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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.

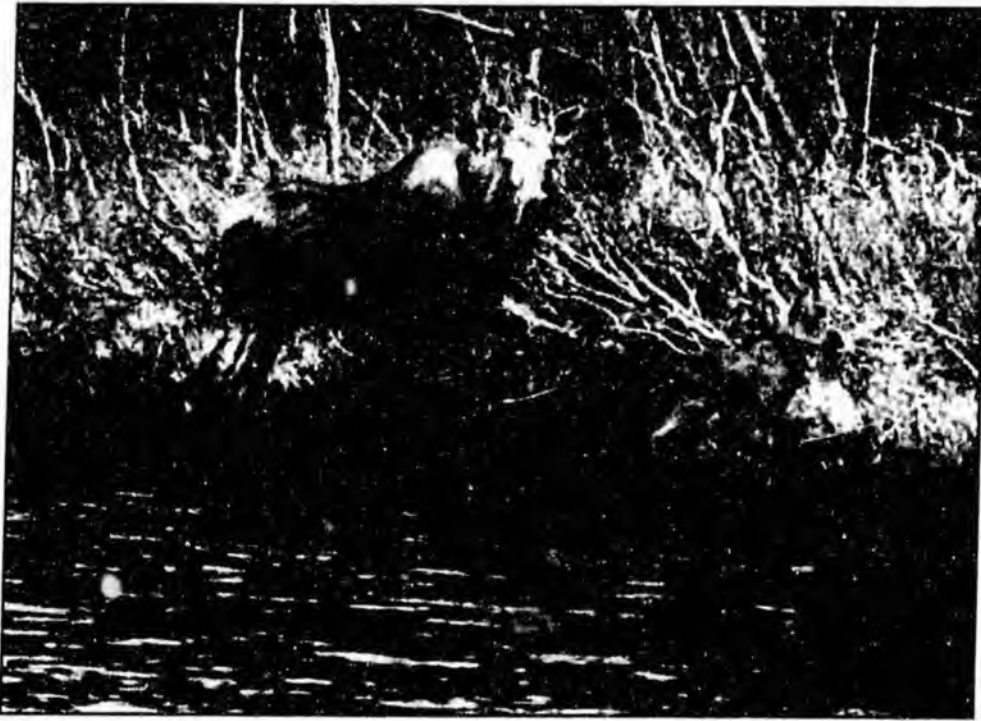
Alaska's Constitution charges state government with managing Alaska's fish and wildlife resources on the *sustained yield* principle. That is, long term harvest rates should not exceed regeneration. This principle ensures wildlife are maintained in perpetuity at sustainable levels.

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.

