

On the whole, I don't believe that humans do a good job of managing other species of animals or plants. Too often our understanding of the big picture, especially the details of how our environment works, is superficial, faulty and incomplete. I suspect that it would be superficial, faulty and incomplete to assume that reducing wolf populations would increase ungulate populations, or be without other harmful consequences.

Let's manage ourselves. Let's manage the way we use the land, and ensure that untouched wilderness abounds, without road or cutline access. Let's improve our interactions with wildlife so that we don't harrass animals through our recreational and commercial use of their habitat, especially at vulnerable times in the winter and spring.

Wolf kill programs appear to be very expensive. Perhaps money has been spent on them to the detriment of collecting information about the Yukon environment and the interconnections between species, both animal and plant. Without a deeper understanding of what we currently have in the Yukon, we are more likely to make premature and poor decisions about how to keep our wilderness flourishing. I support gathering more information before decisions are made to kill or "control" wolves.

Wolves themselves have a deep intrinsic value to me. Killing them requires substantive justification and good science. I don't think we have either of those things at this time. The goal of any wildlife plan needs to be to obtain good strong information and to share it with the public in accessible ways. Only then can we approach the topic of whether we need to, or should, intervene.

Good luck with your deliberations.

Yours truly,

Alison Reid