

# *Isanotski Corporation*

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Corey Rossi  
Assistant Commissioner  
ADF&G  
333 Raspberry Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99518

Dear Mr. Rossi;

We are writing from False Pass, Unimak Island, the epicenter of the caribou population crash. Residents of False Pass are extremely concerned about the precipitous decline in caribou on the island because caribou have been an important part of our subsistence lifestyle for thousands of years. In years past it was possible to see caribou even near the community and hunting was always possible somewhere on the island. Now, we see no caribou at all and at the same time the number of wolves and bear appear to be at all-time highs. This winter we have often had wolves entering the village even during daylight hours because they are obviously very hungry. This is a safety problem for our residents.

Even though we are accustomed to having bears in the area, the large numbers coming into the community has forced us to change the way we move and visit around town. We know that both bears and wolves are an essential part of this natural environment, but we feel that their high numbers are contributing to the decline in caribou population as well as our personal insecurity in the village. Therefore, we would welcome ADF&G policies that would lower their numbers through hunting and trapping.

We note in Press Release No. 10-03 that the proposed wolf control which would help stop the caribou herd decline, would take place only on the western half of Unimak Island. From our perspective, this policy would do little or nothing about the high population of wolves and zero population of caribou on the eastern end of Unimak where we live. We feel that even if caribou numbers increase on the western end of the island that because of the high numbers of wolves on this end of the island, that we will not see caribou here for many years. Also, wolves are very intelligent and mobile and there is no reason to believe that wolves from our area would not move west to continue to decimate the caribou herd and hamper ADF&G's recovery efforts.

Therefore, we support ADF&G's efforts to control wolf numbers on Unimak to give the caribou herd a chance to recover. If we can help in any way, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Nancy Dushkin, President