

I am writing in **support of Proposal 86** which would re-establish a no-trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park.

This proposal would 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.

In addition to providing vital protection for the wolves, this proposal will also help provide visitors like myself with the opportunities to observe wolves in the Park. Wolf populations (and therefore viewing opportunities) have declined significantly in the Park due in part to trapping along the east and south Park boundary. The most recent official survey (Spring 2012) found a total of only 70 wolves in nine packs in the six million acre park - one of the lowest populations in decades.

I am also writing to **support Proposal 105**, submitted by AWA, which would ban grizzly and black bear snaring in the Southwest and Central regions.

Scientists overwhelmingly agree that bear snaring is indiscriminate, cruel and not biologically sustainable. The baited traps also create food-conditioned bears, and animals which learn to associate food with humans are a danger to our communities. Bears have cultural, economic and biological importance to Alaskans.

Alaska's wolves and bears are not only valuable members of Alaska's ecosystems but are also contributors to Alaska's economy as visitors come in hopes of even catching a glimpse of a wolf or bear.

I urge you to support Proposals 86 and 105.

Sincerely,

Joan Beldin