

Dear Board of Game Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to Proposal 1, which would allow for the removal of black and brown bears by ADF&G staff as part of the IM plan for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

I am a lifelong Alaskan and my family depends on subsistence harvest each year. I support sustainable wildlife management that considers all user groups — subsistence and sport hunters, as well as those who value wildlife for viewing and tourism. Public participation is a hallmark in the development of fish and wildlife regulation in our state. ADF&G's proposal (and efforts leading up to it), however, ignores the broader public interest.

A large group of experienced Alaskan wildlife scientists and managers—now retired and free to speak openly—have publicly stated that there is “weak scientific support for the Mulchatna predator control action.” Habitat change, disease, nutritional stress, weather, and illegal harvest all play significant roles and cannot be resolved through predator removal.

The goal of maintaining a population of 30,000 to 80,000 caribou also appears unrealistic considering the herd's long history of fluctuation. Removing bears is unlikely to significantly aid in caribou recovery, especially while other major limiting factors remain unaddressed.

Please do not pass Proposal 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah Behr
Central Advisory Committee Member