt or reverse prey population declines due to hunting or other events.

Predator control programs are proposed by the public or ADF&G. Proposals are evaluated by ADF&G and may be adopted by the Alaska Board of Game. Programs are then designed by ADF&G and are conducted by ADF&G staff, permitted members of the public, or a combination of both. Budget constraints frequently preclude control activities conducted solely by ADF&G, so control programs currently depend on private citizen volunteers, who are issued permits to take wolves or bears using their own time and resources.

2.2 Alaska's Range of Values

Citizen opinion varies widely about how wildlife should be managed. One of the most fundamental and controversy-generating differences of opinion is whether wildlife populations should be manipulated by people for human benefits.

Hunting is extremely important in Alaska. It is integral to lifestyles, traditional cultures, the economy, and basic food needs for many Alaskan families. Approximately 25,000 caribou (estimated) and 7,000 moose (reported) are harvested each year. Unlike in other states, many small communities in Alaska have few or no practical alternatives for meat. Frequently, these communities are not connected to road systems, are hundreds of miles from larger cities, have no commercial scale agriculture, and lack big grocery stores. Costs to acquire meat and other items from outside are high and, in many cases,

prohibitive. Wild game is a high quality, local, organic, free-range food source, and many Alaskans – even those who live on the road systems – prefer this meat over farmed or feedlot products. As a result, moose, caribou, deer, Dall sheep, and mountain goats provide an important food source for both rural and urban residents.

In this document, the term “prey” generally refers to moose and caribou. In much of Alaska, large predators kill far more prey than do hunters. Studies indicate that predators often take 70% to 80% of the moose and caribou that die each year.

In some situations, traditional hunting and trapping efforts have been able to adequately manage predator numbers. However, these efforts generally have the greatest effect in and around urban areas, where land is accessible and the number of hunters and trappers is high. Many rural areas of the state have lower numbers of hunters and trappers, more difficult and expensive access, and, in general, persistently low moose and caribou populations. These are also the areas whose residents rely most heavily on sustainable prey populations for food, where cash economies are not well-developed and income is limited, and food prices are the highest. In addition to remote terrain, poor weather conditions can make predator harvests in some years difficult if not impossible.

Citizen views range from believing that wildlife populations should not be manipulated for human benefits, and that people should harvest only the number of animals that the population can naturally replenish each year (the extreme range of that end of the spectrum includes people who believe wildlife should not be harvested at all), to a demand for manipulating most, if not all wildlife populations to allow people to harvest a high percentage of wildlife populations annually.

No single management approach can satisfy everyone in an environment with such radically opposed philosophies. ADF&G uses different management strategies in different parts of the state to provide for different values, interests, and demands. Some areas are managed aggressively – including the use of wolf and/or bear control – to maximize prey harvesting opportunities. Conventional management tools are used throughout most of the state to support hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Some areas are closed to hunting where wildlife viewing is the primary objective. ADF&G remains committed to maintaining viable predator and prey populations, and will continue to manage Alaska’s wildlife populations with long-term health, sustainable harvests, and conservation as guiding elements.

2.3 Why and When Predator Control is Used

Low numbers of prey or low harvests are not necessarily biological, conservation, or management problems. Many parts of Alaska have prey populations at levels below what habitat can support. Low numbers, densities, or harvests become management problems when people want or need something different than what an area is providing. Predator control is considered when these conditions all occur: a) people request it, b) predation is limiting the number or harvest of prey by hunters, c) the habitat can support more prey animals, and d) other means of achieving prey population or harvest objectives are ineffective.

3.0 HISTORY

3.1 Pre-Statehood

Control of predation intended to increase human consumptive use of populations of moose, caribou, deer, and other game in Alaska began before contact with Europeans. Alaska Natives actively manipulated predator populations using a variety of techniques, including "wolf pupping" and "springbaits." The territorial government implemented a bounty in 1915, followed by federal programs to kill coyotes and wolves in the late 1920s. Federal agents and others used a number of methods to significantly reduce numbers of predators, including poisoning, statewide bounties, and aerial hunting (before the advent of the 1971 federal Airborne Hunting Act). Widespread predator control that began in the 1940s ended at statehood. (See Section 7.1 for more information about early control programs in Unit 13.)

3.2 Post-Statehood

Limited programs involving shooting wolves from aircraft by state and/or private pilots or ground-based wolf removal methods have occurred intermittently for periods of about 2 – 6 years since the 1970s. Experimental programs to control bear predation have been conducted intermittently since the 1980s. (See Section 7.3 for more information about recent programs.)

Widely divergent opinions about the appropriateness of predator control led to ballot initiatives that prohibited shooting of wolves the same day airborne (1996) and a referendum that repealed legislative changes regarding aerial shooting of wolves by the public (2000). Both were substantially altered by legislative action within two years. Another initiative about same day airborne shooting by private pilots is scheduled for the 2008 primary election ballot in Alaska.

4.0 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Constitutional Mandate

State government is charged with managing Alaska's fish and wildlife resources by Alaska's Constitution. Article VIII, Section 1 describes maximum use and development of natural resources, Article VIII, Section 2 directs that maximum benefit shall accrue to Alaskans through development of natural resources, and Article VIII, Section 3 reserves fish and game to the common use of all Alaskans. Specifically regarding fish and game management, Article VIII, Section 4 states: "Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses." This constitutional mandate is the state's primary directive for managing all fish and game species in Alaska, and is augmented by numerous state laws, contained largely in Title 16 of the Alaska Statutes (AS), and regulations, found mostly in Title V of the

Alaska Administrative Code (AAC). For precise wording of these legal documents, visit the state's website at: <http://www.law.state.ak.us/doclibrary/doclib.html>

"Sustained yield" is a basic principle of conservation specific to human use of resources. At its simplest, it means annual harvest should not exceed the annual regeneration of a resource, unless management goals encompass reducing a population to a lower, but still sustainable, level. This principle ensures harvests will not extirpate populations or drive species to extinction. This principle alone, however, provides little guidance where high levels of human use are mandated or desired.

4.2 Intensive Management

In 1994, the Alaska State Legislature (legislature) enacted AS 16.05.255, the "Intensive Management Law." The law requires the board to designate intensive management populations, for which human consumptive use is the highest priority use, and to set population and harvest objectives for those areas. If moose, caribou, or deer populations or harvests fail to meet management objectives, the board must consider and evaluate intensive management actions as a means of attaining the objectives.

The sequence of intensive management actions typically progresses from the more benign to the most aggressive. For instance, initial actions may include reducing or eliminating non-resident hunting, reducing or eliminating resident hunting, liberalizing hunting and trapping regulations for wolves and bears, and habitat improvement projects (primarily prescribed fire).

If these actions do not result or are unlikely to result in increased harvests of moose, caribou, or deer for food, the board will consider predator control, but only if habitat can support more of these animals and predation is a significant limiting factor. Predator control plans must consider the long-term viability of predator populations.

5.0 MAKING DECISIONS

5.1 Alaska Board of Game

The board is Alaska's regulatory authority that adopts regulations to conserve and develop the state's wildlife resources and allocates uses of those resources. ADF&G works to actively monitor trends in wildlife populations, makes recommendations to the board to manage these populations, and implements regulatory programs established by the board.

The board consists of seven citizens appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. The board promulgates hunting, trapping, and other regulations for wildlife, including predator management policy, through a well-established public process.

More than 80 local fish and game advisory committees, various organizations, and individual members of the public participate in the state's regulatory process every year.

Any individual or organization may propose new regulations or changes to existing regulations, and may offer oral and/or written testimony on regulatory proposals. For every proposal, ADF&G provides available scientific information pertinent to the issue and analyzes effects of proposals, if adopted. ADF&G also makes recommendations to the board to adopt or not adopt proposals. However, ADF&G normally does not make recommendations on proposals that affect allocation of a wildlife resource between competing user groups. Allocation issues are specifically the purview of the board, subject to pertinent legal review.

By law, the board considers all of the information presented to them in their decision-making process. The amount of data upon which the board bases its decisions is variable. Alaska is a huge state; it is financially impossible to amass detailed information on all wildlife populations in all areas. In some areas, the board and ADF&G must rely upon general information to make management decisions. In other areas, information is much more specific.

5.2 Alaska State Legislature

The legislature may revise or create new statutes regarding wildlife management. Changes in state law necessarily affect how the board and ADF&G conduct their activities. The legislature delegates management authority to the board and ADF&G, who conduct their activities within the boundaries of state law and sometimes with specific legislative instructions.

5.3 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ADF&G is the state agency responsible for managing Alaska's fish and wildlife resources through constitutional mandate, state laws and regulations, and it is the government body wherein wildlife management expertise exists. The department contains the staff, resources, and local knowledge to implement and conduct management and research programs as well as make wildlife management recommendations on regulatory proposals to the board. Once the board has made regulatory decisions, it is up to ADF&G to implement the regulations.

ADF&G carries out a wide variety of programs to meet diverse public interests in the conservation and use of wildlife. These programs range from protected areas where only viewing is allowed (e.g., McNeil River, west of Cook Inlet) to intensive management of habitat, predation, and harvest to produce high yields of game species such as moose or caribou for consumptive use (e.g., the Fortymile River drainage north of Tok). Diverse public interests often preclude managing for multiple objectives in any given area, so management programs often differ among areas of the state.

ADF&G strives to determine when predators are preventing prey populations from either increasing or meeting minimum harvest targets. Additionally, ADF&G forecasts what effects predator control might have in given situations, and helps the public and the board

objectively evaluate results after predator control is initiated. ADF&G's primary goal is to manage and maintain healthy populations of all wildlife in perpetuity.

5.4 Federal Management Authorities

While the board and ADF&G have management authority over most of Alaska's wildlife resources, the federal government owns about 60% of the land in Alaska, including seventeen National Park Service (NPS) areas that cover 54 million acres, and a national wildlife refuge system that covers 69.5 million acres, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Both of these agencies have policies in place that either prohibit wolf and bear control or require elaborate procedural steps in order to implement predator control. As a matter of policy, the State of Alaska has not extended the wolf or bear control programs to these federal lands. Collectively, USFWS and NPS lands compose approximately one-third of Alaska's land area.

6.0 THE ROLE OF SCIENCE

Biological information is used to estimate the size of predator and prey populations, detect if predators are limiting prey numbers or affecting prey population trends, forecast what effects predator control might have in given situations, and evaluate the results of predator control programs when they are implemented.

Science cannot answer the question of whether management programs should or should not be conducted – that is a value-based decision rendered from a mix of decision-making processes that involve the board, the legislature, and the public.

6.1 Predators and Prey

Wolves and bears are powerful and effective predators. ADF&G estimates that roughly 7,000 to 11,000 wolves, approximately 30,000 grizzly bears, and more than 100,000 black bears live in Alaska. Since statehood, populations of wolves and bears have been neither threatened nor endangered in Alaska. These predators' diets include large and small prey such as deer, caribou, moose, mountain goats, Dall sheep, fish, hares, and rodents. Bears also eat vegetation such as roots, berries, sedges, and grasses. Research in Alaska and Canada has shown that predation by wolves and bears can be an important factor in population declines or maintaining low densities of moose and caribou. ADF&G research has shown a single wolf consumes 12-13 moose in a typical year, and/or 30-40 caribou, mostly calves. But when faced with large predator populations of only one species, either wolves or bears, moose can reach relatively high densities.

Although caribou populations are subject to significant fluctuation, ADF&G estimates that more than one million currently live in Alaska in 32 herds. They eat lichens and other plant material and migrate widely between winter and summer ranges. About 175,000 – 200,000 moose live in Alaska and are widely distributed throughout the state in densities that vary markedly. Moose eat willows, shrubs, sedges, grasses, mushrooms, and aquatic plants during the summer and mostly woody twigs during the winter.

6.2 Monitoring and Managing Predators and Prey

Managing wildlife populations requires biologists to monitor prey populations to ensure that the capacity of the habitat to support them is not exceeded. Surveys of predators help biologists understand predator-prey dynamics and enable them to ensure long-term viability of populations of both.

ADF&G uses a variety of tools to monitor predator and prey populations including aerial surveys, radio-tracking, harvest reports, mortality studies, calving surveys, body condition surveys, and habitat surveys. Hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits are constantly monitored and regularly revised to make sure populations are sustainable in the long term.

6.3 Wildlife Surveys

A key element in managing wildlife is knowing or estimating the status and dynamics of given populations. Geography, vegetative cover, snow cover, funding, and many other factors frequently prevent biologists from directly counting individual animals across large areas. In addition to direct observations and reports from the public, wildlife managers use various field survey techniques including statistically rigorous population estimates to relative abundance indices and general counts to estimate animal numbers and relative proportions of sex and age classes of animals in a population. Carefully designed sampling in the form of composition surveys can help detect changes in population trends and reveal important herd characteristics, such as relative abundance of bulls and cows, numbers of calves per 100 cows, and trends in survival of calves. Different situations require different tools.

Caribou

Caribou range widely through a typical year. Biologists generally rely on a subset of radio-collared animals to estimate annual productivity, survival, and movements. In summer after calving, caribou tend to form large aggregations in areas that are identified by aerial tracking of radio-collared animals. Groups are surveyed from low-flying aircraft, photographed, and counted. Counting the number of individuals in the aerial photographs provides a minimum herd size. Accounting for caribou not in the aggregations by radio-tracking and surveying adjacent areas allows estimations of overall population size.

Composition surveys are also important to caribou management. Biologists in helicopters examine a subset of animals and collect information on numbers of calves produced, survival of young and adult animals, and proportions of males to females, and young to older animals.

Moose

The most common method of estimating moose numbers is a stratified random sample, where large areas, commonly Game Management Units (GMU), are divided into survey units and a randomly selected sample of these units is surveyed using small, slow-flying aircraft in winter. The resulting information is projected over entire GMUs or defined portions of GMUs to produce population estimates. Biologists also employ repeated count areas, i.e., counting animals on the same large plots of land year after year. Composition surveys provide information on numbers of calves produced, survival of young and adult animals, and proportions of males to females and young to older animals. Biologists also conduct habitat surveys.

Wolves

Wildlife managers estimate wolf abundance by employing aerial surveys in winter, when snow cover and daylight are most favorable for observing wolf tracks. Wolf numbers may be estimated using reconnaissance techniques, or they may be surveyed using more intensive, expensive techniques that result in statistical estimates. Important data are also provided by trappers and hunters through sealing reports that include information about pack sizes, locations, and movements. Multiple reports of individual wolf packs received throughout the winter from trappers, hunters, and other members of the public help biologists estimate pack sizes, colors, and ranges over large management areas.

Bears

Bears remain in dens over the winter and must be counted in the summer, when thick foliage and a lack of snow create challenges to observation. In non- or sparsely-forested habitats, bears may be observed from the air, and wildlife managers are able to estimate bear populations using mark-and-resight or aerial transect techniques. In habitats too dense for aerial surveys, biologists can use bait sites surrounded with barbed wire to collect individual bears' hair for DNA analysis. Along the Upper Susitna River as well as near McGrath, biologists have experimentally removed and relocated bears, which allowed for a minimum count of bears in those areas.

6.4 Limiting Factors

Habitat

Carrying capacity is defined as the greatest number of animals that can be supported by a certain area of habitat at a given time and at a defined nutritional condition. Although this concept is easy to understand, it is very difficult to measure. Changes in forage quality, vegetative cover, winter conditions, and snow depth all influence an area's carrying capacity over time.

Habitat regulates wildlife populations because as populations grow, competition for forage increases. The declining availability of forage causes nutrition to wane, calf

production to taper off, and mortality to increase. The nutritional condition of populations diminishes the closer they approach carrying capacity. This increases the vulnerability of these populations to severe winters, disease, predation, and other environmental influences. Habitat conditions play an integral role in the productivity and survival of prey populations.

Attempting to manage for the absolute highest density that can be supported may have unintended consequences, such as damage to browse species, poor body condition, risk of widespread mortality during a severe winter, or increased vehicle collision or crop damage. Managers may recommend threshold values of nutritional indices (see Section 6.5) for defining the carrying capacity, or the public may define other thresholds above which negative effects of high prey density become undesirable.

Predators

In much of Alaska, predation by wolves and bears holds moose and caribou populations well below what their habitat can support. High predation rates can keep prey populations at low densities for years, and in some cases, indefinitely. Many moose and caribou populations persist in what biologists refer to as a *low density dynamic equilibrium*, meaning both predator and prey numbers may fluctuate at low levels for indefinite periods of time.

Simply put, births and deaths regulate the number of animals on the landscape. In most of the U.S., where large predators are absent, wild caribou (which exist in very low numbers outside of Alaska) and moose are limited by habitat and commonly experience nutritional stress. In Alaska, moose populations are commonly at low population densities despite widely available forage maintained by wildland fires and floodplain disturbance. In these systems, nutrition is good and the number of calves born relative to the number of cow moose can be quite high, although survivorship is quite low because of predation. If deaths are reduced, these populations will grow and a higher number of animals will be available for harvest.

Very high rates of mortality during the first year – especially the first few weeks – of life greatly reduce the number of calves that are “recruited” into the population: i.e., those that survive to become adults. This loss of recruitment can substantially reduce the number of moose and caribou available for harvest and restricts the population from growing larger, or may even cause it to decline. Poor recruitment of calves to adulthood can also limit sustainable harvest from moderate density populations.

Wildlife scientists can determine when predators are keeping caribou and moose at low densities relative to available forage by using information collected from various combinations of field surveys including data from aerial surveys of predators and prey, harvest reports, calf mortality studies, body condition and weight measures, and browse surveys. Reproductive rates in particular are useful indicators of prey populations’ potential for growth.

When wildlife habitat is healthy and abundant, moose and caribou are in good physical condition, and calf production is high. Biologists must understand causes of mortality if populations are unable to increase. If disease is not evident, the survival of different age classes of moose and caribou can be assessed, which can be used to indicate if wolves or bears are the primary source of predation. Bears focus predation on very young calves compared to wolves.

In some cases when moose or caribou populations have exceeded what their habitat can support, habitat can be damaged. If severe damage occurs, such as with the Nelchina basin caribou range during the late 1960s, it may take several decades for the habitat to recover. Habitat quantity and quality ultimately determine how many animals a range can support.

6.5 Monitoring Habitat and Nutrition

Habitat

In many other states, where large predators are absent, wild moose (and what few caribou exist outside Alaska) are limited primarily by habitat, winter conditions, vehicle collisions, hunting, and other factors. Generally, animals that are limited by habitat experience poor body condition, low reproductive rates, and higher incidence of disease and parasites. Where prey animals do not show signs of habitat limitations or limitations by other non-predation mortality factors, wildlife managers may suspect and investigate whether prey populations are primarily limited by predation.

Not all habitats are equal. Some areas are inherently more productive than others, given elevation, latitude, and geological differences. While one habitat may not be as high quality as another, it is important to distinguish this situation from habitat damaged by an overpopulation of moose or caribou, or other factors. Overall habitat quality affects prey reproduction, survival, and in the long term, the number of animals in an area.

Nutrition

Wildlife managers monitor several indicators of nutritional health of moose and caribou, including:

- *Twinning Rate.* The percentage of cow moose giving birth to twins declines as the population approaches carrying capacity. Caribou do not twin.
- *Calf weight.* Poorly nourished calves, or calves conceived late in the rut, are smaller the following winter and have lower overwinter survival rates than heavier calves.
- *Forage Characteristics and Use.* More vegetation will show signs of browsing as the population approaches carrying capacity. Moderately high browsing rates on some plant species accelerates regrowth, but severe overbrowsing can actually kill plants or allow plant species less favorable as browse to dominate.
- *Age of first reproduction.* As nutritional condition declines, cow moose have their first calves later in life. For example, in areas where plenty of good food is

available, cow moose and caribou may have their first calves at two or three years of age, but where food is scarce, a majority of cow moose do not reproduce until four years of age. Annual changes in productivity resulting from fluctuating nutritional status are common in caribou, resulting in fluctuations in the proportion of three-year-old cows that have calves.

- *Pregnancy rate.* The percent of females that are pregnant each year is related to nutritional condition of the population during the previous autumn. Predation on last year's calves can reduce over-winter lactation demands resulting in increased pregnancy rates the following fall. Under excellent nutritional conditions, caribou cows can have calves every year and the majority of reproducing cow moose can have twins. Poorly nourished caribou cows often skip a year between pregnancies, and fewer than 10% of poorly nourished moose cows have twin calves.
- *Sources of Mortality.* The percent of moose that die for reasons unrelated to predation or harvest (e.g., disease, malnourishment, or accidents) can increase as a population increases toward the upper limit of habitat carrying capacity.

To date, ADF&G has not identified any Alaska moose populations that have been limited at low densities by poor nutritional status.

6.6 Habitat Enhancement

Rejuvenation of moose winter forage has been accomplished at the landscape scale by working with landowners and managers to allow wildland fire to cycle nutrients and regenerate shrubs and young deciduous trees. However, benefits gained through wildland fire are unpredictable because of the uncertainty of when and where fires will take place. Large prescribed fires have been accomplished, but they are becoming increasingly unpopular with the public, especially near urban interface areas, where there is strong aversion to smoke. Mechanical treatments (e.g., bulldozers) can crush or shear decadent forage species, which stimulates growth of new forage. Mechanical techniques are expensive and inherently limited to small, localized areas, and logging operations are presently small and limited to areas adjacent to the road system in Interior and southcentral Alaska.

6.7 Predator Control as a Management Tool

When conventional hunting and trapping prove insufficient to keep predator populations within management objectives, predator control may be the only practical means of changing this situation. When nutritional condition of moose or caribou is adequate, reducing predation by wolves and/or bears can improve survival of both calves and adult prey to increase population numbers or harvest by hunters.

If prey numbers fall to very low levels, reductions in predation and harvest must be more dramatic. When implemented in a timely manner, predator control can result in shorter-term programs where prey numbers are stabilized and improved more quickly and efficiently. In such cases, the age and sex structure of prey populations can be maintained at optimum ratios of young to adults. When populations boom and crash, age structures

can become skewed, and create difficult management situations long into the future. Harvest regulations also change regularly as the sustainable harvest numbers fluctuate year to year. Predator control programs are designed to maintain stability of elevated harvests while maintaining viable numbers of prey and predators alike.

In control programs, predators are reduced in number but never permanently eliminated from any area; viable populations of predators are a requirement of law. The long-term goal of a successful program is increased prey density, increased harvest, and stable populations of predators. Biologists determine the level of predator removal needed to allow growth of prey populations. Biologists determine predator population objectives for areas that can achieve desired levels of harvest. Intensive management efforts, including predator control, focus on achieving those objectives.

Past wolf control efforts have involved ADF&G staff or members of the public. Current programs allow public permittees to remove a specific number of wolves using land-and-shoot or aerial shooting techniques in designated areas as part of predator control programs. Shooting from aircraft is a federal offense for hunters, and state law prohibits hunters from landing and shooting animals the same day they have been airborne. However, these methods are allowed for permittees involved with predator control programs. Similarly, bear control programs may, in some cases, allow permittees to sell bear hides or set bait stations for grizzly bears in control areas. These activities are prohibited under hunting regulations.

When members of the public participate in control programs, their activities are monitored under a permit system. Wolves killed must be reported promptly, and ADF&G requires permittees to report numbers, colors, and locations of all wolf packs and individual wolves seen or taken.

There is no indication from available scientific data that state-sponsored wolf or bear control programs have permanently adversely affected the persistence or ability of wolf or bear populations to recover following control on either a statewide or local basis. Not all public proposals for predator control are approved for implementation. To date, more proposals have been rejected by the board than approved.

6.8 Can Predator Control Work?

When applied under appropriate conditions, predator control can provide the opportunity for people to increase their harvest of moose and caribou. Predator control has been used in a few areas of Alaska and elsewhere to effectively reverse or stabilize declining moose or caribou populations, increase the numbers and/or densities of prey animals, and increase harvest of moose and caribou. Habitat quality, weather conditions, the mix and movement of predators, human access, management costs, and land ownership can all contribute to or detract from the success of control programs. The response of prey to control efforts depends on many factors, and in some cases, several years of predator reductions. Several studies specifically note reduced hunting and favorable weather during and immediately after predator control as contributors to successful programs.

Moose and caribou population and harvest objectives are usually not met if programs are interrupted or applied sporadically or incompletely.

Predator control programs can be effective when:

- *Predation is a limiting factor of prey abundance and survival.*
- *Significant predation is controlled.* Where more than one predator is responsible for significant levels of mortality on a moose or caribou population (i.e., wolves and bears), reductions in only a single predator such as wolves will be less effective than reductions in both predators.
- *Predators are reduced for sufficient time.* A program must exert sufficient influence long enough to allow increases in calf survival over several years. The sooner prey declines are addressed, the sooner intensive management can be successful. Waiting until a "biological emergency" exists requires the most drastic and intensive predator control.
- *Habitat is sufficient to support more prey.* Forage must be able to support higher numbers of prey, and snow must be shallow enough to allow access to the forage. Food, space, cover, and arrangement of habitat resources must be adequate to support the population and harvest objectives. The history of natural disturbances (e.g., fire and flooding) and management of each area is important in understanding and determining how many animals a particular area can support.
- *Control is conducted in sufficient area.* Experience gained from successful predator control programs suggests control areas should be at least 10,000 square kilometers (3,861 mi²) in size to both account for prey movements and dispersal and to reduce the effect of immigration of predators from adjacent areas. Wolves especially have very high dispersal rates and can quickly re-populate areas having low numbers of wolves as prey populations increase.
- *Harvest of prey by hunters is limited.* Harvest of the prey population, including subsistence harvest, must not be excessive and may be reduced or, in extreme situations, even eliminated during a control program. Typically, before predator control is implemented, harvest is severely restricted and often limited to subsistence only.

6.9 Numbers of Predators Removed

The numbers of predators that must be removed to achieve program objectives is unique to each area. Not all areas have the same suite of predators and prey. For example, GMU 13 contains moose, caribou, wolves, brown bears, and black bears, with limited availability of salmon, whereas GMU 16 includes moose but relatively few caribou, wolves, more brown bears, more black bears, and abundant salmon (which are important food for predators). Further, availability and quality of forage differs by area and species (i.e., more calves may be born in one population than another), creating a better situation for population recovery. General reduction targets are not simply applied across the state but are specifically designed for each situation.

Several published studies report increases in prey numbers in Alaska and the Yukon after wolf control occurred that reduced wolf numbers to at least 55% or less of their pre-

control numbers for at least four years. Wolf fecundity increases in response to control efforts as well. For example, in GMU 13 from 1980 to 1999, normal, regulated hunting and trapping removed only 20-50% of the wolves annually. While that may appear high, given the dispersal, reproduction, and harvest patterns of wolves in this area, the GMU 13 wolf population actually increased to an all-time high during this period.

In some cases, there are enough historical data on predator and prey populations to demonstrate the reduced level at which wolf populations will allow moose and caribou populations to increase. In other areas, this level of information is lacking, requiring less specific, more generalized approaches in the implementation of predator control. Given changing wildlife productivity, as well as changing access and the ability of regulated hunters and trappers to remove predators in specific areas, each situation must be carefully reviewed before intensive management programs are implemented.

6.10 Duration of Control

The duration of intensive predator control programs needed to achieve success depends on specific situations. Intensive, short-term wolf control cannot be reasonably expected to initiate a successful, sustainable, long-term increase in harvest of moose or caribou. Calf survival must be protected for at least three to four years until the calves are old enough to produce calves of their own. The National Research Council's (NRC) 1997 review of predator control programs in Alaska and Yukon found that successful programs lasted at least four years.

Wolf control is stopped when prey populations and/or harvest objectives are reached. After control has been terminated, long-term, sustained harvest of wolves and bears usually remains necessary to sustain the higher prey populations. If moose or caribou populations are increased, those populations constitute not only increased harvesting opportunity for hunters, but also an increased source of food for predators, whose populations will predictably tend to increase in size in response to greater food availability.

Therefore, harvest of wolves and bears – through traditional hunting and trapping or other means – must limit the natural growth of predator populations, which would otherwise normally return the predator-prey situation to the same low density dynamic equilibrium condition that existed before the control program was initiated. Efforts by the public or possibly periodic, short-term secondary predator control will sometimes be a necessary part of overall, intensive management programs designed to increase harvests of moose and caribou.

6.11 Alternatives to Lethal Predator Control

Non-lethal methods have been effective in reducing predation on moose and caribou. However, some of these methods tend to be very expensive or logistically impractical, except in relatively small areas. Although these methods have the potential to be relatively efficient, effective, and easy to monitor in some situations, they often are

difficult to implement on a geographic scale large enough to be effective in most intensive management situations. However, these non-lethal methods will continue to be considered in Alaska's predator control programs on a case-by-case basis to determine if they are applicable in specific situations.

