

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the unprecedented killing of brown bears in the Mulchatna region. The current practice of culling bears via helicopter gunning is not only ethically questionable but also lacks scientific justification.

While Commissioner Vincent-Lang and Director Scott claim these killings are necessary for the Mulchatna caribou herd's recovery, they have failed to provide any scientific evidence supporting this assertion. In fact, according to Sterling Miller, a retired Alaska Department of Fish and Game bear biologist with extensive research experience in the region, there is no data suggesting that bears are limiting the caribou herd's growth.

The scale of this operation is alarming: approximately 200 brown bears have been killed over the past two years alone. As Dr. Miller notes, this culling operation is unprecedented globally, yet remarkably, minimal data is being collected to study its impacts or justify its necessity.

This situation is particularly concerning given the historical decline of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states, where populations dropped from an estimated 50,000 to fewer than 2,000 today. We cannot afford to further decimate these magnificent creatures without solid scientific evidence supporting such drastic measures. We cannot afford to further decimate these magnificent creatures without solid scientific evidence supporting such drastic measures.

I urge you to:

1. Immediately halt the bear culling program
2. Conduct a comprehensive scientific study on bear-caribou interactions
3. Develop evidence-based wildlife management strategies
4. Implement more humane wildlife management practices

Our wildlife management decisions must be based on sound science, not speculation. We have a responsibility to protect and preserve our wildlife for future generations.

Sincerely,

Zao