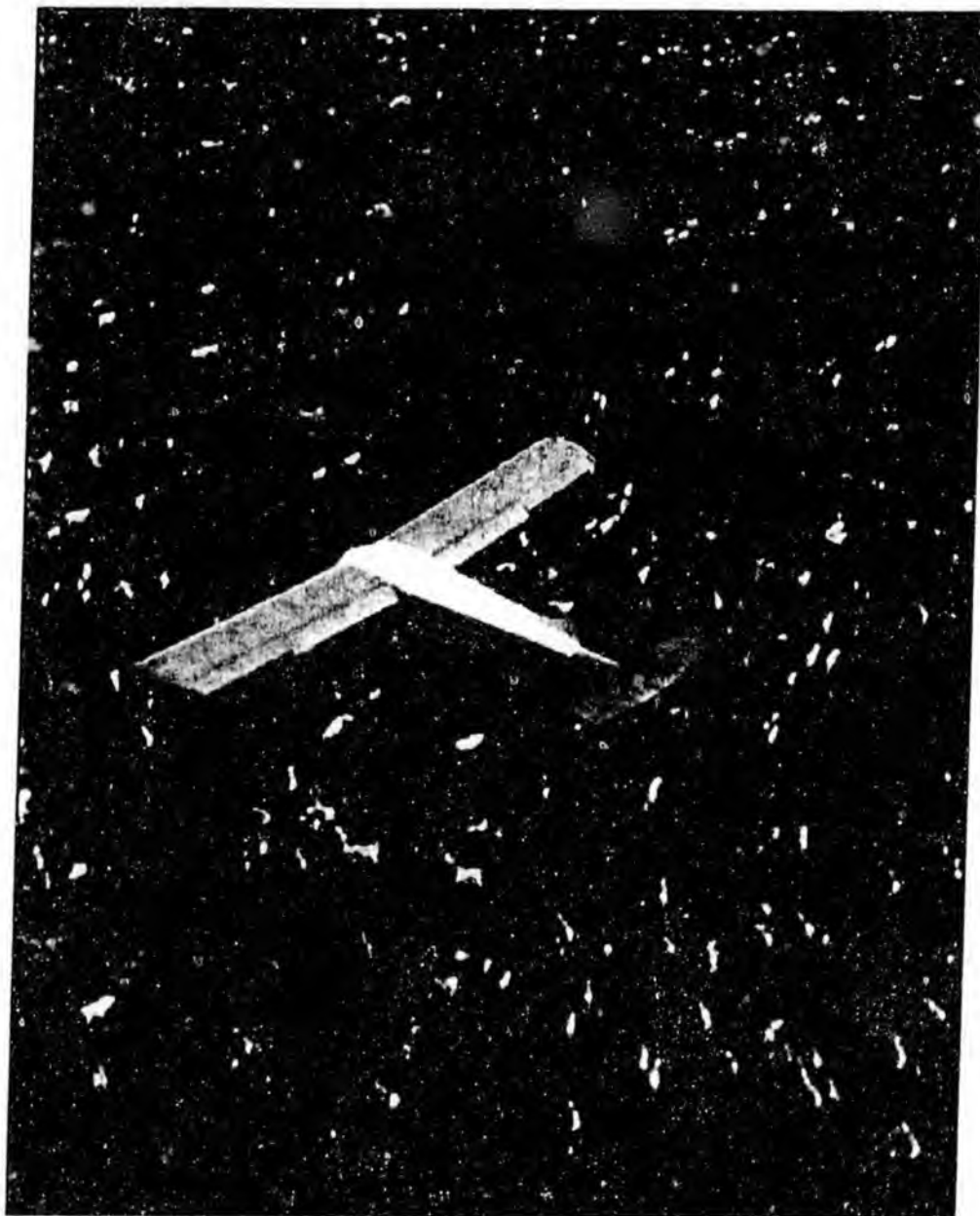
ADF&G's perspectives on predator management

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.



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.

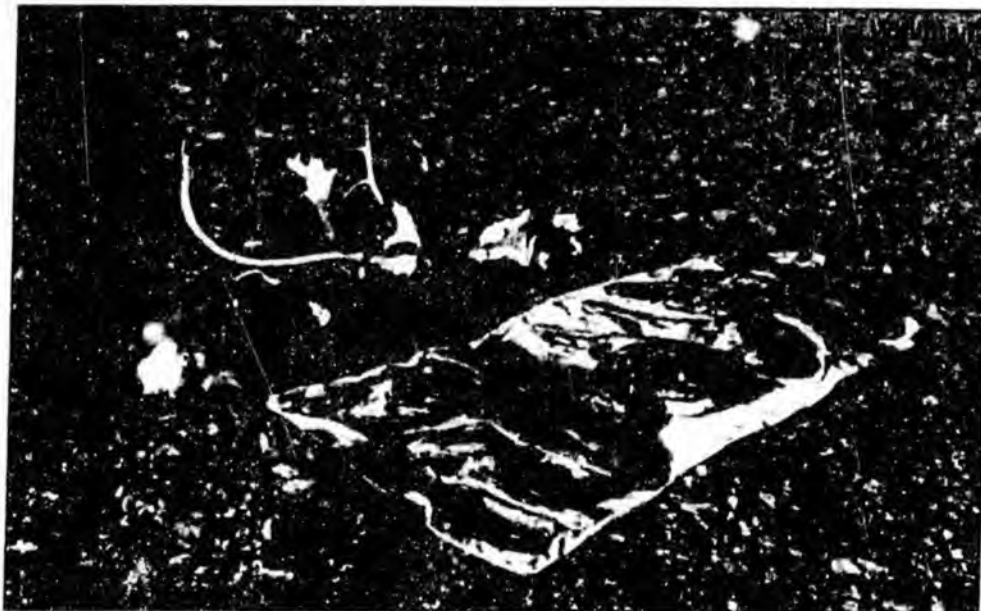
Can predator control work?

