

RC88

February 1, 2013

Via Fax: (907) 465 6094

ATTN: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

I am writing you in strong support of the following two proposals:

Proposal 105 (page 158), to ban grizzly and black bear snaring in the Southwest and Central regions.

Bear snaring is indiscriminate, cruel and not biologically sustainable. It is also extremely controversial and tarnishes Alaska's image for residents and non-residents alike by insisting on continuing its war on predators. It is also dangerous to other consumptive users, hikers and their pets who may come upon a situation where one bear is caught while its siblings or mother remain free in the area, creating the very real possibility of severe injuries or fatalities. The baited traps also create food-conditioned bears, and animals which learn to associate food with humans are a danger to our communities. Bear snaring is archaic, cruel and should be banned.

Proposal 86 (page 126) to re-establish a no-trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park.

Please pass this proposal to provide crucial protection for wolves that wander across the Park boundary onto state land in search of prey or mates, where they are targeted by several recreational trappers. As you know, wolf populations (and therefore viewing opportunities) have declined significantly in the Park due in part to trapping along the east and south Park boundary. Several hundred thousand visitors annually travel to Denali to view wolves and other wildlife. Two or three recreational trappers targeting wolves habituated to the sight and smell of humans should not be allowed to negate visitors' viewing opportunities (nor the millions of dollars they spend in the state). Further, the loss of only one wolf to these trappers can result in a huge impact on viewing opportunities in the Park.

My family and I are frequent visitors to Alaska and I thank you for considering my views.

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