

**Alaska Board of Game
2005-158-BOG
A Resolution in Support of a Public Education Program on Predator
Control**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution and the Alaska Statutes mandate the Board of Game to manage wildlife for maximum use and sustained yield of game populations. The Board has developed Intensive Management Programs for several Game Management Units, and

WHEREAS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game is actively implementing these plans and predator control programs are ongoing, and

WHEREAS, these programs are in place to increase moose and caribou populations that are identified as an important subsistence resource for Alaskans as food, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Game constantly hears pleas from villages and other rural people who depend on wild game for food to restore those populations that are important for their subsistence, and

WHEREAS, opposition to these actions from some interest groups makes it difficult for Alaskans to obtain objective and accurate information about the programs, and

WHEREAS, the lack of objective and accurate information ultimately results in additional work for the State of Alaska with attendant high staff costs, and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska often reacts to negative public information presented in the media instead of having a proactive program, and

WHEREAS, groups who oppose predator control efforts commonly portray the management actions as providing added opportunity for urban sport hunters, and

WHEREAS, Board of Game findings clearly show that the predator control programs are designed primarily to support Alaskans who depend on wild ungulates for food and providing Amounts Necessary for Subsistence, and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has produced significant amounts of information to the Court system during court trials, answered the charges against the Department and the programs, and PREVAILED to date, and

WHEREAS, even cursory examination of the thousands of written comments received by the Board of Game at this meeting clearly shows that much of their information is inaccurate and anger is misdirected, and

WHEREAS, the ADF&G has educators and information specialists on staff, these staff are involved with other projects, and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alaska has charged the Board of Game and ADF&G to be more proactive in informing the public, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Game itself has no staff or budget to implement such a project but is willing to support and assist the ADF&G,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Game members request the Alaska State Legislature for funding for a formal, proactive public information program on predator control, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ADF&G should consider a proactive public information program a priority, and should direct budget and staff developing said program, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ADF&G should work with the Board of Game and Advisory Committees, plus Native and other organizations to develop such a program, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Board of Game members will seek opportunities to address various groups of Alaskans about the goals for Intensive Management and predator control programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY the Alaska Board of Game on this 13th day of March, 2005.

Mike Fleagle, Chair