The following methods have been applied in Alaska:

- ***Surgical sterilization/relocation.*** In GMU 20E (Fortymile drainage), surgical sterilization of primary male and female wolves in 15 packs prevented pairs from producing pups; yet the pairs continued to defend their territories against incursions by other wolves. In addition, all other subordinate wolves in these targeted packs were removed either through live-capture and release at remote sites or by public trapping and hunting. This reduced the number of wolves in the vicinity of caribou calving grounds, which reduced the amount of predation on caribou calves. This program was relatively expensive, and it was difficult to find release sites acceptable to the public for the wolves that were live-captured and removed from the control area. Public concerns arose about translocated wolves causing predation problems in the areas where they were released.
- ***Diversionsary feeding.*** In GMUs 20D (Delta) and 20E, studies have demonstrated that providing wolves and bears with alternate sources of food during the moose calving season produced an increase in moose calf survival to early winter. Reduction in predation stops as soon as the diversionsary feeding is discontinued. This technique is cost prohibitive for large scale efforts.
- ***Predator relocation.*** In GMUs 13B, 13E, and 19D, capturing and relocating grizzly and/or black bears has resulted in substantial reductions in moose calf mortality. Two studies were conducted primarily to document the response of moose populations – specifically calf moose survivorship – to reductions in bear predation. These projects were not conducted as routine management techniques, or with an expectation that they would become routine efforts. These projects were expensive, logistically difficult, and unpopular with residents who lived in or had an interest in the localities where the bears were released. Also, bears have a strong tendency to return to their original locations, even over great distances, and may require additional translocations. Relocation of wolves has proven ineffective because wolves quickly return to their original home ranges. In addition, there are no areas of wolf habitat that need additional wolves.

7.0 PREDATOR MANAGEMENT RESULTS

7.1 Pre-statehood Efforts

In several areas, including GMU 13, extensive aerial shooting and poisoning through the late 1940s and early 1950s reduced wolf numbers dramatically. Poisoning likely reduced numbers of many non-target species as well, including black bears, brown bears, coyotes, wolverines, and eagles. Predator numbers were driven to the lowest recorded levels during this early period.

Large scale killing of predators allowed prey numbers to increase, often to levels their

habitat could not support. Many moose and caribou populations responded by growing rapidly and reaching historic high levels in the 1960s. The Nelchina caribou herd reached an all-time high and severely damaged its available habitat. Habitat degradation, severe winters, and over-harvest then combined to cause a large scale crash in the herd. Both moose and caribou in that area fell to very low numbers and it has taken decades for those populations to return to levels approaching those appropriate for the available habitat.

7.2 Post-statehood Efforts

After statehood, different intensive management techniques were tested or used routinely, including relocating brown bears from the Upper Susitna River in GMU 13, diversionary feeding trials for bears in GMUs 13, 20D, and 20E, sterilization of wolves in GMU 20E, and several same-day-airborne and aerial shooting programs to remove wolves. With each effort, ADF&G biologists learned valuable insights about when and where predator control could be used, and what results could be expected in various situations.

The most intensively managed area for moose was the Tanana Flats and Alaska Range foothills south of Fairbanks (GMU 20A), which had predator control programs during 1976-82 (for moose) and 1993-94 (for caribou) and has sustained a relatively high harvest of wolves by hunters and trappers. This area now supports the highest moose density and harvest density in the state for any equal-sized unsettled area, yet predators kill an estimated four times as many moose as do hunters.

7.3 Status of Current Programs

Predator control programs are presently employed on about 9% of Alaska's total land area. There is no indication from available scientific data that state-sponsored wolf or bear control programs have permanently adversely affected the long-term viability of wolf or bear populations on either a statewide or local basis. Wolf and bear populations have maintained their ability to increase after control programs end, even with continued public hunting and trapping.

Presently active wolf control programs are in relatively early stages, and results thus far show trends similar to results experienced in previous programs that successfully increased prey numbers or hunter harvests. Thus far, public participation in bear control areas has been low, and none have shown conclusive results. Bear control programs conducted by the public are relatively new, and it remains to be demonstrated whether the methods allowed thus far for taking bears in these programs will be successful. Additional methods for taking bears may be necessary to make these programs successful.

Status reports for current control programs include the following, with intensive management population and harvest objectives in 5 AAC 92.108 except as noted:

Upper Susitna, Talkeetna, Nelchina, and Copper basins (GMUs 13A, 13B, 13C, and 13E)
(wolf control)

Control Area Size: 15,413 mi²

Control Program Goal: Initiate an increase to the intensive management population objective for these four subunits of 16,400 – 20,000 moose and intensive management harvest objective of 975 – 1,990 moose.

Control Method(s): Public hunting and trapping of wolves and hunting of bears, aerial shooting, and land-and-shoot take of wolves by permittees.

Status: Active

Within the Upper Susitna River (a portion of GMUs 13B and 13E) from 1976-1978, wolves were reduced by 40-60% as part of a multi-year research program to measure effects of brown bear and wolf predation on calf moose. After wolf removal ended, a large proportion of the brown bears were relocated out of the area. Calf survival increased immediately after bear removal, but dropped to pre-relocation levels once bears returned to the area. While attempts were made to liberalize brown bear hunting regulations at the time, harvest regulations and bag limits were conservative compared to current regulations.

Following these experiments, wolf management across GMU 13 kept pressure on wolves. Between 1977 and 1987, the spring wolf estimate averaged 147. While aerial shooting of wolves was prohibited without a permit after 1971, many wolves were harvested by the land-and-shoot method during this period under general hunting and trapping regulations. During the same period, moose numbers within long-term trend count areas covering some 3,500 mi² increased 9% annually, almost doubling in size in the ten-year period.

When land-and-shoot was eliminated as a legal method of take under hunting/trapping regulations in 1988, conventional shooting, trapping, and snaring became the only methods by which to manage wolves in GMU 13. While land-and-shoot activities were permitted for two years, 1990-1991, the efforts were too short-lived to have much of an impact on wolf numbers. The wolf population began to grow, and by 1999 and 2000, the population had reached an all-time high (both years the fall estimate was 520 wolves, spring estimates were 300 and 270, respectively). Moose numbers during the same period declined as well; numbers within long-term trend count areas declined by nearly 4% annually to nearly half of their former numbers.

In 2000, an intensive wolf management plan was adopted for GMU 13; the use of snowmachines was liberalized for the taking of wolves at that time, and the same-day-airborne taking of wolves began in January 2004. Between 2000 and 2006, the wolf population was reduced across the intensive management portion of GMU 13 (13A, 13B, 13C, and 13E). Trapping and hunting accounted for nearly 50% of the unit-wide annual wolf take, whereas same-day-airborne take was responsible for the other half. The

number of wolves taken same-day-airborne in GMU 13 has averaged 71 annually. From 2000 to 2006, total moose numbers in long-term trend count areas are up 14%, or about 2% per year; calf numbers increased 110%; yearling bulls increased 176%; total bulls increased 45%; and cows decreased 3%. The current spring wolf population objective for GMU 13 is 135-165, based largely on previous predator/prey dynamics within this area. The wolf population was within that range during spring 2006. ADF&G issued an emergency order April 11, 2007 to close the control program to prevent reduction of the wolf population below the mandated objectives.

While no intensive bear management program has been implemented for GMU 13, brown bears have been identified as significant predators of moose calves in that unit. As a result, hunting regulations have been increasingly liberalized over time. Results of these changes are currently being analyzed.

Cook Inlet (GMUs 16A and 16B) (wolf and bear control)

Control Area Size: 11,105 mi²

Control Program Goal: Initiate an increase to the intensive management population objective for these two subunits of 10,000 – 11,500 moose and intensive management harvest objective of 500 – 960 moose.

Control Method(s): Public hunting and trapping of wolves and hunting of bears, aerial shooting, and land-and-shoot take of wolves by permittees.

Status: Active

In 2004, when aerial wolf control began in GMU 16B, biologists estimated the unit population at about 200 wolves. The spring 2007 population was estimated at between 45 and 95 animals, for a total reduction of between 53 and 78%. Overwinter survival of moose calves was very high. However, spring to fall survival of newborn calves remained low at about 18%. To reduce predation on newborn calves, the brown bear season was liberalized from a take of one bear every four years to one bear per year beginning in fall 2001, and two brown bears per year beginning in fall 2005. Despite a year-round hunting season and a three bear limit, black bears remain abundant in GMU 16B. In July 2007, ADF&G initiated a black bear control program in 16B, allowing permitted participants to take an unlimited number of black bears of any age.

Middle Kuskokwim/Aniak (GMU 19A) (wolf control)

Control Area Size: 9,969 mi². Since control does not occur on federal wildlife refuge lands or on private lands posted against trespass, 9,368 mi² of the control area are open to wolf control.

Control Program Goal: Initiate an increase to the intensive management population objective of 7,600–9,300 moose and intensive management harvest objective of 400–550 moose for this unit [5 AAC 92.125(e)(1)(A)(viii)].

Control Method(s): Public hunting and trapping of wolves and hunting of bears, aerial shooting, and land-and-shoot take of wolves by permittees, sale of black bear hides and skulls by permittees.

Status: Active

The five-year wolf control implementation plan, adopted by the board in March 2004 for the Central Kuskokwim, originally consisted of Units 19A and 19B and was initiated in July 2004. The plan was subsequently modified in January 2006 to include only Unit 19A.

During the 2004–2005 regulatory year, 42 wolves were taken same-day-airborne and 71 wolves were reported by all methods. During 2005–2006, 46 wolves were taken same-day-airborne and 76 wolves were reported by all methods. ADF&G issued an emergency order on April 3, 2006 to close the control program as well as hunting and trapping seasons to prevent a reduction of the wolf population below the mandated objectives. During 2006–2007, 7 wolves were taken same-day-airborne and 10 wolves were reported taken by all methods. The low wolf take in 2006–2007 resulted from poor snow conditions unsuitable for effectively tracking wolves.

Surveys conducted during January and March 2006 indicated 114–120 wolves inhabited Unit 19A. Largely based on these data, the board reduced the post-control wolf population objective from 40–53 to no fewer than 30 wolves during their May 2006 meeting.

During 2005–2006, 65% of the wolf population in 19A was taken by all methods. However, the distribution of this take was not uniform throughout the area. During 2004–2005 and 2005–2006, over 70% of the wolves in the lower Holitna, Hoholitna, and Stony River drainages were removed. Removal rates in other portions of Unit 19A were much lower, and probably had minimal effect in reducing predation on moose. Although snow conditions in the Aniak River drainage were not conducive to the use of airplanes to take wolves during 2004–2006, snow events in most winters are sufficient for aerial tracking purposes. Elsewhere in Unit 19A, topography, trees, typical wind and snow conditions, and other factors make it difficult to take wolves using fixed wing aircraft.

In fall 2004, a moose density estimate of 0.19 observable moose/mi² was measured in Unit 19A south of the Kuskokwim. The most recent density estimate, obtained in March 2006 in the western portion of Unit 19A south of the Kuskokwim River, was 0.38 observable moose/mi². No density estimates were obtained during winter 2006–2007 because of poor survey conditions.

During May 2007 a moose calf twinning survey in the Holitna and Hoholitna River drainages within 19A showed a 64% twinning rate. Furthermore, the data recorded on sex and age of observed moose suggested 31% yearlings, 62 calves:100 cows, and 26 bulls:100 cows. Although these observations suggest the beginning of moose population growth and excellent nutritional status, the sample size was too small to make conclusive statements. Biologists were unable to obtain sample sizes sufficient for analysis elsewhere in Unit 19A.

Middle Kuskokwim/McGrath (GMU 19D East) (wolf and bear control)

Control Area Size: 8,513 mi² (of this area, 6,245 mi² are active).

Control Program Goal: Initiate an increase to the intensive management population objective of 6,000 – 8,000 moose and intensive management harvest objective of 400 – 600 moose.

Control Method(s): Public hunting and trapping of wolves and hunting of bears, aerial shooting, land-and-shoot take of wolves by permittees, and ADF&G relocation of brown bears, hunting black bears over bait, same day airborne by permittees, sale of black bear and grizzly bear hides or skulls by permittees.

Status: Active

Research on the effects of predation on moose in the McGrath area began during spring 2001. Results from that research indicated that habitat is not limiting moose population growth and both bears and wolves were significant predators of moose in the McGrath area. Therefore, during the springs of 2003 and 2004, ADF&G staff removed 115 black bears and 10 grizzly bears from a 528 mi² area surrounding McGrath – the “Experimental Micromanagement Area” (EMMA). This removal represented at least a 70% reduction in the bear population for that area. In addition, starting in late winter 2004, a wolf control effort employing aerial shooting was initiated in the same area and remained in effect during the winters of 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. Wolf surveys conducted during spring suggest the wolf population within the area was about 75% lower as a result of the program.

ADF&G continued the basic research program that was initiated in the spring of 2001 during the predator removals, and it is that research project that provided insights into the effectiveness of removing predators in the McGrath area to increase moose numbers. During 2001 and 2002, prior to removal of predators, annual moose calf survival was 33% and 27%, respectively. Following removal of predators, survival of calves was 52%, 40%, 42%, and 65%, respectively, for 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. Annual survival rates of yearling moose also increased following removal of predators with 83%, 74%, 75%, 94%, 96%, and 85% surviving in 2001 thru 2006, respectively. Annual survival of adult moose followed the same basic pattern of increase following removal of predators with 86%, 89%, 95%, 100%, 98%, and 98% surviving in 2001 thru 2006, respectively. In addition, moose surveys conducted in the McGrath predator removal area indicated the

moose population in the area had grown from 524 moose in 2001 to 691 moose in 2006, representing an approximately 30% increase in the moose population. By request of the McGrath Advisory Committee, moose harvest in the EMMA has been voluntarily suspended during the control program.

Upper Yukon/Tanana basin (GMUs 12, 20B, 20D, 20E, and 25C) (wolf and bear control)

Control Area Size: 18,745 mi². To avoid federal wildlife refuge lands, 15,949 mi² are open to wolf control and 4,050 mi² are open to grizzly bear control.

Control Program Goals: Initiate increases to: 1) the Unit 12/20E portion of the intensive management population objective of 8,744 – 11,116 moose and intensive management harvest objective of 547 – 1,084 moose [5 AAC 92.125(b)(1)(A)(xv)]; and 2) the Fortymile caribou herd intensive management population objective of 50,000 – 100,000 caribou and the intensive management harvest objective of 1,000 – 15,000 caribou.

Control Method(s): Public hunting and trapping of wolves and hunting of bears, aerial shooting, and land-and-shoot take of wolves by permittees, hunting black bears or grizzly bears over bait in the Brown Bear Control Area, same day airborne by permittees, sale of black bear and grizzly bear hides or skulls from Brown Bear Control Area by permittees.

Status: Active

Results of research and management surveys conducted within the Upper Yukon/Tanana Predator Control Area during the past 24 years indicated wolves were the primary predators on the Fortymile caribou herd, and brown bears and wolves were the primary predators on moose in northern GMU 12 and GMU 20E. A brown bear and wolf control program was initiated in 2005, within a portion of northern GMU 12 and GMU 20E, to reduce predation on moose. In 2006, the wolf control area was expanded to include the Fortymile caribou herd's range in portions of GMUs 12, 20B, 20D, 20E and 25C, to reduce predation on the caribou herd. One hundred wolves and six brown bears have been killed under these programs since it was initiated.

Initial indications suggest moose survival and moose numbers have increased in a 2,452 mi² portion of southern GMU 20E, within the west Moose Survey Area (survey area). Annual reductions in the wolf population within the survey area occurred during the winters of 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 as a result of wolf kills by wolf control permittees and harvests by hunters and trappers. The late-winter estimated wolf population within the survey area during the winters of 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 was less than 50% of the pre-control estimate. Results from a 2006 brown bear population survey conducted within the survey area indicated there were fewer grizzly bears within the survey area than reported during research conducted in the 1980s. Extensive fires occurred in southern GMU 20E in 2004 and 2005, which included much of the survey area. These fires may have influenced grizzly bear distributions and may have contributed to lower than normal numbers of bears in the survey area in 2006.

The calf:cow ratios observed in the survey area during 2005 and 2006 fall moose surveys were 30 and 37 calves:100 cows compared to an average of 19 calves:100 cows (range 14-26 calves:100 cows) observed in the survey area during 1998-2004. The fall moose population estimates in the survey area were 1,435 (90% confidence interval $\pm 22\%$), 1,801 (90% confidence interval $\pm 17\%$) and 2,398 (90% confidence interval $\pm 19\%$) during falls of 2004, 2005, and 2006, respectively. This suggested an increase in the moose population between the fall of 2004 (pre-control) and 2006.

While lower numbers of wolves within the survey area likely resulted in increase moose survival, fewer grizzly bears may have accounted for some of the observed increase in the moose calf:cow ratio and the population within the survey area in the falls of 2005 and 2006. The moose population appeared to remain stable in the remainder of GMU 20E and northern GMU 12, where annual wolf reductions did not exceed 30% of the late-winter pre-control population. Additional information is needed to accurately evaluate the effects of the predator control program on the moose population. Because the wolf control program for the Fortymile caribou herd has only been in place for one year, there are inadequate data to evaluate this portion of the program at this time.

From 1981-1984, wolf numbers were reduced in Unit 20E by 30-60%, with no discernible effect on moose calf survival. Grizzly bears killed 50% of the moose calves born in 1984.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- Moose, caribou, and deer provide important food for many Alaskans.
- Moose and caribou populations across Alaska frequently persist at low densities, often kept that way by predation. Predators kill more moose and caribou than do hunters.
- The Alaska Board of Game and Alaska Department of Fish & Game are required by Alaska's Constitution and state law to manage predators and prey for all users in Alaska.
- Intensive management statutes require the Alaska Board of Game to adopt regulations that implement programs intended to provide more prey harvesting opportunities for hunters.
- Predator control programs are designed to reduce wolf or bear populations to increase numbers or harvests of moose or caribou. Each situation is approached systematically and individually.
- When properly designed and carried out, predator control programs have a high likelihood of increasing moose and caribou harvests. As populations increase, ADF&G will periodically assess nutritional status to determine capability of the habitat to support increasing populations.

- When members of the public are involved, the state limits participation to qualified applicants through the issuance of special permits and closely monitors the actions of participants.
- ADF&G has collected and continues to collect data to monitor the effectiveness of bear and wolf control programs. There is still much to learn.
- Predator control programs are active on about 9% of Alaska's lands.
- There is no indication from available scientific data that state-sponsored wolf or bear control programs have permanently adversely affected the persistence of wolf or bear populations on either a statewide or local basis.
- Data from each of the five active wolf control areas are preliminary, but indicate beginnings of increased moose calf survival and population growth.
- Current bear control programs in GMUs 16, 19A, and 20E are new and thus far inconclusive; new information is being collected and evaluated.
- Wolf and bear populations maintain their ability to increase after control programs end, even with continued public hunting and trapping.
- Citizen values range from rejecting manipulation of wildlife populations for human benefits, to demanding management practices allowing hunters to harvest higher percentages of wildlife populations annually. Because of these opposing public values, predator control will always be controversial.
- No single management approach can satisfy everyone; ADF&G uses different management strategies in different parts of the state to provide for different values, interests, and demands.
- ADF&G is committed to maintaining viable predator and prey populations and manages Alaska's wildlife populations with long-term health, sustainable harvests, and conservation as guiding principles.

9.0 RESOURCES

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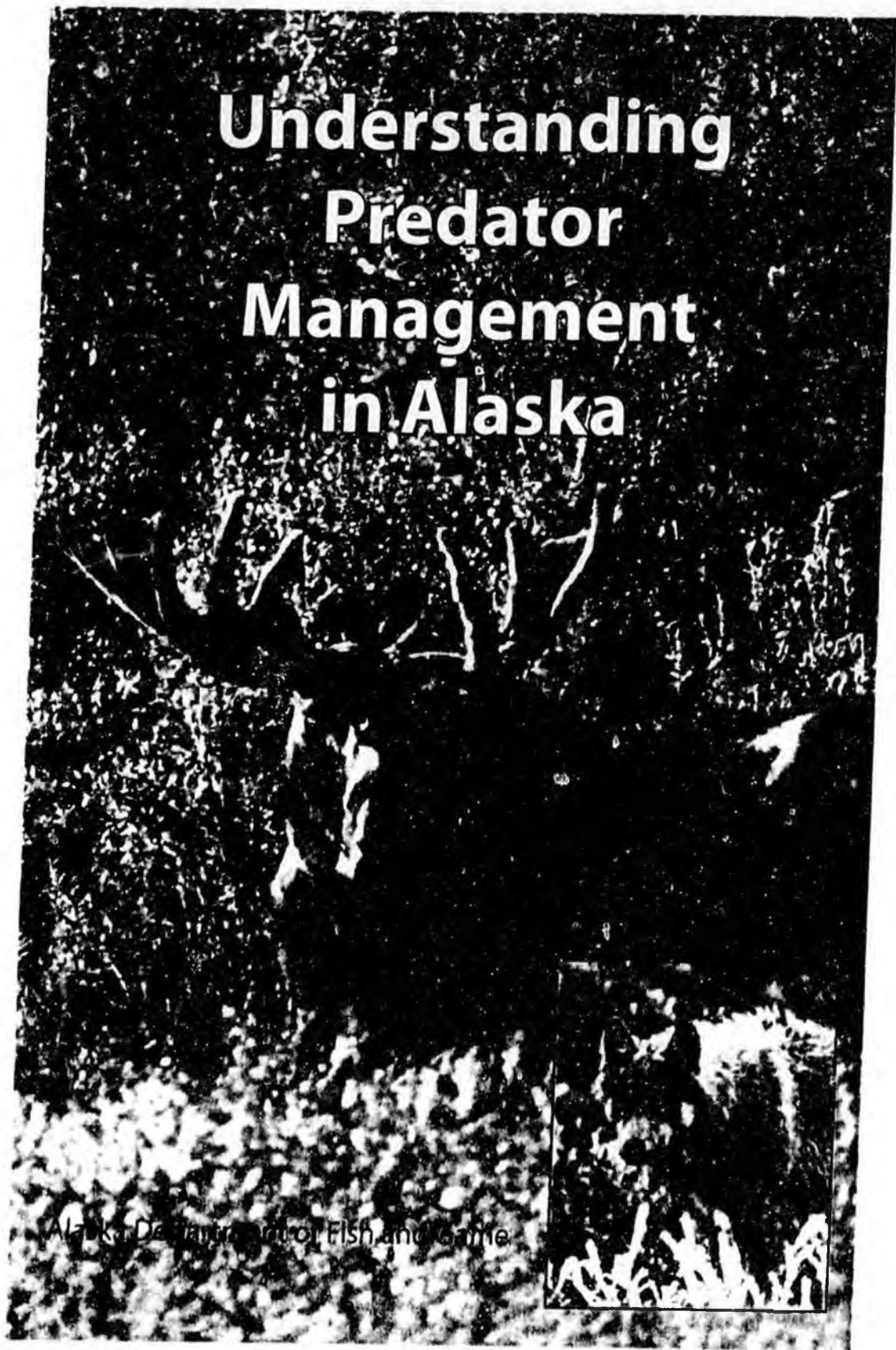
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For more information, visit the ADF&G web site:

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Understanding Predator Management in Alaska



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Alaska's constitution requires that Alaska's resources, including its fish and wildlife, be managed for the maximum benefit of Alaskans. It also requires that its wildlife be managed on a sustained yield basis subject to preferences amongst beneficial uses. These constitutional requirements, further amplified by the Alaska State Legislature, create the basic framework for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Boards of Game and Fisheries to manage Alaska's bountiful fish and wildlife.

These mandates can create potential user conflicts, such as those created where predators are temporarily manipulated to benefit prey species important to Alaskans for food. Under direction from the Alaska State Legislature, ADF&G and the Alaska Board of Game (Board) have recently embarked on several programs to increase low moose and caribou populations by temporarily manipulating wolf and bear numbers.

As the primary agency charged with managing the state's wildlife populations, ADF&G, in conjunction with the Board, is not only responsible for managing Alaska's wildlife but for providing information to the public on the background and scientific justification for, and the purposes and progress of all management programs. It is especially important to provide the public with information when programs are controversial and complex.

This booklet offers an overview of the social, legal, and biological bases for predator management in Alaska. It presents ADF&G's perspectives on predator management, discusses the reasons for specific wildlife management actions, describes the scientific information assembled by ADF&G that affects decisions on implementing predator control, and explains how ADF&G evaluates results.

Alaska is the only U.S. state with full complements of native big game (e.g., moose, caribou, deer, sheep, and mountain goats) and large predators. In this booklet, "prey" generally refers to moose and caribou and "predators" to wolves and bears.

Alaska enjoys sustainable populations of both predators and prey. ADF&G's goal is to maintain those populations in perpetuity.





Hunting is extremely important in Alaska. It is integral to lifestyles, traditional cultures, the economy, and basic food needs for many Alaska families. Approximately 7,000 moose and 25,000 caribou are reported harvested each year.

Social considerations

Moose, caribou, deer, sheep, and mountain goats provide an important food source for rural and urban Alaskans. Wild game is a high quality, local, organic, free-range food source, preferred by many over meats shipped in from far away. In addition, many small communities have few or no practical alternatives for meat. Most rural communities are not connected to road systems, are hundreds of miles from larger cities, have no commercial-scale agriculture, and lack big grocery stores. Acquiring meat and other items from outside these communities can be cost prohibitive.

Citizen views range from the belief that wildlife populations should not be manipulated for human benefits, to a demand for actively managing populations to allow people to harvest a higher percentage of wildlife populations annually. No single management approach can satisfy all users. ADF&G uses different management strategies in different parts of the state to provide for different values and demands. Some areas are managed more aggressively to maximize harvest opportunities. Other areas are closed to hunting and provide other public uses, such as viewing.

ADF&G remains committed to maintaining sustainable predator and prey populations. The department will continue to manage Alaska's wildlife populations with long-term health, sustainable harvests, and conservation as guiding principles.

Legal considerations

The Board adopts regulations to conserve and develop the state's wildlife resources, and allocates uses of those resources. Using a well established public process, the Board promulgates hunting, trapping, and other wildlife regulations, including predator management directives.

Alaska's Constitution charges state government with managing Alaska's fish and wildlife resources on the *sustained yield* principle. That is, long term harvest rates should not exceed regeneration. This principle ensures wildlife are maintained in perpetuity at sustainable levels.

In 1994, the Alaska State Legislature enacted the "Intensive Management Law," requiring the Board to designate areas where human consumptive use is the highest priority use of wildlife, and then set prey population and harvest objectives for these areas. If management objectives are not met, the Board must consider intensive management actions, including: 1) reducing or eliminating non-resident hunting; 2) reducing or eliminating resident hunting; 3) liberalizing hunting and trapping regulations for wolves and bears; and 4) implementing habitat improvement projects (primarily prescribed fires).

If these actions do not or are unlikely to result in higher levels of prey for food for people, and predation is the key limiting factor, the Board may consider predator control. Predator control measures are proposed by the public or ADF&G, evaluated by ADF&G, and considered by the Board. If adopted, programs are designed by ADF&G and conducted by ADF&G staff, specially permitted members of the public, or a combination of both. Not all public proposals for predator control are approved for implementation. In fact, historically, more have been rejected than approved.



ADF&G works to actively monitor wildlife populations and trends, makes recommendations to the Alaska Board of Game to manage these populations, and implements the regulatory programs established by the Board.



In much of Alaska, large predators kill far more prey than hunters do. Predators may take 70 to 80 percent of the moose and caribou that die each year.

Biological considerations

Control programs are designed to reduce numbers of predators, not eliminate them. Programs must provide for the long-term sustainability of populations of predators and prey. Control efforts are suspended after prey population and harvest goals have been met. Typically, predator populations then begin to increase in response to an increased food resource. If regulated conventional hunting and trapping harvests of predators cannot limit the growth of predator populations, control programs may be reinstated.

Control programs are designed to reduce numbers of predators - not eliminate them.

Prey and predators are managed primarily through regulated hunting and trapping. Habitat quality, weather, disease, accidents, and preda-

tion also affect the abundance of prey populations. Hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits are constantly monitored and regularly revised to make sure populations are sustainable in the long-term.

A territorial bounty on wolves began in 1915. Widespread, largely indiscriminate predator control included poisoning, and later aerial shooting and statewide bounties, and

resulted in markedly reduced wolf numbers. Poisoning killed non-target predators as well, including black bears, brown bears, coyotes, wolverines, and eagles.

Some moose and caribou populations responded by growing rapidly, reaching historic high levels, and severely damaging their habitat. Habitat degradation, severe winters, and over-harvest combined to cause large-scale population declines. Only after decades of recovery have these populations returned to levels commensurate with available habitat.

After statehood, different techniques were employed, including relocating brown bears, diversionary feeding trials for bears, sterilization of wolves, and same-day-airborne and aerial shooting programs to remove wolves. With each effort, ADF&G biologists gained valuable insights into when and where predator control could and should be used, and what results could be expected in various situations.

Limited programs involving shooting wolves from aircraft by state and/or private pilots or ground-based wolf removal methods have occurred intermittently for periods of about two to six years since the 1970s. Experimental programs to control bear predation began in 2003.

Predator control programs are established by the Alaska Board of Game, with information provided by ADF&G. Five areas of the state currently have predator control programs. Several other areas have been considered, but determined to be unsuitable for predator control.

ADF&G estimates that 7,000 to 11,000 wolves, approximately 30,000 grizzly bears, and more than 100,000 black bears live in Alaska. About one million caribou live in Alaska in 32 herds; 175,000 - 200,000 moose are widely distributed in varying densities throughout the state.