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

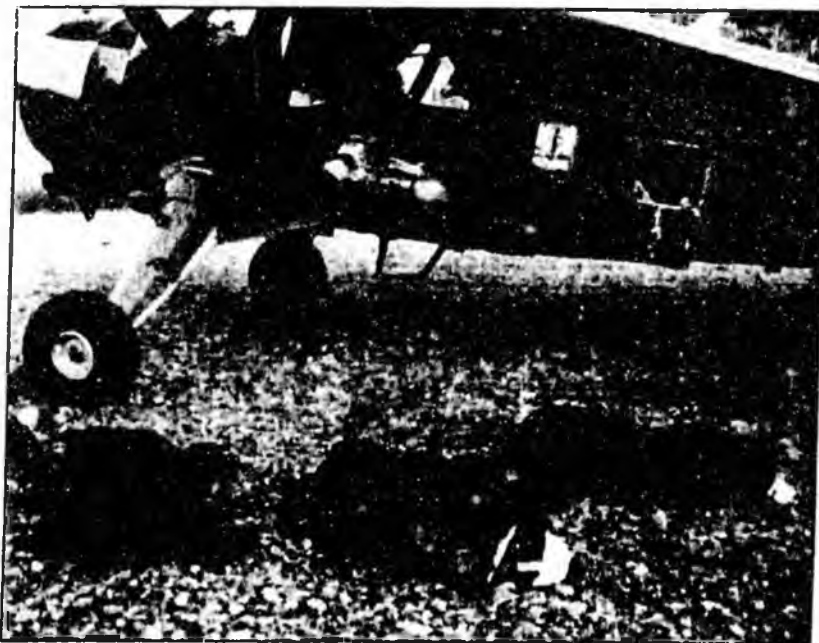
Non-lethal methods such as surgical sterilization can reduce predation, but are usually prohibitively expensive or logistically impractical, except in relatively small areas.

