

This is for record RC009. I have indicated before that I support IM Management and people in my community support it as well with our City Council sending a letter of support.

We had a proposal that went through the usual process we always do, which was available for public viewing online, which went to Advisory Committees (AC) who have a person from each community in the area and was passed by Board of Game. Even other native Alaskan's supported our regions decision for asking State of Alaska to do a IM management by passing the proposal at AFN which is broadcast statewide.

The fact that outside people are bringing a lawsuit when they don't live, hunt, fish in our regions and don't know village life or our subsistence way of life while trying to stop our agreement for a three year IM management (with a possible up to five years) are people who are privileged and can afford all their food from stores or probably all have running water in their households. None of the wages in villages can really cover the cost of living and many people miss eating caribou which many in my generation are used to eating. Those generations want to teach the next generation how to hunt and preserve caribou, to taste it whether by cooking, drying or raw. The fact that Kuskokwim River is restricted on salmon fishing due to ocean factors means having caribou available will help communities who live along it when Mulchatna Caribou get back to a sustainable level.

What other process do we have for the public than the way we have for years? We put in proposals and they get approved or not approved. Do not give into pressure from these outside sources. By all indications our brown bears and wolves populations are healthy, (brown bear probably too healthy and they will likely start eating each other if they keep having three to four cubs per sow which people in our area have observed).

I ask that you support this petition and continue with IM management as agreed on with previous proposal. You may not hear much from our region at this time but many people I have talked to agreed with IM management at this time because they see caribou calves survival rate improved. There will be an uproar when people realize it changed from what was passed from before.

I have lived in this region my whole life and our bear population is not in jeopardy, in fact we've seen it higher than we've ever seen it. I would even suggest that Alaska Department of Fish and game do IM management on east side of the herd and not only calving grounds to get bear populations under better control instead of getting overpopulated. So the Mulchatna Caribou herd can recover to their previous numbers even faster.

This petition I agree with, but because it is a petition and not a proposal, not many in my region will get a chance to show their support. Many would already assume that the third year of IM management will be happening. Please pass this, and please have the judge hear testimony from people in my region if the judge still disagrees with Advisory Committees, Board of Game, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game in IM management that was already passed and discussed to an extent three years ago.