Reasons for specific wildlife management actions

Predator control is typically undertaken to maintain or increase the harvest of prey for food by people. Predator control can be used to allow prey populations to increase, to reallocate the harvest of prey from predators to people, to stabilize or prevent further growth of predator populations, or to halt or reverse prey population declines.

Low numbers of prey or low harvests are not necessarily biological, conservation, or management problems. Many parts of Alaska have prey populations at levels below what habitat can support. A low number, density, or harvest becomes a management problem when people want something different than what an area is providing. Predator control is conducted to increase harvests and meet established objectives.

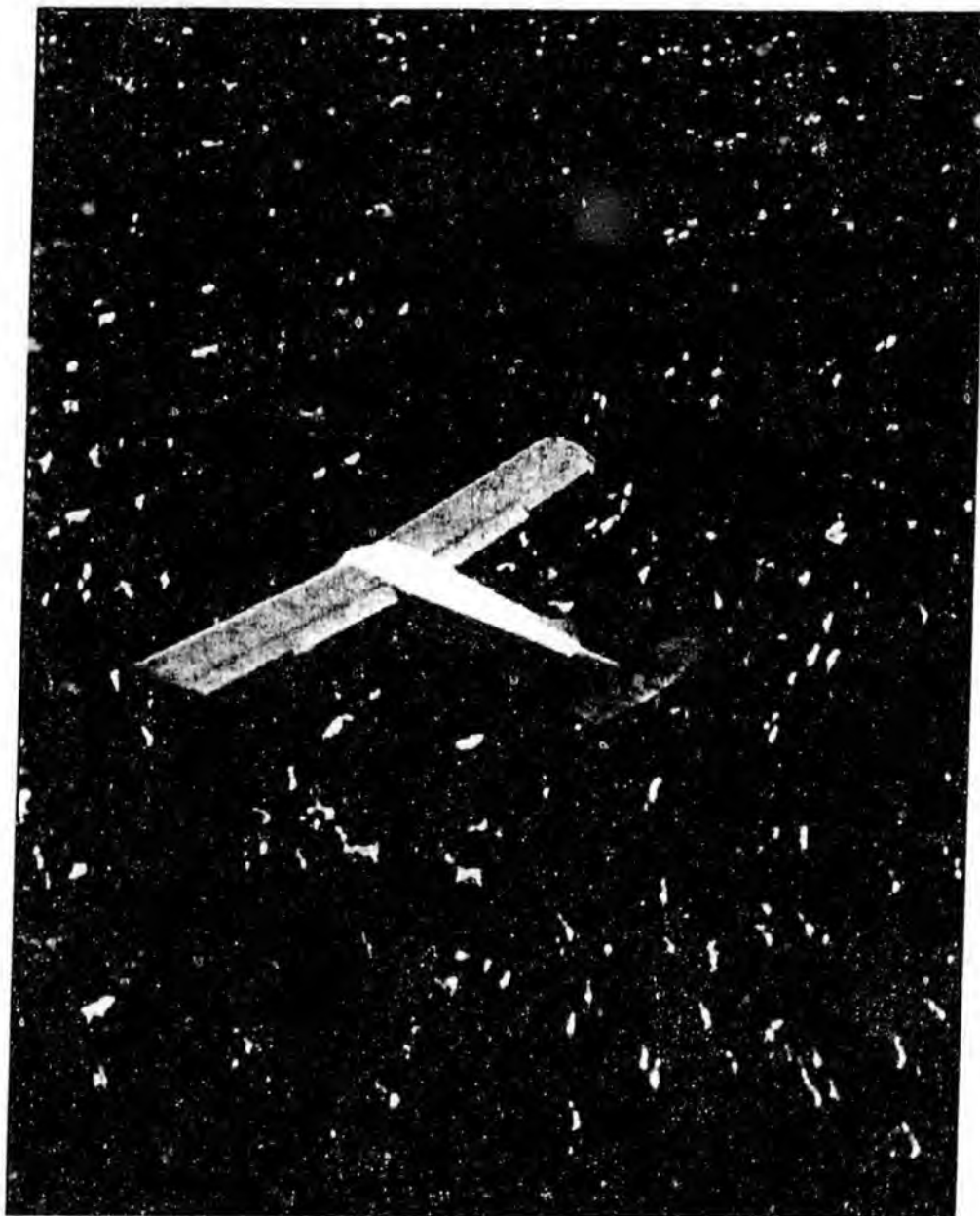
ADF&G's perspectives on predator management

Predator control is not hunting. Conventional hunting and trapping is taking animals on a sustainable basis for food, to satisfy cultural needs, and for recreation. Laws and regulations prescribe methods, means, and bag limits for these activities. Any citizen with appropriate licenses and tags may engage in hunting and trapping.

Predator control is a specific type of management action intended to reduce predator numbers to lower but sustainable levels. It often employs

methods not available to hunters, such as aerial shooting. Fair chase standards do not apply. Members of the public involved in predator control are issued special permits authorizing them to employ these methods in specific areas. Techniques used in predator control

programs depend on what can be effective. For example, in some control areas, the most effective method of reducing numbers of wolves is through the use of aircraft, using either land-and-shoot or aerial shooting techniques.



Biologists photograph and count caribou from the air to determine herd sizes, including numbers of bulls, cows, and calves.

Scientific information affecting decisions on predator control

Biologists use scientific information to understand predator-prey dynamics. They estimate the size of predator and prey populations, assess if predators are limiting prey numbers or affecting prey population trends, gauge the capacity of the habitat to support prey, forecast what effects predator control might have, and evaluate the results of predator control programs when they are implemented.

Aerial surveys, radio-tracking, harvest reports, calf mortality studies, body condition assessments, weight measurements, and browse surveys allow biologists to determine when predators are limiting prey.

Science alone cannot dictate whether predator control programs should or should not be conducted. Those choices are value-based decisions made through public processes.



How ADF&G evaluates results

A key element in managing wildlife is knowing or estimating the status and dynamics of given populations. Constraints of geography, vegetative cover, snow cover, insufficient funding, and many other factors frequently prevent biologists from directly counting individual animals across large areas. Wildlife managers use various science-based estimation techniques to come up with population estimates and relative proportions of males, females, and young animals in populations.

Carefully designed sampling in the form of composition surveys can help detect changes in population trends and reveal important herd characteristics, such as relative abundance of bulls and cows, and numbers and survival of calves. Addressing changes, with their unique sets of biological circumstances, requires the use of unique and suitable management tools and techniques.

Habitat as a limiting factor

Habitat plays an integral role in the productivity and survival of prey populations. Carrying capacity is defined as the greatest number of animals that can be supported by a certain area of habitat at a given time. This concept is easy to understand, but difficult to measure. Changes in forage quality, vegetative cover, winter conditions, and snow depth all influence an area's carrying capacity over time. Nutritional condition of populations diminish as they approach carrying capacity. This increases the vulnerability of populations to severe winters, disease, predation, and other environmental influences.

Habitats are not equal. Some are inherently more productive than others, given elevation, latitude, geological differences,

damage from an overpopulation of moose or caribou, or other factors. Overall habitat quality affects prey reproduction, survival, and in the long term, the number of animals in an area.

Wildlife managers monitor population characteristics that indicate the nutritional health of moose and caribou, including:

- **Twinning rates**
- **Calving weights**
- **Forage characteristics and uses**
- **Age of first reproduction**
- **Pregnancy rates**
- **Sources of mortality**
- **Survival rates**
- **Growth rates**

When prey animals are not limited by habitat or non-predation mortality, wildlife managers may suspect and investigate whether predation is a primary limiting factor.



Predation as a limiting factor

In much of Alaska, predation by wolves and bears holds moose and caribou populations lower than what their habitats can support.

Winter weather and high predation rates can keep prey populations in a low density dynamic equilibrium (LDDE), meaning both predator and prey numbers may remain low indefinitely.

In most of the U.S., where large predators are absent, wild moose are limited by habitat and commonly experience nutritional stress. In Alaska, prey populations commonly persist at low population densities, even in productive habitats. Where nutrition is good and calf production is high, survivorship may be low because of predation. If deaths are reduced, these populations will grow and more animals will be available for reproduction and harvest.

High mortality during early life reduces the number of calves that are "recruited" into the population, surviving to adulthood. Low recruitment reduces the number of moose and caribou available

Winter weather and high predation rates can keep prey populations in a low density dynamic equilibrium (LDDE), meaning both predator and prey numbers may remain low indefinitely.



for harvest, restricts the population from growing larger, and may even cause it to decline.

When populations do not reach carrying capacity despite abundant habitat, good physical condition, and high calf production, biologists investigate causes of mortality. If disease is not evident, they assess the survival of different age groups of animals to determine which predators - wolves or bears - are the primary sources of predation.

Predator control as a management tool

Reducing predation can improve survival of both calves and adults. When conventional hunting and trapping cannot keep predator populations within management objectives, predator control may be the only practical option.

The goals of predator control are to increase prey densities and harvests, and establish stable but decreased predator densities. Biologists determine the level of predator removal needed to accomplish these goals, and determine predator population objectives for various areas and circumstances.



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There is no indication from available scientific data that state sponsored wolf or bear control programs have created conservation concerns for wolf or bear populations in Alaska. Wolf and bear populations maintain their ability to increase after control programs end, even with the continuation of public hunting and trapping.

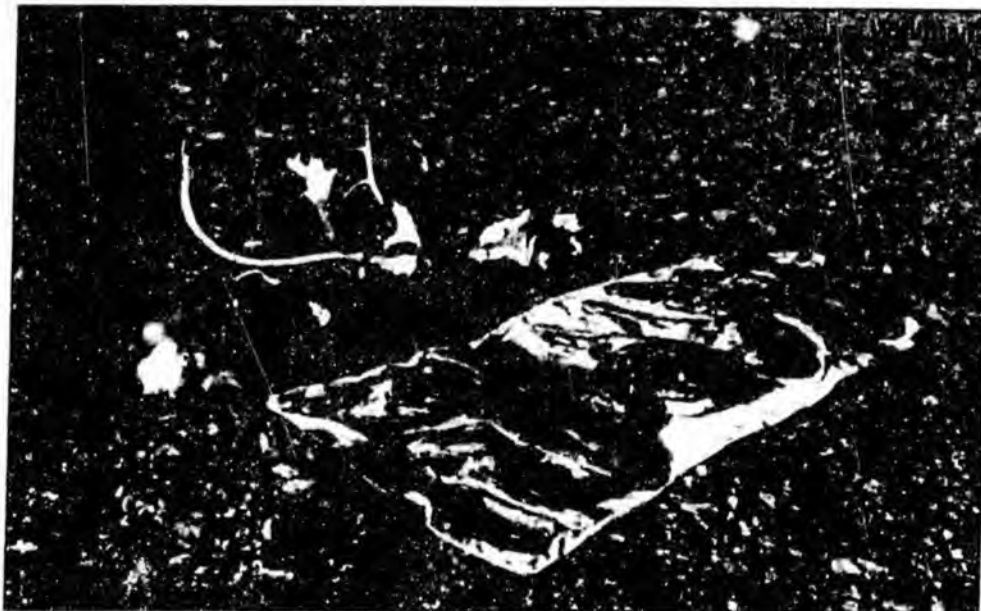
Can predator control work?

Used appropriately, predator control has reversed or stabilized declining moose and caribou populations, increased the numbers and/or densities of prey animals, and allowed for increased harvests of moose and caribou. Habitat quality, weather conditions, the mix and movement of predators, human access, management costs, land ownership, and duration of effort can all influence the impact of control programs and the responses of prey.

Predator control programs can be effective when:

- Predation is limiting prey abundance and productivity,
- Significant predation is controlled,
- Predators are reduced for a sufficient time,
- Habitat will support more prey,
- Control is conducted in a sufficiently large area,
- Harvest of prey by hunters is limited.

Historical data can sometimes provide insights about wolf population levels that will allow prey populations to increase, but the number of predators that must be removed to achieve program objectives is unique to each area. Several published studies report increases in prey numbers after wolf control reduced wolves to 55% or less of their pre-control numbers for at least four years. Each situation is carefully reviewed before intensive management programs are implemented.



Alternatives to lethal predator control

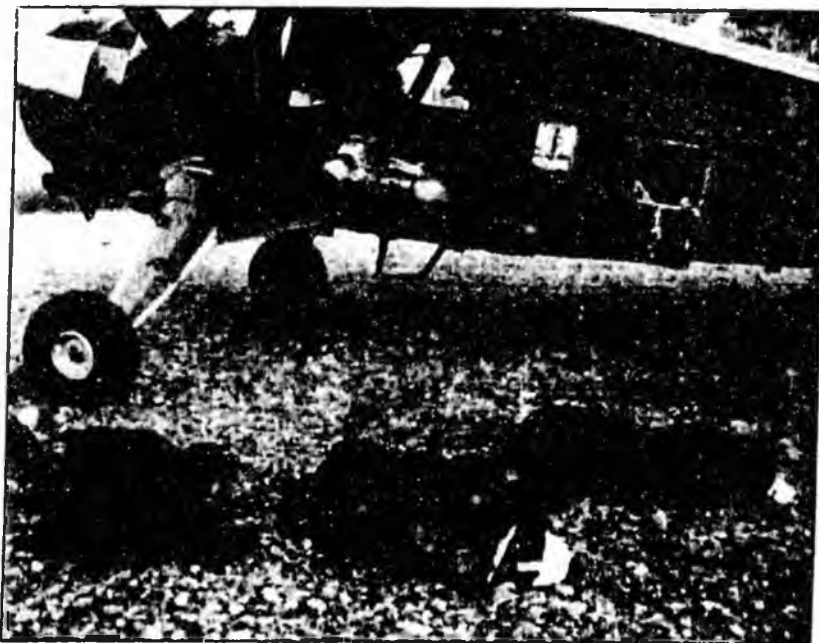
Non-lethal methods such as surgical sterilization can reduce predation, but are usually prohibitively expensive or logistically impractical, except in relatively small areas.

The following methods have been applied and continue to be considered in Alaska:

- Surgical sterilization and relocation of wolves
- Diversionary feeding
- Bear relocation

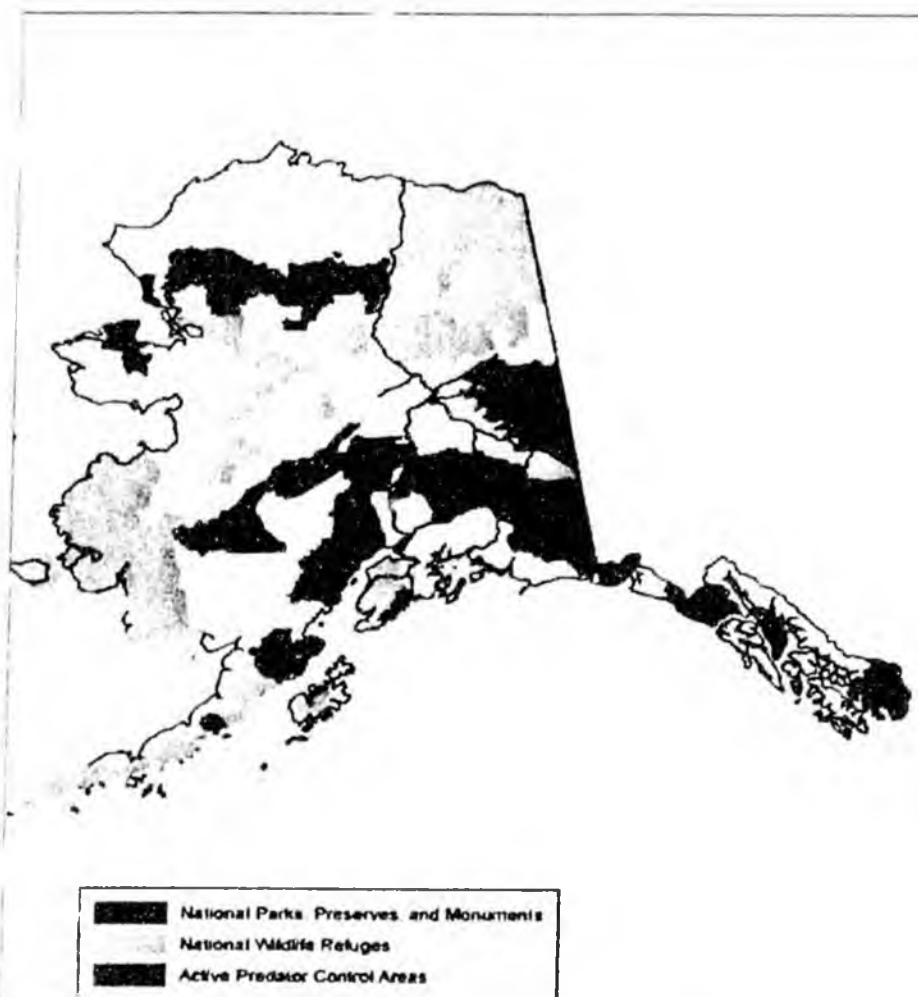


A non-lethal (sterilization) predator control program was implemented in 1997 to address predation on the Fortymile caribou herd. Fifteen pairs of wolves were sterilized. They maintained their home territories but killed far fewer caribou because they had no pups to feed.



Sedated bears await relocation. In 2003 and 2004, 115 black bears and 10 grizzly bears were relocated away from a 528 mi² area surrounding McGrath.

Federal parks and refuges and state predator control areas (2007)



Status of active state predator control programs

Predator control is not implemented on national monuments, wildlife refuges, and parks, shown in green on the map. Predator control programs, shown in red, are presently active on about 9% of Alaska's total land mass. These areas include the upper Susitna, Talkeetna, Nelchina and Copper Basins; the McGrath area; the upper Yukon and Tanana Basins; and part of the Cook Inlet area. Results to date show trends similar to results experienced in previous programs that successfully increased prey numbers or hunter harvests. Public participation in bear control has been low to date and no conclusions have yet been reached. The amount of information provided here varies by area depending on the status and longevity of existing programs.

Upper Susitna, Talkeetna, Nelchina, and Copper basins (GMUs 13A, 13B, 13C, and 13E)

This control project is part of a multi-year research program to measure effects of brown bear and wolf predation on moose calves.

1976 - 1978: control efforts reduced wolves 40-50%.

Afterward, a large proportion of brown bears were relocated. Calf survival increased immediately, then dropped as bears returned. Diversionary feeding had similar, but less dramatic results.



1970

1980

1971: Aerial shooting of wolves prohibited without a permit.



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1977 - 1987: **Moose increased 9% annually**, almost doubling in number in this ten-year period (within long-term trend count areas).

1977 - 1987: Spring estimates averaged 147 wolves during this period.

1988: Land-and-shoot hunting and trapping made illegal.



Intensive, short-term predator control will not initiate a sustainable, long-term increase in harvest of prey. Calves must be protected for at least three to four years until they are old enough to produce calves of their own.



2000 - 2006: Wolf population reduced: (includes 50% from trapping and hunting and 50% from Same-Day-Airborne shooting: SDA averages 71 wolves annually).

Moose numbers up 14% (about 2% per year) within long-term trend count areas.

**Calf numbers increased 110%.
Yearling bulls increased 176%.
Total bulls increased 45%.**

1988 - 2000: Moose declined nearly 4% annually to nearly half of their former numbers (within long-term trend count areas).



©Randy Rogers

1990		2000	
1988 - 2000: Wolf population reaches all-time high.	2000: Spring estimate = 270 wolves; fall estimate = 520.	2000: Intensive wolf management plan adopted.	2004: Same-Day-Airborne (SDA) taking of wolves
	1999: Spring estimate = 300 wolves; fall estimate = 520.		

2007: Spring wolf population objective is 135-165 wolves. No intensive bear management program is implemented, but brown bears are significant predators of moose calves. Bear hunting regulations are increasingly liberalized.



Upper Yukon/Tanana Basin (GMUs 12, 20B, 20D, 20E and 25C)

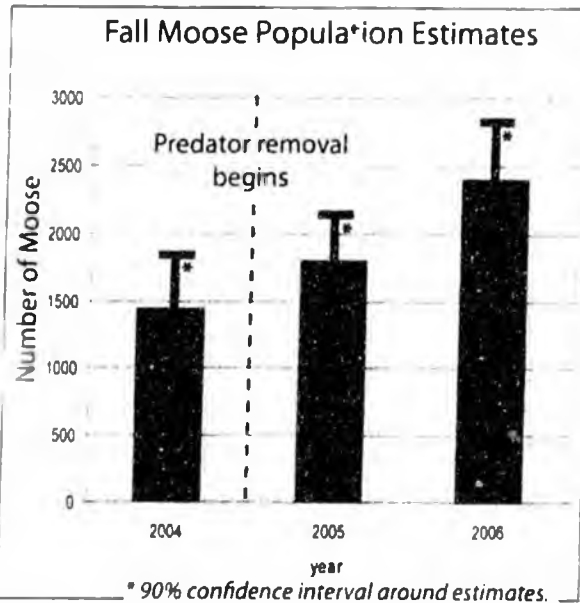
1981 - 1984: GMU 20E wolf numbers reduced by 30-60%; no discernible effect on moose calf survival (grizzly bears killed 50% of moose calves born in 1984).

2005 - 2007: Control programs remove 100 wolves and 6 brown bears.

Late winters 2004 - 2005 and 2005 - 2006: Wolf population in survey area is less than 50% of pre-control estimate.

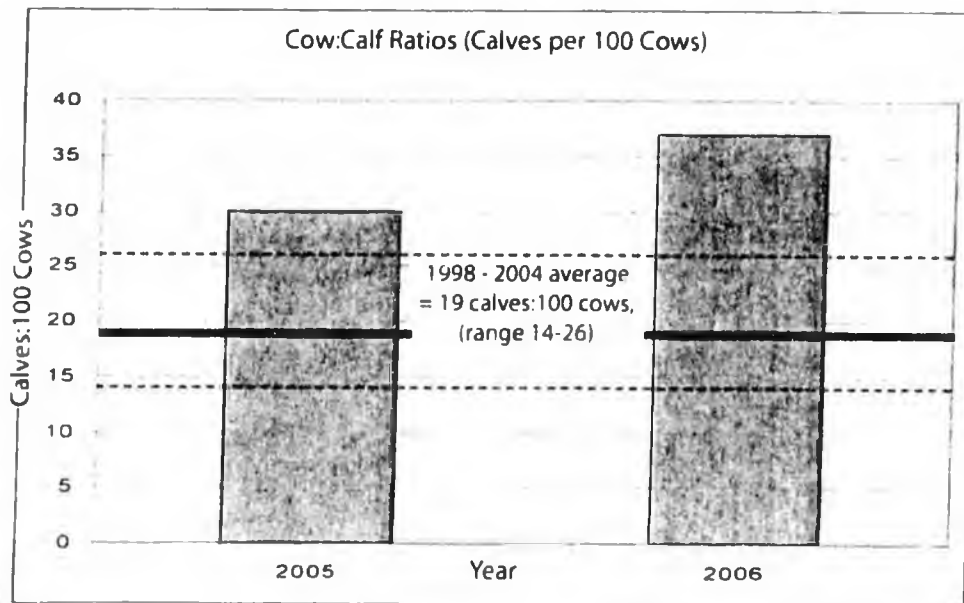
2006: Survey indicates fewer brown bears than reported in the 1980s.

Initial survey data indicated increased numbers of moose and a higher cow:calf ratio in the central part of the control area. These data are preliminary and it will be



Numbers of Moose increased between 2004 and 2006 in the survey area.

necessary to continue the control program and continue data collection efforts in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.



McGrath (GMU 19A)

July 2004: Five-year control plan implemented.

2004 – 2005: 42 wolves taken Same-Day-Airborne (SDA) and 29 by other allowed methods.

2005 – 2006: 46 wolves taken SDA and 30 by other allowed methods.

2006 – 2007: 7 wolves taken SDA and 3 by other allowed methods (poor snow conditions limited take).

Winter and spring 2006: Surveys indicate 114 – 120 wolves.

May 2006: Alaska Board of Game reduces post-control wolf population objective from 40 – 53, to no fewer than 30 wolves.

2005 – 2006: 65% of the wolf population taken by allowed methods; distribution of the take is not uniform throughout the area.

2004 – 2005 and 2005 – 2006: Over 70% of wolves in the lower Holitna, Hoholitna, and Stony River drainages were removed; removal rates elsewhere much lower.

Spring 2007: Holitna and Hoholitna River drainage moose surveys suggest beginnings of population growth:

- 64% twinning rate,
- 31% yearlings,
- 62 calves:100 cows,
- 26 bulls:100 cows.

Moose density estimates south of the Kuskokwim River:

Fall 2004: 0.19 moose/mi².

Spring 2006: 0.38 moose/ mi².

Winter 2006 – 2007: No estimate due to poor survey conditions.

Cook Inlet (GMUs 16A and 16B)

In 2004, when aerial control began, the Unit 16 wolf population was about 200. The spring 2007 wolf population was estimated at 45 – 95, for a total reduction of 50 – 80%.

Overwinter moose calf survival was high, but spring-to-fall survival was low (about 18%), so brown bear hunting was liberalized from one bear every four years to one per year in 2004, and to two bears per year in 2005. Black bears remain abundant; in 2007 a control program allowed participants to take unlimited numbers of black bears.



Biologists use a variety of tools, including radio collars, to help track and monitor wolf populations.

McGrath (GMU 19D)

Spring 2001: Research concludes both bears and wolves are significant predators of moose in the McGrath area.



2000

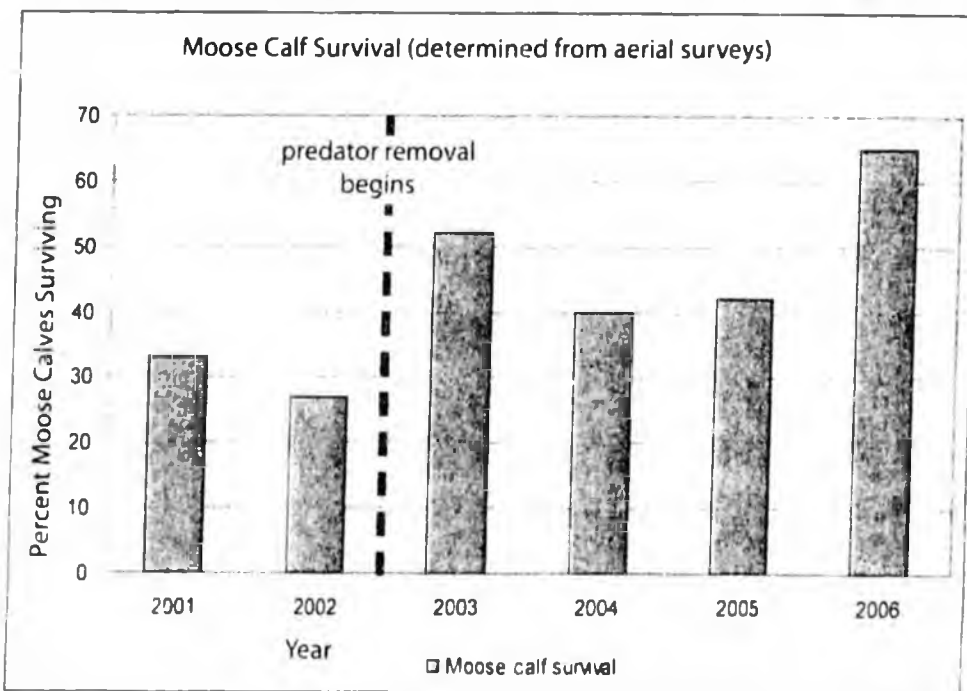
2006

Spring 2003 and 2004: 115 black bears and 10 grizzly bears (at least a 70% reduction) relocated out of a 528 mi² area surrounding McGrath - the "Experimental Micromangement Area" (EMMA).

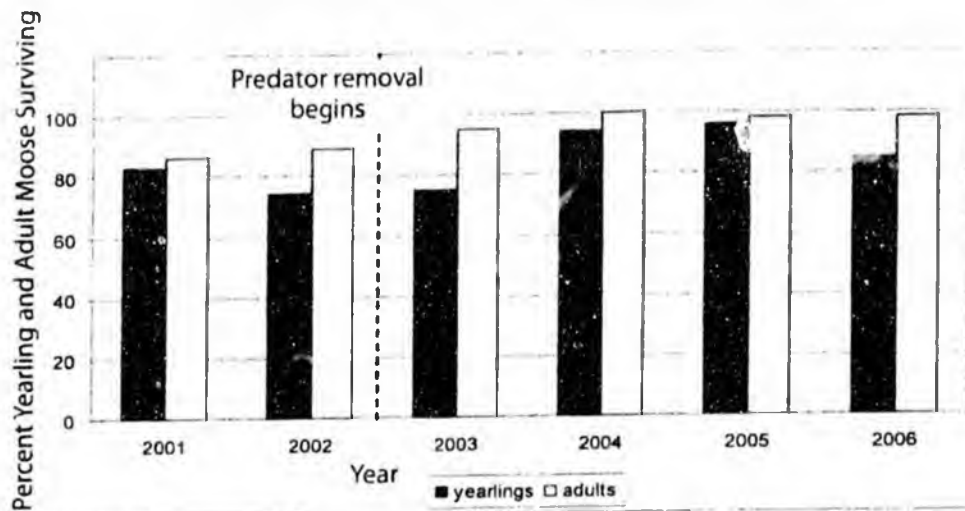
Late winter 2004 - 2006: Aerial shooting wolf control effort initiated in EMMA; surveys indicate wolf population 75% lower than 2001.



