

RC 24

Dear Alaska Board of Game Members,

My name is Derek Alexander, my wife and I have been hunting in the Caribou Hills out of Caribou Lake since 1999. Around 2003 we bought land on the northeast end of the lake. This ground was quite expensive and owned by some locals but it was just what we were looking for, good access to hunting, right on the lake for float plane access. We hired a local person to skid out our material package we bought from Spenards the the next winter but not before we hired a local man with a exactor to pile, burn and bury the dead trees on our ground so we could get enough area for our horses we rent from local people to graze on. We used a local float plane to get the crew out to the lake to build this cabin and many more times since. I keep referring to the locals (meaning local economy) because we used to generate many thousands of dollars each year into the economy from, hotel rooms, restaurants, grocery shopping, souvenir stores, fuel (gasoline and propane) hardware stores, float plane trips (many more with moose hunting) horse rental, hunting licenses (moose are about 500.00) and any local guide services for big game. My wife and I alone without a guide service always spend locally in the neighborhood of 6,000.00 not including airfare from South Dakota where we are ranchers. This letter is not to complain of the amount of money were spending, rather to show non-resident (out-of-state) hunters and fishermen tend to spend a great amount of money in the local economy.

A few years ago the Alaska Board of Game decided to stop non-resident moose hunting in our area on the Kenai Peninsula due to a declining Moose population, deriving from predation. We all know it is not due to non-resident hunting pressure, this has been established now by the local people of the area. This situation is due to way to many predators such as wolves, black bears and brown bears. I have spent every year but one riding/hunting the Caribou Hills since 1999. Since then I have rode a minimum of 2,500 miles back and forth from Cytex Creek below Ptarmigan Head to Caribou Lake. I have not seen a decline in black bear or brown bear only a very large increase in both species. The last couple of years we have been hunting black bear only and have seen each year in 6 to 7 days riding at least 15 different brown bear from Cytex Creek to Caribou Lake, 3 times more than we ever have seen when we first started hunting the Caribou Hills.

I am asking the Board of Game to reinstate the non-resident moose hunting for the Caribou Hills, Kenai Peninsula area 15C as you are not implementing the predation hunting you said you were going to do to reduce predation. The Board of Game has implemented the 4 brow tine rule which has defiantly increased the bull to cow ratio as we have been seeing more bulls already just last year. We to have a large investment in Alaska. We also have spent large amounts in the economy locally, in Homer especially. The small amount of non-resident tags for 15C won't add up to enough added pressure on the moose population, it's the predators (wolves and both bear species) that need to be thinned out, not the non-residents.

Thank you for allowing me to contribute my thoughts and opinions with any decisions made on these very sensitive issues. Sincerely, Derek Alexander