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

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

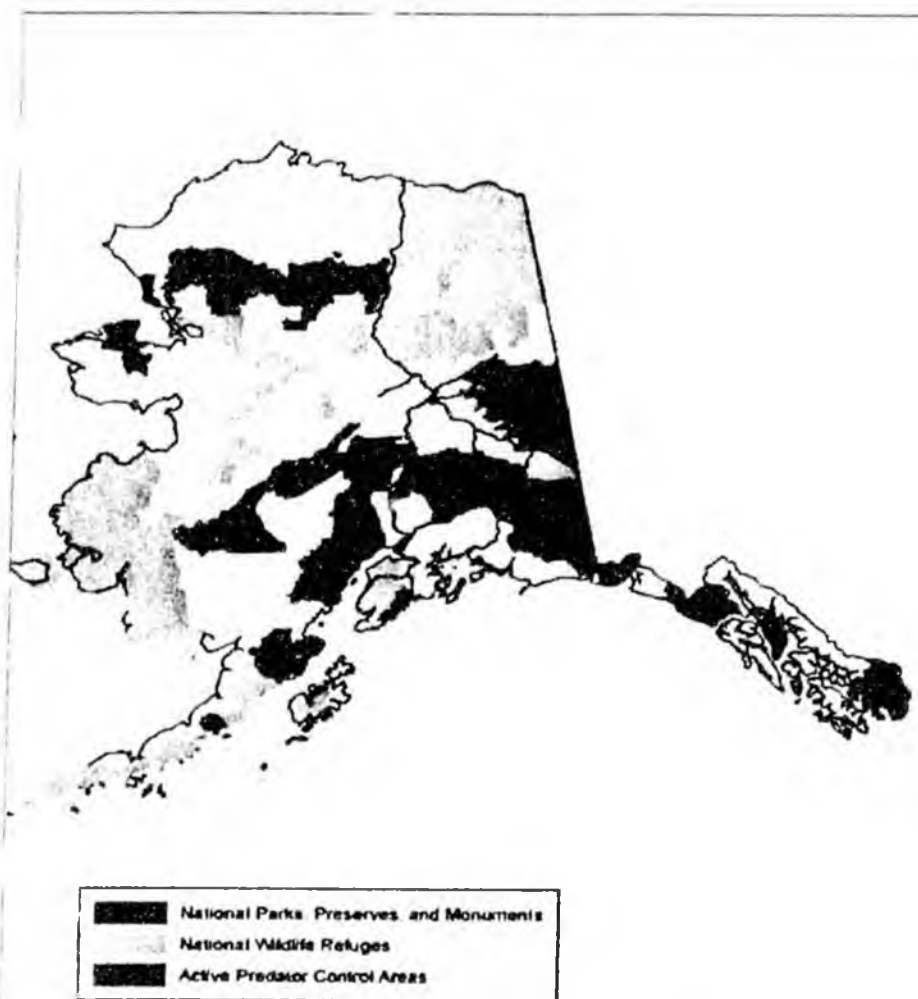


A non-lethal (sterilization) predator control program was implemented in 1997 to address predation on the Fortymile caribou herd. Fifteen pairs of wolves were sterilized. They maintained their home territories but killed far fewer caribou because they had no pups to feed.



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.



©Steve Dubois

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 shoot-
 ing: 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).



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| 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-Air- borne (SDA) taking of wolves |
| | 1999: Spring estimate = 300 wolves; fall estimate = 520. | | |

2007: Spring wolf population objec-
 tive 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)

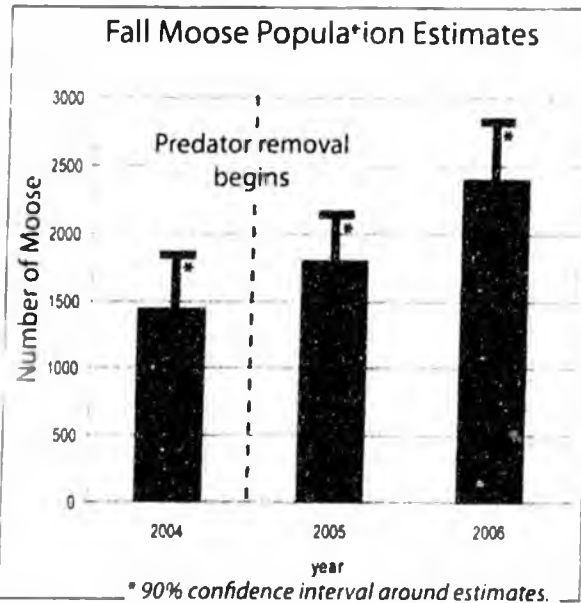
1981 - 1984: GMU 20E wolf numbers reduced by 30-60%; no discernible effect on moose calf survival (grizzly bears killed 50% of moose calves born in 1984).

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.

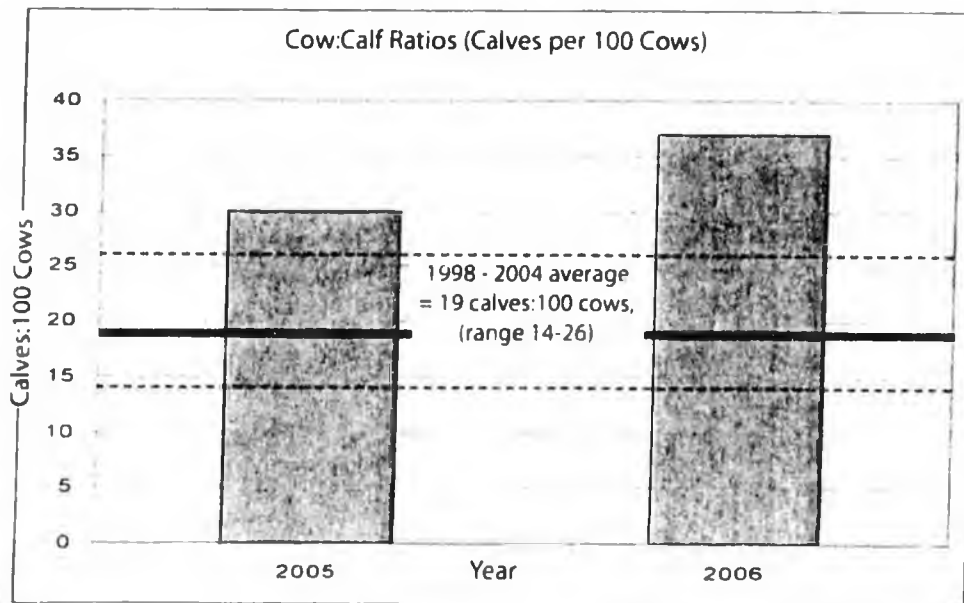
2006: Survey indicates fewer brown bears than reported in the 1980s.

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

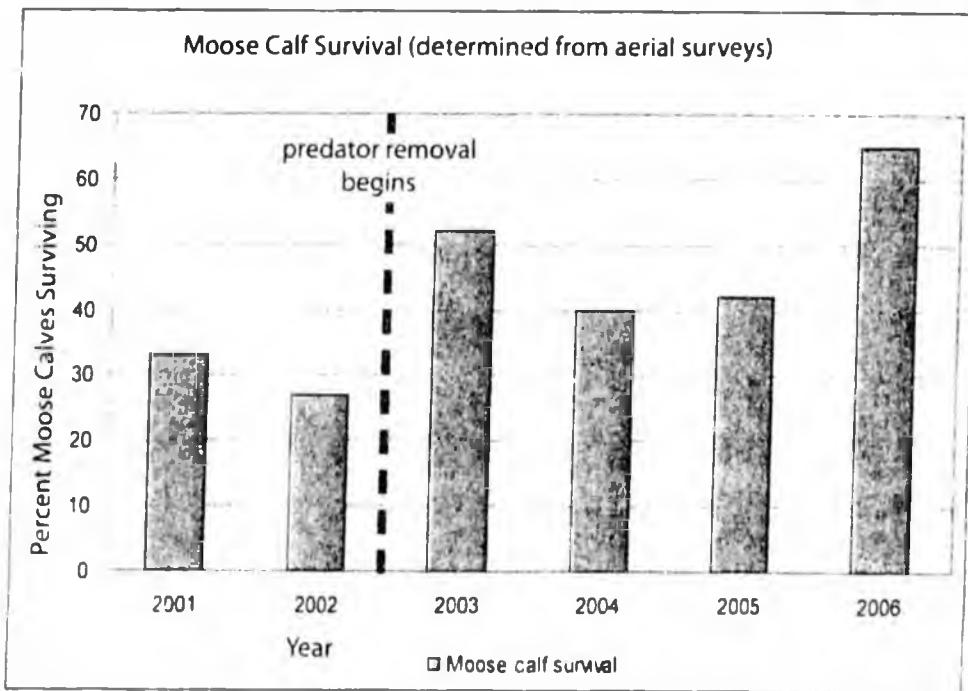
2006

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 Micromanagement Area" (EMMA).