Moose calf survival increased in GMU 19D after predator control was implemented



Moose Survival Rates (determined from aerial surveys)



Moose survival increased following implementation of predator control



The moose population in the "Experimental Micromanagement Area" (a 528 mi² area surrounding McGrath) was 524 in 2001. In 2006 it was 691, about a 30% increase.

Conclusions

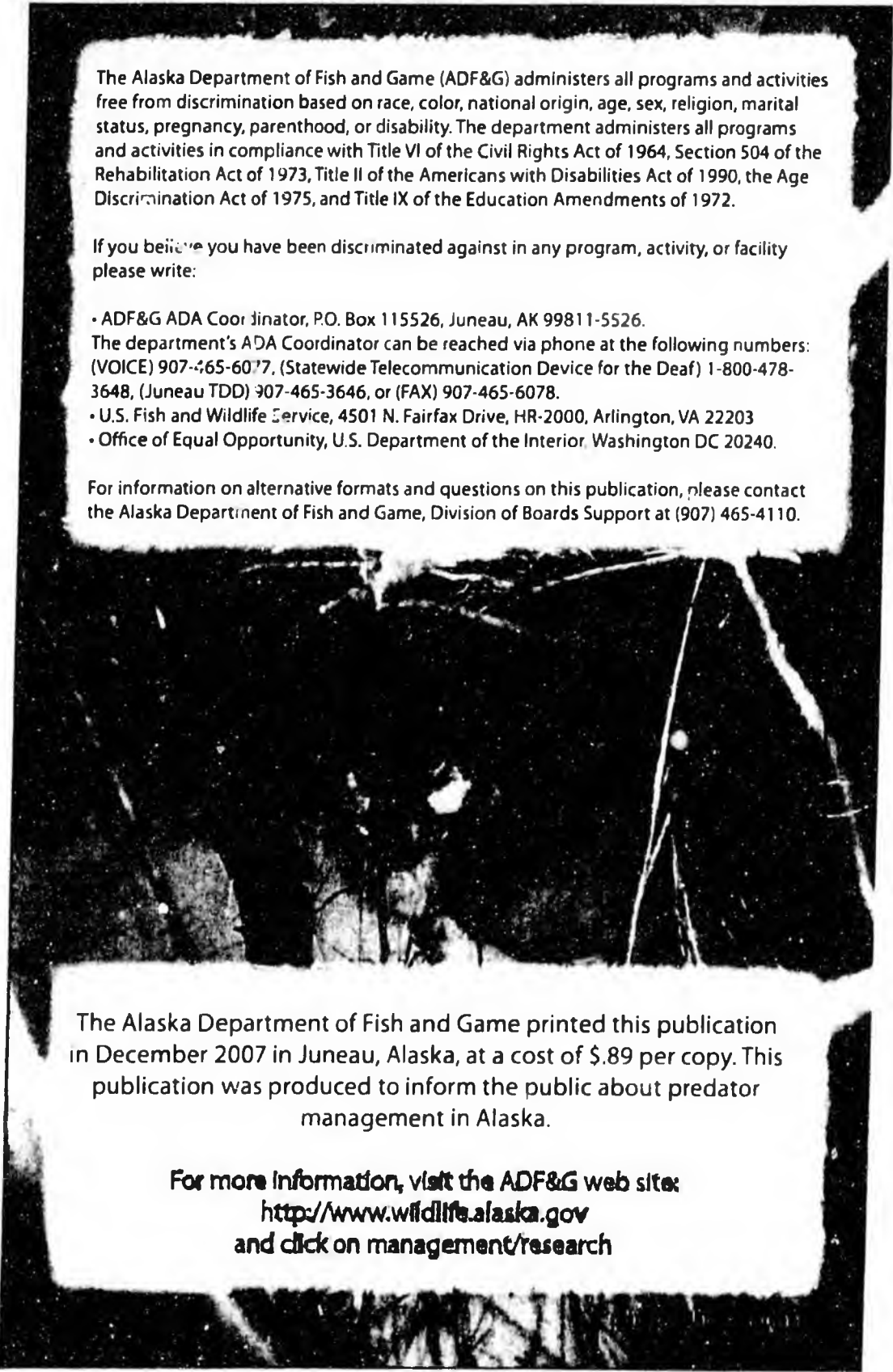
- Wild game is important food for many Alaskans.
- Moose and caribou populations across Alaska frequently persist at low numbers, often kept that way by predation. Predators kill more moose and caribou than do hunters.
- The Alaska Board of Game and ADF&G are required by Alaska's Constitution and state law to manage predators and prey for all user groups in Alaska.
- Intensive management statutes require the Alaska Board of Game to adopt regulations for certain moose and caribou populations to implement programs that provide higher harvests for hunters. Citizen views range from rejecting manipulation of wildlife populations for human benefit, to demanding management practices allowing hunters to harvest higher percentages of prey populations annually. Because of these opposing public values, predator control will always be controversial.



- Predator control programs are designed to reduce wolf or bear populations as a way to increase numbers or harvests of moose or caribou. Each situation is approached systematically and individually.
- When properly designed and carried out, predator control programs have a high likelihood of meeting population and harvest objectives for moose and caribou.
- When members of the public are involved in predator control, the state limits participation to qualified applicants through the issuance of special permits and closely monitors participants' actions.

- ADF&G continues to collect data to monitor the effectiveness of bear and wolf control programs. There is still more to learn.
- Predator control programs are active on about 9% of Alaska's land mass.
- There is no indication from available scientific data that state-sponsored wolf or bear control programs have created conservation concerns for wolf or bear populations on either a statewide or local basis.
- Data from each of the five active predator control areas are preliminary, but indicate the beginning of increased moose calf survival and population growth.
- Current bear control programs in GMUs 16, 19A, and 20E are new and thus far inconclusive; results continue to be evaluated.
- Wolf and bear populations maintain their ability to increase after control programs end, even with continued public hunting and trapping.
- No single management approach can satisfy everyone; ADF&G uses different management strategies in different parts of the state to provide for diverse values, interests, and demands.
- ADF&G is committed to maintaining viable predator and prey populations, and manages Alaska's wildlife populations with long-term health, sustainable harvests, and conservation as guiding principles.





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For more information, visit the ADF&G web site:

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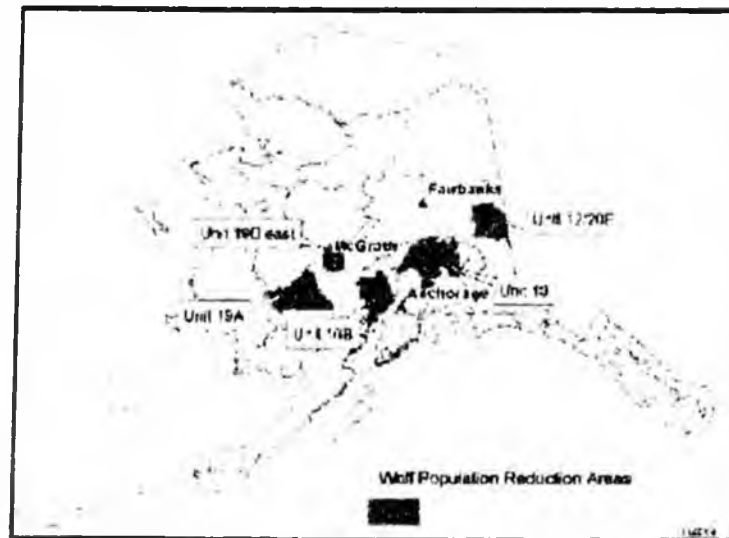
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Research and Management of Wolves in Alaska

- ▶ Wolf Home
- ▶ Wolf Control
- ▶ Alexander Wolves
- ▶ Wolf Management
- ▶ Lice

Wolf Control in Alaska



Wolves and bears are very effective and efficient predators on caribou, moose, deer and other wildlife. In most of Alaska, humans also rely on the same species for food. In Alaska's Interior, predators kill more than 80 percent of the moose and caribou that die during an average year, while humans kill less than 10 percent. In most of the state, predation holds prey populations at levels far below what could be supported by the habitat in the area. Predation is an important part of the ecosystem, and all ADF&G wolf management programs, including control programs, are designed to sustain wolf populations in the future.

The Alaska Board of Game approves wildlife regulations through a public participation process. When the Board determines that people need more moose and/or caribou in a particular area, and restrictions on hunting aren't enough to allow prey populations to increase, predator control programs may be needed. Wolf hunting and trapping rarely reduces wolf numbers enough to increase prey numbers or harvests.

Currently, five wolf control programs are underway that comprises about 9.4% of Alaska's land area. The programs use a closely controlled permit system allowing aerial or same day airborne methods to remove wolves in designated areas. In these areas, wolf numbers will be temporarily reduced, but wolves will not be permanently eliminated from any area. Successful programs allow humans to take more moose, and healthy populations of wolves to continue to thrive in Alaska.

Click on links below to learn more about wolves and predator-prey relationships

Additional Wolf Information

- Overview of Relationships Between Bears, Wolves, and Moose in Alaska
- The Alexander Archipelago Wolf
- Infestation of Lice Among Wild Canids in Alaska

If you would like to share your comments with us please send them to
dfg.dwc.wolfcomments@alaska.gov

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Hunting & Trapping	Regulations	Licenses & Permits	Research & Management	Education	All About Wildlife	Wildlife Viewing	Refuges & Sanctuaries	Publications
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Overview of Relationships Between Bears, Wolves, and Moose in Alaska

Relationships between large predators and their prey in Alaska are complex, and no one model fits all situations. It is possible to generalize about some situations, particularly in Interior Alaska. This information on the biology of moose, bears, and wolves, represents highlights from 25 years of research and management programs conducted by universities and state, provincial and federal governments in Alaska and Canada. In 1997, the National Academy of Sciences published a summary and review of predator/prey interactions in Alaska (National Research Council, 1997). More research has been conducted since that review. The published references listed below can be found in most university or large municipal libraries.

In the boreal forest of northern Canada and Interior Alaska, where bears (either black bears, grizzly bears, or both) and wolves are lightly harvested and are major predators on moose, moose densities typically remain well below levels that their habitat can support. Under these circumstances, moose density fluctuates between about 0.1 and 1.0 moose/mi² over large areas, most commonly densities are 0.4 to 0.6 moose/mi². Biologists refer to this situation as the Low Density Dynamic Equilibrium or LDDE because moose density fluctuates yet remains low. This occurs primarily because, together, bears and wolves are efficient predators on moose calves, and kill most of the calves born each year. The highest densities reached in these systems (about 1 moose/mi²) tend to occur in very large burns where habitat is excellent and moose apparently are more successful at avoiding predators.

Although the LDDE prevails in much of remote interior Alaska, differences occur between areas. In most areas, bears are the major predator on moose calves. An exception occurs in Game Management Unit 20A where wolf control has been shown to be effective at maintaining high numbers of moose and high long-term harvests of moose. In Unit 20A, initial reductions in wolves increased moose population density, wolves also quickly increased after wolf control because, ultimately, the number of wolves in an area depends mostly on the number of prey animals in the area. Number of moose harvested also remained high after wolves increased. An abundance of trappers in Unit 20A has kept wolves from increasing to the point where they could cause declines in the moose population. A similar situation likely occurs in portions of Units 20B and 20D South.

Grizzly bears have been shown to be particularly effective predators of moose calves from birth to about 2 months of age and often kill adult moose in the spring. In this regard, one grizzly bear is equivalent to many black bears. Not all bears are equal, however, and some bears seem to become specialists at killing both adult and calf moose.

Black bears have been found to be the most important predator of moose calves in some areas of Alaska where grizzly bears are uncommon. In these areas, black bears killed about 40% of all moose calves that were born. Most predation was by adult males.

Biologists expect that significant reductions in bear numbers (either black or grizzly or both) will also lead to higher numbers of moose for harvest. For example, in areas of Canada and the northern states where moose coexist only with wolves, moose are often found at high densities that fluctuate with weather.

and habitat (e.g. Isle Royale)

Numbers of grizzly bears have probably increased in Interior Alaska since the 1950s. We base this on incidental observations by older hunters, local residents, cabin owners, and Native elders, who all indicate that grizzly bear numbers have increased. This is corroborated to some degree by modern studies. For example, grizzly bears were recently found to be significant predators of moose calves on the Yukon Flats and are commonly seen by local residents, whereas 20-30 years ago, observations of grizzly bears were rare.

In the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, where wolves and bears are not common, moose are abundant.

Grizzly bear populations appear to be much more resilient to harvest than previously believed. During the last 10 years, the Alaska Board of Game has made a deliberate effort to reduce numbers of grizzly bears in a few important hunting areas (e.g. Game Management Unit 13-the Nelchina Basin) by increasing the bag limit and extending hunting seasons. So far, these new regulations have had no noticeable effect on grizzly bear populations even though hunters have taken an increased number of bears.

Wolves have been found to be very adaptable and they recover from low numbers within a few years. Despite relatively heavy hunting and trapping over the last century in Alaska, wolves occur on nearly all of their traditional habitat throughout mainland Alaska. Historically, wolf numbers were greatly depressed. Specifically, wolves were rare in Interior Alaska between about 1910 and 1925, and during the 1950s. During 1910-1925 wolves may have succumbed to diseases brought in by sled dogs or to widespread poisoning. During the 1950s, federal predator control agents reduced wolves by poisoning and aerial shooting. Wolves have been abundant and have occurred in all of their historic ranges in Alaska since state management began in about 1960 (except for the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, and the western Seward Peninsula).

Wolves are social animals that live in large family groups. Usually, only a single female per pack successfully raises pups, but depending upon the relationship of adult males and females in a wolf pack, multiple litters may occur in a single pack in a single year. Most pups born into a pack stay in the pack for at least one year, but virtually all have dispersed away from their natal pack by the age of 3. Large packs of 20 or more wolves may occur in areas where food is abundant and pup survival is high. Wolf populations in North America commonly sustain annual harvests or natural mortality rates of 20-40% without experiencing a year-to-year decline in numbers. High reproductive rates, high mortality rates and long distance dispersal behavior results in extensive gene flow within wolf populations and between wolf packs.

In Alaska and other areas, if wolves are not hunted or trapped, most mortality is from intraspecific aggression (fighting with other wolves). In trapped wolf populations, natural mortality rates are often lower than in untrapped populations.

In coastal areas of Alaska, where fox rabies is endemic, wolves are periodically reduced to low levels by rabies.

Practical Aspects of managing moose in areas where the LDDE exists

Usually, without predator control, hunters can take about 5% of a low-density moose population each year – almost all of the harvest must be bulls or the population will decline.

LDDE does not present a biological problem – moose are not likely to become threatened, endangered or extinct due to predation.

The fact that the LDDE prevails in large areas does not usually present a management problem either. Interior Alaska is sparsely populated and access to moose populations is often poor. This means that hunting pressure is

relatively light in many areas anyway.

The LDDE can cause a management problem around villages, or in areas that have become important hunting areas for Alaskans near the road system. In these areas, people need or want to harvest more moose than the system can support. In Alaska, moose are valuable to people as a source of food and income (i.e. guiding and transporting hunters), particularly in rural areas. This is why people often express the desire for predator control.

In some areas, where there is a demand to increase moose harvests, it might be possible to harvest more moose by reducing bear predation. Although this idea is reasonable, it is a relatively new idea, has not been adequately tested in Alaska, and programs of this nature need to be viewed as experiments.

References:

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Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Amy Morgan [amy.morgan@ccsjuneau.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 2:13 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Wildlife should not be aerially hunted! Myself and many other Alaskans have twice voted AGAINST this practice. It is wrong.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amy Morgan
326 4th St Apt 1004
Juneau, AK 99801-1176

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Gwen Turner [gwendolyn.turner@mwhglobal.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 2:14 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I object to the fact that HB 256 would put leave too many decisions about predator control in the hands of the Board of Game, and I have no say in who is on that board. Predator control has never worked to

balance wildlife and I cannot understand why we here in Alaska have to make the same mistakes that have been made elsewhere. The general population does not agree with many of the board decisions, as

evidenced by the results whenever their decisions are put to the vote.

Are the relatively few pro-control people really that powerful that

elected officials are afraid to object? Please consider how this will take even more power from the people.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gwen Turner
5520 E 98th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99507-6610

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Steven Jacquier [steven_jacquier@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 2:35 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Resource management should be based on scientific analysis, not conducted by political appointees on the basis of which vested interests have the most pull. Alaskan voters are sick of political

corruption in the Alaska legislature. We have already voted this down, twice; why is it coming back around again if there is not lobbyist money involved? Oppose HB 256 (and while you are at it, please also

ask John Cowdery to resign instead of further disgracing himself, the Alaska GOP, and my state senate district).

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Steven Jacquier
PO Box 230007
Anchorage, AK 99523-0007

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Victoria Faeo [victoria@cbpp.uaa.alaska.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 2:36 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I know how much Alaskans love to eat moose, but with the human population continuing to grow and the moose brouse continuing to decrease, moose numbers will always be less than the number of people who want to hunt them. This is not a reason to kill wolves and baby predators (wolf cubs, bear cubs). The predator population, especially of wolves, can decrease to the point that it will not recover. And predator control methods of shooting from airplanes are not humane.

People are extremely smart, such that we do not have to eat moose when their populations are low. There are many other things we can eat.

Wolves and bears, on the other hand, do not have as many choices. Also remember, most moose calves are eaten by bears, NOT wolves

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Victoria Faeo
PO Box 877955
Wasilla, AK 99687-7955

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Doug Myers [doug-myers@adventurealaska-ltd.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 2:37 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Your most sincere effort to object via vote to the politically expedient effort by the Governor's office.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Doug Myers
1350 Huntsmen Cir
Anchorage, AK 99518-2744

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Lori Anderson [lorander22@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 2:37 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Please listen to the people. Remember your roots and remain committed to hearing what the communities across this state are asking of you.

You were elected in to your position of power and the last thing you should do is abuse that power by neglecting the voices asking to be heard.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lori Anderson
PO Box 473
Skagway, AK 99840-0473

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Christine Burton [christine.ak@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 2:38 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

NOW you want to add wolverines and brown bears to the list along with wolves that killers can shoot from planes, this is insane.

LEAVE THE ANIMALS ALONE!

I will not vote for anyone that votes for this.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Christine Burton
3241 E 42nd Ave
Anchorage, AK 99508-5416

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Tanya Kukahiko [tkukahiko@ounalashka.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 2:38 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Miss Tanya Kukahiko
53 Jack London Drive
Juneau, Alaska, AK 99685

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Joclyn Reamey [giff0ee@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 3:04 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I strongly appose HB 256, because unless its for self defense, the killing of these animals is unnessecary and disturbing to me.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Joclyn Reamey
PO Box 687
Dillingham, AK 99576-0687

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Amunro Amunro [amunro@gri.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 3:09 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I can't believe, in light of 21st Century science and wildlife conservation methods, that Alaska's elected administrators and officials are still wanting to systematically kill predators to politically try to control the natural forces of nature. It certainly makes all of us Alaskans look like truly ignorant 19th Century miss-fits. I do strongly oppose HB 256. Thank you, Alan R. Munro, Juneau, Alaska

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Amunro Amunro
120 W 9th St
Juneau, AK 99801-1612

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Heather Benz [chibibenz@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 3:11 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Please Oppose HB 256

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Alaskan voters have already voted twice against aerial wolf hunting, and this bill would circumvent public input. I'm okay with killing wolves when the biologists support the fact that it is necessary, but this bill would allow Board of Game to do whatever it wants without

listening to biologists. Please carefully consider both sides of this bill before voting on it. Without the bill aerial hunting can still occur, but in a regulated manner. With the bill the rules on aerial hunting are slackened, paving the way for hunters to do as they please.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Heather Benz
9767 Atelier Dr
Anchorage, AK 99507-1296

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Robert Drennan [drennan.robert@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 3:11 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Drennan
14635 Sterling Hwy
Sitilchik, AK 99639-9710

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Sandra Kromidas [sandra.kromidas@va.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 3:13 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

HB 256 would...

Make a bad law worse.

Expand Alaska's already excessive, expensive, and often ineffective predator control programs and pave the way for the Board of Game to increase this unnecessary killing.

Gut the intention of the voter-enacted ban on the same-day airborne shooting of wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines and make it much easier to increase the aerial killing of these animals.

Allow for the aerial gunning of carnivores to reduce predator populations in order to artificially and unsustainably boost game populations -- a practice that will primarily benefit urban and out-of-state hunters, not rural hunters with demonstrated needs.

Add brown bears and wolverines to the list of species that may be shot by state-licensed aerial gunners.

Permit the use of airplanes to track and shoot down wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines without requiring a comprehensive "game management plan" to be in place beforehand.

Bad, bad, bad idea!

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sandra Kromidas
7201 Bulen Dr
Anchorage, AK 99507-2880

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Nelson&Ola Wight [nels.wight@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 3:34 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256' and please research ramifications

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Although professionals may just be wildlife 'gunners' in uniform.

I'm usually confident Governor Palin has researched all parameters and has been given good advice.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nelson&Ola Wight
431 Mellow Pl
Anchorage, AK 99508-2360

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Cheryl Silcox [csilcox@wmo.bssd.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 3:37 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Please educate yourselves on the other side of this issue. If you only listen to special interest groups or those who do not understand the laws of nature you will upset the natural balance of the ways

things should occur in the wilderness. Why would you want one animal to die an unnatural death so that others can live just so they can be killed also. We need wolves for population control or the moose will eat themselves out of their habitat. Everything has a purpose and it is not for man to decide how this cycle should work.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cheryl Silcox
P.O. Box 61
White Mountain, AK 99784

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Barbara Reilly [if24kt@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 3:39 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Don't kill the very reason we live here. Don't take the wild out of Alaska. This is a terrible use of tax payers monies. What is the point in doing this? A moose in every pot? There will never be

enough moose in Alaska even if you kill every predator. We don't have

enough money to fix roads or schools, but we have enough money to kill wildlife?? This program is a horriffic waste of money and time!

Barbara Reilly
1800 Parkside Dr
Anchorage, AK 99501

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Reilly
1800 Parkside Dr
Anchorage, AK 99501-5750

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Dolores Waffen [waffen@matnet.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 4:11 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: HB256 Ignores Public Disgust with Aerial Killing

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

It takes away the rights of all Alaskans to have a say about the management of our game and wildlife. To let the Board of Game have complete control of the situation without any public input is unfair because this board is politically appointed and stacked in favor of only game hunters. We did vote twice to stop the aerial shooting of wolves..didn't we? The voters were ignored.

What about the opinions of those of us who do not hunt, but enjoy the

wildlife in other ways? I am not anti-hunting. I think it is a great sport if done for the right reasons....fair chase, getting outside, good exercise, and finding meat for the table.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dolores Waffen
P.O. Box 874256
PO Box 874256
Wasilla, AK 99687-4256

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Leon Koenck [leonkoenck@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 4:12 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

This is bad policy that benefits few and goes against the wishes of the majority. Stop the status quo and support Alaska's future.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Leon Koenck
PO Box 1141
Talkeetna, AK 99676-1141

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of joseph & carol olson [jouskeha@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 4:13 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I strenuously object to Governor Palin's non-scientific based predatory control measures, and her flippant, non-science based assertion that the Polar Bear is under no threat from the affects of global warming

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. joseph & carol olson
11641 Paddock Ln
Anchorage, AK 99516-2319

.eanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Frank Talas [wolfshadow49@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 4:36 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

It is time that you ,who were elected to your job, start doing it.

This State has twice before voted to NOT allow gunning of wolves from planes. Now they want to add more animals. What is wrong with this picture?

Tell the Board of Game that enough is enough. That you will not go

along with business as usual. Tell them that the People of Alaska have said NO, not once, but twice. If they demand the bill be passed, tell them, there are more people who would love a job on the Board, and that those on it now CAN be REPLACED!

The Governor should listen to the voice of the people who helped elect her. Tell her that to push this bill though is the wrong thing to do. Tell her to put a leash on the Board of Game. They do not even have anyone who knows the difference between a dog and a wolf.

Example: one of their biologist shot a womans pet dog, thinking it was a wolf,even though it was wearing a harness. This is the best the State of Alaska can do? I KNOW we can do

better. I am NOT againsty hunting at all. But how Macho its it to hunt an animal from a plane. Or is that the NEW macho?

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Frank Talas
PO Box 672452
Chugiak, AK 99567-2452

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Richard Kapus Jr. [rlkjr@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 5:41 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard Kapus Jr.
2415 Hemlock Ave Apt 608
Ketchikan, AK 99901-5863

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Lowell Purcell [lowell2005@pci.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 5:41 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lowell Purcell
925 Gilmore St Apt B
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4157

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife (defenders@mail.defenders.org) on behalf of Mark Burdick [markaburdick@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 5:44 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Please consider and pass HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

To whom it may concern: I hope that you will consider passing this bill. It will go a long way towards stable ungulate and predator

populations for the long run. If defeated, Alaska may experience crash cycles of both predators and ungulates measured in decades rather than a year or two. I am typing this from the website of Defenders of Wildlife. They were gracious to allow me to pass this along to you. I

want them and their ilk to stop lying and amassing millions of dollars via those lies and the emotions they stir. Alaska's resources should only be managed with sound science; the Dept. of Fish and Game is doing a very good job.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Burdick
PO Box 2522
Kenai, AK 99611-2522

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Jennifer Coffey [jen_coffey7@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 6:06 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Alaska's wildlife is for all to enjoy, not for a few to unfairly hunt and kill.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Jess Jennifer Coffey
1516 Kinnikinnick St
Anchorage, AK 99508-3017

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Faith Moeller [faithmrm@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 6:08 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

HB 256 is one of the worse bills that I have ever seen in Alaska.

First off, it is not 'active management'; it is intensive management and the Board of Game should not have a monopoly over controls. The

people of AK should have their say, too. Scientific data must be what controls the decisions and aerial shooting of wolves, bears, or wolverines should not occur no matter what. Alaskans have made it

perfectly clear that we do not want same-day aerial hunting. Is anyone in Juneau, including the governor, listening? A scientifically based

game plan must be in place before any type of hunting on wolves, brown bear, or wolverine should take place. This bill is against our Alaskan ecosystems and needs to be flushed like the toilet paper that it is written on!

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Faith Moeller
PO Box 3695
Palmer, AK 99645-3695

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Linda Bassett [labak8@netscape.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 6:10 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

We the people of Alaska have voted down twice aerial wolf hunting, but

our government is listening to a board made up of hunters, and finding a loophole to allow it to continue. I make a living showing tourists the Alaskan wildlife, along with enjoying the viewing of wildlife myself. Please do not let our approach to wildlife conservation go backwards, eliminating certain predator species just to accommodate the hunters.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Linda Bassett
2625 Darby Cir
Anchorage, AK 99508-4105

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Dorothy Giloley [ssjmtv@juno.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 6:35 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I am very opposed to HB 256. The voice of the people will not be heard. Many Alaskans are opposed to some of the forms of predator control now. If this bill passes, the Board of Game will NOT be representing the people of this state and they would then have full control over predator issues! You do represent the people of this

state and do not expect me to vote for you in the future if you do not oppose this bill. You and those who are representatives of our people

need to support scientifically sound wildlife management in Alaska by opposing House Bill 256. I will anxiously await your decision.

Dorothy Giloley SSJ

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dorothy Giloley
1316 Peger Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709-516

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Muriel Salengros [schoolbus1965@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 6:35 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

WE ARE ALL GOD'S CREATURES... SO PLEASE STOP THE GENOCIDE OF INNOCENT ANIMALS WHO CAN'T SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES...

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Miss Muriel Salengros
PMB 330
3875 Geist Rd Ste E
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3549

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Celia Harrison [celia.harrison@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 7:04 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Alaska will soon not be the same if you continue to let them destroy our predators and the environment. It is in enough trouble already with the devastating effects of global warming and pollution.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Celia Harrison
3936 Svedlund St Apt 14
Homer, AK 99603-7659

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Georgianna Brown [mikegeorgianna@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 7:07 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Georgianna Brown
PO Box 2927
2215 N Tabasco Cat Dr
Palmer, AK 99645-8893

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Amarantha Harrison [amaranthah@mac.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 7:36 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amarantha Harrison
40374 Waterman Rd
Iomer, AK 99603-9404

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Della Coburn [jllskidy54@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 8:06 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

State authorized hunters have NO business simply killing wild animals to regulate their numbers, not when there are better system to manage

the predator-prey ratios, and we as predators, need to be included in the ratios. The only legitimate reason to kill animals is for food and other necessities, or if the animals are a direct threat to the lives of human beings. Nature has it's own rules and humans should heed them better. No biologist on the planet knows EVERYTHING there is to know about predator-prey ratios.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Della Coburn
P.O. Box 2
Kasaan, AK 99850-0340

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Nelle Jurgeleit-Greene [nellegreene@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

It is irresponsible to propose that airplanes be used to track and shoot down wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines without requiring a comprehensive game management plan beforehand.

