

Opposition to RC009

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Game:

I am writing to strongly oppose the Department's request for "emergency" regulations to reinstate the Mulchatna Predator Control program. I submit these comments as a tourist who loves visiting wild places in Alaska, and I care deeply about conserving its wilderness for future generations. Alaska's iconic wildlife, including healthy bear populations, is a major draw that inspires people like me to spend time and resources in your state.

A court recently ruled that this program was unlawful—primarily because the public was not given a fair opportunity to comment, and the State failed to evaluate how bear populations would be impacted. Nothing has changed since that decision. The Department has not produced any credible, new information showing that killing more bears will meaningfully boost the Mulchatna caribou herd, nor has it provided population data or an in-depth analysis of potential ecological fallout.

Calling this an "emergency" appears to be a way to circumvent the court's ruling rather than address the serious flaws identified in it. This move undermines public trust in Alaska's wildlife management process. I am also concerned by the lack of meaningful notice for this proposal—this deprives the public (including non-residents) of a fair opportunity to study and comment on such a significant decision.

Caribou herds face multiple stressors, from habitat quality to climate changes and disease. Oversimplifying these challenges by placing sole blame on bears risks damaging the overall ecosystem balance. I urge you to respect the court's ruling, uphold the principle of public participation, and focus instead on long-term, science-driven strategies that sustain Alaska's wildlife for residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for considering my perspective, and please reject this rushed and legally questionable predator control plan.

Sincerely,

Andy Hope

UK

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