



For Immediate Release

March 19, 2009

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Alaska At It Again

...with a vengeance!

Early this week, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) only gave a few hours notice to the National Park Service at Yukon-Charley Preserve before starting a wolf killing spree in the Upper Yukon/Tanana area of Alaska. Wolf packs that run in and outside of the Preserve boundaries and have been part of a decade long study of predator/prey relationships could be killed. This is the second time that the ADFG has used helicopters, which are more efficient and thus more deadly, to kill wolves as part of the states' wolf kill game management program.

The goal in this game management unit, which is up against the Yukon-Charley Preserve and includes the Forty Mile caribou herd, is to kill 300 of the estimated 400 wolves in the area. Over 58 wolves were killed as of Wednesday, March 18. Unfortunately, the number of wolves living in this area may be substantially lower than 400 due to inaccurate counting and a reliance on anecdotal information from hunters to produce the numbers used to guide the wolf kill program. Conservation groups filed a request for an immediate halt to the program on March 18, claiming that the use of helicopters in the Upper Yukon/Tanana area is illegal according the Alaska Board of Game's own laws and regulations. Clearly, the state of Alaska's ADFG, which is ruled by the governor appointed Board of Game, continues to ignore available science concerning predator/prey relationships, and operates without concern for the effects of such a high rate of wolf removal on the wildlife ecology of the area.

The PAW (Protect America's Wildlife) Act, (HR 3663) introduced to Congress by California Representative George Miller [CA-7] in 2007, closed the loophole allowing aerial hunting of wolves for any reason in Alaska. Unfortunately, with the change in Administration, and thus Congress, since there was no action on the bill, the PAW Act is now dead.

In the past, we have urged those of you who want to see aerial hunting of wolves in Alaska stopped to let your representatives know that they should have supported the PAW Act while it was in session. Now that it is no longer being considered in Congress at this time, we suggest you urge your representatives to resurrect and support a new PAW Act, and also that you write directly to Governor Palin in Alaska and let her know how you feel about the wolf killing occurring in her state.

Governor Palin
Alaska State Capitol Building
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P.O. Box 110001
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Bill McAllister, the Governor's Communications Director and Press Secretary. Mr. McAllister can be reached by phone at 907-269-7450 or by fax at 907-269-7461.

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Wolf Haven Intl. has been working for wolf conservation around the Northwest and throughout the world since 1982. In addition to providing sanctuary for captive-born wolves, Wolf Haven educates over 30,000 visitors each year on the role of the wolf in the wild. Wolf Haven offers educational guided walking tours of its wolf sanctuary in Tenino Washington as well as off-site presentations to schools, community groups, and professional organizations.

For more information on Wolf Haven International or pictures to accompany this press release, please contact:
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