Alaskans have spoken out before and voted against such legislation. HB 256 would gut the intention of the voter-enacted ban on the same-day airborne shooting of wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines and make it much easier to increase the aerial killing of these animals.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nelle Jurgeleit-Greene
PO Box 515
Haines, AK 99827-0515

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Kathy Day [snowkat@arctic.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 8:35 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 24, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I and others will personally do everything we can to deter tourist travel by animal lovers, conservationists and activists if this continues.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathy Day
21349 Baron Dr
Chugiak, AK 99567-5427

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Dorrie Farrell [dorrief2001@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 9:05 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I strongly object to giving authority to a politically appointed Board of Game to determine which culling policies will be implemented in Alaska. There seems to be no consideration to the advice given by F & G or F & W or scientific research. It is sad to think that Alaska, blessed with regal and beautiful species, would even consider ill-considered methods to maintain populations at a desirable and sustainable level. I thought the "people" (remember us) had spoken loud and clear some years ago about aerie hunting. Please do not pursue this course without input from citizens. Thank you.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dorrie Farrell
3501 Halibut Point Rd
Sitka, AK 99835-9528

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Heather Whitney [hnjvt@sover.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 9:35 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

How very typical of a Republican governor to cave into special interests at the cost of unique and keystone species for a healthy game ecosystem in Alaska. When you recover from your power hangover, perhaps you will think about the destruction of these beautiful animals, and your choice to support a nonsustainable increase in game animals just so a few fat and lazy hunters and fish and game officers can get their rocks off. This isn't management; it's wholesale slaughter.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Heather Whitney
PO Box 1311
Homer, AK 99603-1311

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Margaret Butler [maggssj@aim.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 9:36 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Why do we "vote" twice with the same results only to be asked for a third time about this matter. I am against allowing aerial gunning of carnivores.
Thank you.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Margaret Butler
125.5 Tok Cutoff
PO Box 369
Tok, AK 99780-0369

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Sherri Mahoney [sherbear4614@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 10:05 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: I greatly oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Governor Palin has misrepresented the residents of Juneau and the

state of Alaska the entire time she has been in office. Politics were designed by our country's founding fathers to protect and serve THE PEOPLE. Not the politician's wallet or home city (as Palin has done on many occasions). It is time she and other representatives look at themselves and clean up their act. It is time our representatives stand up and speak the word OF the PEOPLE FOR the PEOPLE.

Please do what you know in your heart is right and true and speak the word of the people. Stand up for our rights and the rights of our

beautiful state's wildlife. Why should we waste time on bills that do not reflect the beliefs of the population? You and the other representatives are busy and should not have to defend the people on bills that should never have been written. How much time and money has already been wasted on bills that are not wanted by the residents of Alaska? How much of your time has been wasted? Too much! Speak up for the people and yourself! Bury this bill and know you did the right thing!

Thank you!

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sherri Mahoney
PO Box 35852
Juneau, AK 99803-5852

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Mary Miceli [lafndogs_msc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 10:05 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Perhaps this is the price wildlife is paying for not having strong biology-based educated humans holding top governmental positions. It appears wildlife interests are moot at all costs regardless of the years of evolution it took for wildlife to adapt.. By not

understanding the impacts of climate change which affects environmental changes and challenges for wildlife, it appears Gov. Palin is forging ahead without the understanding that it is more than wild carnivores impacting moose and caribou populations. Would you please consult

with the dedicated Alaskans who work within the governmental community who study air and soil contaminants, water quality, habitats needs, etc? There are environmental considerations that are not being taken that contribute to changes, distributions, stresses and mortality of

moose and caribou. Wolves and bears are the scapegoats used by humans when humans over-harvest, cater to trophy hunts, alter environments (habitats), etc. When the largest of large males are killed for trophy racks and or brawn, they are permanently removed from the breeding population which in essence removes prime breeders from the genetic pool which leaves those that remain unable to keep a herd strong. Without strong and knowledgeable adults, each subsequent generation becomes weaker and less able to maintain a strong, healthy population. And let's not forget poaching which takes it's toll on our wildlife populations. We all know people kill wildlife out-of-season or over-limit when it's legal to kill them.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Miceli
PO Box 671294
Chugiak, AK 99567-1294

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of M. DeMers
[contractconsultants@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 11:04 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Please let me know how you vote.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. M. DeMers
PO Box 220934
Anchorage, AK 99522-0934

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Gretchen Diemer [gretchendiemer50@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 11:04 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I am particularly concerned that the voters, of which I am one, have

voted against aerial hunting. I find the practice obscene, even if it were effective, but particularly so, in that it hasn't proven to have accomplished the outcome it professes.

It would be heartening and reassuring to see some evidence that our elected officials listened to the people who put them in office.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gretchen Diemer
PO Box 870975
Wasilla, AK 99687-0975

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Delisa Renideo [delisa@godsmiles.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 11:04 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: I strongly Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I am totally opposed to HB 256 because it doesn't allow for the voice of the people to be heard. And I believe that killing wolves and other predators from the air is simply slaughter, and only for the good of humans who don't really need the meat. Our management policies have caused the problems we already have, and this will only make things worse.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Delisa Renideo
5010 W Lakeside Dr
Wasilla, AK 99654-9274

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Charlene Whiting [lwhiting@arctic.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 11:05 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Charlene Whiting
5755 S Emerald Way
Big Lake, AK 99652

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defender@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Linda McNamara [ljmcout@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 7:38 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

If you really believe in government by the people, for the people and of the people then you cannot possibly support Governor Palin's end around proposal as outlined in HB256. We have told you more than once that "we the people" do not approve of the aerial gunning of

carnivores to reduce predator populations in order to artificially and

unsustainably boost game populations -- a practice that will primarily benefit urban and out-of-state hunters, not rural hunters with demonstrated needs.

Alaska's Board of Game is out of touch with science and the public.

They need to be reined in not given free rein.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Linda McNamara
2024A Jack St
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4112

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Robyn Smith [robynsmith@homernet.net]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 8:06 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Explain to us why our Alaskan Politian's refuse to go with the will of the voters? I'm sick and tired of you wanting to kill animals so we have more animals to kill! It's STUPID. If this continues to be the

way you and Young operate then you can count me out next time YOU need my vote.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Robyn Smith
1411 Race Rd
Homer, AK 99603-9328

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Dale Kelley [dearmounrd2@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 8:07 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

There are far better ways to manage what needs to happen - but cutting

the Alaskan citizens out of the process is not the way! Governor Palin has championed herself as a governor of the people. Why start now to slam that door shut?

Giving only one agency complete control over a huge Alaskan resource is not democracy, it is dictatorship! Please, do the right thing and oppose this far reaching and destructive bill!

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dale Kelley
4451 De Armoun Rd
Anchorage, AK 99516 3680

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Margaret Enders [mjesundance@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 8:39 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: HB 256! is Wrong for Alaska

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Our State is getting enough negative attention from the rest of the world without slapping us in the face with this Bill. I Strongly urge you to oppose HB 256

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Margaret Enders
PO Box 110776
Anchorage, AK 99511-0776

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Lance and Ann Stephenson [annstephenson@starband.net]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 9:10 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Making "active management" the criteria for predator control takes science out of the picture and replaces it with political, economic criteria. This is plain wrong, and is contrary to what Gov.

Palin has advocated for Alaska's policy on these animals.

The nation watches whether you act responsibly or greedily. Just do the right thing. Thank you.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lance and Ann Stephenson
PO Box 6194
Sitka, AK 99835-6194

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Edwin Wollert [mootant@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:07 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

As an American voter, I have been taught that public involvement matters to this country. Yet here in Alaska, it has been made

repeatedly clear that some elements of the state government, including in particular the Board of Game, are content to completely ignore public interests, and these latest attempts at legislation only confirm this apathetic attitude again.

In addition to this issue of dubious legality, "predator control" programs are unscientific (they have repeatedly been demonstrated to not work), biased (blaming wild predators for declines in prey availability when humans are actually responsible for such drops is unfair and speciesist), and immoral (there is no such thing as a perfect balance in the natural world, and attacking predators in this manner is cowardly).

Thank you for giving my comments the appropriate attention.

Edwin Wollert

Philosophy Lecturer, Matanuska-Susitna College; Education Coordinator, Wolf Song of Alaska

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Edwin Wollert
7100 Clemens Cir
Eagle River, AK 99577-9611

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Frances Natkong [fcnatkong@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:07 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I would like to oppose HB 256. Please consider the fact that the animals being hunted from airplanes is not hunting but slaughtering.
Protect our wildlife!

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frances Natkong
PO Box 24
Hydaburg, AK 99922-0024

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of George Pasley [ktnpresch@kpunet.net]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:09 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

What a horrible scene it will be to the world if Alaska starts shooting wolves bears wolverines from airplanes. Alaska voters have already expressed their displeasure of this practice, and now the state is seeking to actually increase this by expanding it and removing limitations.

Not only is it a bad idea, it's unnecessary and, quite frankly, dangerous. PLEASE VOTE NO!

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. George Pasley
PO Box 9155
Ketchikan, AK 99901-4155

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Pamela Nelson [snowpawz@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:36 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Please do not take away the people's voice.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pamela Nelson
PO Box 240518
Douglas, AK 99824-0518

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Kathy Ingallinera [kathyi@searhc.org]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:37 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

It would expand Alaska's already excessive, expensive, and often ineffective predator control programs and pave the way for the Board of Game to increase this unnecessary killing by leaving all decisions

about using planes to manage Alaska's wildlife up to the Board of Game without requiring scientific data or an analysis by Fish and Game biologists.

It would also allow for the aerial gunning of carnivores to reduce predator populations in order to artificially and unsustainably boost game populations -- a practice that will primarily benefit urban and out-of-state hunters, not rural hunters with demonstrated needs.

Thank you for considering my views, which are based on sound science.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kathy Ingallinera
108 Kiksadi Ct
Sitka, AK 99835-9787

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Anne Coray
[northshoreink@starband.net]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 11:07 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I strongly oppose HB 256, and many other Alaskans do too. Please listen to the will of the people.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Anne Coray
General Delivery
Port Alsworth, AK 99653-9999

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Ben Walker [mongolieb@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 11:07 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Random killings of game animals, particularly without a game

management plan is not only wrong, it's also highly irresponsible, and I do not condone that tactic. Alaskan voters, including myself, have voted against this management tactic in the past, and still do not approve. I hunt and spend a lot of time outside--wildlife is very important to me--and so I deplore you to support scientifically-sound wildlife management by opposing HB 256. Thank you.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ben Walker
PO Box 7
Craig, AK 99921-0007

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Brooke Schafer [mccay79@care2.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 11:39 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

It seems clear as to why this legislation is being proposed: to do away with input from the people about aerial gunning. The people of Alaska have clearly voted against aerial gunning, but the government continues to ignore the very people it is supposed to represent. The

government must do its job, and hold up the will of the people; at the

ery least HB 256 should not be passed. If the government truly wants to represent its people, though, it will not only reject HB 256, but

will also change the policy of aerial gunning in Alaska. Please stand up for the people you are supposed to represent.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Brooke Schafer
3702 Halibut Point Rd Apt B
Sitka, AK 99835-9504

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Dawn Bragg [akaurora@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 2:07 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

HB 256 is nothing more than a waste of Alaskas money. It is extremely costly and ineffective to attempt to artificially inflate prey populations by killing predators. Science has proven time and time

again that nature has a cycle which keeps predators and prey in check.

This keeps wildlife populations strong and healthy and keeps our ecosystems in tact. Alaska's current Board of Game does not have the credentials to make decisions about this issue and we should not let them waste our money by choosing where they want to artificially

inflate moose populations. As is often the case, the environment will not support a greater moose population and the moose will die regardless of whether the predator population is destroyed.

In the end, Alaskan's will not have more moose. Instead, Alaska will have spent millions (billions?) of dollars to provide trophy heads on the walls of out of state trophy hunters. This bill is clearly a lose, lose proposition for Alaskans. Please stop this costly, ineffective, joke of a bill from becoming a reality.

Sincerely,

Dawn Bragg
751 E Fairview Loop
Wasilla AK 99654

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Miss Dawn Bragg
PO Box 875739
Wasilla, AK 99687-5739

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Hayden and Bonnie Kaden [kaden@prodigy.net.mx]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 2:07 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

My wife and I are 40 year Alaska residents, having lived 30 of those years in rural Alaska and made our living by providing quality wilderness adventure experiences throughout Alaska to both Alaskans and out-of-state visitors. We are very knowledgeable about Alaska game issues and can state categorically that this is a bad piece of legislation.

HB 256 would:

Make a bad law worse. HB 256 would make our "intensive management" law worse by renaming it "active management" and giving the Board of Game a completely free hand to control predators -- the Board would merely need to think that airborne or same-day airborne shooting would be "conductive" to meeting a prey objective.

Expand Alaska's already excessive, expensive, and often ineffective predator control programs and pave the way for the Board of Game to

increase this unnecessary killing by leaving all decisions about using planes to manage Alaska's wildlife up to the Board of Game without requiring scientific data or an analysis by Fish and Game biologists.

Cut the intention of the voter-enacted ban on the same-day airborne shooting of wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines and make it much easier to increase the aerial killing of these animals.

Allow for the aerial gunning of carnivores to reduce predator populations in order to artificially and unsustainably boost game populations -- a practice that will primarily benefit urban and out-of-state hunters, not rural hunters with demonstrated needs.

Add brown bears and wolverines to the list of species that may be shot by state-licensed aerial gunners. Permit the use of airplanes to track and shoot down wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines without requiring a comprehensive "game management plan" to be in place beforehand.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hayden and Bonnie Kaden
P.O. Box 138
Gustavus, AK 99826-0138

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Quentin Reuer [afqbr@uaa.alaska.edu]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 3:07 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Quentin Reuer
3940 Checkmate Dr
Anchorage, AK 99508-4912

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Diane Greilich [dmgmd55@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 7:37 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane Greilich
PO Box 60087
Fairbanks, AK 99706-0087

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Corinne Ferre' [corinneferre77@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 7:38 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Please stop the aerial hunting of bears, wolves and wolverines. It is a horrible practice of management, let the animals live that will thrive. Who cares about revenue for Fish & Game from Outside interests? I certainly would rather see people collect their foodstamps in McGrath then see them kill a moose. We know this is for the state revenue.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Corinne Ferre'
1962 Three Sisters Way
Monashka Bay
Kodiak, AK 99615-7218

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Debbie Dillivan [asuras13@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 25, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Dear House of Resource Committee,

Please do not support this bill, we are already in danger of losing so much of our precious wildlife in Alaska. Our species has done so much damage already. I was born and raised here in Alaska and it breaks my heart to see this, please do NOT support this bill.

Thank You,
Debbie Dillivan

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Debbie Dillivan
315 Barrow St
Anchorage, AK 99501-2513

Jeanne Ostnes

From: , Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Houston Spires [houston3610@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2008 5:08 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 26, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

How many more time do we have to tell you people no hunting from airplanes
True sportsmen actually " HUNT " for game. Hunting any animal from an airplane is dispicable, and I think citizens should have the right to shoot the plane down and mount the killers heads on the wall.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Houston Spires
417 Mumford St
Anchorage, AK 99508-1116

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Leslie Law [llaw@alaska.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2008 9:19 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Listen to the people for once...Oppose HB 256!

Jan 26, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Since the Board of Game members are "appointed" by our

Governor and she is in favor of predator control and aerial wolf, bear

and now wolverines (what animal will be next??? polar bears???) I find this HB just a way for her and whoever else in favor of it to control and get what she wants because the people haven't voted (TWO TIMES) the way you want is to. I thought this was a democratic country?

Doesn't sound like a democracy to me. Do you feel you know what's best for us Alaskans like Frank Murkowski did because you feel we aren't educated about this subject? And now you're going to allow shooting of these animals WITHOUT REQUIRING A COMPREHENSIVE GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN??? We're not stupid...it's because the science based studies do not support your plan so you don't want to know. We aren't stupid...this practice will primarily benefit out of state hunters, not the subsistence hunters. We will be looking closely who supports this bill and keep it in mind when the next election comes.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Leslie Law
19928 Cohen Dr
Juneau, AK 99801-8210

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Connie Jennings [conair49@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2008 10:20 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 26, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

We have interfered with nature too much and it is time to allow nature to do what it has been doing for millenia and that is controlling itself. We have encroached on their territory and now lawmakers want to obliterate them in the name of what ??? Progress? Too much

progress is going to send us back to the dark ages. Please do NOT pass this hideous legislation. I follow the news and I pay attention to what the legislators in my state do, and I VOTE.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Connie Jennings
PO Box 231475
Anchorage, AK 99523-1475

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Alan Seegert [zemmo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 8:51 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 27, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Please: Most Alaskans do NOT want wolves and bears killed in order to make more ungulates available for human consumption. And aerial hunting is particularly obnoxious.

The Board of Game does not represent the majority of Alaskans, and does not use the best science. Please do not let this bad bill become law.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Alan Seegert
Box 203
PO Box 203
Denali Park, AK 99755-0203

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Jessica Bush [ak_gypsy77@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 2:22 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 27, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I am a born and raised Alaskan. I feel I have more of a right to speak on this than an out of state force that really has no concern of this state, the people or the life within it. I was raised to cherish and respect all life and the law of nature. Which I have come to see, our government has forgotten all about. Instead I see the people with the power of our state, our country become more concerned about money and

power. 5,000 species a year get extinct from this type of ignorance of our leaders.

among the thousands of Alaskan do not support the aerial shooting law that you are so ignorance trying to pass in order to gain more money.

The true fact is since the human population is growing, we are taking up more space for the rest of nature. This is why more and more wildlife is being forced in the human areas of everyday living.

Hunters are killing wildlife for sport, leaving Wolves, bears, predators as they are labeled to leave their territories and prey on

household pets, because they have no other way to survive. Because you allow this activity of hunting to continue. I feel more and more the government so blindly doing what they are.

Are destroying the world that we are living in. Soon there will be no longer any wildlife here. Also global warming. You have no idea what impact and damage you really are doing.

If this continues I feel you will loss the support of your people.

People are already losing their faith in their leaders. Even more so now. Without people, you have nothing. No money, no power.

I am against aerial shootings, trapping or killing predators at all. I am also against you going into a bear or wolf den to hunt.

I know I am not the only one.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Miss Jessica Bush

4228 Chess Dr
Anchorage, AK 99508-5631

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Paula Beneke [pbeneke@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 3:22 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 27, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Paula Beneke
2101 W 29th Ave Unit 11
Anchorage, AK 99517-1909

Terry Harvey

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Kendell Macomber [kendell_kids@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 1:54 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 28, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

I am disappointed in your lack of listening to the people of Alaska!
As a fellow Alaskan I would expect you to respect our land and its

animals. Please make the choice that you know will get the support of us Alaskans. Stop the aerial hunt!!

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kendell Macomber
PO Box 83484
Fairbanks, AK 99708-3484

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Jennifer McCard [j_mccard@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 9:53 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Please Oppose HB 256!

Jan 28, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

HB 256 would...

- * Make a bad law worse. HB 256 would make our "intensive management" law worse by renaming it "active management" and giving the Board of Game a completely free hand to control predators -- the Board would merely need to think that airborne or same-day airborne shooting would be "conducive" to meeting a prey objective.
- * Expand Alaska's already excessive, expensive, and often ineffective predator control programs and pave the way for the Board of Game to increase this unnecessary killing by leaving all decisions

about using planes to manage Alaska's wildlife up to the Board of Game without requiring scientific data or an analysis by Fish and Game biologists.

- * Gut the intention of the voter-enacted ban on the same-day airborne shooting of wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines and make it much easier to increase the aerial killing of these animals.
- * Allow for the aerial gunning of carnivores to reduce predator populations in order to artificially and unsustainably boost game populations -- a practice that will primarily benefit urban and out-of-state hunters, not rural hunters with demonstrated needs.
- * Add brown bears and wolverines to the list of species that may be shot by state-licensed aerial gunners.
- * Permit the use of airplanes to track and shoot down wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines without requiring a comprehensive "game management plan" to be in place beforehand.

Therefore, please oppose HB256.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Miss Jennifer McCard
320 Banner Ln
Soldotna, AK 99669-7423

Debra Higgins

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Tara Walker [walk@alaska.net]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 6:54 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Jan 28, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Don't add brown bears to the list of our shameful policy of aerial gunning as this expensive, inefficient, and unscientifically based

program has made us the butt of nationwide outcry, and marginalized in the scientific community. What are you thinking! This will make an atrocious bill worse. Why are the rights of urban and wealthy out of state hunters worth the state money to exterminate our natural predators? Our wilderness and animals are our treasures, and we must

protect them, or if you continue to ignore your mandate to do that, at least don't block out the input of scientific data in making predator plans. Why should hunters be guaranteed a moose? As a life long Alaskan, I say stop this bill.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tara Walker
6918 Gemini Dr
Anchorage, AK 99504-4520

Jeanne Ostnes

From: TBanks [TBanks@defenders.org]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2008 9:01 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Bob Roses; Rep. Paul Seaton;
Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: martyannette@gci.net
Subject: Wildlife/predator control issue: HB 256

Subject: HB 256 hearing, January 30, 1:00 pm, Barnes 124, Alaska State Capitol

Dear House Resources Committee members:

I'm sure you've heard all the biologically sound reasons to oppose HB 256. No sense reiterating them here. Please keep in mind that the majority of Alaskans have twice now voted against same-day airborne shooting of wolves, grizzly bears, and wolverines. Additionally, there are some moral and ethical issues fused within this Bill that many people like myself find deeply troubling, that being: artificial game farming via State-sponsored predator genocide which does not foster healthy ecosystems, biodiversity, or true wilderness values. But it does underscore the mean-spirited, self-indulgent ME, ME, ME, it's all about ME attitude of the Bill's sponsors and supporters. I, therefore, urge you to do the right thing and oppose HB 256. Thank you.

Marty Cordano

(Marty - please hit "Reply all" to supply your street address, and confirm that this email is from you, not me.)
Anchorage, Alaska

MC:tb

Terry Harvey

From: Tania Lewis [lupineluna@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 8:15 AM

To: Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Bob Roses; Rep. Paul Seaton;
Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki

Subject: HB 256

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to urge you to reject House Bill 256, a bill that would allow the governor and the Board of Game to decide the fate of predator/prey ecosystems across Alaska with no required input from scientists and research studies. I have never seen such a blatant attempt to manage resources for the benefit of a select group of people, with no regard for natural processes and science. Predator control is a highly controversial issue in this state, and most of those who support it want to know that the situation has been scientifically assessed and determined that 1) there is a need for predator control, and 2) that no long term harm will be done to the land and the animals that we all love so dearly. Without scientific studies, it is not possible to determine either of these to be true. Without requiring science, we would make the animals and ecosystems of this state subject to the whim of the political administration with no information on what is really going on in these remote portions of the state.

I am a wildlife biologist and resource manager in Alaska. I have been trained to collect and analyze data objectively, and come to conclusions based on the facts, not my personal preferences. This objectivity is what makes science so essential in making management decisions, and I cannot imagine making a decision that may have severe impacts on a wildlife population without first consulting results from a scientific study. To do so would be like sticking my head in the sand and hoping for the best! Yes science can deter and/or delay development. This is because science looks at the big picture beyond the human realm, a picture we are all a part of whether we acknowledge it or not. It is essential that we understand natural ecosystems and processes before we attempt to alter them for our benefit. Any law that lessens this responsibility is a shallow and narrow minded attempt to advance our own agenda irregardless of the effects on our environment that supports us.

Again, I urge you to reject this attempt to override the scientific process with political agendas.

Sincerely,
Tania Lewis
P.O. Box 251
Gustavus AK
99826
907-723-4440

Debra Higgins

From: Joan Andersen [JAndersen@bankston.to]

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 9:31 AM

To: Rep. Craig Johnson

Subject: HB 256

I strongly oppose HB 256. This new bill only worsens an already out-of-kilter ecosystem caused by the original aerial hunting statute. Passage of the new bill would further erode Alaska's ecosystems and the balance between prey and predators. It is completely unnecessary, and bottom line, it will prove harmful to the State of Alaska. Please do not pass HB 256. Thank you.

HB 256 Ignores Alaskans' Views on Aerial Gunning and Further Weakens the Scientific Integrity of State Laws Regarding Wildlife Management



Introduced in the final days of the 2007 legislative session and at Governor Palin's request, House Bill (HB) 256 would further erode the state's Intensive Management law by eliminating the few remaining standards governing predator control. The current Intensive Management law is already being used to implement predator control programs on more than 56,000 square miles of the state. These programs allow for the aerial gunning of wolves and other liberalized hunting methods to reduce predator populations in order to artificially and unsustainably increase prey populations. Rather than correcting the mistakes made by Governor Murkowski and his administration, which ignored Alaskan voter sentiment regarding the use of airplanes to kill wolves and the management of Alaska's predators, Governor Palin's legislation would pave the way for the Board of Game to expand the control programs by removing scientific standards.

Governor Palin introduced this bill (and its identical Senate companion, SB 176) because of successful and pending litigation that have challenged the predator control programs. It attempts to thwart further legal challenges to the Board of Game's implementation of these laws. With the Governor's support, this bill is being heard beginning January 30, 2008 in the legislature. The bills are assigned to the Senate Resource, Judiciary and Finance Committees and to the House Resources and Judiciary Committees.

The proposed legislation guts the intention of the voter-enacted bans on same-day airborne shooting of wolves: Despite the public's approval of two ballot measures restricting same-day airborne shooting of wolves, Governor Palin's bill (HB 256) ignores the will of Alaskan voters. Not only does the bill add brown bears to the list of game species that may be hunted by aerial gunners licensed by the state to conduct predator control in certain areas, it also deletes the requirement that there be a game management program in place prior to enacting the extreme measure of using airplanes to track and shoot down wolves and bears. Palin's bill would leave all decisions about "predator

control" gunning with airplanes within the discretion of the Board of Game and removes significant reliance on scientific information.

The proposed legislation makes a bad law worse: The existing law has no scientific standards for predator control and is a bad system of wildlife management because it fails to represent all users and provide for the long-term conservation of all wildlife species and habitat. The proposed law would be significantly worse because it would eliminate the requirement that the Board of Game determine that "predation is an important cause for the failure to achieve" prey numbers and hunter success, and that "a reduction of predation can reasonably be expected to aid in the achievement of the objectives." Instead, the Board would merely need to conclude that airborne or same-day airborne shooting "would be conducive" to meeting one of its prey objectives or harvest levels. The requirement that Board of Game decisions be based on information from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game would be eliminated.

The proposed legislation gives no recognition to the importance of healthy ecosystems: Like the existing legislation, the proposed bill fails to acknowledge the role carnivores play in keeping ecosystems healthy and would continue the unwise and excessive removal of predators across large areas of the state, totaling more than 56,000 square miles. This widespread, intense culling of predators results in long-term loss to ecosystem function and is costing the state at least a million dollars each year.

In conclusion: The solution to legal problems with the State's predator control reduction programs is not to liberalize the existing, already bad, intensive management law. Alaska needs wildlife management laws that promote science-based, effective, economically feasible wildlife planning that addresses the views of all user groups. Senate Bill 176 and House Bill 256 must not pass.

February 2008

To: Governor Sarah Palin

To: Legislators

House Bill 256

Despite two public votes by Alaskan to bolish it. The voters of the State of Alaska have voted twice to ban aerial shooting. Alaska voters have spoken aerial shooting should be banned. Are you going against Alaskans votes? How convenient for the Fish & Game Board with the support of the Governor Sarah Palin to exterminate certain animals for there own convenience and purposes, and satisfy their ego. Fish and Game Advisory Committee and the Board of Game are responsible for the decrease of caribou and moose population. For the open hunting within the Interior a cow hunt was recently held and a calf hunt also opened. Fish & Game opened a moose hunt in Tanana Flats and Alaska Range Foothills and still through Feb.28, 2008 hunters have killed more than 2,100 moose- about 90 percent of them COWS. Even some people said the state should have shut down the hunt SEASON and still on. It came up on the ANCHORAGE Daily News. On October 1, 2007 the new extra moose hunt started on the creek to reduce moose popoulation. Fish and Game Advisory Committee held a meeting on November 2007 their goal was to getting rid of moose population on the Hillside and around Anchorage to give way to new CONSTRUCTION. Last year more than 1,600 moose were killed by car accidents. Even our authorities killed some moose here in Anchorage claiming in self-defense to protect people. The media was said last week that the Fish and Game decided to go to Hatcher's Pass and exterminate all the MOOSE. In another place, they opened the hunting for moose and they killed all the moose and even the calves. People are poison the enviroment with pipeline, mine, pesticides etc. They are many factors, which is affecting the wild animals. Don't blame and use the WOLVES AND BEARS FOR THE PEOPLE FAULT. When animals kill animals it is their NATURE. GOD made them that way to eat each other. Some politicians want to twist the creation of GOD for their own purposes. Hunting is a HUGE business controlled by a few people. "HUNTER CONTROL NOT PREDATOR CONTROL"

We read about the biologist VIC VAN BALLEMBERGHE AND BOB TOBEY SAID WHY KILL PREDATORS TO BOOST THE MOOSE POPULATION IF THE HABITAT CAN'T HELP SUPORT MORE MOOSE? But we should blame Fish and Game Board for the deliberately open hunting. Recently Fish & Game came up with these proposal 41 and 42 will allow MOTHERS BEARS AND THEIRS CUBS TO BE KILLED AND WOLVES PUPS IN THEIR DENS TO BE KILLED. HOW CAN PEOPLE HAVE THESE TERRORIST- LIKE IDEOLOGIES NO EVEN THE WILD ANIMALS DO THAT INSTEAD THEY FIGHT FOR THEIR CALVES OR PUPS? HOW COME A HUMANE CAN ACCEPT THESE ATROCITIES. God made the people especial but God also made the animals therefore they have value because GOD made the animals. TO KILL ANIMALS AS A SPORT IS CRUEL, AND INHUMANE. House Bill 256 IS REPUGENT AND DISGRACEFUL. THIS COUNTRY WAS BUILT UPON THE BIBLE AND SOMEDAY GOD WILL JUDGE EAH OF US. WE HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO GOD. IF WE DON'T HAVE COMPASSION WHILE WE ARE ON THE EARTH, GOD WON'T HAVE MERCY ON US. Right now Sarah Palin and their friends from the Fish and Game Board are killing indiscriminately the WOLVES. REVELATION 22-12 AND BE HOLD, I COME QUICKLY; AND MY REWARD IS WITH ME, TO GIVE EVERY MAN ACCORDING AS HIS WORK SHALL BE. REVELATION 22-13 I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END, THE FIRST AND THE LAST. WE ARE GLAD THAT GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY MAN ON THE EARTH. SAMUEL 1-7 FOR THE LORD SEETH NOT AS MAN SEETH; FOR MAN LOOKETH ON THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART.

