

Board of Game testimony July 10, 2025

Chairman Fletcher and members of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to offer my opinion on the Mulchatna Caribou Intensive Management Plan, I am in strong support of this program continuing for the following reason.

This plan was first brought to the Board in 2011 to initially address impacts of wolf predation on the herd's survival. Soon after implementation of wolf removal, predation evidence showed bears were also a limiting factor on the herd's ability to increase. After two years of reducing the number of bears on the calving grounds the calf to cow ratio increased from 25 calves per 100 cows to 52/100. An undisputed fact is that bears were a primary cause of low calf recruitment.

Anti-hunting groups survive by sounding a highly emotional alert that this effort to rebuild the Mulchatna Herd is not based in science and is not necessary to provide the basic subsistence needs for local residents. Nothing could be farer from the truth. Another unfortunate outcome during this process is the fact that the judge halted the program and ruled a public meeting was required because she clearly failed to understand the requirements of an emergency regulation. Had she understood the process, the Board would not have had to hold this meeting and this summer's efforts would not have been lost. This delay will likely result in more bears being removed next spring and additional years of removal to accomplish the population and harvest objectives.