

Alaska Board of Game Meeting
Jan. 11, 2025
Opposition to Proposal 75
Jake Davis's Public Testimony

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to comment on Proposal 75. My name is Jake Davis, I am an attorney, an outdoor recreationalist, and a Wasilla resident. I am here in my individual capacity and on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity.

As a result, I represent the interests of not only myself but 19,000 additional individuals, including Alaska residents and thousands of Lower 48ers who care deeply for this nation's wildlife, especially in and around our National Parks.

Like me, these 19,000 individuals resoundingly **OPPOSE** Proposal 75.

Proposal 75, as we know, would allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to indiscriminately slaughter Alaska's wolves and other predators via aerial gunning.

As if this cowardly practice were not inhumane enough on its own merits, the proposal would allow this to occur on the doorstep of not one . . . **but two** of America's most treasured national parks.

Proposal 75 would allow up to 80% of wolves and black bears to be slaughtered irrespective of pack dynamic or established territories within Game Management Unit 16.

More absurdly, we have no idea how many brown bears will be targeted. That number could be as high as 60% of their population but likely more. The reason I qualify my percentile with, "likely more" is because the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no idea how many brown bears, let alone wolves and black bears, are on these 20,000 acres, which again, are adjacent to Denali and Lake Clark National Park.

Aerial gunning is a shameful wildlife management tool; it is indiscriminate, unethical, and to say it again, a cowardly practice that involves gunners using airplanes or helicopters to chase and shoot these magnificent animals.

There are high financial costs to this activity that could be applied elsewhere, and it can cause significant stress and lead to displacement of nontarget animals from their natural territories.

Most importantly, the unmitigated slaughter contemplated by Proposal 75 is unsupported by science, which shows that there are many other threats to caribou and moose populations like climate change, disease, limited food, and overhunting.

Past mass killings of native carnivores carried out by the Department in the name of "predator control" have **not** led to an increase in moose and caribou numbers. The best and most recent example being the Mulchatna herd management efforts.

In nature, nothing exists alone.

If the Department begins slaughtering these carnivores as proposed, the greater Denali and Lake Clark ecosystems will suffer immensely from their loss. Ecosystems could collapse. Biological diversity will collapse for a time being.

This would not only be an Alaskan tragedy, it would be a national tragedy, but one where Alaska is holding the literal smoking gun.

These killings, and the ecological harms that will cascade from them, will rob millions of people of the full benefit of the wild, natural character of our protected **and cherished** wild places.

Proposal 75 is morally and scientifically **indefensible**. The Board cannot allow the Department to engage in a cruel mass slaughter of wolves, brown bears, and black bears.

I, along with literally tens of thousands of other individuals, urge you to reject Proposal 75.

Thank you again.