

I am writing to state my opposition to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (SDFG) Proposal that would allow the agency to continue and expand its aerial shooting of bears program, supposedly to benefit the struggling Mulchatna Caribou herd, by expanding their bear slaughter to an expanded 40 thousand square-mile area.

There is no science to support the notion that bears are limiting the Mulchatna herd growth. There are other issues that have caused that—among them the highly contagious brucellosis, insufficient browse, and an overall failure of the herd to thrive.

There needs to be more recent studies done on this issue, since ADFG's freshest data for bear density in that region is 20 years old. It is outdated and therefore, useless, and should be disregarded.

It should be noted that the area where the bears would potentially be massacred is within bear-walking distance of Alaska's most iconic bear viewing areas that are worth millions of dollars to the ever-expanding bear viewing industries. This will impact tourism and many of the offshoot industries that have thrived because of the bear-viewing industries.

Shooting bears to expand the failing Mulchatna Caribou herd will cause

Alaska to not only kill bears, but it may kill it's own much needed tourism revenue and bear-viewing industries as well.

Please don't allow this disastrous expansion of the previous illegal killing of bears program by helicopter, which began two years ago and has killed over two hundred bears.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comment.

Laraine Diaz