



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ALASKA CHAPTER

2627 Ingra Street
Anchorage, AK 99508

7 January 2014

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a professional society founded in 1971. With over 200 members, the Alaska Chapter is one of the largest chapters of The Wildlife Society, an international organization representing wildlife biologists and managers employed by state, federal, and borough resource agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental conservation organizations, and private industry. Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve biological diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources in Alaska for the benefit of society.

Mr. Bill Stoltz, Chairman
House Fish and Game Finance Subcommittee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK

Dear Mr. Stoltz:

Intensive management (IM) of Alaska's moose, caribou, and deer (i.e. ungulates) is required by a 1994 state statute. IM is often controversial because it typically involves predator reduction as a means to enhance ungulate populations. As an organization of wildlife professionals, the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society has an interest in implementation of the IM statute. We recognize that reduction of predator density is a tool that wildlife managers can use to enhance ungulate populations and harvest. We also recognize that IM, while mandated by law, must be scientifically based and professionally implemented to be effective and credible with the public.

I would like to share our organization's position on IM with you and others on the Fish and Game Finance Subcommittee. I have enclosed a copy of our position statement for your review. There are several points that we feel are especially relevant for members of the Committee.

- **Intensive management programs require a substantial investment of ADF&G funds and personnel.** Based on documents available on ADF&G's intensive management web page (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=intensivemanagement.main>), IM programs can require up to one-third of the operations and salary budgets of the Division of Wildlife Conservation in some regions.
- **Intensive management programs are typically long-term efforts.** Achieving ungulate population and harvest objectives under an IM program may require several years. Therefore, when a program is implemented, it is important that resources be available to see it through to completion.

- **Implementation of IM should follow the protocol outlined by ADF&G.** ADF&G has written an IM protocol that provides for a science-based framework for implementation of IM programs. When followed, the protocol allows wildlife managers and the public to assess whether an IM program is warranted, evaluate its efficacy, and determine whether it should be retained, modified, or suspended. However, this requires careful monitoring of ungulate populations and habitats.

We respect the Board of Game's authority to implement IM programs. However, we are concerned that without adequate funding, the high operational costs for IM can limit availability of resources for other wildlife programs within ADF&G. This is a particular concern given that once an IM program is implemented, it will likely be ongoing for multiple years. Also, we believe that adequate funding is important to support science-based monitoring and evaluation of a program's efficacy.

As you consider the upcoming budget for the ADF&G's IM programs, and constituent requests for additional predator control efforts, we hope you will keep these considerations in mind. We do not oppose IM, but neither do we believe it should occur at the expense of other necessary programs within ADF&G.

We welcome the opportunity to more fully discuss our position and recommendations on IM. We are also available to provide an unbiased, professional view regarding other wildlife-related issues the Legislature may consider.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerry Hupp, President
Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society
TWSAlaska@gmail.com

Copies to:

Representative Austerman
Representative Olson
Representative Kerttula

Representative Hughes
Representative Seaton
Representative Tuck