

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

333 RASPBERRY ROAD  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518

PHONE: (907) 267-2147  
FAX: (907) 267-2477

September 30, 2010

Mr. Dave Allen  
GAP Solutions, Inc.  
Unimak Caribou Herd Environmental Assessment  
PO Box 2026  
Pocatello, ID 83206-2026

Mr. Allen:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Department) reviewed the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) September 2010 scoping newsletter and request for comments and recommendations for a range of alternatives to address conservation of the Unimak Caribou Herd – an important resource utilized for subsistence and a necessary component of the natural wilderness character of the area. We appreciate the efforts of the Service and Gap Solutions, Inc. and value these productive relationships. The Department is responsible for sustainable management of all fish and wildlife in Alaska and these comments represent the consolidated input of the Department.

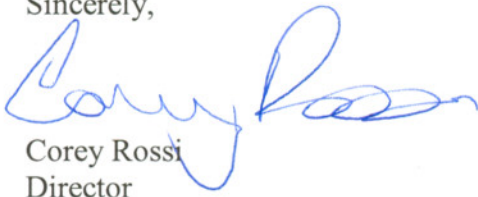
Radio tracking collars on Unimak Caribou Herd calves born in spring of 2010 indicate that the poor recruitment previously documented by the Department has not improved, with 12 of 14 collars found to be in ‘mortality mode’ as of August. Management action is urgently needed to reverse the chronic low calf recruitment and prevent extirpation of the herd.

Attached is the Department’s *Environmental Review: Unimak Caribou Herd Management Options*. Originally submitted to the Service on April 20, 2010, the Environmental Review provides detailed discussion and analysis regarding the decline of the Unimak Caribou Herd and the several management options considered by the Department to prevent its extirpation. We urge the Service to review these options and the information in this document and select an alternative consistent with the “targeted wolf removal – helicopter” option described in the Environmental Review.

We look forward to continued communication and cooperation throughout this process.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these comments at (907) 267-2147 or Brad Palach at (907) 267-2145.

Sincerely,



Corey Rossi  
Director