

CRM:055137: Barbara Strote: Please respond and notify me upon completion TY RC 116

Paul, Shari W (GOV)

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 1:42 PM**To:** Smith, Abby E (DFG)

Dear Governor Walker:

Wolves are a keystone species and a highly social and fascinating animal. They mate for life which is something humans could learn from. We must protect them and encourage their survival.

I am concerned about notable decline in the number of wolf sightings in Denali National Park and Preserve due, in part, to hunting and trapping outside the Park's boundaries. In addition to the important function wolves play in maintaining ecosystem health, financial estimates show Denali tourism contributes over a \$140 million a year to Alaska's economy. In fact, according to a report from the Anchorage and Juneau based McDowell Group, wildlife viewing was one of the most popular activities for tourists visiting Alaska; those who traveled to Interior Alaska and Denali were more likely to look for wildlife – including wolves.

Recently, Denali's wolves got a brief reprieve when Alaska closed hunting and trapping along the park boundaries two weeks early. But the killing has resumed as of August 10, 2015.

Thus, I respectfully urge Governor Walker, Alaska Board of Fish and Game, and the representatives of the National Park Service to reinstate May's emergency closure and close hunting/trapping on preserve lands so that state and federal officials can finally negotiate a permanent conservation easement that will protect Denali's wolves for future generations.

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*Submitted by ADF&G Boards Support
Form letter to Gov. Walker*