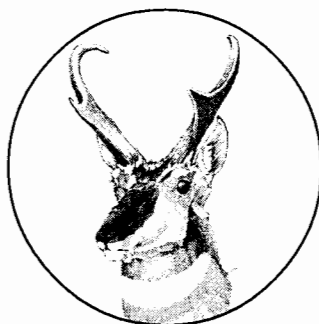


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4 August 2006

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Murkowski:

The American Society of Mammalogists is a nonprofit, professional, scientific and educational society consisting of nearly 4,000 members from the United States, including members from Alaska, and 60 other countries worldwide. The American Society of Mammalogists was founded in 1919 and is the world's oldest and largest organization devoted to the study of mammals. We strongly support the conservation and responsible use of wild mammals based on current, sound, and accurate scientific knowledge. We have a long history of adopting positions on issues concerning the responsible management of mammals and their habitats based on our scientific expertise.

The American Society of Mammalogists remains concerned with the potential mismanagement of large mammalian carnivores and their ungulate prey in Alaska. Neither the recent letter from Mr. Ron Somerville (5 September 2005), a member of the Board of Game, nor that from Mr. Matt Robus (3 January 2006), Director of the Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation, adequately addressed our concerns. Management of large mammals, especially predator control, cannot be considered sound or wise in the absence of adequate data. Alaska's current harvest guidelines are based on historical population estimates that almost certainly are inaccurate. Harvest goals should be based on reliable current data on populations and the carrying capacities of their habitats and not on potentially inappropriate historical population estimates.

Consequently, at our 86th annual meeting, held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, from 16 to 21 June 2006, the membership, with >500 members in attendance, approved a resolution (attached) on the Harvest of Wolves in Alaska with no dissenting votes. The

resolution will be published in the December 2006 issue of the *Journal of Mammalogy*.

The American Society of Mammalogists strongly encourages the State of Alaska to actively gather data necessary to engage in management practices that will result in sustained populations of large mammals, including both predators and their prey.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert M. Timm', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Robert M. Timm, President
American Society of Mammalogists

Enclosure: