

**ACR 6** – Renew Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area Intensive Management Program.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game

**CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.**

5 AAC 92.111(c). Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area.

**WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.** The regulation for the Intensive Management (IM) program to reduce wolves in the range of the Mulchatna caribou herd in Game Management Units 9B, 17B, 17C, 19A, and 19B is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2017. If this regulation is not renewed predator control activities will be suspended until the board renews the regulation. The next regularly scheduled meeting for Units 17B, 17C, and 9B, where control activities take place, will occur during the 2018 board cycle.

**WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?** We recommend that the board adopt a proposal to renew the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area IM program. The proposal will contain revised regulatory language that conforms with the department's protocol for IM programs.

**STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.**

**a) for a conservation purpose or reason:** The department is unaware of any conservation concerns that require immediate board action to address a biological emergency or a loss of hunting opportunity.

**b) to correct an error in regulation:** N/A

**c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:** This regulation was adopted before the board went to the new three-year meeting cycle. It was not anticipated that the regulation would expire on a date that is one year prior to the next regularly scheduled board meeting for Units 9B, 17B, and 17C, which represent a large portion of the geographical range of the Mulchatna caribou herd.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?** The Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area IM program is an important tool for managing wolf and caribou populations in the range of the Mulchatna caribou herd. If the regulation is not renewed, predator control activities designed to regulate wolf predation on Mulchatna herd caribou will not occur after the regulation expires and caribou mortality rates would be expected to increase. The Mulchatna caribou herd is an important population for producing high levels of caribou for human consumptive use and to help meet subsistence needs.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Game meeting for Region IV will be held in 2018, and any regulation passed during that meeting will not go into effect until July 1, 2018. Delaying the

consideration of this proposal until the 2018 meeting would suspend the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area IM program for one regulatory year. If this happens to coincide with adequate snow conditions for wolf harvest, this could be a setback in the success of this program.

**STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.** The benefits of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area IM program apply equally to all resource users who qualify to participate in hunting opportunities in the area.

**IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.** N/A

**STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.** This plan was initially authorized in March 2011 for Units 9B, 17B, and 17C and was modified in March 2012 to include Units 19A and 19B.