When it comes to the wildlife existence. GOD created everything with a purpose. The purpose was to feed human when necessary, as completely eliminate them, as Sarah Palin and her friends from the Fish and Game Board want to eliminate the animals that don't produce any money and the animales that kill moose, caribou etc.

Marci Clifton

?01 F 16 Th Ayr, #JJ?

Yolanda de la Cruz

000 W 500 Th Ayr, ...

TESTIMONY OF JOEL BENNETT

15255 Point Louisa Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-789-1718

Co-sponsor and Initiative Committee Member, 2008 Initiative entitled
05HUNT

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Joel Bennett. I'm a 39-year resident of Juneau, Alaska. I served on the Board of Game for over 12 years. I have been an active, licensed hunter for every year of my residency.

I have also been a organizer and sponsor of each of the airborne wolf hunting ballot measures that passed in 1996 and 2000, and am presently co-sponsoring a third ballot measure on the same subject that has been certified for a vote in the August 2008 primary election.

I have been involved with this issue, both on and off the Board of Game, for over 30 years.

Let me say at the outset, on behalf of our initiative group, Alaskans for Wildlife, that we do not oppose predator control. In fact we support it and we believe the general public does too----but only where predators are causing a demonstrated biological emergency, and when carried out by Department of Fish and Game personnel. We also believe that programs must be based on adequate scientific data and only remove the minimum number of animals necessary to address the problem.

These are the main principles of all three initiatives. They are principles that we believe create standards that can be supported by most Alaskans, as evidenced by repeated ballot measure passage.

Unfortunately, Alaska's existing airborne hunting statute is far more permissive than this when it comes to predator control. Since 1996, As 16.05.783 has been repeatedly amended to take away the basic standards put in place by a vote of a majority of Alaskans.

Even though Alaska's current airborne hunting statute no longer requires a finding of a biological emergency before airborne predator control can occur, it at least retains the requirement that there be a biological basis for the program. It requires the Board to determine, based on biological information from the department, that predation is an important cause for failure to achieve harvest or population objectives set by the Board before predator control can be authorized. This must also be done as part of a Game Management Plan.

The main provision of HB 256 (Section 8) deletes the requirement for a Game Management Plan and removes any need to link actual predation with the failure to achieve a stated prey population objective---in other words, the Board can just establish predator control programs regardless of whether a wolves or bears were the real problem. Under Section 8, the amended AS 16.05.783, the board only has to determine that a predator control program would be "conducive" to achieving human harvest or prey population objectives.

By eliminating the need to actually identify what the cause of the problem is, the state risks wasting large expenditures of public funds and resources on the wrong solution. For example, eliminating wolves when poor habitat or bears are the problem will fail to restore moose or caribou and move things in the wrong direction.

In our view, this takes the essential biological foundation of predator control programs away. Without scientific justification, we believe the program is not responsible game management. It will never have broad public support and will seriously damage the credibility of the Department of Fish and Game.

Valuable public wildlife resources deserve to be managed carefully. The National Academy of Sciences urged the state of Alaska to include more data and scientific support for predator control, not less. The American Society of Mammalogists has sent 3 letters of concern and passed a resolution regarding wolf management in Alaska. Issues surrounding Alaska's predator control were discussed in September 2006 at The Wildlife Society's annual meeting in Anchorage and concerns were raised over the scientific basis of the control programs. These concerns are based on knowing the end result of similar large-scale predator control programs in other areas of the world that were not based on sound science. Often,

predators subject to such programs were unable to sustain viable populations (from a letter from 172 scientists and wildlife professionals to Governor Sarah Palin, dated September 25, 2007).

The obvious purpose of HB 256 is to make it as easy as possible to authorize predator control programs. We question why this is necessary. The Board has had no problem creating 5 programs over 60,000 square miles of central interior Alaska. This is the largest predator control effort since statehood. There seems to be no impediment to large -scale expansion of predator control programs now.

We urge that no legislative action be taken to remove the minimal requirement that predator control programs have a biological basis. It's simple. If predators are not the problem, they should not be removed. Sound science must demonstrate which type of predator, if any, is causing the problem.

By repealing 2 statewide initiatives, the legislature has gone against the will of the people of Alaska repeatedly. HB 256, by removing even the minimal standards for predator control that are left, further erodes public confidence in government.

We urge rejection of HB 256.



TESTIMONY OF

TOM BANKS
ALASKA REPRESENTATIVE, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

BEFORE THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REGARDING HOUSE BILL 256
“ACTIVE GAME MANAGEMENT / AIRBORNE HUNTING”

JANUARY 30, 2008

Co-Chairmen Rep. Craig Johnson and Rep. Carl Gatto and Members of the Select Committee, I am Tom Banks, Alaska Representative of Defenders of Wildlife. Founded in 1947, Defenders of Wildlife has over one million members and supporters across the nation, including 5,800 active Alaskan members, and is dedicated to the protection and restoration of native animals and plants in their natural communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

By way of introduction, I come from a family of hunters and fishers and have enjoyed these and many other outdoor activities. I am a volunteer assistant Scoutmaster at the Boy Scout troop at St. John United Methodist Church in Anchorage. I own a home in Anchorage. Before joining the staff of Defenders of Wildlife, I have been a naturalist, backcountry ranger and enforcement officer on state and federal lands in Alaska and elsewhere for twenty-five summers. I have a bachelor's degree in park and recreation administration and master's degree in ecology.

Defenders of Wildlife strongly opposes House Bill 256 because the proposed legislation would

- Thwart the intention of two voter-enacted bans on same day airborne hunting of wolves.
- Add brown bears to the list of species that can be shot by private aerial gunners.
- Eliminate the requirement that the Board of Game base its predator control programs on scientific information provided by the professionals at the Department of Fish and Game, and
- Limit public participation on issues that affect all of Alaska.

HB 256 would delete the requirement that a comprehensive game management plan be in place prior to invoking aerial predator control. Aerial predator control should only be considered when part of a very carefully thought-out program based on adequate supporting data, opportunity for public review, and public support.

HB 256 completely ignores and dismisses the intention of the voter-enacted bans on same-day airborne shooting of predators and seeks to move predator control decisions out of the realm of science and further toward an ideologically-driven decision-making process by the Board of Game, a body which is not diversely representative of a wide range of values that Alaskans place on their wildlife.

The Board of Game and certain hunting organizations claim that predator control is necessary to provide subsistence food for those whose survival depends on it. Unfortunately, this misrepresents the facts. Annual state harvest records show that the vast majority of the animals, two-thirds to three-quarters of the moose and caribou hunted in Alaska, are harvested by urban and out-of-state residents. Urban residents also harvest most of the animals in the majority of the current predator control areas. Rural people are often portrayed as the chief beneficiary of the predator control programs. Clearly, they are not. The desire to maintain the venerable tradition of hunting is important, but does not come with the guarantee that every hunting outing will yield a catch. Fair chase implies that a successful hunt is not guaranteed, but depends on the skill of the hunter and the natural abundance of prey.

More than 56,000 square miles are currently under airborne predator control by private pilots and gunners who secure a permit. This is nearly 9.8% of the state's total land area, or roughly one-third of the lands under state control. This sizeable portion of the state is currently subject to aerial shooting of predators. To increase the portion of Alaska wildlands subject to this practice – by loosening the standards in order to add them more hastily – is wrong and indefensible.

A state initiative sponsored by Alaskans for Wildlife is scheduled for a vote on August 26, 2008. HB 256 would re-write and tilt current law in a direction exactly opposite from the voters' intent. Over 56,000 Alaskans signed an initiative petition indicating they wanted to vote on this initiative. The Legislature should honor their wishes, not confuse the issue for them, and not undermine the initiative process by passing this legislation the way it is written.

Rather than streamlining the predator control process to make it less accountable to science and the Alaskan people, this important controversy should be decided on the basis of (1) the actions that a clear majority of Alaskans would find balanced and equitable; (2) the predator control, if any, that would be necessary in areas where there is true need to raise more prey for human sustenance or for protection of a prey population from experiencing a biological emergency, (3) the actions that are necessary to maintain the health of the landscape for the long run. It is well known that an excess of prey animals like moose or caribou can not be supported for the long term without damage to the habitat and impacts on their own health. Crowding an area with moose or caribou beyond the landscape's carrying capacity is not wise stewardship. "Conservation" or "stewardship" is what all hunters and non-hunters agree upon, and this requires a long-term vision – something which is lacking in this bill.

The proposed law would eliminate the requirement that the Board of Game determine that "predation is an important cause for the failure to achieve" prey numbers and hunter success, and that "a reduction of predation can reasonably be expected to aid in the achievement of the objectives." Instead, the Board would merely need to conclude that aerial or same-day airborne shooting "would be conducive" to meeting one of its prey objectives or harvest levels. This is a significant relaxation in the standard by which predator control areas are established.

The requirement that the Board of Game decisions be based on information from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game would also be eliminated.

Like the existing intensive management statutes, the proposed bill fails to acknowledge the important role carnivores play in keeping ecosystems and prey populations healthy and vigorous. The widespread, intense culling of predators results in losses to ecosystem complexity, diversity, and function. This legislation positions the Board of Game to accelerate a program for political reasons – but without attention to whether such a program is fiscally prudent or biologically sound. The proposed legislation gives no recognition to the importance of conserving healthy ecosystems in their natural, wild condition – an important value that Alaskans and tourists from around the world recognize and experience each year in growing numbers. Alaska is special and unique, and with proper, conservative management, can remain that way.

To conclude, we strongly oppose liberalizing the existing, already one-sided intensive management statutes. Alaska needs wildlife management laws that promote science-based, effective, fiscally prudent wildlife management that addresses the legitimate needs and viewpoints of all user groups. While it is valid to allocate wildlife to satisfy legitimate needs for foodstuffs, we need to accept that it is impossible to satisfy a desire for an unlimited quantity of moose or caribou for a growing number of hunters, particularly from out-of-state, while keeping Alaska's wilderness character. Unfortunately, HB 256 is aimed toward continuing to elevate numbers of prey animals beyond the landscape's ability to support them, and thus the legislation is grossly unbalanced. Alaska needs sound wildlife management laws that ensure sustainable predator and game populations for generations to come on a landscape that can produce "only so much" while maintaining its full complement of predators and prey in a wild, untamed setting.

Wildlife management should include a "best available science" standard that the Board is required to apply in its decision-making. And the public process should not be shortchanged. It is clear that new legislation is needed in the future to address the deficiencies in the intensive management statutes, but this bill in no way addresses the problems and provides the balance that's needed. I strongly urge you to oppose this bill.

Thank you.

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Mary A. Vavrik [mvavrik@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 12:06 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Bob Roses; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Glooschenko, Valanne POA; bill morris
Subject: HB 256

I am writing to ask that you vote NO to passage of HB 256. This bill will prevent any scientific oversight over the Board of Game predator control program! We have a system of checks and balances in our government, and those checks and balances should apply to the Board of Game, also. The Board of Game should not be allowed carte blanche authority to make decisions regarding wildlife or predator control in Alaska.

My understanding of the original mission of the Board of Game is for wildlife management for diversified users and to represent ALL Alaskans. It's been shown that the Board of Game consistently favors hunting and trapping above all other uses and values of wildlife, regardless of scientific evidence or public opinion to the contrary. Alaska's voters have TWICE voted against aerial killing of wolves, and to add brown bears and wolverines to the slaughter is unacceptable!

I am a voter and taxpayer, and I don't appreciate my hard earned tax dollars going toward such heinous acts as the unnecessary, expensive, and brutal massacre of innocent wildlife.

Please do not allow the passage of HB 256.

Thank you.

Mary A. Vavrik
11930 Northern Raven Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516-1935
(907) 345-3934

1/29/2008

Patty Krueger

From: Bill Sherwonit [akgriz@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2008 9:03 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: comments on HB256

Rep. Ramras:

I offer these comments as someone who has lived in Alaska since 1982 and who, as a journalist and nature writer, has followed Board of Game deliberations and closely observed Alaska's wildlife management system since the mid-1980s. Please distribute this commentary to all members of your committee.

As members of the Alaska Legislature must be aware, the state's existing "intensive management" law is already a highly controversial thing, opposed by many Alaskans -- including substantial numbers of wildlife biologists outside the Department of Fish and Game (and likely some within it), who believe it to be based on bad science and resulting in poor management of Alaska's wildlife.

Now come HB256 and SB176, which will make a bad situation worse. Despite Kevin Saxby's assurances that this legislation is merely a housekeeping measure that will simplify current regulations and take them to their "bare essentials," the proposed law would have far-reaching effects and do at least two things that are bad public policy:

First, the bills would further diminish the role of science that goes into Alaska's wildlife management. Second, it will greatly diminish public involvement in wildlife management issues.

Legislative committees have already heard considerable testimony in opposition to this legislation and they have so far ignored that testimony in favor of Gov. Sarah Palin's proposed changes to state law, passing the bills out of committee with one or no votes in opposition. I don't expect committee members to heed my voice any more than they have heeded other voices, but it seems important to state on the record what the Alaska Legislature, in combination with the governor's office and the Board of Game are doing, which is essentially regressive, favored-species wildlife management that is decades behind the available science - and, it should be noted, public attitudes.

If my reading - and that of many other opponents - of HB256 and SB176 is correct, the legislature will be endorsing a management system that will remove any requirement that board members consider sound science and the input of wildlife professionals when considering predator control programs, while allowing the BOG to authorize such programs simply if they appear "conducive" to meeting prey population objectives. In other words, the BOG could enact predator control programs simply on the belief that such control would help increase ungulate populations, even when there is no evidence that wolves or bears or other predators are a part of the problem. This essentially removes any restraints on the BOG. Certainly, there are hunters who would delight in this situation, but it flies in the face of wildlife science and the larger public good.

This supposed "house-cleaning" measure would also add brown bears and wolverines, among other species, to those that can be killed by aerial gunners under a predator control program. If the goal is only to simplify the intensive management law, why are these species being added? I would hope legislators would ask the obvious question: what is the basis for such a dramatic change? I would argue that the addition of brown bears and wolverines is both unwarranted and outrageous and represents another giant step backward in what is already a regressive system that seems headed for what is essentially wild-game farming.

It's also my understanding that, if passed, this legislation would disallow court challenges to predator control programs that could in the future be based merely on hunches. It may also strip Alaskans of their right to participate in the political process through citizens' initiatives.

Another thought: it is highly disingenuous for Kevin Saxby and Doug Larsen to suggest that there will be plenty of opportunity for the public to participate in the BOG process after these changes are made, because the board, under the current and previous administrations in particular, have been dismissive of anyone who presents a different perspective than the board's own narrow definition of what is good and necessary wildlife management.

In short, HB256 and SB176 are simply intended to make it as easy as possible for the Board of Game to authorize predator control programs, with little or no regard for such program's larger and long-term impacts on ecosystems, wildlife populations, and Alaskan residents. In further diminishing the role of science and public participation, it leads to ever worse public policy.

Thanks for considering my testimony,
Bill Sherwonit
2441 Tulik Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517
907-245-0283

FROM :AFHA

FAX NO. :9078223752

Feb. 04 2008 12:22PM P2

Joe Klutsch
Katmai Guide Service
PO Box 313 • King Salmon, AK 99513

February 4, 2008

Testimony for HB256

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

My name is Joe Klutsch, I currently serve as president of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association and am here to speak on behalf of our hunting guide members as well as myself. After nearly forty years of living in rural Alaska, hunting and guiding big game animals around the state, I trust you will consider my comments carefully.

There is a great hunting tradition in our state, as stated in the publication *Predation Management in Alaska*. "It is integral to lifestyles, traditional cultures, the economy and basic food needs for many Alaskan families." I will add that many of those families are guiding families who share substantial amounts of meat with people who would otherwise not have access to wild game.

The issue at hand is the dwindling numbers of moose, caribou, Dall sheep and other ungulate species that has occurred over the last 15 years. Most of these declines can be directly attributable to ever increasing numbers of predators—particularly wolves—especially in western and south central Alaska. Historically active predator management resulted in higher numbers of game species allowing for sustainable long term use by hunters. Since the 1980's, efforts to manage predator numbers has been curtailed—the result being continuing loss of opportunity.

Opponents of this bill would like you to believe that no predator control efforts should be undertaken until a threshold of "biological emergency." This is simply unacceptable. It intentionally ignores the fact that at that point in the allocation equation non-resident and general resident seasons are closed and in most cases subsistence seasons are curtailed to Tier I or Tier II where there are not enough animals to allow for a sustainable harvest. Allowing this to occur, we will find many of our game species in the proverbial predator pit where recovery may take decades. We have a constitutional and even moral obligation not to allow this to happen.

Nothing in this legislation spells doom for predators. To the contrary it gives ADF&G and the Alaska Board of Game (with thorough public input from all effected parties) the ability to authorize and undertake properly justified and measured predator management programs. It allows us to act before we find ourselves in a management crisis. Acting only in the case of a biological emergency is acting too late.

Failure to actively manage predator species, particularly wolves is and will continue to have a devastating effect on all Alaskan who rely on prey species.

In conclusion:

I urge you to do what is right and move this legislation on to passage.

I thank you,

Joe Klutsch

Testimony of Joel Bennett
15255 point Louisa Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801
February 20, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am a 39-year state resident. I have served on the Board of Game for over 12 years. I have also been an organizer and sponsor of each of the airborne hunting ballot measures that passed in 1996 and 2000, and am presently co-sponsoring a third ballot measure on the same subject that has been certified for a vote in the August 2008 primary election.

I would like to focus on Section 8 of HB 256, the statutory provision that deals with same-day airborne hunting. This is the same provision that is the subject of the current ballot measure.

As you may be aware, the lieutenant governor, with the formal concurrence of the attorney general, can take an initiative off the ballot when the legislature has enacted a measure that is "substantially the same."

It is clear from this statute that the Office of the Attorney General has a critical role to play in determining whether Section 8 of the proposed bill and the initiative are substantially the same. Yet, at the Senate Resources Committee hearing, I heard the Assistance Attorney General representing ADF&G and the Board of Game decline to answer the question whether Section 8 of the bill is substantially the same as the initiative. Instead, he vaguely stated the bill should stand or fall on its own merits. This forces me to assume the worst: that the ADF&G and the DOL are being evasive with you and the public. It forces me to assume that they want to avoid saying whether they think Section 8 of the bill is substantially similar because they know this will outrage the nearly 57,000 people voters who signed our petition and want to vote on the initiative. Then, once the bill passes they will tell the Lt. Governor that the bill is substantially the same, and ask him to remove the initiative from the ballot.

As one of the sponsors of the initiative, I don't think Section 8 is substantially the same. The goal of the initiative is to revise the current law so that it is nearly the same as the airborne hunting law that was passed by initiative in 1996. The 1996 law allowed for aerial wolf control, but only in the context of a true biological emergency, very narrowly defined in the law, based upon written findings made by the Commissioner of ADF&G and not by a Board of political appointees, based on adequate data and limited to the area where the biological emergency existed. It prohibited members of the public from shooting wolves aerially or same-day airborne.

In contrast, the purpose of Section 8 of the bill is to allow the Board of Game to authorize aerial and same day airborne shooting of wolves and, for the first time ever,

brown bears, and by private hunters, without any requirement of finding that there is a biological emergency. This could occur whenever a majority of the Board members think it "conducive to achieving" the Board's human harvest and prey population objectives. In addition, the initiative does not make amendments to the current intensive management law, amendments which have the effect of expanding the conditions under which the board can implement predator control.

To demonstrate how dissimilar Section 8 and the initiative are, you only need to look at what has already happened. The Board has adopted five predator control programs for killing huge numbers of wolves and brown bears on tens of thousands of acres of state and federal lands. Not a single one of these programs could satisfy the initiative's standards. Every single one could easily satisfy the vague, non-standards in Section 8. Section 8 would completely negate the aims of the initiative's sponsors and the initiative.

Maybe some of you disagree with me and think Section 8 is substantially similar to the initiative. Many of your constituents will want to know that before you vote.

If you are not sure about the substantially similar issue, before you vote I ask that you require the Department of Law to give you its best advice on that question and otherwise tell you what it will advise the Lt Governor should Section 8 pass.

I don't want to be tricked, neither should you, and certainly the public deserves not to be tricked. I think the only way you can assure that doesn't happen is to debate the substantially similar question openly with the best advice you can get on the issue in hand.

The testimony of Jerry McCutcheon

Gone are the days of Belimore Brown and Arch Deacon Stuck when great herds of caribou and bands of sheep roamed the foot hills Mt. McKinley . Bands of sheep so numerous and thick that they would not move out of the way of the on coming dog teams of miners, trappers and post office mail dog team drivers.

The sheep immediately in front of the dogs would just up on the backs of other sheep then fold back in as the dog teams passed. Imagine a dog team totally surround by sheep moving though the sheep with sheep immediately in front of the dogs jumping up on the backs of other sheep to get out of the way then closing in behind the dogs as the dogs moved though the sheep.

It was a spectacular sight but I never got to see it; nor will any one else. Senator Carl Lottsfeldt, who was postal mail dog team driver and later a miner, every time we were in bar after a democratic luncheon would insist on telling me that trail on which the dog races were held was not the real Iditarod trail. The real Iditarod Trail went though the McKinley Park . I heard the identical story from other old time miners and trappers. hunts an

The Park Service took man out of the hunting and trapping equation and the wolves slowly destroyed those great bands of caribou and sheep to the point there was little or nothing left. The wolves resorted to killing and eating each other or left the Park for State land where there was still game because the Territory, then the State, practiced hunting wolves from airplanes.

There were more wolves and more game when the wolves were aerial hunted. Back years ago, just before 'they' manage to close off aerial wolf hunting, it was the wolves 4 and pilots none. Wrecked 4 airplanes, kill 2 people and injured two and no wolves taken.

I a firm believer in aerial wolf hunts, none of this land shoot crap; it is not about fair chase it is about predator control.

No hunting wolf or bear hunting by ADF&G nor relocation by ADF&G. Just raise the bounty until the State has an active community aerial hunters.

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Walter Glooschenko [gloosch@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 1:35 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: HB256

Alaskan voters have expressed their opposition to aerial hunting of wolves on several occasions. If passed into law, new proposed legislation (HB 256 and SB 176) would greatly increase killing of wolves statewide under the Board of Game. This would be done without requirement to consider any scientific evidence or even a review by Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists. These bills will only make a bad law worse! Alaska's already excessive, expensive predator control program would be expanded irregardless of rationale or scientific review -- on the contrary, all decisions regarding increased, extreme predator control would be made solely by the Board of Game. Brown bears and wolverines would be added to the list of species that may be shot by aerial gunners. The proposed bills would destroy the intention of the voter-enacted ban on same-day airborne shooting of wolves, grizzly bears, and wolverines, making it much easier to increase this aerial killing. Also, the use of airplanes to track and shoot down wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines would be encouraged without requiring any comprehensive "game management plan" to be place beforehand. Alaska's wildlife deserves the best possible wildlife management --not mindless increase in extreme predator control! I urge the House Resources Committee to decline passage of HB 256 .

Dr. Walter A. Glooschenko
6017 Doncaster Drive Anchorage, AK, 99504
Phone: 222-1790; e-mail: gloosch@yahoo.com

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Jeanne Ostnes

From: Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers [Alaskabha@starband.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 3:05 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Carl Gatto
Cc: Governor Sarah Palin; Lloyd, Danby S (DFG)
Subject: HB 256 - Gov. Palin's IM bill tomorrow House Resources

Dear Rep. Gatto and Rep. Johnson,

Hi, this is Mark Richards writing, co-chair of Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. I'm writing regarding the first hearing on Gov. Palin's Intensive Management bill (HB 256) tomorrow afternoon in the House Resources committee. I've been in discussion with ADFG and Dept of Law on this bill this past summer and fall, and our org opposes HB 256. We'd like to send in detailed comments but weren't sure if you were taking public comments at this time.

In a nutshell, we strongly support Governor Palin's attempt via this bill to make our state's predator management decisions "legally defensible," but the changes to our existing IM law that are in this bill have the potential to be worse than the "disease" we are now seeing with anti-hunters and other orgs suing the state every time we try to manage our predators. This bill, if passed, would take away definitions of biological terms such as "harvestable surplus" of game, remove mandates that the Board of Game receive and duly consider input from ADFG biologists and managers regarding prudent wildlife management, and legalize the aerial shooting of bears in Intensive Management areas solely at the discretion of the Board of Game. Essentially it gives all authority on future predator management decisions to the Board of Game.

We had hoped for the public discussion and debate on this bill that Governor Palin and Commissioner Lloyd said would take place last May when this bill was introduced at the close of the last session, but we have heard not one iota about this bill in the public arena since that time. I am cc-ing this to Commissioner Lloyd and the Governor so they are clear on our position. It is likely that Resources will hear that HB 256 would make it "harder" for the Board of Game to institute drastic measures of wolf and bear control in future, and this is certainly true. It's true because as stated the Board of Game would have sole discretion on whether or not to institute future predator control programs, and would not be "forced" as they now are under current IM law to initiate any controversial predator reduction programs. But there are two sides to this coin; on the flip side this bill if passed would also make it "easier" for the Board of Game to institute drastic measures of predator control. Indeed, we need to stop the frivolous lawsuits over our predator management schemes that cost the state (ADFG, Board of Game, Dept of Law) so much time and money, but this bill introduces too many potential downsides with its solution. It's possible that extensive legislative hearings and committee subcommittees could change our position, but at this time we oppose HB 256.

Thank you very much for your time, and if you are accepting public comments please let us know and we will get ours off to you via email or fax.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards

www.alaskabackcountryhunters.org

1/29/2008

Jeanne Ostnes

From: Jack and Mary Lentfer [lentfer@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 5:33 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: HB256

As a long-time Alaskan, an avid hunter, and a wildlife biologist who has worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and served on the Alaska Board of Game, I have serious concerns about HB256.

Adding brown bears to the list of species to be shot from the air in an attempt to make more game animals available to meat or trophy hunters is unthinkable. Brown bears have a low reproductive rate and populations recover slowly if they become depleted. They should not be threatened by being placed in a category where they can be considered as vermin. The State of Alaska loses credibility as a responsible resource manager with this type of action. A possible response is enactment of Federal law to take over management of brown bears on Federal lands in Alaska. A similar thing happened when polar bears were included in the Marine Mammal Protection Act because they were being hunted with aid of aircraft. With loss of State management, they can now be hunted only by Alaskan Natives.

Allowing the Board of Game to adopt same-day airborne predator control programs without consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is another undesirable feature. It is almost beyond understanding that the Commissioner of Fish and Game would agree to this.

Nick Steen Pg 1



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 256, dated 1/30/08
Bill/Subject

I would like to make the following suggestions for changes to HB 256:

Sec 1(f), Page 1 (line 8 & 10) - Add coyote. Note 1.

Sec 3(e) & (f), Page 2 (line 12, 18 & 20) – Replace [moose, caribou and deer] with ungulates. Note 2.

Sec 6, Page 3 (line 4) – Replace [capture] with harvested. Note 3.

Sec 8, Page 4 (line 12) – Delete [free-ranging]. Note 4.

(Line 16) – Delete [wolverine] & add coyote, black bear. Note 5 & 6.

(Line 18) – Replace [moose, caribou and deer] with ungulates. Note 2.

Sec 9, Page 5 (line 11) Delete [wolverine] and add coyote, black bear. Note 5 & 6.

Justifications:

1. Coyote have been shown to be a major predator on elk and antelope populations in the continental U.S. There is no reason to believe they could not have an impact on sheep, deer and possibly caribou in Alaska. Let's not have to go back and add to this legislation at a later date. Include all possible predators now and if they prove to be a problem, they can then be addressed without having to go back to the legislative process.

