



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Central/Southwest

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October 11, 2016

An Agenda Change Request (ACR) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.111(c) Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area. This area includes Units 19A, 19B, 17B, 17C, and 9B.

With respect to the board's ACR acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- (A) The department is unaware of any conservation concerns that require immediate board action to address a biological concern or a loss of hunting opportunity.
- (B) The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- (C) The regulation in question was adopted prior to the board going to a 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 Game Management Units 17B, 17C, and 9B, which represent a large portion of the geographical range of the Mulchatna caribou herd.

The department recommends that the board accept this ACR. The Mulchatna caribou herd is an important population for producing high levels of caribou for human consumptive use and to help meet subsistence needs. If the program is not re-authorized in 2017, the program will be suspended for one year, which could interrupt progress towards the goals and objectives of this program.

The Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area Intensive Management (IM) program has been in place since March 2011. Even though this program has been relatively ineffective due to low snow winters that have limited wolf harvest under this program, the department recommends continuing this program because a single winter with good snow coverage would contribute to reducing wolf numbers to the IM objectives. Aerial control of wolves is used to supplement ground-based harvest in this IM program.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for Units 17B, 17C, and 9B will not occur until 2018, and the department does not want to lose this valuable tool for managing wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Dale".

Bruce Dale, Director

Division of Wildlife Conservation