



News Release

For Immediate Release: March 29, 2025

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Alaska Board of Game Adopts Emergency Regulations to Continue Predator Control to Benefit Mulchatna Caribou in Southwest Alaska

(Anchorage) – The Alaska Board of Game passed a motion to adopt emergency regulations to allow the Division of Wildlife Conservation to continue to conduct intensive management (IM) to benefit the Mulchatna caribou herd (MCH) in 2025. This action will reinstate both same-day-airborne (SDA) permittee wolf removal, and department-led bear and wolf removal efforts which are critical for the recovery of the herd. Growth in this herd and improved calf survival are strong evidence of the success of the department-led efforts that occurred in 2023 and 2024.

Under 5 AAC 96.625, an emergency is “an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a fish or game resource, or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future.”

“The Department of Fish and Game appreciates the Board of Game recognition of this emergency and decision to establish emergency regulations,” said Director Ryan Scott. “The board received extensive public testimony and written comment from a variety of viewpoints, as well as department data and information to consider while deliberating.”

“Under these regulations, the department will be able to take action to recover the Mulchatna caribou herd, so it can continue to be an important resource to the region and state.”

During its peak abundance in 1996 and 1997, this herd provided as many as 4,770 caribou for the subsistence needs of more than 48 local communities, as well as hunting opportunities for all Alaskans and nonresidents. Intensive management is a tool the department can use immediately to try to reverse the declining abundance trend and increase productivity to provide hunting opportunities.

The petition for emergency regulations can be found [here](#). Meeting information, including audio recordings is available here <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main>, and meeting materials are available here <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-21-2025&meeting=anchorage>.