

To whom it may concern.

I operate a fly in fishing lodge in the summer, guide hunters in the fall and trap each winter. I have been operating for over 25 years now and spend an average of six months each year out on the land. In the southeast Yukon where I operate, we have a serious predator problem that includes both wolves and bears. I have seen the moose population in the Toobally Lakes area drop significantly over the last 20 years.

I am here in Alberta right now doing some sports shows promoting our business and the Yukon, and have been talking with wildlife managers here over the last few days. They have instituted a wolf incentive program where hunters/trappers can collect up to \$300.00 for each wolf harvested. They are quite pleased with the results, they say they are getting the predator problem under control and really helping calf recruitment rates. I think this is something the Yukon should consider. Groups like FNAWs, Yukon outfitters and Yukon Fish/Game should all pony up some money each year to sustain it. A program like this will only work if its on-going and I would only support one that was to continue.

I would like to add one more observation. My home is in Tagish, and while I am not there much in the summer I am there each spring. I was surprised to read the articles in the Yukon news the new "bear biologist" had about the declining grizzly population in the southern lakes area. I have lived there for almost 30 years now and the grizzly population is at an all time high. As an example last spring from the Tagish bridge to Jakes corner (21 km stretch) I and many others saw 3 different sows with cubs many times. When I returned home last fall my fields looked like a roto-tiller had gone through it, where the bears were digging. Tagish residents are seeing more bears than ever before. The southern lakes caribou herd is not increasing because of the predator problem.

I would like to thank all members of this board for their time, its nice to know some people care what Yukoner's think.

David O'Farrell