

To: Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Review Committee  
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From: Don Lind / MacMillan River Adventures  
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Please include my comments for consideration by the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Review Committee.

Sincerely,

Don Lind

I strongly believe that changes need to be made to the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to ensure that effective management practises are implemented to control wolf populations. Management practises need to be immediate and effective to avoid a potential “crisis management” situation where we’re dealing with a predator overpopulation situations a couple years after the fact when ungulate numbers are below acceptable levels.

Mother Nature’s process of overpopulation control by malnutrition and starvation should not be relied on to control predator numbers when so much effort and expensive is put into ungulate management practises. I suggest that predators kill more moose and caribou in the Yukon than all hunters combined and the predators observe no bag limits or seasons. Proper ungulate management MUST include an EFFECTIVE predator management plan. When predator numbers exceed that which is sustainable by the local ungulate population the predators move into communities (as has been seen recently) and resident safety becomes an issue.

There have been several suggestions made that should be seriously considered:

Trapping incentives: This is a good proposal to get trappers back onto some lines and to assist those that are actively working their lines. It’s unfortunate that the trapping industry may need to be “subsidized” but that’s just a fact with the current market situation. Some methods to control abuse of the incentive would have to be implemented to avoid “non-resident” wolves from getting into the program. The incentive would also not be as effective in some of the more remote locations of the Territory where access is very restrictive.

Season & bag limits: More liberal seasons and bag limits should be considered. Have the hunting season open to coincide with any big game season, including spring bear. Allow hunters (resident and non-resident) an open ended bag limit.

Aircraft supported hunting: A controversial issue that needs consideration. Other controversial management tools, including baiting and hunting with dogs, have proven to be the only effective management tool to harvest specific species in other areas. Elimination of such management practises in some localities has caused uncontrolled population outbursts and has increased monetary losses and safety concerns to residents. Although controversial, obviously effective; point being that some management decisions will not be well accepted by the community as a whole, but are the best decision for species being managed.

Wolf management practises in jurisdictions outside the Yukon (NOT only Alaska) are using this as the only somewhat effective tool in controlling increasing wolf and other predator populations to sustain or protect ungulate populations. This would likely be the only effective tool in many of the remote locations of the Territory. Any such program should include private individual and those with vested interests in a particular area, and would need to be well monitored by game management personnel.

The goal of a good wolf management plan is not to eliminate wolves but to implement an effective way to control the population for the good of the species and all the other species of the ecosystem.