

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2023

Source

HJR 10

**Legislative
Resolve No.**

5



Disapproving the proposed rule by the National Park Service limiting non-subsistence hunting methods; and urging the National Park Service to withdraw the rule.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the United States Supreme Court has long interpreted the United States Constitution to provide state primacy in wildlife management; and

WHEREAS art. VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska, provides for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife, including the maintenance of healthy predator populations; and

WHEREAS federal law recognizes the state's authority to manage wildlife, including the Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

WHEREAS the state has managed wildlife on both state and federal land in Alaska since the United States Department of the Interior granted the state management authority in 1959; and

WHEREAS the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act established each of the national preserves in the state as National Park Service land that would remain open to hunting and trapping under state management; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service proposed a rule to amend its regulations for non-subsistence hunting and trapping in national preserves that would prohibit certain hunting practices that have been approved by the Alaska Board of Game following a public process with significant input from biologists, local residents, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, ignoring the state's objection, the National Park Service has labeled certain hunting practices as predator control or predator reduction actions and has prohibited that predator control or predator reduction in national preserves; and

WHEREAS, as a result, the ability of state residents to hunt bears, wolves, and even caribou is limited, without biological basis and with contrary evidence from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which shows that those practices do not pose conservation, public safety, or public administration concerns; and

WHEREAS the proposed National Park Service rule would limit the ability of state residents to engage in traditional hunting practices; and

WHEREAS the proposed National Park Service rule is contrary to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and the Alaska Statehood Act; and

WHEREAS the proposed National Park Service rule is an overreach of federal authority and would inappropriately limit the state's authority to manage wildlife on national preserves;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature disapproves of the proposed National Park Service rule; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the National Park Service to withdraw the proposed rule without adoption and to affirm the mandates within its 2020 national preserves rule in any new rule that is prepared in response to court order; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is the policy of the Alaska State Legislature until it is withdrawn or modified by another resolution.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Charles F. Sams III, Director, National Park Service; and the Honorable Lisa

Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.