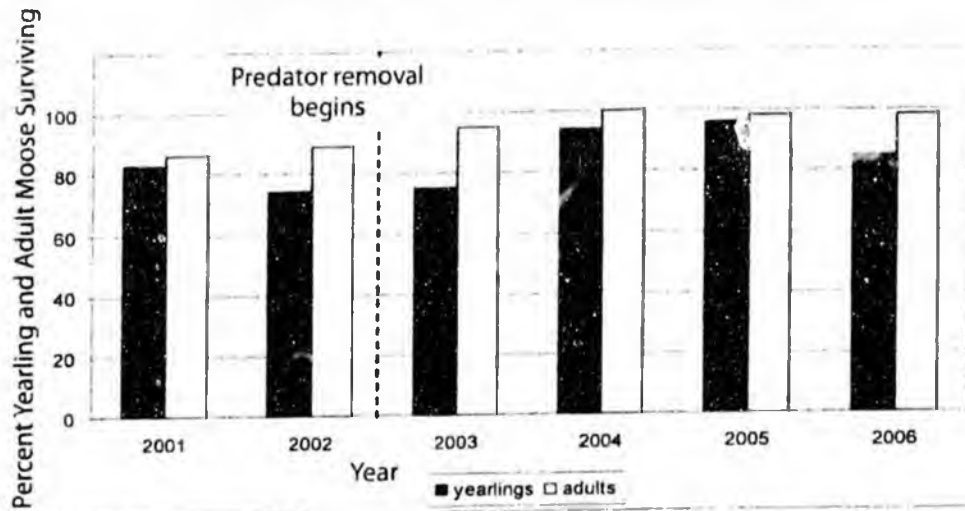
Late winter 2004 - 2006: Aerial shooting wolf control effort initiated in EMMA; surveys indicate wolf population 75% lower than 2001.



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

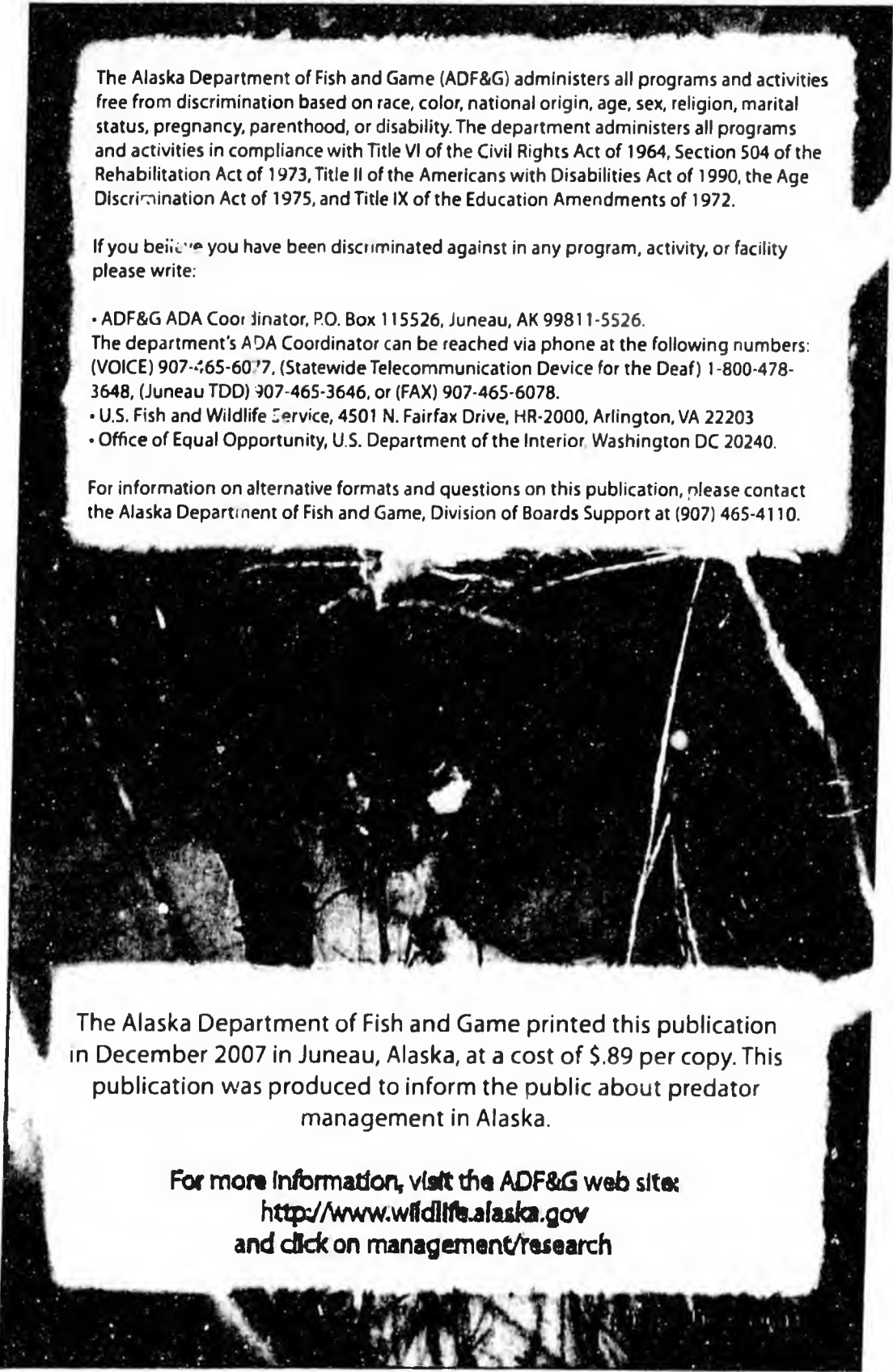
- Wild game is important food for many Alaskans.
- Moose and caribou populations across Alaska frequently persist at low numbers, often kept that way by predation. Predators kill more moose and caribou than do hunters.
- The Alaska Board of Game and ADF&G are required by Alaska's Constitution and state 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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- The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers: (VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078.
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 - Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.

