



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Alaska State Office
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7504
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>



In Reply Refer To:
6800 (AK-931) P

March 28, 2008

Instruction Memorandum No. AK-2008-019
Expires: 09/30/08

To: District and Field Managers, DSDs, AFS Manager, SAIC and Rangers

From: State Director, Alaska

Subject: BLM-Alaska policy regarding Predator Control by the State of Alaska

The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to update IM Number AK 2006-46, and clarify the Bureau of Land Management Alaska (BLM-AK) position on state activities related to predator control. All field office personnel are to be reminded of our position immediately: Unless predator control activities conflict with on-going or anticipated BLM authorized actions, land use plan decisions for a given area, or create a threat to public safety, the BLM's position on the State's predator control program is: Predator control is a State function.

The Alaska Board of Game has directed the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to perform predator control activities in a number of game units since 2003. While the program primarily targets wolves, both brown and black bear may be included in the control program, as directed by the Board.

When the Board of Game determines that regulatory methods of take, such as trapping, are not meeting game management population objectives, predator control programs may be initiated. These programs use a controlled permit system that allows aerial or same day airborne methods to remove wolves in designated areas. The on-going and proposed areas for control may include land belonging to the State, State tentatively approved for conveyance, State-selected, public, private, or interim conveyed Native corporation owned and Native allotments. Using the permit system, Alaska is in compliance with the provisions of the Airborne Hunting Act. The State must document to whom the permits are issued, the type and registration of the aircraft involved in the permit program, numbers of predators taken, and location of kill.

The BLM-Alaska State Office will work with the State's Authorizing Officer and will meet as appropriate to mutually discuss control methods, objectives, timing and to share any potential areas of concern or conflict with the program. If during the review meeting it is determined by the local

BLM Field Manager or the affected BLM District Manager that the State's activities may pose a threat to public safety or create a management conflict, a response will be coordinated at the BLM-Alaska State Office level.

It is likely that the Board of Game may be questioned by various interest groups and the general public concerning the State's predator control policy. Those questions as they relate to BLM-Alaska policy should be answered following the guidance outlined above. The point of contact for BLM-Alaska policy questions posed as they relate to the scope of this BLM guidance should be referred to Ramone McCoy, Ph.D., BLM-Alaska State Wildlife Biologist (907) 271-3128.

Signed by:
Thomas P. Lonnie
State Director

Authenticated by:
Maria Rivero-Folmar
Records Specialist