

STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4190
FAX: (907) 465-6142

TO: Alaska Board of Game Members
THRU: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Boards Support
FROM: Dale Rabe, Deputy Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation
DATE: May 21, 2010
SUBJECT: Request to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Unit 10



The Alaska Department of Fish and Game requests the Alaska Board of Game (board) to adopt emergency regulations to extend the wolf hunting and trapping seasons on Unimak Island in Unit 10 through June 30. The current wolf hunting season in Unit 10 is August 10 - May 25 and the current wolf trapping season is November 10 - March 31.

This request is intended to address the continuing decline in caribou on Unimak Island and the impact that wolf predation is having on calf survival. The current population estimate for caribou on Unimak Island is approximately 400 caribou and the bull:cow ratio is 5:100. The department considers this an emergency because continued wolf mortality is expected to cause the population to decrease at approximately 15-20% per year if calf survival does not increase.

The department feels that additional harvest of wolves would benefit recovery of the caribou population. Wolf harvests on Unimak Island average 2 wolves annually from hunting and trapping combined. The department does not have any conservation concerns from overharvest of wolves, but will use Emergency Order authority to close the wolf hunting and trapping season on Unimak Island if the wolf population is reduced to program objectives.