

RC8

Comments to the Board of Game for the Jan 11-15, 2013 meeting

Proposal #18

Please **SUPPORT** Proposal #18
Prohibit snaring of bears in the Southeast Region



I am, as are many Alaskans, **against** snaring of bears.

The black bear population, in Southeast Alaska, is according to the Alaska department of Fish and Game declining and to increase killing of black bears, with the use of snares, would negatively impact healthy, sustainable bear populations.

Snaring indiscriminately kills female bears, female bears with cubs, newborn cubs, yearling cubs, males.

Additionally, there are dangers to hikers and other non-consumers using the land who may come upon a situation where one bear is caught while siblings or mother remain free in the area, creating the real possibility of sever injuries or fatalities.

Proposal #19

Please **SUPPORT** Proposal #19
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Proposal #17

Please **SUPPORT** Proposal #17
Close the taking of grouse hens in the spring for all Southeast Alaska Regions.

Proposal #20

Please **SUPPORT** Proposal #20

Prohibit the taking of wolves March through November in the Southeast Region.

Killing wolves March 1 through November 1 is a waste of resources:

--The hides are of lower market value.

--Loss of dependent pups

--Loss of unborn pups from female taken

Wolves in Southeast Alaska are valued by visitors and residents alike.

Wolves are important to maintaining an healthy ecosystem

Proposal #86

Please **SUPPORT** Proposal #86

Close an area near Denali National Park in Unit 13 to taking wolves.

After the loss of the Alpha female of the Grant Creek Pack no pups were born.

Because of this loss the most visible pack in Denali National Park dispersed, which means a huge loss to many Alaskans and visitors alike. The chance at seeing a wolf in Denali National Park is now very low.

The wolf population in Denali National Park is at an 25 year low of 54 animals, even though prey populations are healthy.

Please restore the buffer zone in this small area and let the Grant Creek Pack stabilize and reestablish itself, allowing viewing opportunities for Alaskans and the 400.000 visitors, who come to Denali National Park each year.

And please rescind your **moratorium on Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.**

Proposal #33

Please **OPPOSE** proposal #33

Shorten the season for brown bear in Unit 4

To start the season earlier would likely cause more male brown bears to be harvested.

This could lead to over harvesting and emergency closures.

Feasibility assessment for maintaining or increasing sustainable harvest of Sitka Black-tailed deer in a portion of Game Management Unit 1a

I OPPOSE predator control in Unit 1a to increase deer populations.

The feasibility study admits that wolves are not the only factor in fluctuations in deer populations:

Clear cutting of old growth forests has decreased and continues to decrease suitable habitat for deer.

Extreme weather

Harsh winters of 2006-2008 and 2011 have been a big contributor in deer decline and the miserable spring this year had no doubt a great influence in fawn mortality

Unsustainable Harvest goals of 900 deer, set at 1994-1999 peak harvest years when deer populations were at an all time high, are unrealistic and needs to be set to a lower harvest level.

No good science based information is available regarding deer, wolf and bear populations.

Feasibility assessment for increasing sustainable harvest of Sitka Black-tailed deer in a portion of Game Management Unit 3

I OPPOSE predator control in Unit 3 to increase deer populations.

Clear cutting of old growth forests has decreased and continues to decrease suitable habitat for deer.

Extreme weather

Harsh winters of 2006-2008 and 2011 have been a big contributor in deer decline and the miserable spring this year had no doubt a great influence in fawn mortality

Unsustainable Harvest goals of 900 deer, set at 1994-1999 peak harvest years when deer populations were at an all time high, are unrealistic and needs to be set to a lower harvest level.

No good science based information is available regarding deer, wolf and bear populations.

Alexander Archipelago wolves is a rare subspecies of the gray wolf and requests have been submitted to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

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