



## Oppose Attacks on the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge Rule

### Prevent the Extreme Killing of Native Carnivores on our Public Lands

The state of Alaska has adopted an intensive “predator control” policy designed to dramatically suppress wolves, bears and other native carnivores in order to artificially inflate game populations. This aggressive, scientifically indefensible program authorizes extreme non-subsistence hunting practices for these iconic carnivores, including trapping, baiting, aerial gunning, killing at den sites, and killing mothers and young. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has proposed a rule to prevent the application of these targeted killing methods on national wildlife refuges in Alaska. The new rule will help protect native carnivores on these public lands and ensure that our national wildlife refuges are managed in accordance with bedrock federal laws to conserve species and habitats in their natural diversity.



### Congressional Attacks on the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge Rule

The Alaska delegation aims to block the rule by attaching riders to legislation moving through Congress. H.R. 2406, the so-called “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act,” already passed the House with provisions that bar finalization of FWS’s rule and withdraw the National Park Service’s (NPS) authority to implement similar protections for iconic carnivores on Alaska national preserves. S. 659, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee version of the “Bipartisan Sportsmen’s Act of 2016,” also includes provisions that would stop the rule from moving forward. In addition, versions of the rider have been added to Interior appropriations bills in both chambers.

### The Rule Prohibits Alaska’s Aggressive “Predator Control” Policy on Our National Wildlife Refuges

The state’s intensive wildlife management policy seeks to increase prey populations, such as moose, caribou and deer, through the targeted killing of wolves, bears and other predators. Over the past 10-15 years, Alaska has substantially expanded its extreme predator control measures statewide and would apply them on 13 of our nation’s 16 refuges in the state, if allowed by FWS. These practices fly in the face of science-based management, throwing ecosystems off balance and impacting wildlife throughout the region. FWS’s proposed rule will protect native wildlife by prohibiting predator control on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges unless it is determined necessary to meet the purpose of a specific refuge.

### The Rule Bars Extreme Killing Methods that Target Iconic Carnivores

The proposed rule will enforce federal policy on public lands in Alaska. It does not apply to federally qualified subsistence users in any way. It promotes wildlife conservation by barring the following aggressive hunting practices on national wildlife refuges across the state:

- Killing wolves, coyotes and their pups during the spring and summer “denning” season
- Shooting mother bears and their cubs
- Trapping and snaring brown bears and black bears
- Baiting brown bears
- Aerial gunning of bears by state agency personnel
- Using aircraft to track bears and kill them the same day

## The Rule Upholds Bedrock Federal Laws on Our Public Lands



Implementation of predator control practices on national wildlife refuges would contradict fundamental federal laws guiding protection of our public lands. The proposed rule maintains the integrity of these cornerstone statutes and carries out congressionally mandated direction for managing refuges and wilderness areas.

- As required by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the rule ensures that national wildlife refuges in Alaska conserve species and habitats in their natural diversity. ANILCA also prioritizes conservation of bears and wolves on more than half of the refuges in the state.
- The rule complies with the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, which mandates that FWS maintain the biological integrity, diversity and environmental health of the Refuge System for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.
- With more than 18 million acres of wilderness designated in Alaska national wildlife refuges, the rule upholds the wildlands values embraced and protected by the Wilderness Act.

## The National Park Service has Already Adopted a Similar Rule on Alaska National Preserves

NPS recently finalized new regulations to prohibit the same state predator control policy on national preserves in Alaska. NPS only allows sport hunting practices that do not conflict with national park purposes and policies, as required by Congress. Alaska's intensive management approach targeting bears, wolves, coyotes and other wildlife directly conflicts with NPS's federal mandates to preserve nature in an unimpaired state.

*The National Wildlife Refuge System and National Park System were created to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. These lands include nationally renowned refuges and parks in Alaska, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Denali National Park and Preserve, which provide pristine habitat for every native carnivore in the state, as well as the prey species that populate the landscape.*

