

Public Comment on Proposal for Intensive Management of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd –**Strong opposition**

I strongly oppose the lethal removal of bears and other predators as outlined in this proposal. There is no sound scientific evidence showing that killing these predators will meaningfully improve caribou population numbers. Caribou declines have been linked to disease, habitat changes, and climate-related factors—not just predation—and predators actually play an important ecological role in keeping herds healthy by removing sick and weak animals.

It is both selfish and inhumane for humans to try to artificially boost caribou numbers solely for the purpose of hunting. These bears and other predators are a vital part of Alaska's natural heritage. Beyond their ecological role, they also attract tourists and photographers who contribute significantly to local economies by traveling to see and appreciate these iconic animals in the wild.

Managing wildlife by simply removing what we see as “competition” ignores science, ethics, and the complex balance of natural systems. I urge the Board not to approve this proposal and instead invest in real, science-based solutions to support the Mulchatna Caribou Herd without resorting to predator killing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nikole Erickson