2. Replacing "moose, caribou and deer" with the term "ungulate" will cover all species possibly impacted by predators. It would include bison, musk ox, sheep, goat and elk in addition to moose, caribou and deer. See rationale in note 1.

3. Capture implies restraining a live animal, where as, harvest implies the killing and rendering into the hunters possession. For a non-resident hunter to "capture" and tag a brown bear would be a sight to behold!

Nick Steen Pg 2

4. Unnecessary verbiage.

5. Since coyote and black bear could be the cause of a decline in ungulate populations, they should be included in the list for a possible predator control program. Black bear are mentioned in Section 1 (f) and the legislation should maintain consistency.

6. Wolverine are not considered a predator, rather are considered a scavenger. They do kill at times, however, they are found in such low densities throughout the state, it is highly unlikely they could ever have an impact on ungulate populations.

If you have any questions you can call me at (907) 745-2739 or reply to this email address - steen@mtaonline.net.

THX Nick Steen

Signed: Comments received by email at Mpt Su LFO
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

HC32 Box 6561 Wasilla, Ak 99654

Address

745-2739

Phone number

Debra Higgins

From: Louie Flora
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 12:17 PM
To: Debra Higgins
Subject: FW: concern about HB 256

Dear members of the House Resources Committee,

I want to express my continued dismay with the State's predator program. It disgusts me and I am deeply ashamed by the direction the State continues to hold in spite of what the majority of the public has voiced and the lack of science that would support the actions taken by the State.

My concern is with the fundamental premise of the management of game being so heavily weighted towards trying to achieve maximum harvest numbers of caribou and moose for human consumption rather than a genuinely science based approach to managing for a natural predator/ prey balance that has evolved over the millennia. In a sense, the State's way of management is akin to turning the natural balance of predator/prey populations into a 'farm' for human consumption.

Science will reveal that nothing in nature happens in a vacuum and that there are always unintended consequences when targeting one effect. In other words, you cannot just affect just one thing, there will always be unintended consequences. Alaska is not a farm so upsetting the natural balance of things is not only short sighted, it is costly in the financial and physical sense, but also costly to the State's credibility and standing within the greater citizenry. HB 256 'favors' only one user group when there are many user groups that are not being heard and are being negatively affected.

On a different subject that does not pertain directly to HB 256 or this committee, but reflects the trend of the powers that be, is how the State regards the natural environment, the web of life for which we humans are dependent upon. I am appalled by the Board of Game's continued push for allowing the hunting of coastal brown bears in the McNeil and Katmai areas. It sickens me to know these bears can be hunted especially since those in the field have made it known that their numbers are down. The State argues they are not down but the State holds no credibility especially when Sarah Palin accepts and uses junk science to say that polar bear numbers are up, are not threatened and maybe can 'learn' to hunt on land. I have no faith in the State regarding any environmental statements or assurances they are doing the right thing based on science. That would include the permitting process for mines and oil exploration, mixing zones, predator control programs, protection of Beluga whales in Cook Inlet, protection of the Tongas, Izenbeck, wetland preservation, you name it. I am sad the State of Alaska is so natural resource oriented, failing to tap into its incredible HUMAN resource, as well as failing to recognize that it is the irreplaceable natural environment and its inherent systems left intact that are Alaska's strongest and most sustainable assets.

Sincerely,

Rika Mouw
Homer

LIO Bethel

From: Herman Morgan [hmorgan1954@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 9:39 AM
To: LIO Bethel
Cc: Junea_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: house bill 256

My Name is Herman Morgan, I live in Aniak, Rural Alaska, where we are suffering the effects of Animal Rights groups efforts to stymie any kind of action to stop predators such as wolves from decimating our food supply.

People in groups such as defenders of wildlife have probably never known true hunger, not just ready for supper, but true hunger, not being able to feed their children like how they used to. Moose hunting has been severely limited in this area because of hunting closures.

What more scientific data do they need?

I have served on the Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee for almost 30 years. I am telling you the truth, because I have seen it. As soon as animal rights people stopped arial wolf hunting(about 10 years ago) we saw a huge increase in wolves. Now they want to stop any kind of predator control.

I wish they would have some compassion on the plight of us Rural Alaskans who greatly depend on moose to feed our families.

They should understand that if they let the wolves increase until they decimate our and their food supply, the wolves that they hold in reverence will decrease, even to the point of them turning to cannabilism. It is better to control their numbers now so that we will all have moose and wolves.

Thank You.

Herman W. Morgan
Aniak, Ak. 99557
675-4393

Have predator control here where we need the moose.

Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your homepage.

HB 256



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee

Committee on HB 256, dated 1-30-08
Committee name
Bill/Subject

I am testifying on behalf of myself. I urge the committee to vote in support of HB 256. It's time to stop the frivolous law-suits by radical animal rights extremists. It's time for aggressive predator control to restore our moose and caribou populations for all uses.

Signed: Todd L. Johnson
Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional) Wasilla AK
4575 S. HARNES ST. 99654

Address
(907) 376-0465
Phone number

February 2, 2008

Representative Carl Gatto, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
Re: HB 256

Dear Representative Gatto:

I am excited to learn of the Legislature's desire to make wildlife management for sustained yield a matter of science and sanity rather than a million dollar fund raiser for out-of-state ideologues.

For decades the Advisory Board process has existed as a democratic means by which all Alaskans can be clearly heard on all wildlife matters. On the other hand, special interest groups have used biased media to spread misinformation, pitting Alaskans against each other via the ballot measure process. One of the biggest deceptions has been to intentionally confuse fair chase hunting and predator control.

As a current member of the mid Kuskokwim Advisory Board, I represent Lime Village on the Stony River in Unit 19. I hear that predator control and temporary closure has initiated slow recovery of the moose population in the McGrath area. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be the case in the Stony River- Holitna drainages. Relatives in Nondalton say that there are few or no moose there as well.

In a way, what has happened to our region is good. In the short years of the Knowles administration we went from 2.4 moose per square mile to almost nothing, primarily due to wolf predation. During the 60's through the 80's, every family had enough meat to get through the winter. In the fall seasons of 2006 and 2007, not one family in Lime Village harvested a moose. The devastation of predators in the 30's and farther back is too distant for today's population to recall. We are the modern day example before modern eyes, although urban media has failed to accurately report our situation. Let us learn, and never again make the mistakes implemented under the Knowles administration.

History statistically demonstrates that, with good predator management, Unit 19 is able to sustain large numbers of moose. Without predator management, the country is a graveyard. The State Constitution mandates sustained yield. Never again can we allow politically driven agendas, biased media and out-of-state ideologies to manipulate our most valuable renewable resources.

Any legislation that makes scientific management of wildlife by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game more effective should quickly be adopted.

I urge the passing of HB 256.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Alan Dick
Lime Village

Debra Higgins

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Martin Antuna [mantuna@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2008 7:47 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: Oppose HB 256!

Feb 2, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As an Alaskan who is concerned about the long-term conservation of wildlife species and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

HB 256 would make our "intensive management" law worse by renaming it "active management" and giving the Board of Game a completely free hand to control predators -- the Board would merely need to think that airborne or same-day airborne shooting would be "conducive" to meeting a prey objective. The concept of aerial gunning of carnivores to reduce predator populations in order to artificially and unsustainably boost game populations -- is a practice that will primarily benefit urban and

out-of-state hunters, not rural hunters with demonstrated needs. This practice goes against the ecological balance we boast about.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Martin Antuna
6416 15th Ct Apt A
Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-2005

Part I

When it comes to the wildlife existence, I think that GOD created everything with a purpose. The purpose was to feed human when necessary, as subsistence, and for people to enjoy them. God didn't give the authority to completely eliminate them, as Sarah Palin the governor wants, as we know nature can take care of itself, since God is perfect and whatever he made is perfect. Some politicians want to twist the creation of GOD for their own purposes. Talking about wildlife population balance, they shouldn't alter the way nature was designed by GOD. Governor Sarah Palin wants to satisfy her own and rich friends ego, by killing wild animals for sport. On January 30, 2008 she named two more Alaska Fish and Game Board members Sager Albaugh, who served as president of the Alaska outdoors council, the state largest and most important sportsman's group. Bradley Echoed is an avid sheep hunter. In the Fish and Game Board there is no Alaskan native's representatives, they are all white people. They serve to the interest of the rich and business people. So that means Sarah Palin it is going to kill the wolves animals that don't produce any money and the animals that kill moose, caribou, etc. Sarah Palin doesn't want congressman from California to interfere in the Alaska wildlife. The reality is that Palin doesn't listen to the Alaskans opinions. She only listens to the people who agree with her ideologies and convenience, Sarah Palin said to let Alaskan decide to manage wildlife in the state, in first place Sarah Palin was born in Idaho, not Alaska, why is she asking Congressmen George Miller to stop fighting for wildlife animals up here to let Alaskan decide, what to do with them, besides that she is behind all this wildlife extermination issue. Congressman Miller knows that the state of Alaska is part of the 50 states that form this great nation, so he has the right to defend and save his nation from destruction caused by a few politicians.

The tourists come to Alaska to see and enjoy the landscape and wild animals. That we still have here. Is about time to study why animals are coming close to populated areas. Why animals get aggressive sometimes, the reason is that they are been displaced by humans. If an intruder comes to your house, to live without your permission, you would fight back right away. We are the ones who came and invaded their territory. So we need to find a solution instead to killing them indiscriminately, Animals mark their borders. Any domesticated animal gets aggressive when is been disturbed, not only wild animals. They are looking for food and they don't shoot anybody in the city like people do. We don't spend a penny to feed them to take care of them. They take care of themselves. We need to respect, protect and stop killing them with no reason. Some politicians like the profits they make from the animals but at the same time they dislike them. The animals have value because God made them.

We think the politicians and legislators should be working for the best of the country and trying to preserve the natural resources, not for popularity or to please people for votes and give them what they ask for. We are glad God said in Samuel 1-7 for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Yolanda de la Cruz
806 W. 57th Ave
Anchorage, AK. 99518

PART (2)

Recently everyday the media is trying to convince people that it is necessary to kill wolves and bears to preserve the moose. Don't blame the animals and use the Bears and Wolves for the peoples fault. You should blame the Fish and Game Advisory Committee and Fish Board for the open hunting. They are the ones who manage the wildlife's species and they do it for their own convenience and purpose. Does a person need to hunt if they drive a \$ 40,000.00 pickup pulling \$ 40,000.00 worth of ATVS? Does fair chase mean ripping up the tundra or screaming up a river in a hovercraft? It is time to consider "HUNTER CONTROL, NOT PREDATOR CONTROL". The media was said last week that the Fish and Game Board decided to go to Hatcher's Pass and exterminate all the moose. In another place, they opened the hunting for moose and they killed all the moose and even the calves. Right now, they are trying to protect the moose population. It is not because they care about moose, it is because moose hunting is a big business controlled by a few people. Remember, there used to be 60, million buffalo and abundant predators, but the rifle, in 20 years, brought the herds to near extinction. ACCORDING TO God's word, it says that animals should be killed only to eat. You call it " SUBSISTENCE". To kill animals as a SPORT IS CRUEL, AND INHUMANE. The wolves are UNIQUE and they are only several thousands and we can not reproduce them because they live in the wild. However we can reproduce the dogs because they are domestic. The dogs live inside warm house, and they have owners, food, vet etc. THE WOLVES HAVE TO WORK FOR THEIR OWN FOOD. THEY ARE RISKING THEIR LIVES EVERYDAY AND THEY SUFFER FROM DISEASES, WHICH ARE KILLING THEM. AS IF THAT WERE NOT ENOUGH, NOW WHEN THE WOLVES LOOK FOR FOOD, THEY FIND DEATH INSTEAD FROM TRAPS. THIS IS INHUMANE AND CRUEL. How come people can accept these atrocities. THIS COUNTRY WAS BUILT UPON THE BIBLE AND SOMEDAY GOD WILL JUDGE EACH OF US ACCORDING TO OUR ACTIONS. WE WILL HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO GOD. IF WE DON'T HAVE COMPASSION WHILE WE ARE ON THE EARTH, GOD WON'T HAVE MERCY ON US. Recently Fish and Game Advisory and Fish Board had a meeting about wanting to exterminate WOLVES, females BEARS and WOLVES PUPS THAT ARE IN THEIR DENS. WE THINK THAT IS SAVAGE, BARBARIC AND UNACCEPTABLE. IT SOUNDS LIKE TERRORISM AGAINST THE WILD ANIMALS.

Politicians should be more worried about controlling crime in Alaska, especially in Anchorage, instead of taking advantage of killing defenseless animals. The animals come close to the people and city because they are hungry and they are looking for food. They don't shoot people as Christopher Erin Rogers Jr. did. He was killing people from Palmer to Anchorage and none of the politicians say anything. You should pay more attention when people kill people instead of being worried when animal kill animals. When animals kill animals it is their nature. God made them that way. It looks like politicians are insensitive to crime. If the politicians don't pay attention to crime in Anchorage, they are less likely to pay attention to the animals.

Yolanda de la Cruz
806 W. 57th Avenue
Anchorage, AK. 99518

Joe Klutsch
Katmai Guide Service
PO Box 313 • King Salmon, AK 99513

February 4, 2008

Testimony for HB256

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

My name is Joe Klutsch, I currently serve as president of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association and am here to speak on behalf of our hunting guide members as well as myself. After nearly forty years of living in rural Alaska, hunting and guiding big game animals around the state, I trust you will consider my comments carefully.

There is a great hunting tradition in our state, as stated in the publication *Predation Management in Alaska*. "It is integral to lifestyles, traditional cultures, the economy and basic food needs for many Alaskan families." I will add that many of those families are guiding families who share substantial amounts of meat with people who would otherwise not have access to wild game.

The issue at hand is the dwindling numbers of moose, caribou, Dall sheep and other ungulate species that has occurred over the last 15 years. Most of these declines can be directly attributable to ever increasing numbers of predators—particularly wolves—especially in western and south central Alaska. Historically active predator management resulted in higher numbers of game species allowing for sustainable long term use by hunters. Since the 1980's, efforts to manage predator numbers has been curtailed—the result being continuing loss of opportunity.

Opponents of this bill would like you to believe that no predator control efforts should be undertaken until a threshold of "biological emergency." This is simply unacceptable. It intentionally ignores the fact that at that point in the allocation equation non-resident and general resident seasons are closed and in most cases subsistence seasons are curtailed to Tier I or Tier II where there are not enough animals to allow for a sustainable harvest. Allowing this to occur, we will find many of our game species in the proverbial predator pit where recovery may take decades. We have a constitutional and even moral obligation not to allow this to happen.

Nothing in this legislation spells doom for predators. To the contrary it gives ADF&G and the Alaska Board of Game (with thorough public input from all effected parties) the ability to authorize and undertake properly justified and measured predator management programs. It allows us to act before we find ourselves in a management crisis. Acting only in the case of a biological emergency is acting too late.

Failure to actively manage predator species, particularly wolves is and will continue to have a devastating effect on all Alaskan who rely on prey species.

In conclusion:

I urge you to do what is right and move this legislation on to passage.

Thank you.

Joe Klutsch



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee
committee name

committee on HB No. 256, dated 5/11/07
bill/subject

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED.

Signed: _____

Testifier Joan Andersen
Joan Andersen

No affiliation

Representing (Optional)

1110 W. 6th Avenue, #503, Anchorage, AK 99501

Address

907-279-4024

Phone No.

My name is Joan Andersen and I have lived in Anchorage since 1983. I am not affiliated with any group or organization. I wanted to testify in person today (1/29/08), but time ran out for public testimony on this bill.

I strongly oppose passage of HB 256. This bill if implemented, could lead to the elimination of predators from Alaska. The Lower 48 eliminated wolves and other predators years ago, and as a result, many states have an excessive number of deer and other ungulates, and unhealthy ecosystems. Lyme disease in humans (caused by deer ticks) is a direct result of the over population of deer in the Lower 48.

I was at the meeting of the Board of Game last weekend, and one prominent board member referred to animals in the wild as "critters." This term says it all. It diminishes the importance of animals to zero. Animals do not count in the collective mind of the supporters of this bill; only the interests of humans count.

The same can be said for the use of the term "harvesting" wolves. What is being done under HB 256, and the original law, is not "harvesting" wolves, as you would "harvest" a crop of wheat, but rather "killing" wolves. I believe the term "harvesting" has been deliberately used so that the public views predators as inanimate objects or things and thus the public is less emotional about the issue of same-day aerial hunting of wolves and other predators.

I also believe this bill is up for passage because the wealthy, powerful interests which include monied, out-of-state hunters, wish to bag moose and caribou in as easy a manner as possible, which happens when ungulates are unnaturally increased due to the elimination of predators. These monied interests support members of the legislature and Board of Game, and thus supporters of this bill are only too happy to accommodate the desires of the rich and powerful hunters and hunting organizations to the detriment of the majority of the State's residents.

The revisions to the old law, which was bad enough already, would in my opinion not be up for consideration if subsistence hunters were the backers. The natives and rural residents, who may really need the meat caribou and moose provide, are not responsible for this bill. The monied hunters only hunt for sport, and not to put meat on the table, but they have the voice that is listened to, and they are responsible for the new bill. This situation is not acceptable to a public which loves Alaska for its wildlife and natural viewing opportunities, including viewing wolves and bears.

This new bill only worsens an already out-of-kilter ecosystem caused by the original aerial hunting statute. Passage of the new bill would further erode Alaska's ecosystems and the balance between prey and predators. It is completely unnecessary, and bottom line, it will prove harmful to the State of Alaska. Please do not pass HB 256.

House Bill 256 Would Eliminate Any Science Oversight of the Alaska Predator Control Program!

On Jan. 30, 2:00 PM, the Juneau House Resources Committee will consider legislation that would open the doors to greatly increased killing of wolves, bears and wolverines statewide, without necessity or requirement to consider scientific rationale behind such action. This legislation, HB 256, would also eliminate analysis or review from the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game for such increased predator control. A similar piece of legislation has been introduced in the Senate (Senate Bill 176).

A video link will be provided at the Legislative Information Office, 716 4th Ave., Anchorage. The public is welcome to attend and to speak regarding HB 256 (sign up by 1:00PM).

HB 256 is expected to:

- Make a bad law worse, giving the Board of Game a completely free hand to control predators.
- Expand Alaska's already excessive, expensive predator control programs and pave the way for the Board of Game to increase this unnecessary killing by leaving decisions up to this Board.
- Destroy the intention of the voter-enacted ban on the same-day airborne shooting of wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines, making it much easier to increase the aerial killing of these animals.
- Add brown bears and wolverines to the list of species that may be shot by aerial gunners.
- Permit the use of airplanes to track and shoot down wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines without requiring any comprehensive "game management plan" to be place beforehand.

This proposed legislation is not scientifically defensible -- it would undermine balanced management of the wildlife belonging to all Alaskans!

Contact: Citizens Concerned for Alaska Wildlife
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaska_wildlife
907-274-5933

Mr. Tom Banks
Alaska Field Representative, Defenders of Wildlife
tbanks@defenders.org
907-276-9410



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
 committee name
 committee on HR 256 dated 1-30-08
 bill/subject

From: Rebecca [caseload@att.net]
 Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 10:05 AM
 To: LIO Anchorage
 Subject: Predator Control

Please stop House Bill 256, which eliminates the few remaining standard governing the predator control program and would allow predator-control expansion across the state. This bill takes science and public input out of the process. Our public voice is important to Alaska and how it's governed. This bill removes scientific standards by saying the state game board can authorize predator control by simply finding it would be conducive to growing more big game.

Alaska needs to have a comprehensive wildlife management plan to start predator control in given area. Such plans give the public a chance to weigh in on wildlife values other than harvesting meat.

With a comprehensive wildlife management plan, the state Fish and Game Department would have to scientifically justify that predators are a problem and that the control program would be successful.

Sincerely,
 Rebecca Case
 8376 E. Stormy Hill Cir.
 Wasilla, AK

Signed: _____
 Testifier

 Representing (Optional)

 Address

 Phone No

Debra Higgins

From: Defenders of Wildlife [defenders@mail.defenders.org] on behalf of Lee Pulliam [lplee@arctic.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 2:04 PM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Subject: An urgent message about HB 256

Feb 6, 2008

Representative Craig Johnson
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Johnson,

As a constituent who is concerned about the long-term conservation of Alaska's wildlife and maintaining healthy, diverse ecosystems, I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 256.

Don, if you're looking for support from Alaskans in your re-election campaign, you NEED to oppose this bill!

HB 256 is bad news for Alaskans and Alaska wildlife for the following reasons:

- * It ignores public opinion regarding the use of airplanes to kill wildlife. Alaskans have twice voted through statewide ballot measures to restrict this practice -- and makes it much easier to shoot wolves and other predators using airplanes. Under existing law, nearly 700 wolves have already been killed by aerial hunters. This isn't management, it's a massacre -- and now they want to increase the killing.

- * For the first time ever, it would sanction aerial bear hunting. Brown bears are slow to reproduce and should be managed conservatively. This is an unprecedented and totally irresponsible move.

- * It allows for the aerial gunning of carnivores to reduce predator populations in order to artificially and unsustainably boost game populations -- a practice that will primarily benefit urban and

out-of-state hunters, not rural hunters with demonstrated needs. It's more about greed than need.

- * Set a disastrous precedent for giving the Board of Game carte blanche control over the state's aerial predator control policies -- without requiring them to consider any public input or the best

available scientific evidence. This bill would allow for even greater politicization of the policy-setting process.

- * Eliminate the need for a comprehensive "game management plan" to be in place before predator control can take place.

Current law already requires predator control when the Board of Game makes certain findings. HB 256 would eliminate any standards for predator control.

Thank you for considering my comments on this important wildlife matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Lee Pulliam
11820 Ellen Ave
Anchorage, AK 99515-3304

Friday Testimony

Thank you chair and members of Natural Resource Committee for allowing me to testify in opposition of HB 256.

My name is Martin Wade Willis
I live in Anchorage Alaska

I have Bachelors Degree in Zoology, I am a past employee of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and have owned a guiding business in Alaska for 10 years and I'm an avid moose hunter

Chair and members of the committee I'm very concerned about the lack of well rounded testimony provided by the Dept. of Law and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Last week I quickly pointed out to the Committee that neither the ADF&G nor the Dept. Of Law had specifically addressed the fact that HB 256 is not redefining, but eliminating, the words "based on scientific information". Both the Dept. Of Law and the Fish and Game strongly testified that this bill simply clarifies conflicting language in the current regulations but in fact HB 256 provides far more substantial changes to the current statute. The most unacceptable being that, for the first time, it allows the "opinion" of the board of game to substitute for science as the only requirement in the regulations to initiate arial predator control, including arial gunning of bears.

Testimony provided by the ADF&G and the Dept. Of Law seem to indicate their prejudice toward passage of this bill, not their intent to fully inform the members of this committee of the bills content or it's intent.

Rod Arno on the other hand enthusiastically supported the available science by waving a copy of it as he testified in support of predator control.

The ADF&G also testified that shooting wolves by plane was analogous to shooting waterfowl. In fact shooting from a plane is also analogous to shooting from a boat, which is illegal in most, if not all, jurisdictions in this state due to unacceptable injury to game. The Fish & Game choose not to mention that. There is one major difference though, a plane is traveling at roughly 100mph. Try shooting at that speed from a boat. So I ask, why would the Fish and Game testify they have no concerns at all about arial gunning? Why would the Fish and Game not even have minimal regulations requiring exclusive use of a shotgun when arial gunning? It clearly suggests the ADF&G's testimony in regards to HB 256 is biased.

Rep. Gotto states there is no way Alaska can afford to pay for Fish and Game employees to handle predator control by helicopter. May, there is no way the state can afford not to, especially if the residents of Alaska intend to continue arial predator control. As a past biologist for the state I can assure you the Fish and Game desperately needs logistical support to access the vast regions of this state. State run predator control programs can provide the transparency the citizens require for such a drastic wildlife management technique. Why would the legislature, or this committee, prefer HB 256 to such a win-win proposition, especially at a time when Alaska's revenues are at record levels?

The citizens of Alaska are woefully tired of special interest groups controlling our states natural resources. When 57,000 residents sign a petition to put arial predator control back on the ballet for an unprecedented third time the legislature should have an overwhelming respect for the citizens intent.

'HB 256 does not attempt to bring all the citizens of this state to the table. HB 256 tries to establish the will of the few on the will of the many, which is the status quo the voters in Alaska are now rejecting in record numbers. This committee should do the right thing, represent all of Alaska while impressing their constituents by sending a clear message to the Board of Game, the ADF&G and especially the legislature and the Governor that the time has come when all Alaskan's will be allowed to participate in the management of our states wildlife resources. We must include everybody, especially if folks like me, the hunter, are to survive!

Please vote against HB 256.

Martin Wade Willis
1308 W. 31st Avenue
Anchorage Ak. 99503

907-223-0218
adventure@alaska.com

BS Degree from Colorado State University in Zoology
Owner of Guide/Outfitter business based in Alaska for 10 years
Former ADF&G biologist

I strongly oppose **HB256** for the following reasons:

1. Rebukes and ignores the public's intent - **3 ballot initiatives - Unprecedented!**
 - 1996 - Alaska votes against arial predator control!
 - 2000 - Alaska votes again - restricting arial predator control to ADF& G personnel only!
 - **57,000 Alaska residents sign a petition to put arial wolf control back on the ballot in 2008!**
 - 57,000 Alaskan's that may vote you out of office if you ignore them along with the 85% of Alaskan's that do not hunt, rather, they value a natural, wild Alaska. Seeing wolves and bears is one of their most cherished experiences and one they will fight for!

2. Removes requirements for "Science Based Management:"
 - This bill is not simplifying the language to the mandates governing the Board of Game. **This bill is rewriting them.** This bill attempts to remove language that the Board of Game is having difficulty with in regards to justifying predator control programs, especially the words "science based". The Dept. Of Law and the ADF&G would like you to believe this bill simply clarifies issues - **ITS NOT THE TRUTH.** This bill's intent is to remove the public, the courts and scientists from the predator control issue.
 - There is no need to remove science based requirements. Rod Arno himself, the AOC's spokesmen, sat right in front of you waving what he himself described as "great science" in regards to predator control issues. Please, for heavens sake, don't ignore Rod Arno! He's predator controls biggest advocate and Alaska's greatest citizen to date! His testimony is sacred!
 - 2006 - The prestigious, American Society of Mammalogist's, passes a resolution condemning Alaska's predator control programs and calling on the Board of Game to use science based data to design predator control programs.
 - 2005 - Alaska's and the nations top wildlife management professionals, 120 in all, send a letter to the Governor urging science based management of Alaska predators **AND PREY!**

3. **Arial gunning of predators is inhumane**

- Shooting game from the deck of a boat is illegal in Alaska. The ADF&G considers the practice inhumane, but they forgot to mention that during their testimony. The ADF&G state a hunter cannot humanely dispatch game while shooting from a boat. Not with a shotgun, rifle or machine gun due to the unstable shooting platform! How can a plane, flying at 100 mph, shooting a distance of at least 100 yards be any better! There is no way you can shoot effectively from a plane!
- Shooting from a plane is analogous to shooting animals from a boat, not sitting still though, a boat **moving at 100 mph!**
- The ADF&G would like you to think shooting wolves from a plane is analogous to shooting ducks from a blind - **THAT'S NOT TRUE!**

4. **HB 256 would add bears to the list of animals that can be legally gunned down by air**

- Arial gunning of bears would destroy Alaska's tiny reputation for managing our states wildlife resources responsibly. Tourism, Alaska's largest family owned industry, would suffer tremendously.
- Hunters rights would be at great risk from a Nation and a State that have 85% or more individuals that **DO NOT HUNT**. They would attack Alaskan's hunting rights with a vengeance!

Alaskan's want and will support science based predator control management that clearly demonstrates both the need and the effectiveness of arial predator control programs.

Alaskan's want and will support ADF&G personnel conducting helicopter based, arial predator control should it be necessary. State managed arial predator control has the transparency and oversight necessary for the citizens of Alaska to support arial predator control, in my opinion.

Do the right thing - oppose HB 256.

Bonnie Gruening

From: Seth Kantner [sethkantner@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 1:30 PM
To: Rep. Carl Gatto
Subject: Public comment

Dear Sir,

I wasn't able to get the electronic testimony form to work without a fax machine. The LIO here in Kotzebue wasn't much more help. Please get this to the House Resources Committee. And please let me know if you receive this.

Thanks.

Seth Kantner

Dear House Resources Committee Members:

My name is Seth Kantner, resident of Kotzebue, lifelong resident of NW Alaska. I'm a hunter, wildlife photographer, commercial fisherman, and formerly a trapper.

I'd like to urge you to vote against HB 256, the bill to allow the Board of Game the power to alone and without biological science make decisions about predator control in Alaska.

I have a lot I could say about predator control, but that's not the issue here. The issue is that these people--BOG members--are appointed by the governor and are not representative of the bush or native or subsistence-users of our state. This proposed law feels like low logic, anti-good science--and like nepotism.