For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Boards Support at (907) 465-4110.

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**For more information, visit the ADF&G web site:
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and click on management/research**

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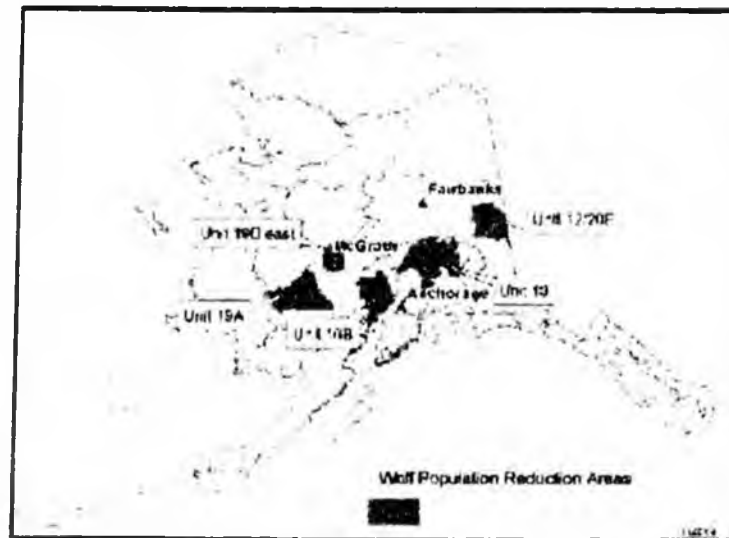
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Research and Management of Wolves in Alaska

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- ▶ Wolf Control
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- ▶ 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
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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:

- Eallard, W.B., J.S. Whitman, and D.J. Reed. 1991. Population dynamics of moose in southcentral Alaska. *Wildlife Monographs* 114: 1-49.
- Boertje R.D., P. Valkenburg, and M.E. McNay. 1996. Increases in moose, caribou, and wolves following wolf control in Alaska. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 60(3): 474-489.
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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 aurally 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 browse 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 [faithmm@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 cposing 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 [robysmith@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 [mongoieb@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