

Comments BoG; Barry Santana, Pedro Bay, Alaska:

I am strongly OPPOSED to this action. I have observed and hunted caribou in this area since 1975. In the early 1990s, much of the very large Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (in the neighborhood of 100,000 animals then) merged with the Mulchatna herd. The habitat was grossly over-grazed and trampled. The result was disease and a considerable die-off. Coupled with over hunting, both legal and illegal since, the herd was reduced to a few tens of thousands of animals is the result. Retired ADF&G biologists have consistently supported the lack of food and disease as the reason for the decline, yet ADF&G management (and probably Dunleavy) continues to push "intensive management" with no scientific basis. In fact, they also appear to have no idea of how many bears frequent the area.

Show us the data and a publicly present a plan to justify this illegal action. The plan should have references to corroborated data on the relevance to bear/caribou predation in the area with specific locations identified. The plan should also contain a mechanism where data collection on annual bear population relative to caribou herd population and location is collected to confirm the effects of this action on success or failure of the action prior to implementation. This information should be peer reviewed and made public annually. No action should be taken prior to publishing this plan.