

Comments on RC009 "Emergency Regulation"

I am strongly OPPOSED to RC009, the supposed emergency regulation for intensive management of bears in the Mulchatna caribou herd. This has already been struck down by the courts. This is NO EMERGENCY! Nothing has changed (or publicly made available) on the issue since the ruling was made. The State has provided no data on the current bear population after 2 years of "management". I find no new information on the biology of the herd or the bears and no new information on habitat and carrying capacity.

I am not a biologist, but I am a hunter who hunted the Alaska Peninsula herd in the late 70's and early 80s. If my memory is correct, that herd merged with the small Mulchatna herd sometime in the 90s. The natural result was a near non-existent Alaska Peninsula herd and a 200,000+ population Mulchatna herd in the old Mulchatna habitat. I attempted to hunt the new Mulchatna herd after and found the habitat totally destroyed by the larger population. The habitat was over-populated by caribou until lack of food and disease mostly wiped out the herd, in my opinion.

Your efforts to control predators in the area in an effort to bring the caribou herd up to a sustainable population for hunting is ill advised. I have seen no data whatsoever on the bear population and what the population area comprises. As a long time Alaska resident, I suspect the bear population you are "managing" includes bears from McNeill River and Katmai NP. I find this ridiculous.

Also, the fact that public notice was so lacking and on such short notice reeks of a pre-determined agenda. ADF&G should be ashamed.