

## **PROPOSAL 132**

### **5 AAC 92.080- Unlawful methods of taking game, exceptions.**

Prohibit nonresidents from using snowmachines to approach and pursue the take of wolves and wolverine as follows:

#### **Section 5 AAC 92.080 - Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.**

The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(4)(B)(ix) **Alaska residents may use** a snowmachine [MAY BE USED] to approach and pursue wolves and wolverine; an approach and pursuit under this sub-subparagraph is not harassment under (5) of this section, but may not come in contact with a live animal;

Limit the trapping methods and means exception to taking of wolves and wolverines by use of a snowmachine to approach and pursue animals to only Alaska residents.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The trapping methods and means exception for use of a snowmachine to approach, pursue and take wolves and wolverines affords nonresident trappers an improper and unfair advantage in the taking of free ranging wolves and wolverines, counter to basic hunter and trapper ethics and contrary to fair chase.

A key reason this trapping methods and means exception was allowed for wolves and wolverines was for subsistence users. As written, the methods and means exception also granted nonresidents in all game management units the legal authority to run wolves and wolverines to exhaustion, which is accepted as an unethical method of taking game. Nonresident hunters and trappers should not be afforded this exception and should be held to basic fair chase principles including taking any free ranging wild game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the game animals. Subsistence methods and means for the take of fish and game often allow an unfair advantage, but such advantages should not be afforded to nonresident users.

What will happen if nothing is done? Nonresidents will continue to be allowed to use a snowmachine to chase wolves and wolverines to exhaustion, counter to basic hunter and trapper ethics.

Who is likely to benefit? Resident trappers

Who is likely to suffer? Nonresident trappers

Other solutions considered? Rescind exception to methods and means to approach and pursue wolves and wolverine by snowmachine to all trappers. I don't believe removing this exception for all trappers is likely to gain much support by subsistence users in rural areas of the state.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** This has been a topic of conversation in the area since the positioning regulation was adopted. I have received input from other residents and trappers who feel the pursuit of wolverines and wolves by snowmachine is an unethical method of taking game.

**PROPOSED BY:** Rick Grant

(EG-F24-051)

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