Nepotism because the Board of Game members, as we've seen lately and all too clearly, are either Alaska Outdoor Council people or people with trophy hunting interests in mind. These are not biologists, nor are they people who understand hunting for food, or understand the bush, or natives, or any of what we do here in a huge portion of Alaska. They are trophy hunters with trophy hunting as their agenda. Like I stated above, this all looks and feels like a sick little circle.

People in the villages--where i have spent my life--deserve a voice, they deserve good management of animal resources, and they don't deserve to be shut out of this process. And actually, neither does the rest of Alaska, the wildlife enthusiasts, the photographers, etc.

When and if the BOG has a Native member, a real bush person, a photographer, a biologist, a non-consumptive user of wildlife, etc--maybe then this proposed law could work. Right now it just makes our elected officials look like a bunch of sneaky, self-serving, good old boys circumventing us. We don't like that.

Thanks for your time and for serving our state.

Sincerely,

2/8/2008

Seth Kantner

--Seth--

www.kapvikphotography.com

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ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-14

RES 1

TITLE: REQUESTING DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE AND ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE TO WITHDRAW THEIR LAWSUIT TO STOP THE STATE OF ALASKA'S PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AND CEASE MAKING INACCURATE PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THEIR OPINIONS REPRESENT "ALL THE PUBLIC INTERESTS" UNTIL THEY HAVE CONSULTED WITH, AND OBTAINED CONCURRENCE OR PERMISSION OF, ALL AFFECTED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE ISSUE

WHEREAS: Alaska's Native community has repeatedly expressed its strong concerns, desire and support of predator management programs to be implemented in their respective areas to provide for basic subsistence needs through AFN Resolution Numbers 00-47, 01-07, 02-12, 03-08, 04-08, 04-09 and 05-13 (reaffirmed and incorporated here by reference) that have passed the AFN Convention unanimously for the last six years; and

WHEREAS: Moose, an extremely important subsistence resource for people throughout Alaska, have undergone significant declines of as much as 75-80% in many areas where long-term consistent human harvest and environmental conditions have not been determined a major contributing factor, and according to the majority of local knowledge along with the most direct and credible scientific information available, the main driving influence on decreased moose numbers is primarily due to increased numbers of predator populations since the ballot initiatives of 1996 and 2000 were fostered and imposed on the entire state by animal welfare organization proponents; and

WHEREAS: These concerns as expressed have become especially manifested in the Kuskokwim region where large customary and traditional subsistence use areas of former high moose numbers such as GMU 19A (which still retains highly productive but now unutilized habitat, high pregnancy and birth rates, but very poor calf survival or population recruitment), have been severely restricted to Tier II subsistence drawing hunts only, or closed completely to all subsistence hunting opportunity; and

WHEREAS: AFN Resolution #04-09 directly informed Defenders of Wildlife and other conservation groups critical of predator management programs in Alaska that their activities were hurtful at best and hostile at worst to providing for subsistence needs and requested that they work with the people most directly and negatively affected rather than against us; and

WHEREAS: To date there has been no known acknowledgement much less response to this request by Defenders or its affiliates in this matter, and instead our concerns have in essence been rejected with the filing of yet another "technical" legal challenge by Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance to the State's few predator management programs on August 25, 2006, citing a lack of sufficient "scientific information" or "public support"; and

WHEREAS: Such actions either discount or completely disregard the "public support" for these programs and concerns for subsistence interests that are clearly stated in the AFN Resolutions referenced above, or dismiss AFN's membership as a "public" whose interests and support is not worthwhile or worthy of consideration on this issue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2006 Annual Convention believe that public statements and press releases made by Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance in their current lawsuit that claim "predator management program decisions stem from individuals who have no regard for sound science, the will of the public and who have no long-term vision for the management of Alaska's natural heritage" are insensitive at best and insulting at worst to the long sought recognition and implementation of these programs by Alaska village residents; are against the best interests of providing for subsistence needs in Alaska's Native villages; and are in direct conflict with traditional environmental knowledge and other concerns expressed in the AFN resolutions for the past six years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Delegates demand that unless the Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance do not wish to recognize Alaska Native villages or bush Alaska residents as having a legitimate public interest on this issue, they stop saying that their activities represent "all the public" until they have consulted with, and obtained documented permission of all affected Tribal organizations throughout the Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim and Yukon River drainages, and other regions affected by this issue, and in the future they are requested to please have the courtesy, decency, integrity or accountability to make such statements accurately reflect that the public they represent is their own constituency - not everyone else and most certainly not ours!

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by the Delegates that if Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance truly support Alaska's subsistence priority and reasonable subsistence harvest opportunity as they have publicly stated in the past, they would withdraw their lawsuit to stop the State of Alaska's predator management programs.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 06-12

TITLE: REASSERTION OF THE STATE OF ALASKA'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOR AMOUNTS NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE, REASONABLE HARVEST OPPORTUNITY AND REGAIN COMPLIANCE WITH RELATED STATUTORY AND CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

WHEREAS: Moose remain an extremely important subsistence resource for people throughout Alaska, yet populations have undergone significant declines of 75-80% in many areas over the last decade where long-term consistent human harvest has not been determined a major contributing factor, and according to the majority of local knowledge along with the most direct and credible scientific information available, the main driving influence on decreased moose numbers is primarily attributable to increased numbers of predator populations since the early 1990's, when animal welfare proponents substantially elevated imposition of their opinions on the State through political manipulations; and

WHEREAS: The Association of Village Council Presidents, Bristol Bay Native Association and Tanana Chiefs Conference, have all expressed high levels of concern about this situation, repeatedly requesting that predator management programs be implemented in their respective areas through AFN Resolution #'s 00-47, 01-07, 02-12, 03-08, 04-08, 04-09, and 05-13 (reaffirmed and incorporated here by reference) that have passed the Alaska Federation of Natives for the last six years; and

WHEREAS: A few existing predator management programs, some of which have been on the books for 15 years or more, have only recently been implemented or reactivated after their prohibition in the early 1990's, brought on through successful public manipulation by animal welfare groups that resulted in long-term lack of administrative support; and

WHEREAS: Efforts are being repeated by animal welfare advocates through another lawsuit filed in August, 2006, citing "a lack of sufficient scientific information" and the lack of "public support", to effectively stop the few predator management programs that are underway and prevent the state department of fish & game from utilizing these or similar programs as a viable management tool at any time in the future; and

WHEREAS: Such statements discount or completely disregard the "public support", and concerns for subsistence interests that are clearly stated in the AFN Resolutions referenced above, or dismiss that membership as a "public" whose interests and support is not worthwhile or of lesser importance in this issue; and

WHEREAS: Despite statements from organizational representatives or others who make public claims to support predator management, but only if "it is based on sound science", it has become increasingly clear in recent decades that no amount of scientific information will ever be adequate to satisfy those groups or individuals who incorporate philosophical or moral superiority arguments into opposing predator management programs in bush Alaska, and who will simply continue to label any science as "good", "bad", or "insufficient" depending only upon whether they agree with those values and opinions – real applied "science" for most will have little bearing, regardless of source or merit, and

WHEREAS: A key observation of the National Academy of Sciences report (Wolves, Bears, and Their Prey in Alaska contracted by the State from 1994-97) was that it was difficult to assess many of Alaska's predator management programs because they were consistently stopped (mainly through political action/interference) within a few years rather than being conducted for the full duration (of up to 5 or more years) originally and scientifically deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS: Failure to actively incorporate and implement predator management programs as a basic management function undermines the state's subsistence priority law and related regulations governing the determination of amounts necessary for subsistence uses and providing a reasonable harvest opportunity; and

WHEREAS: Allowing moose populations to become depleted and remain at low levels violates the Alaska Constitution which mandates, among other things, principles of maximum use and benefit, common use, sustained yield, broad diversity of use, and uniform application for all those similarly situated regarding the subject matter at hand.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2006 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the Alaska Federation of Natives and member organizations are requested to consider intervening in the lawsuit filed by Defenders of Wildlife and Alaska Wildlife Alliance against the State of Alaska to halt predator management programs based on the opposing opinions of their "scientists" which are inconsistent with direct year-round local environmental knowledge and the opinions of area management biologists and, which in the past has resulted in the State of Alaska failing to manage for amounts necessary for subsistence and reasonable harvest opportunity, and to be out of compliance with at least 5 sections of Article VIII's constitutional standards and principles

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT in the future the critics of predator management programs should be required to provide conclusive scientific evidence that such programs are not effective in achieving their intended purposes, which are to increase the number of moose available for subsistence harvest, provide for a reasonable harvest opportunity and to comply with constitutional standards before predator management programs can be suspended or discontinued by political or administrative actions based on speculation, abstract scientific assertions, philosophical or social differences of opinion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AFN continue to actively follow-up on this resolution and further develop the issue in accordance with this and prior AFN Tier 1 resolutions.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2005 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 05-13

TITLE: SUPPORT OF STATE ADMINISTRATION TO REBUILD, MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE ALASKA'S MOOSE POPULATIONS AND OPPOSITION TO BALLOT INITIATIVES PREEMPTING EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR REASONABLE SUBSISTENCE OPPORTUNITY

WHEREAS: Moose are an extremely important subsistence resource for people throughout Alaska that have undergone significant declines of 75-80% in many areas over the last decade where long-term consistent human harvest has not been determined a major contributing factor, and according to the majority of local knowledge, the main driving influence on decreased moose numbers is primarily attributable to increased numbers of predator populations since the ballot initiatives of 1996 and 2000 were fostered and successfully imposed on the entire state by conservation and animal welfare constituencies; and

WHEREAS: The Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Bristol Bay Native Association, have all expressed high levels of concern about these population declines, repeatedly requesting that predator management programs be implemented in their respective areas through Resolution #'s 00-47, 01-07, 02-12, 03-08, 04-08 & 04-09 that have passed the Alaska Federation of Natives unanimously for the last five years. Ongoing concerns of concurrence have also been expressed by state and federal management support staff, affected Federal Regional Subsistence Councils, State Fish & Game Advisory Committees and Board of Game; and

WHEREAS: The Federal Subsistence Board has chosen to interpret through its Predator Management Policy that its "management" regime can only address the human harvest component of subsistence, and does not have authority to enact regulations, implement activities, or require programmatic agency response that would directly, substantively, effectively or actively manage populations such as moose and wolves even though predator control is a commonly approved practice, direct or sanctioned management action, conducted by federal agencies in several lower 48 states, as well as by governments in many other countries throughout the northern hemisphere; and

WHEREAS: Existing predator management programs in regulation, some of which have been in place for up to 15 years and/or more recently requested to be implemented by bush Alaska residents for years have only recently (in 2003) been allowed to be reactivated after a 10 year prohibition; and

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WHEREAS: It is important to rural Alaska residents for environmental or animal welfare groups to acclaim the traditional knowledge local peoples have regarding animal populations relied on for their subsistence harvest needs when it serves their purpose in one area (i.e. the Porcupine Caribou herd), yet in a neighboring area will state that the knowledge of local peoples regarding predator and moose relationships are not accurate, based on largely on ignorance and do not deserve or should not be given credibility in management decisions; and

WHEREAS: It is further inconsistent for these same animal advocacy groups to play up support for subsistence harvest activities while filing legal challenges to the state's predator management programs, and actively advocating towards management practices that have historically shown and are known to cause depletion and long term/continued depression of area moose populations; and

WHEREAS: There are 65 separately recognized moose populations in Alaska with 32 identified as important for providing "high levels of human consumptive (subsistence) use" [AS 16.055.255 (e)-(i)], of which 18 have been determined in decline since 2002. The Board of Game has only approved 5 predator management areas, mainly limited to Tier 1 subsistence hunting only. Yet animal welfare groups continue to misrepresent and/or mischaracterize these predator management programs as "excessive," or "being conducted for the sole benefit of sport and recreational hunting"; and

WHEREAS: An observation of the National Academy of Sciences report (Wolves, Bears, and Their Prey in Alaska contracted by the State from 1994-97) was that it was difficult to assess many of Alaska's predator management programs because they were consistently stopped (through political action/interference) within one to two years, rather than being conducted for their full durations (of up to 5 or more years) that were originally and scientifically deemed necessary; and

WHEREAS: A recent poll conducted by Dittman Research Inc. in August 2005, of villages in the Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon & Tanana River drainages asking if they felt their respective area supported the State of Alaska's efforts to control the number of predators found that 70% of the respondents stated they did (22% not in support, 8% unsure); and

WHEREAS: 60% of the respondents in this same poll, asked specifically about claims made by anti-hunting and animal welfare groups indicating that 70% of Alaskans were against the control of predator numbers, stated this did not reflect the majority views of people within their respective areas concerning this issue (25% stating it did, 15% unsure); and

WHEREAS: A common demographic grouping for those village residents who were opposed to predator management in this poll are 30-45 year old Caucasian females who arrived in bush Alaska some time in the last 10 years, who are overall most definitely not representative of long term participants, practices or concerns for subsistence harvest needs; and

WHEREAS: An effort is again underway by conservation based and animal welfare organizational interests, with another petition drive to place the issue on the ballot of the next statewide election that would effectively stop the few predator management programs that are underway with the intent to prevent local residents or the state department of fish & game from utilizing these or similar programs as a viable management tool at any time in the future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2005 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that AFN stands in opposition to this ballot initiative to stop the state's few existing predator management programs, endorses efforts to rebuild and maintain Alaska's moose populations that includes predator management activities, and expresses support for the current Governor's fortitude to date supporting practical and proactive application of moose management through predator control programs, urging his continued determination for withstanding the pressures put forth by animal welfare organizations that oppose such activities to the detriment of Alaska's moose populations and the many Alaska residents who have traditionally depended upon them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AFN encourages Governor Murkowski to authorize and/or direct all appropriate administrative staff and departments such as Public Safety, Transportation, Commerce, Law, Fish & Game and Natural Resources, to work cooperatively with all affected entities including the legislature and congressional delegation towards the goals of rebuilding, maintaining and enhancing Alaska's moose populations to include state or federal actions that could help rectify the lack of understanding, consideration or accommodation at national societal levels for predator/prey management in Alaska that are conducive to providing priority for subsistence, reasonable opportunity and amounts necessary for related harvest needs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that support resolutions, follow-up action and further development be pursued (in continued accordance with AFN's Tier 1 status in previous years of resolutions) through media sources and letters to opposing interests of predator management informing them of the harm, insensitivity, rejection and lack of accountability for providing for reasonable subsistence harvest opportunity, that their actions constitute as a major burden to the vast majority of rural Alaska residents, in addition to supportive efforts to address the issue through the state's administrative/legislative processes and/or congressional action.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, SUBSISTENCE, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



RECEIVED TIME DEC 9 10:57AM

December 2, 2005

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Office of the Governor
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Via Fax: 907-465-3500

RE: Predator Management Programs - AFN Resolution 05-13

Dear Governor Murkowski:

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors and the delegates to the AFN 2005 Convention, I am enclosing Resolution 05-13, passed at the 2005 AFN Convention in Fairbanks on October 22. Resolution 05-13 supports the State's efforts to rebuild, maintain and enhance Alaska's moose populations through its predator management programs and opposes ballot initiatives that would prevent the use of such programs.

The decline in moose populations, attributable to increased numbers of predator populations, has been of great concern to AFN and our member organizations for a number of years. There are 65 separately recognized moose populations in Alaska, with 32 identified as important for providing "high levels of human consumptive use," AS 16.055.255 (e)-(i), 18 of which have been in decline since 2002. The Board of Game has approved 5 predator management areas in response to these declines. Animal welfare groups argue that these predator management programs are "excessive" or are being conducted for the sole benefit of sport and recreational hunting. That is obviously not the case - moose are an extremely important subsistence resource for people throughout Alaska.

As evidenced by a recent poll conducted by Ditman Research, Inc., in 2005, there is wide support within the villages in the Bristol Bay, Kuskokwim, Yukon & Tanana River drainages for the State's predator control efforts. Yet, we understand there is another effort underway by animal welfare interests, to place a measure on the ballot in the next statewide election that would effectively halt the State's predator management efforts. We strongly oppose all such ballot initiatives and urge you and your Administration to withstand pressure from these groups to halt the State's predator management activities.

Finally, we request that you direct all appropriate administrative staff and department personnel to work cooperatively with all affected entities, the legislature and

the Alaska congressional delegation to rebuild, maintain and enhance Alaska's moose populations.

Sincerely,

Julie E. Kitka
Julie Kitka
President

/chd

Enclosure (Resolution 05-13)

Cc: Senator Ben Stevens, Senate President, Alaska State Legislature
Representative John Harris, Speaker of the House, Alaska State Legislature
Representative Mary Kapsner, Chair, Bush Caucus
McKie Campbell, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Members of the Alaska Board of Game
Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Congressman Don Young

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2004 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 04-09

TITLE: REQUESTING THE DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE AND OTHER CONSERVATION GROUPS DESIST IN ACTIVITIES DETRIMENTAL TO PROVIDING SUBSISTENCE NEEDS IN RURAL ALASKA

- WHEREAS:** In the last eight years since the ability to hold wolf populations at balanced levels conducive to moose survival was removed by ballot initiative, many moose populations throughout rural and bush Alaska have suffered declines of 50-70 %, despite the fact that mild winters, good habitat, and healthy birth rates prevailed; and
- WHEREAS:** The preponderance of existing and credible scientific information, long term professional observations, and overwhelming application of local/traditional ecological knowledge, reflects that increased predator populations are a key reason for these moose declines; and
- WHEREAS:** Predator management is a routine management activity to protect wild and domestic populations of prey species throughout the rest of the world and only in Alaska have such severe political strictures been imposed; and
- WHEREAS:** Unlike recent administrations, in the past year the current gubernatorial administration has declined to interfere or over-ride necessary management determinations of the State Board of Game and Division of Wildlife Conservations regarding this issue; and
- WHEREAS:** Defenders of Wildlife and other conservation groups has recently submitted a petition to the Secretary of Interior requesting Federal intervention to prevent the State from carrying out predator management activities to protect these moose populations; and
- WHEREAS:** Contrary to the assertions in this petition and related media releases, these activities are not being conducted for the sole benefit of sports hunters, but rather are predominantly applied only where Tier 1 or Tier 2 subsistence hunts have been enacted; and
- WHEREAS:** As reflected through resolutions at the 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 annual conventions of the Alaska Federations of Natives, maintaining abundant moose and caribou populations in rural Alaska is essential to providing for basic sustenance, current and future subsistence needs, as well as cultural health and well being of our people; and
- WHEREAS:** While we may appreciate the passion and zeal represented by those opposed to predator management activities, these activities had no direct effect on their families, and their removal poses significant harm and hardship to the pursuit of the subsistence way of life; and
- WHEREAS:** Within its website, Defencers of Wildlife criticizes the strategic wolf management plan developed through a stakeholder process in 1991 was bypassed for a more aggressive wolf control policy; and

WHEREAS: Predator management programs currently active within the state all fall directly within the guidelines and parameters laid out within the 1991 strategic wolf management plan; and

WHEREAS: There are 65 separately managed moose populations in Alaska of which 32 are identified as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use (subsistence), and as of the winter of 2002, 18 of these 32 populations were recognized as declining or decreasing; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Board of Game and Division of Wildlife Conservation have seen fit to conduct aggressive predator management on only 5 of these 18 populations, and in most areas, do so only within limited ranges or portions of the management units involved.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2004 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. asks the Defenders of Wildlife and other conservation groups to recognize a way of life different than that of mainstream America, take into account the effects of their actions on rural Alaska's subsistence needs, and share in the use and enjoyment of our resources by withdrawing their petition for Federal intervention to halt predator management programs in the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that given the Defenders' repeated statements of supporting subsistence in Alaska, AFN asks that in the future this be more than verbal, by recognizing and accepting that providing for these subsistence needs may require actions which they may find uncomfortable or morally distasteful, but cause no substantial or direct physical hardship to their constituency, and that they support those people directly affected, and work to educate animal welfare groups throughout the nation on the realities of the situation, rather than pursuit of media sensationalism.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, SUBSISTENCE, TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED/PASSED



2003 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 03-08

TITLE: CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS BY THE STATE OF ALASKA TO MANAGE FOR SUSTAINED YIELD, SUBSISTENCE OPPORTUNITY, AND MAXIMUM USE OF ITS MOOSE POPULATIONS

- WHEREAS:** At annual conventions in 2000, 2001 and 2002 the Alaska Federation of Natives unanimously passed resolutions sponsored by AVCP, TCC, and BBNA stating extreme concern by its membership over increasing wolf numbers which threatened area moose populations that are of great importance in providing basic and primary sustenance to feed their families; and
- WHEREAS:** Many moose herds throughout the State of Alaska are either at seriously low levels, or are on a downward trajectory; and
- WHEREAS:** Existing scientific information, long term professional observation and the overwhelming opinion of resident observers point to rising predator numbers as a key reason for moose declines; and
- WHEREAS:** Since the ballot initiatives banning the public's ability to hold wolf populations in check to the present date, the State of Alaska has made no substantive or effective effort to address these concerns, while the people most directly affected continue to watch the problems steadily worsen, in some cases exceeding wolf population levels established by the state Board of Game by three to four fold; and
- WHEREAS:** Article VII, Sections 1 and 4 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska mandates that replenishable resources shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, and managed for maximum use subject to preference among beneficial uses; and
- WHEREAS:** Waiting until moose numbers in an area have been severely depleted by predation when available habitat is not a limiting factor, before even beginning to consider taking any predator control actions to reverse their decline is not managing for sustained yield, making this void of a historically effective management tool in direct conflict with Article VIII, Section 4 of the State's Constitution; and
- WHEREAS:** All beneficial uses of moose and wolf populations affected, consumptive and non-consumptive alike, are enhanced by achieving higher numbers of both species in the long term by maintaining a balance in their population levels through predator control, where without it, only the interests of primarily urban Alaskans whose lives are not directly affected by the question gain any benefit whatsoever, which raises further constitutional conflict under Sections 1, 3 and 17 of Article VIII; and
- WHEREAS:** Most every governmental or public task force, committee, commission or board convened to address the predator control issue has come to the conclusion or consensus that beyond any reasonable doubt, predator control is a necessary management action in one form or another to satisfactorily comply with the intent and purpose of providing for people's needs through sustained yield management; and
- WHEREAS:** It is hypocritical that the State of Alaska has taken such a strong and assertive role in adamantly refuting the assertions of state and national organizations opposed to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration for the aid of big business and (primarily urban) economic development interests, yet does not provide

protect the subsistence needs of its people over large areas of the state, despite laws and regulations saying that subsistence is the highest beneficial use of our fish and game resources; and

WHEREAS: It is further highly inconsistent for the administration on the one hand to make every effort to regain full state control of subsistence management, while allowing a key subsistence resource such as moose to sink to very low population levels when management tools are available to prevent or reverse their declines; and

WHEREAS: If Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend Program suffered the same management inaction as moose populations over the last decade, annual dividend checks would be measured in pennies instead of dollars.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2003 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives directs to again call on the administration of the state of Alaska to immediately authorize and implement predator control programs throughout the state where they are needed to stabilize or reverse declines of moose populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT failure to allow or conduct proactive and timely implementation of predator control programs by the State of Alaska to maintain historic moose population and harvest levels at high averages is in direct violation with their constitutional mandate to manage for sustained yield and maximum beneficial use, as well as being further inconsistent with other constitutional and statutory responsibilities recognizing subsistence as the highest beneficial use, among other management directives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT since this issue has received unanimous support for resolutions regarding this problem for the last three years, that AFN leadership is directed to address the matter as a Tier 1 priority issue in its administrative agenda over the next year, or until such time as it is satisfactorily resolved.

SUBMITTED BY: ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

COMMITTEE ACTION: TIER 1, SUBSISTENCE, DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



2002 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 02-12

TITLE: WOLF PREDATION – PUBLIC SAFETY

WHEREAS: The wolf population is increasing at an alarming rate; and,

WHEREAS: Due to declining numbers of caribou and moose, wolves are now moving into villages and starting to attack pets and to use them for food; and,

WHEREAS: Rural CAP tried to address this problem by forming a state-wide group which advocated for allowing aerial wolf hunts in the McGrath area; and,

WHEREAS: Animal rights groups became involved and were able to sway the voters in Alaska by television and radio advertisements when the matter became an issue for the voters in Alaska to decide; and,

WHEREAS: Due to a decline in the food chain for the wolves, human lives may be in jeopardy; and,

WHEREAS: With wolves moving closer to villages, it is hampering berry picking and other subsistence activities

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates of the 2002 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. that, rather than going through normal procedures, that the matter be turned over to the Alaska Department of Public Safety and to use any means necessary including allowing aerial wolf hunts.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS TIER 1

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



2001 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 01-07

TITLE: WOLF PREDATION - PUBLIC SAFETY

- WHEREAS: The wolf population is increasing at an alarming rate; and,
- WHEREAS: Due to declining numbers of caribou and moose, wolves are now moving into villages and starting to attack pets and to use them for food; and,
- WHEREAS: Animal rights groups became involved and were able to sway the voters in Alaska by television and radio advertisements when the matter became an issue for the voters in Alaska to decide; and,
- WHEREAS: Due to a decline in the food chain for the wolves, they will start on humans for their food; and,
- WHEREAS: With wolves moving closer to villages, it is hampering berry picking and other subsistence activities.
- WHEREAS: Since 1995 to the present date the State of Alaska has made no substantive or effective effort to address these concerns, while the people directly affected continue to watch the problem steadily worsen; and
- WHEREAS: Article VIII, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska mandates that replenish-able resources shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preference among beneficial uses; and
- WHEREAS: Waiting until moose and caribou numbers in an area have been severely depleted by predation when available habitat is not a limiting factor before even considering taking any predator control actions to reverse their decline is not managing for sustained yield, making this void of a historically effective management tool in direct conflict with Article VIII, Section 4 of the State's Constitution; and
- WHEREAS: Every known governmental or public task force, committee, commission or board convened to address the predator control issue has come to the conclusion or consensus that beyond any reasonable doubt, it is a necessary management action in one form or another to satisfactorily comply with the intent and purpose of providing for people's needs through sustained yield management; and
- WHEREAS: All beneficial uses of moose, caribou and wolf populations affected, consumptive and non-consumptive alike, are enhanced by maintaining

higher numbers of wolf
population levels through predator control, where without it, only the narrow view of a small group of emotionally driven (primarily urban) Alaskans gain any substantive benefit whatsoever, which raises further constitutional conflict under Sections 3 and 17 of Article VIII; and

WHEREAS: It borders on the hypocritical that the State of Alaska has taken such a strong and assertive role in adamantly refuting the assertions of state and national organizations opposed to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration for the aid of big business and (primarily urban) economic development interest, yet does not provide an unequivocal level of support in standing up to these same types of organizations to protect the subsistence needs of its people over the vast majority of the State, in the face of laws and regulations saying that subsistence is the highest beneficial use of our fish and game resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates of the 2001 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives that the matter be turned over to the Alaska Department of Public Safety and to use any means necessary including allowing aerial wolf hunts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that failure to allow or conduct proactive and timely implementation of predator control programs by the State of Alaska to maintain historic moose and caribou population and harvest levels at high averages is in direct violation with their constitutional mandate to manage for sustained yield, as well as being further inconsistent with statutory and regulatory laws recognizing subsistence as the highest beneficial use, among other management directives.

SUBMITTED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association, Association of Village Council Presidents

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED/PASSED



ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 00-47

TITLE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT PREDATOR CONTROL

WHEREAS: At the March 2000 Board of Game meeting, the board decided unanimously to allow predator management where sound science found that there was an imbalance in the predator versus prey; and

WHEREAS: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game should have been allowed to implement the predator management program with the biologist from ADF&G; and

WHEREAS: Further delay by the governor, in the carrying out of the predator control program, will have irreversible damage on the wildlife population; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2000 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. request the governor implement the predator control program that was approved by the Board of Game. Also, where in the areas it is too late for the balance of predator versus prey to recover, long-term studies are conducted so that this may not continue to happen in other areas.

SUBMITTED BY: Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED



2007 ANNUAL CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 07-15

TITLE: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PREDATOR CONTROL AS A MEANS OF INCREASING GAME POPULATIONS

WHEREAS: The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, allows predator control, including aerial or same-day airborne hunting of wolves, in limited circumstances in certain areas to enhance the population of moose and moose; and

WHEREAS: In some part of the state wolf predation is responsible for 80% of the mortality of moose and caribou that occurs in a year, and as a consequence the population of moose or caribou is far below what the habitat would support; and

WHEREAS: The state's predator control program, and all game regulations, are promulgated by the Alaska Board of Game through an extensive public process; and

WHEREAS: Moose and caribou are critical subsistence resources and are often the main protein source for many Alaska Native villages; and

WHEREAS: At the present time, Alaska's predator control program is limited to five wolf control programs encompassing less than 10% of the state; and

WHEREAS: Alaska's predator control program often comes under attack from Outside interest groups who may not fully understand the program, and recently legislation has been introduced in Congress that would completely ban the program.; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., that it supports limited predator control within the parameters established by the Alaska Board of Game, including aerial or same-day hunting of wolves, as a sound method of game management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2007 Annual Convention urges the Alaska Congressional Delegation to encourage public education on this matter and to resist any efforts in Congress to impose a federal ban on predator control in Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE ACTION: DO PASS, TIER I

CONVENTION ACTION: