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Anchorage, Alaska
March 13-17, 2015
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Submitted By
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Submitted On
12/13/2014 10:37:00 AM
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Hello, this is concerning Proposition 194.

I own a birddog and yes I am always concerned about traps after trapping season starts. However, this proposal is not the way to go. Whether to take my dog with when I go hunting is my choice. This is one of those proposals that will be impossible to enforce. Who is to determine if the dog is a hunting dog or a hiking companion? i.e. my husband hunts, I hike with him. The dogs belong to me, but they like to hunt. So are they hiking or hunting and why should hunting dogs be singled out? I haven't seen any statistics, but I would bet that more family pets have been caught in traps than hunting dogs. Hunting dogs are generally better trained than your average pet and the hunter is constantly keeping track of where they are. We have GPS units that track exactly where the dog is so we can find it and even if the dog had the misfortune to find a trap we can get there quickly to release the dog.

To make dogs safer, better regulations on trapping might be a better way to go. Signage alerting people there is a trap line. Traps required to be at least 50 yards off a trail, traps with the owners name so we know who the trap belongs to. Requirements on how often the line must be checked. If a dog is found in a trap, dead or alive with ID, required to notify the dogs owner rather than just dumping the dog off a bank. Maybe even some restrictions on where you can trap. While many trappers follow the trapper's code of ethics it is not a requirement for them. Maybe the code of ethics needs to be enforced. Limiting dogs is not the way to deal with poor trapping practices.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
12/14/2014 10:03:58 AM
Affiliation

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It came to my attention that there is a proposal, D, to prohibit the use of dogs in upland bird hunting after Oct.31. I was shocked and discouraged to hear such a proposal. Hunting upland birds is a centuries old tradition in Western society. Those of us who own and train our hunting dogs spend countless hours and thousands of dollars to do it.

It's my understanding that this is a proposal put forth by those in the fur trade. Ostensibly it is to "protect" our dogs from traps. If they want to protect our dogs and the public, they would mark areas clearly that have traps nearby. It is wrong to have traps hidden and not inform people that there are traps about. I know the argument is that trappers are worried about theft. That is not a good enough reason to have traps hidden that even a person could step into, on Public Lands.

Those of us who go into wild places know there are hazards and accept them. I carry rope and a tool for opening a conibear trap. I accept the risks involved.

Taking away the rights of bird hunters to hunt with their dogs is as good as closing the season to us. Hunting grouse from a snowmachine with a .22 is fine for a villager doing subsistence hunting, but it is not the equivalent to sport hunting with a dog.

In this country, we are drowning ourselves in regulations. The quality of life keeps diminishing with greater levels of bureaucracy and control from above on all of the little people.

Submitted By
Micah Miller
Submitted On
12/16/2014 7:28:05 PM
Affiliation



PC003
1 of 1

Regarding Proposal 194:5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Prohibit the use of hunting dogs for taking upland game birds after October 31, for the Southcentral Region

Do not allow this regulation to take effect. The verbage associated with the proposal indicates a very biased opinion that demonstrates extreme ignorance of bird hunting and bird hunting dogs. This proposed regulation would not protect those dogs for the following reasons:

- 1) Most hunting dogs are trained to stay close to their owner (often in sight and within shooting range). Those that range further afield typically have tracking collars on which hunters can then use to relocate their dogs. If one such dog did get caught in a trap, their owner would likely be close by and able to remove the dog before it would suffer.
- 2) Most trappers attempt to trap in areas where there is not a great deal of human (and therefore, bird hunting) activity. Why trap in an area where the target animals will be subject to disturbance?
- 3) In my experience (and those of other bird hunters I have spoken with), dogs are very rarely caught in *legal* traps. My dog has been caught in snares twice while hunting, and both were set illegally (out of season) and without permission. Others have had similar experiences with illegal trapping and snares, in particular, being set in areas where people bird hunt regularly. Regulating bird hunters, who are in this case following the law, and not the illegal trapping, is completely backward. A well-maintained trapline is typically obvious to a bird hunter, and most would either avoid the area completely or restrict their dog's behavior to limit the chances of being caught in a trap.
- 4) Regulating the use of dogs while bird hunting (during trapping seasons) would severely limit hunter opportunity for bird hunters. Most hunters will agree that a major part of bird hunting is working with a dog to search for and retrieve birds. Many hunters would not hunt if they were unable to use a dog. Personally, I see bird hunting as an excuse to take my dog and my gun for a walk - if I shoot a bird, then it is simply a bonus. I would not hunt if I could not also bring the dog.

This proposed regulation would be of little benefit to trappers. It would, arguably, limit the number of dogs in some habitats where trapping may take place; however, it would severely limit bird hunting activity. There are major holes in how such a regulation would be implemented:

- 1) What specifically qualifies as a hunting dog? Some breeds are specifically bred for bird hunting (retrievers, pointers, etc), but many people hunt with their pets, which could be mixes of multiple breeds. Without making a specific definition of a 'hunting dog,' how would the Wildlife Troopers be able to enforce such a rule?
- 2) Further, what about people who might want to take a gun along, just in case they saw something to shoot, while walking their pet? Does this qualify as 'bird hunting'?
- 3) Attempting to enforce such a rule would place further stress on law enforcement personnel. Why enforce a law limiting the use of dogs (to prevent them from being caught in traps) when you could achieve the same goal by enforcing trapping regulations in areas where bird hunting and trapping may overlap?

In summary, the proposed regulation is a misguided attempt to regulate bird hunting activity. Most hunters will keep their dogs at a safe distance and under control such that they would not become caught in traps. If the spirit of the regulation was to prevent dogs from being caught in traps, that is commendable; however, as this is proposed, it simply limits hunter opportunity while being of minimal benefit to trappers. Enforcing such a law would be nearly impossible, as no definition of hunting dog was proposed, making any dog around a bird hunter potentially illegal, which is simply preposterous! Bird hunting with a dog is one of the most memorable experiences a hunter can have, and no regulation should limit this from taking place. **Do not allow this proposal to take effect.**



Submitted By
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Submitted On
12/18/2014 1:00:29 PM
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I would like to express my opposition to Proposal 194 banning the use of hunting dogs after October 31. I am an avid small game hunter who enjoys hunting over dogs and recently acquired a German Wirehaired Pointer that I am training into a bird dog. Neither myself, my dog or anybody else I know or their dogs have ever had troubles with traps or trappers. While not exceptionally popular, there are a large number of hunting dog owners in Alaska and the Southcentral Units. Adopting this proposition would be a great injustice to both the hunters and the dogs who love to hunt. Please do not adopt this proposition. Thank you.



Submitted By
James M. McCann
Submitted On
12/19/2014 9:19:48 PM
Affiliation

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Honorable members of Alaska's Board of Game

My correspondence is in response to proposal 194, a request for the Board to create regulation prohibiting the use of hunting dogs in the field beyond October 31st each year.

Such a proposal has no legal basis or precedence in disallowing a lawful and traditional activity that has been carried on for decades; I suspect since before statehood. Nothing about using dogs for hunting causes any risk to the public or their property, or any harm to the environment, or undue stress upon the wildlife resource. I find this proposal arbitrary and capricious.

To single out just one segment of the outdoor public because they partake in small game hunting with dogs is wrong and has no merit. Hunting with dogs is a part of American history dating back to colonial times, has a long history in Alaska, and is a most worthy outdoor activity for a growing number of Alaskans, especially with the lowering numbers of big game animals, the number of hunters pursuing them, and the growing expense to hunt them. Lucky young hunters start out their outdoor life by hunting upland game with a fine dog.

Outlawing dogs from hunting in the woods and on the tundra for those many months does not keep dogs out of the field and away from traps. What of all the dogs that go for hikes with their owners? What of skijoring? What of mushing? What of the training and use of search and rescue dogs? What of hunting snowshoe hare with a beagle? If Jack London were alive would he and "Buck" be required to stay out of the woods and off the tundra? This proposal only excludes the harmless activity of lawful hunters using bird dogs.

As a retired Alaska State Trooper with 32 years of law enforcement experience I can tell you that trying to enforce such a regulation would be nearly impossible and unfairly burden an already stressed small number of wildlife enforcement Troopers. Presenting such a case to a magistrate or a jury is totally lacking any appeal.

Bird dogs are born to hunt. Real dog men and women live to raise, train and hunt their dogs on upland game in Alaska, just like it is done all across the north American continent. Closing one area to hunting with bird dogs will shift heavy pressure to other areas while eliminating entirely the opportunity for some to hunt at all. Hunting dog owners are conservationists, hunter education instructors, outdoor mentors, and come from all walks of Alaska life. Many of these same people work tirelessly at creating and maintaining habitat that directly benefits not only upland game, but also a variety of other small game animals and countless number of woodland songbirds, and most notably moose.

What do trappers do for wildlife habitat?

No dog owner, regardless of whether their dog is a hunting dog or a family pet, ever wants to be anywhere near where traps are set. In my 42 years of life in Alaska one of my bird dogs has been caught once in a snare, and once in a leg hold trap, and both times those traps were set in and around very prominent public recreational areas. If I see a marked trapline, or even any sign of an active trapline, the last thing I want to do is put my dogs down to hunt. Another great fear for those of us who hunt with dogs are the traps and snares left unattended even after the trapping season has ended. Now there's something that should be a crime!

Trappers need to set their traps in more remote areas and clearly mark their traplines.

It has come to my attention that Proposal 194 was allegedly issued in retaliation to Proposal 180. Using the Board of Game in this manner is wrong.

I strongly and respectfully submit that Proposals 180 and 194 be dismissed from any further consideration.



PC005
2 of 2

I would be happy to offer testimony at your request. Thank you for the valuable work you do on behalf of Alaska's wildlife and those that enjoy using those natural resources.

Sincerely,

James M. McCann

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Submitted By
Lisa Green
Submitted On
12/20/2014 9:48:45 PM
Affiliation



PC006
1 of 1

On the issue of limiting bird hunting with dogs after October 31. Instead of limiting activities in areas of trapping why not make it safe for everyone to be in areas around the highest population in the state? What is it going to take to make changes to the trapping areas, a child getting caught in a trap? This is not 1950 the population of people using the natural areas around Anchorage has shifted to people wanting to enjoy nature not exploit it for their own gain. We have hundreds of thousand of acres where trapping will not injure unintended victims so why do we the majority, have to change our behavior to benefit the minority? If someone wants to trap make them change their behavior to participate in the activity, i.e. get further from civilization! We don't allow people to hunt near cities, so why do we still allow trapping near cities? The consequence is the same, an unintended victim.

Submitted By
Theodore Bryant
Submitted On
12/21/2014 8:55:38 AM
Affiliation



PC007
1 of 1

Proposal 194 – 5 AAC 92.080

I am against the amendment to prohibit the use of dogs while hunting after Oct 31st. While I understand this trapper's concern, we must also recognize that the use of dogs while hunting upland game birds is a time honored tradition. The use of dogs significantly prevents the loss of wounded or hidden birds. It also increases the success of the hunter in locating birds. I would be more inclined to support banning trappers using foot holds than I would banning "Mans best friend".



Submitted By
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Submitted On
12/21/2014 8:26:07 PM
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I support PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 92.095 to restrict trapping in the Cooper Landing area. The purpose of this proposal is to ensure equitable access, during the trapping season, to trails and other areas where the presence of physically dangerous traps and snares endangers pets and small children and discourages other users from accessing these areas since traps may, at present, be legally set in and directly adjacent to these multi-use areas. The danger created by unethically set traps has prompted the need for this regulatory proposal.

This proposal is aimed at minimizing or ending the risk of injury, mutilation and death to pet animals, notably dogs and puppies, and to small children. Clearly definable "Closed to Trapping" setbacks (to include exceptions for game management special concerns in specific areas that affect residents of Cooper Landing (and possibly small size non-lethal leg hold traps) has been determined in discussions with local trappers to be the best way to approach this matter.

Clearly definable, easily recognizable, coherent, reasonable and not excessive "Closed to Trapping" areas are needed. The objective is to make these regulations for the Cooper Landing area obvious enough to satisfy the stipulation of being "enforceable" areas. This simply means that a wildlife trooper would recognize that there are boundaries and trappers, pet owners and family groups would know with no uncertainty where all users can go and avoid run ins with set traps.

I also support a similar PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 92.095 to restrict trapping in the Seward and Moose Pass areas for the same reasons as for the Cooper Landing area.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
2/4/2015 4:54:55 PM
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We are moving to establish regulations as guidelines for safer trapping practices in and around Cooper Landing. We intend to follow the BOG proposal process to accomplish this. We are willing to work with the Alaska Trapper's Association and Wildlife authorities to delineate "Public Use - Closed to Trapping" areas. We have proposed setbacks from roads, trails and other public multi-use areas in this proposal. We are looking to establish areas that are easily definable by boundaries, and therefore enforceable, but are not excessive while still being adequately large to be effective. We think we can do this, and if necessary, ammend our proposal to agreeable boundaries. We recognize the changing demographics of our community, increased population and use of public lands, and feel regulation changes and clarification are necessary to avoid conflicts.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
12/22/2014 9:31:06 PM
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I oppose proposal #194.

I have two springer spaniels that I hunt with extensively whenever possible. This proposal would preclude myself and others with hunting dogs to hunt grouse and ptarmigan throughout the winter on the Kenai Peninsula. I do not think this proposal is right to eliminate hunting opportunity for bird hunters with dogs for almost 5 months (a large portion of our hunting season). This proposal does not speak to persons who wish to walk with their dogs in the woods or ski with their dogs. These animals are just as likely to be vulnerable to trapping, perhaps even more so. Our bird seasons seem long, but much of our opportunity is lost after September. Waterfowl leave. Spruce hens take to the trees and begin feeding on spruce needles. Sharptails winter in areas hard to reach by road. This makes bird hunting opportunities very limited during winter (ptarmigan, ruffed grouse, other grouse species in small niche habitat). Please don't take that opportunity away. It won't solve the trapping verses domestic dog problem that occurs in populated areas of Alaska where winter recreation of all kinds is becoming increasingly popular. Hunting with bird dogs is a very small portion of that larger issue of people taking their pets out in the woods when hiking, tree cutting, skiing, ski jouring, dog sledding, winter camping, ice fishing, etc.

Mike Chihuly, Ninilchik

Submitted By
Penny Nixon
Submitted On
12/26/2014 8:22:36 AM
Affiliation
American



PC010
1 of 1

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm opposed to Proposal 194 – 5 AAC 92.080 the prohibition of the use of hunting dogs for taking upland game birds after October 31, for Southcentral Region. Dog owners should be aware that trapping occurs in Alaska when furs are most valuable. Likewise, trappers should be aware that hunters may have dogs...

Both should have access and use of public lands.

Submitted By
Maureen Peterson
Submitted On
12/29/2014 9:05:06 AM
Affiliation



PC011
1 of 1

Regarding the proposed moose hunt in Kincaid Park- totally opposed. If moose indeed do need to be culled from the park please let professionals do it and the meat be donated. Very unsafe to have hunters shooting in the park ans also seems like it will be expensive to regulate this activity.



Submitted By
Dorian Traylor
Submitted On
12/29/2014 9:24:34 AM
Affiliation

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Kincaid moose hunt I am for the hunt to occur, but oppose that it only be open to those that are 70% disabled or more. It should be open to anyone who would be considered eligible.



Submitted By
nick humphreys
Submitted On
12/29/2014 9:46:10 AM
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For the proposed cow hunt in kincaide park I am opposed to it going forward with the disability portion as that is not equal access and actually put a less effective hunter in a position to humanely kill and harvest the animal. Because the disabled person would need help with removal there is not a plan in place if the animal runs a long way off. I am concerned about the offal and waste attracting more bears. I am also opposed to the number of animals proposed to be taken. It seems like one person is wanting a private hunt



Submitted By
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Submitted On
12/22/2014 9:38:08 AM
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I am opposed to proposal 194-5 AAC 92.080 . My family and I hunt upland birds in south central Alaska with dogs and I'm offended that you would consider taking away half of the season . Upland bird hunting is all about the dogs , training , hunting and working with them as a team . This year I introduced my grandson to bird hunting (with dogs) and he loves it , I gave him the 20 gauge shotgun my father gave me . Also my wife , daughters , son inlaw and nepfew have been joining in the hunts , making it a great family experiance . I am concerned about dogs getting caught in traps and do take precautions . If I know there is trapping in an certain area we will not hunt there just to avoid a problem . Trappers and hunters should be able to get along if we just communicate and pay attention to each other . It would be nice if all trappers posted areas where traps are set , that would take care of most problems . When we hunt dogs are always in sight and they are closely monitored so we would be aware when they pick up a scent and we are there to monitor the situation . I have studied the information avalable from ADFG on identifying types of traps and how to release dogs from traps , this information should be studied by everyone with a dog . I have not heard of any bird dogs getting caught in traps , it's mostly loose unsupervized animals . For the most part we are in control of our upland bird dogs . I would appreciate your concideration on behalf of the bird hunters in this area and DO NOT pass proposal 194 . Thank you .



Submitted By
Dennis Ackerman
Submitted On
12/27/2014 8:26:26 PM
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Concerned upland game Hunter

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Request that you **do not pass** Proposal 194 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Prohibit the use of hunting dogs for taking upland game birds after October 31, for Southcentral Region as follows: Add a new line to 5 AAC 92.080 The following methods of taking game are prohibited: (X) Use of a hunting dog after October 31 for the taking of upland game birds in the Southcentral Region.

Passing this regulation would pose unfair restrictions to upland game hunters that hunt with dogs. They have every right to be in the field along with every one else. I urge you not to pass this proposal.

Regards.

Dennis Ackerman



Submitted By
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Submitted On
12/20/2014 4:26:25 PM
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As a trapper and hunter I strongly oppose proposal #194. All of us that walk our dogs, let our dogs outside of the home without being leashed, and when using them to pursue upland birds, know the dangers posed by traps, snares, etc., during and just after the trapping season. While I recognize some people make errors in judgement regarding where their dogs run, just as some trappers place their sets in poorly chosen locations, please give the rest of us the opportunity to continue using our dogs while the access to birds is outstanding. Thank you.

Submitted By
Rod Berns
Submitted On
12/20/2014 9:10:45 PM
Affiliation



PC017
1 of 1

Hello.

I would like to comment on:

PROPOSAL 194 -5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Prohibit the use of hunting dogs for taking upland game birds after October 31, for the Southcentral Region as follows:

As an avid hunter, my versatile gun dog accompanies me constantly in the woods. I hunt small game throughout legal seasons and do NOT put my dog back in his kennel simply because October 31 has arrived. Thus, I do NOT support this proposal. I submit to you, there are more people with hunting dogs than trappers in this state.

Instead, consider changing trapping regulations to make traps safe for dogs. Traps could be placed in boxes, in trees, or another method which would still allow the sport without endangering other activities.



Submitted By
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12/29/2014 10:22:06 AM
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11000 snowline dr
anchorage, Alaska 99507

I support a hunt or other deterrent to the all to frequent moose encounters in Kincaid Park which raise public safety concerns. Any honest, frequent user of Kincaid has had a risky or at least an annoying encounter with moose, and probably more than once. The moose are habituated to humans. Various injuries have occurred and a death or serious injury is an ever present concern. A hunt is probably the most cost effective and efficient way to help solve the dual problem of thinning the herd and putting a fear of humans into the moose, as "wild" moose have. Please consider the proposal to open an October hunt in Kincaid Park.

Submitted By
David Ellison
Submitted On
12/29/2014 11:17:06 AM
Affiliation



PC019
1 of 1

I am writing for my family. We are opposed to Proposal 150 in the Southcentral Region. Hunting Moose within a major urban park is bad for the safety of the community which use it and bad for the city which promotes it as "a place to observe wildlife". The States own Fish and Game website promotes Kincaid Park as a place to view wildlife within its natural setting. I respect, all users of this park and applaud their motivation and desire to engage the outdoor active lifestyle, however I don't believe a Moose Hunt should be provided to help "cleanse" the area of a species which has been here much longer than us. Better signage, better communication to the public could help improve animal sightings in the park, but to establish hunts for moose, bear, eagles or any other animal in a Park being billed as a "natural environment" is a poor decision and not supported by the majority of it's users.

Submitted By
Duncan Harrison
Submitted On
12/29/2014 11:50:47 AM
Affiliation



PC020
1 of 1

Proposal 150

moose hunt should only be allowed by professionals for the use of charity and not private individuals in Kincaid park. This proposal was made by a person who would get a chance to get a public resource for private gain. If there is a choline of the moose in Kincaid Park it should go to charity and any hunter would donate their services.



Submitted By
Jim Anderson
Submitted On
12/29/2014 12:14:39 PM
Affiliation

Phone
5089618818

Email
jim@goleaddog.com

Address
6220 Farpoint Dr
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

I support a moose hunt in Kincaid Park. I am a regular trail user and nearly everyone I know has had an aggressive encounter with a moose on those trails.



Submitted By
russell biggs
Submitted On
12/30/2014 4:16:22 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9077271665

Email
russellbiggs@gmail.com

Address
3910 Geneva Place
anchorage, Alaska 99508

Comment in opposition to item 150 the Kincaid Park Moose hunt.

I am a moose hunter and very frequent (more than 3 times a week) user of the trails at Kincaid Park. I believe the proposed hunt is highly flawed and would create an extremely unsafe situation in the densely wooded trails of the park. The discharge of firearms in the most highly trafficked trails in Anchorage and the high likelihood of a wounded animal loose on the trails make this a BAD idea.



ATTN: Board of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO BOX 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



December 30, 2014

Dear Board Members:

I am writing in opposition of Proposal 150, the antlerless moose drawing permit hunt for physically disabled residents. I simply do not feel a hunt is warranted. Considering the number of Kincaid Park users, the incident ratio is extremely low. I believe it is our personal responsibility to learn how to recreate and live with the wildlife. I am an avid runner, hiker, cyclist and skier and use precaution all year round to ensure I do not startle the wildlife. As a pet owner, I also realize it is my responsibility to ensure my animals do not harass the wildlife and create a dangerous situation. I have come upon plenty of moose and bear and have remained unscathed.

With regard to the organized events and races, perhaps the organizers can take the time to walk the trail and create noises to scare the animals away prior to the race start. They could even have volunteers stationed at various locations with bull horns or some type of noisemaker to keep wildlife off the trails. I'm sure with a little creative brainstorming they could come up with viable solutions to the problem.

I would prefer my fellow Alaskans take responsibility upon themselves to learn how to stay safe instead of sacrificing the moose.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of my opposition.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Abel".

Denise Abel
1642 South River Dr.
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-726-7610



1/13/15

I am writing this letter in response to the recent suggestion of a moose hunt in Kincaid Park, Anchorage. As an Anchorage resident who hikes, skis and bikes in the park, I am very concerned about this idea. I am often in the park 5-7 days per week, accessing trails in all sections of the park. I bike up the multi use path and down the coastal trail, as well as, on the single track trails built in recent years. I hike in the park until the trails are ready for skiing, and I hike up on the bluff throughout the year. I have hiked with my dogs, as well as, friend's dogs throughout the park.

Moose are one of the reasons people love to go to Kincaid. In all the years I have been using the park (15 yrs), I have never had a threatening experience with a moose! I have seen plenty of Moms and their young, watched bulls pursue cows, and even watched bulls sparring during rutting season.

Since the single track trails have been put in, I feel the moose have ventured out of sections of the park where they used to feed and take solace from people, dogs, bikes, etc. I don't feel the moose are out of control and becoming too numerous. While out in the park, I keep an eye out for moose and bear and detour around if need be. One September, we had to detour off the bluff 5 times in a 2 hr hike! We expect a detour and are prepared for it- especially on the bluff in the fall! Unfortunately, I see too many people who don't pay attention to what is going around them, have dogs that bark and lunge toward moose or bikers that go so fast they wouldn't be able to react if a moose was in their path. High School races or other events in the park need to have a backup plan for rerouting when moose are lying by the trail or too close for groups to pass.

To have a hunt in the park without completely closing it down would clearly be unsafe. We have come upon a number of hikers who were lost on the trails, who had no idea how to get back to their cars. How would they know if they were in a danger area? Even if signs were posted, what if people had to detour off



through brush to avoid wildlife? I don't see how you could guarantee that people would not be in danger of getting hit, when they come in from the beach, Jodphur parking area, the coastal trail, Little Campbell Lake, Raspberry parking lot, up by the chalet and even from the neighboring homes along the roadway into the park.

Those of us that have spent years in this park love the wildlife- that's what sets it apart from parks in other cities! It's a jewel in the heart of Anchorage!
Please don't ruin what we have, by allowing this moose hunt!

Sincerely,

Theresa Bostwick



Submitted By
John Haddix
Submitted On
12/30/2014 6:23:14 PM
Affiliation
Alaska Resident

Phone
9073515737

Email
jhaddix@gci.net

Address
983 Starling Court
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

My comment is in regards to PROPOSAL 194 that would Prohibit the use of hunting dogs for taking upland game birds after October 31, for the Southcentral Region. I am strongly opposed to this proposal. This proposal would take away significant opportunity to upland bird hunt with dogs in Alaska. This would shorten the season that I could hunt with my dogs down to 82 days (Aug 10 - Sep 30) while trappers would have a 151 day season (Nov 1 - March 30 more that 2 months longer). Additionally some years Aug 10 is too early to start bird hunting because the chicks are still very small further reducing the number of days to hunt. There are many places that a person can hunt with dogs and there is no danger of the dog being caught in a trap in the South central area. Some of the best hunting for ptarmigan in this region does not happen until the ptarmigan are pushed into lower accessible areas by snows that do not come until after the beginning of November. Some land owners do not allow trapping but do allow upland bird hunting these areas would be closed to the use of dogs. Some trappers let trap lines rest for a year or 2 when fur is low. AND there are significant areas that are not trapped by anyone. This proposal would close those areas to the use of dogs for upland bird hunting. I spend a significant amount of time training my dogs for upland bird hunting and I use them to ski-jour into areas to hunt ptarmigan. This proposal would significantly reduce my opportunity to do this. I should have at least equal opportunity to pursue my passion of upland bird hunting as trappers do to pursue theirs. While this proposal could be a solution to reducing the number of hunting dogs caught in traps, I do not believe that it is the RIGHT solution.

Submitted By
Barry Santana
Submitted On
1/8/2015 10:38:12 AM
Affiliation
Alaska resident



PC026
1 of 2

I am commenting on proposed hunt 150 in Kincaid Park. I do not support this hunt. It is a hunt for a special interest group that is unnecessary and will cause more harm than good. Alaska is a big place - do we really need to hunt moose in a city park? The proposed reasons for the hunt are ridiculous. It appears that ADF&G has not qualified an increase in the moose population in this small area. In fact, there is anecdotal evidence to support the fact that the moose population has declined substantially since the 1990s. I hiked in Kincaid Park frequently during those years. Although I saw moose, I was always able to feel comfortable by adjusting my behaviour and allowing them to just do their thing. I believe that the problem lies with more humans, less space and lack of consideration by people using the park trails. Let's just use education, restrict fast-moving activities and give the remaining moose their freedom to use the park along with reasonably aware humans. I see no valid reason for a moose hunt! Put your efforts elsewhere for real hunters wanting a true fair chase hunt.



Submitted By
Barry Santana
Submitted On
2/23/2015 10:40:45 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907.373.9459

Email
bwsantana@gmail.com

Address
#13 Tantamount Bay
PO Box 47016
Pedro Bay, Alaska 99647

In reference to Proposal 202: Define calves in a manner that is workable for field identification and enforcement purposes; enforce the restriction on taking calves; in Unit 22, reduce the seasons for bull and cow caribou for resident hunters in a manner that will reduce annual take of Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herd animals (i.e. drastically change the current year-around open season); eliminate the non-resident season in Unit 22; establish a means to determine infractions of the rule in both local villages and with statewide hunters and transporters.

Submitted By
Kate
Submitted On
2/21/2015 8:40:39 PM
Affiliation



PC027
1 of 1

I am fully in support of BOG proposal 180 that is asking for set backs from the main roads and trails in Cooper Landing. Having lost one dog to unknown reasons, I feel that having a safety barrier around areas that are used frequently by dog owners and other multi-use users is not unreasonable. I don't object to trapping but feel that there should be reasonable boundries that are enforceable in our community.

I do not support BOG proposal 194. There are many residents of Cooper Landing who raise and use hunting dogs. Many of them are concerned for their animals because of the lack of regulations and enforcement in and around our community.



Submitted By
Janice Troyer
Submitted On
1/2/2015 6:54:02 PM
Affiliation

Phone
277-7205

Email
jktroyer@gci.net

Address
1704 Stanton Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

I would like to comment about the Board of Game's Proposal 150 to establish a moose hunt in Kincaid Park. I visit Kincaid Park frequently during all seasons to run, ski, walk and look for birds. One of the great pleasures I enjoy about the park is that I often have the opportunity to see moose. This place is a gem in our big city. I am dismayed to think that the opportunity to see moose will be greatly diminished if this proposal passes. I realize that there have been occasions when people have been hurt by moose, but I suspect this is a very small percentage of the interactions that occur between moose and people. It is these very few incidents that get lots of press, while the countless times that people pass by moose with no problems are ignored. Why should all the moose be shot, only because of a few bad incidents? I am firmly against this idea. Our Big Wild Life Anchorage will become less so with this proposal!

Submitted By
Jeff Schmitz
Submitted On
1/2/2015 7:52:11 AM
Affiliation
Anchorage Resident



PC029
1 of 1

Re: ~ Proposal 150, the Kincaid moose hunt.

As a 64 year Alaskan resident I support the proposed hunt. Kincaid park is attracting ever more users, resulting in increasing conflicts with both moose and the bear population that regards the area as a buffet. The increasing threat has multiple branching consequences - injuries to park users are up and as problematic, park users are increasingly resorting to carrying firearms as well as using them. Culling moose in the park will reduce both the moose - human conflicts as well as the bear utilization given the reduced food opportunities. As a further benefit, reduction of transiting bears via the Campbell Creek and Chester Creek green belts will also be achieved.

Thank you for the consideration.

Jeff Schmitz



Submitted By
Mark Miraglia
Submitted On
1/1/2015 5:10:02 PM
Affiliation
Former CSPCAB Member

Phone
907 244-0682

Email
mark_miraglia@hotmail.com

Address
7000 Tall Spruce Drive
Anchorage , Alaska 99502

Proposal #150 - I am opposed to any moose hunt in Kincaid Park by able or disabled persons. A recent survey this past November by ADF&G and volunteer personnel indicates minimal numbers of moose in the park. To allow hunters with shotguns to roam the trails on ATVs or other such transport is ludicrous. Too many people recreate in the park to allow this type of activity. It is unsafe to tout the public in harms way in this manner. I have recreated in Kincaid for the last 15 years. I have come across moose while biking, walking and skiing. None of these encounters have resulted in an attack. One needs to be aware of their surroundings, take responsibility for their actions and avoid negative animal interaction by taking appropriate measures. I have seen people biking/skiing/walking wearing ear buds listening to music totally unaware of their surroundings. I have seen people trying to push moose off the trail to continue their ride/ski/walk instead of turning around or heading off trail to go around. Some people are not even aware of the physical indicators of an angry moose and disregard flattened ears. One of the advantages of living in Anchorage is the ability to view moose in their environment. I would be disappointed if the Board of Game were to allow this proposal to be approved.

Submitted By
MaryBeth Printz
Submitted On
1/1/2015 6:17:59 AM
Affiliation



PC031
1 of 1

Dear Board of Game,

I am writing in regards to the proposed moose hunt at Kinkaid Park. I support the hunt and this is why. For 30 years I have used Kinkaid Park to ski, bike, run, and hike, so I am familiar with the park and interacting with moose.

Humans must co-exist with moose but the situation at Kinkaid is beyond normal. Kinkaid is akin to a moose nursery because the population grows unchecked without any significant predators. Every cow has twins or triplets and thus every year the population continues to double or triple in a contained area.

To allay fears from the public that someone might get injured during a hunt, the solution is simple: close the park. Educate all hunters prior to the hunt. Another idea is to make Kinkaid moose meat an industry. I am not a moose hunter but enjoy moose meat. It could be a viable resource.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,

MaryBeth Printz



Submitted By
W. Withrow
Submitted On
1/8/2015 1:46:42 PM
Affiliation
none

Phone
907-277-5550
Email
wwithrow@gci.net
Address
2578 Glacier St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Proposed moose hunt in Kincaid Park: Ridiculous and unnecessary! Increased use of the park by humans means more moose encounters, but moose have as much right to be there as we do. I bike the Coastal Trail a lot in summer and have never had a problem with moose, other than having to wait a while for one or more to decide to move off the trail. It comes with the territory. Wildlife was one of the draws when I decided to move to Anchorage in 1981. There would be much more danger to humans if hunters were out there, shooting; and what if a moose is only wounded? No, it's just a bad idea. Life comes with risks, and if you don't want the possibility of a moose encounter, don't go to Kincaid Park; stay safely in your home.



Submitted By
Stephan Hyams
Submitted On
1/11/2015 7:08:04 PM
Affiliation
Stephan Hyams

Phone
907 2305555
Email
fishhead@alaska.net
Address
14115 Hancock Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

Regarding Proposal 194-5AAC 92.080

Having successfully and legally hunted upland birds and waterfowl with dogs in Southcentral actively for 20 years, I find it without basis to suggest that the taking of upland birds with the use of dogs after the 31 of October should be stopped. Furthermore such ban would deny many legitimate hunters from accessing game birds on public lands that are managed by the State. This proposal appears to be a thinly veiled attempt at denying a user group from accessing populations to benefit another.

Legitimate traplines that are ethically run pose little threat to bird dogs and if announced/marked would further reduce the risk of a dog being inadvertently trapped, as dog handler/hunters make the decision as to where to hunt with their dogs .

Submitted By
Todd Smith
Submitted On
1/11/2015 8:46:15 PM
Affiliation



PC034
1 of 1

Proposal 150 kincaid park

I am all for the hunt in kincaid park as a born and raised alaskan. I have 3 young children (6yr,4yr and a 2yr), we use the hiking trails and bike trails in this area and we have had mutiple run ins with the moose in this area. There is plenty of wildlife in Anchorage but this area is an out door recreation area were I think the moose are a nucense. I am raising my kids to enjoy the outdoors and this last summer I had my son riding his bike ahead of me while I walked with my younger 2 kids and I spotted a cow and calf off the side of the trail where my son was riding. The moose spoked him and he tipped his bike over and was stuck under it. If he were to get inbetween them the cow would have run him over. Luck being on my side they ran deeper into the woods. I am glad to hear of thining out the moose in this area and i think the concept is a great idea as well it gives are disabled alaskans a way to provide meat for there families as I and many alaskans are able to do. I think this topic is a win-win for people that use the park



Submitted By
William Petrik
Submitted On
1/8/2015 6:22:44 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 349-2016
Email
oh-no-mister-bill@hotmail.com
Address
12220 Hilltop Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99515-3278

Re: Moose hunt in Kincaid Park, Anchorage

I am 63 years old and a 35-year resident of Anchorage. I spent a lot of time outdoors all my life hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. I use Kincaid Park year-round since I began residency here in Anchorage. It is a wonderful gem for city residents to have easy access to. This is a haven for all kinds of wildlife, the most obvious one moose, as well as people. In all these years I have had my share of moose encounters, all which have fortunately been benign. I attribute most of my benign encounters to common sense and others just to good luck if there is such a thing. I have never talked to any person who has had a bad encounter with moose there either, as they also live by respect of this huge member of the deer family. The only bad encounters are ones that I read about that dealt with school related events taking place there. In these cases I think the problems could have been avoided such as having an organizing staff prospect the route for "problem" moose for potential reroutes or even delaying or postponing events. I am sure others have occurred that I am unaware of. These may have included users with off-leash dogs or simply not using sensible precautions such as keeping your distance, never getting between cow and calves, staying aware, or avoiding of the park during the rut, etc.

Since I started using the park 35 years ago many things have changed. People have moved from mostly slow, quiet sports such as classic cross-country skiing and walking to faster and more mechanized means such as skate-skiing, jogging, and mountain biking. These faster moving sports reduce the ability of users to look ahead for obstacles such as moose, etc. I don't think the moose population of Kincaid has changed one way or the other over those years but the number of user hours has dramatically increased. Along with this increase in user time, one expects more people-moose encounters to occur. But one thing remains unchanged - observing common Moose Sense.

Based on the aforementioned, I think that a moose hunt is unwarranted for Kincaid Park.

In the event a moose hunt is conducted, my opinion is that there should be a limited number of animals taken (less than 10 for example) and that the usual, and extended, safety precautions be taken. Each hunter should be accompanied by an Alaska Fish & Game staff, authorized and trained for the hunt, and dressed in bright clothing. Any hunters or their state "guides" that are simultaneously hunting while others are also hunting will have GPS devices transmitting their locations to a hunt coordinator for map display to avoid safe distance conflicts by radioing to the state staff. Due to the state budget situation, all hunters will reimburse the Department of Fish & Game for all staff time involved in the hunt or pay a special hunt fee to compensate for staff time.

Despite the contingencies cited immediately above, I still believe that a moose hunt in Kincaid is unwarranted and in lieu, more moose-wise education is needed for users that include the public and area schools.

Thank you for your time.



Submitted By
Andrea Lang
Submitted On
1/8/2015 7:46:43 PM
Affiliation
Anchorage Resident/ Kincaid Park User

Phone
244-9290
Email
andrealang827@gmail.com
Address
1351 Early View Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

I oppose the Kincaid moose hunt proposal No. 150.

There is not an over population of moose in Kincaid Park and the safety of the public is not compromised. The argument of increased moose contact is mainly due to the new single track bike trails that are cutting through habitat that was once moose refuge away from main trails. Though caution needs to be taken, all should be able to use the trails without incident.

Several publicized moose-human conflicts were due to improper human behavior. I have seen several people exhibiting poor judgement and reckless behavior when encountering moose in Kincaid Park. For example, I watched as several mountain bikers passed a bull moose at close range with his eyes fixed on them and head lowered during the rutting season. I do believe if there is an animal exhibiting aggressive behavior unprompted by foolish human actions, fish and game should be called and officers will deal with the situation safely.

The Kincaid moose are a part of our Alaskan city culture. This is not Central Park in Manhattan. We have situations that are unique to Alaska and this is why we enjoy living and playing here. The moose do not deserve to be annihilated due to the over reactions of self-serving individuals.

Submitted By
Dan Brandvold
Submitted On
1/9/2015 9:58:16 AM
Affiliation



PC037
1 of 1

Re: BOG proposal #194

Dear Sirs,

I am opposed to proposal #194, I am not anti-trapping, I have a trapping license. This proposal singles out a specific hunting/outdoor activity and prohibits it. If the goal is "dog safety", banning trapping in these same areas would be more effective.

I spend thousands of dollars and hundred of hours training my bird dogs. I would never intentionally endanger them by hunting on or near a trap line. A more reasonable suggestion may be to require trappers to post notices (as bear baiters are required to do), on trails near their trap lines.

Thank you,

Dan Brandvold



Submitted By
Gail Boerwinkle
Submitted On
1/9/2015 8:34:54 AM
Affiliation

Phone
563-1440

Email
gaillynn@gci.net

Address
1210 W 47th #2
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

No Hunting In Kincaid. Never.



Submitted By
John M. Miller
Submitted On
1/8/2015 2:49:53 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-243-0849
Email
jmmlaw@gci.net
Address
2448 Brooke Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

I want to add my voice to the large group of Anchorage residents who strongly oppose a moose hunt in Kincaid Park. The Park is not overrun with moose and seeing them is always a pleasure. In the great majority of cases which have been publicized regarding "dangerous" moose, the encounter could easily have been avoided by following Park rules (eg. keep your dog on a leash) or by using common sense (post observers to use reasonable means to keep moose off trails during competitions). I have used the trails in the Park for over 35 years and I have never had a bad encounter with a moose. I also agree with the points made in the Commentary published by Bill Sherwonit in the Anchorage Daily Dispatch on January 8, 2015. Additionally, I note that I use the Park trails at least several times a week all year long and I always see other trail users when I am there. There is no way that a moose hunt could be safely conducted at the Park during any time of the year. Finally, I see many more moose in the Turnagain area where I live than I see at Kincaid. If the idea of a hunt is to remove "dangerous" moose, then the Board should set up a hunt throughout Anchorage and not limit the hunt only to Kincaid. Hopefully that will help you understand how ridiculous it is to schedule a hunt in one of Anchorage's most used parks.

Submitted By
John Rose
Submitted On
1/9/2015 8:45:18 AM
Affiliation
none



PC040
1 of 1

A moose hunt in Kincaid park is wrong on so many levels I do not know where to begin, However, Bill Sherwonit's article in the ADN on 1/8/15 is a good summary of my thoughts on this issue, so I'll leave it at that. And to be very clear on this issue, **THERE SHOULD BE NO MOOSE HUNT IN KINCAID PARK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



Submitted By
Jonathan Galin
Submitted On
1/10/2015 1:13:19 PM
Affiliation
Anchorage Resident

Phone
907-248-9097
Email
galin@gci.net
Address
4120 Woronzof Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

I am contacting the Alaska Board of Game specifically to voice my **OPPOSITION** to Proposal 150-5ACC 85045 which would allow moose hunting in and around Kincaid Park in Anchorage.

This is an extremely poor idea, and the safety if the general public can't be 100 % assured, regardless of what 'safeguard's' may taken.

Additionally, in general, the vast majority of residents residing in Anchorage appreciate the fact that they can co-exist with wild animals indigenous to our area, and want to. This is one of the primary reasons why many of us choose to reside here.

The Anchorage Parks and Rec Department, and/or those responsible for managing Kincaid Park should review alternative options for park users to co-exist with moose in lieu of destruction of our very valuable, Alaskan wildlife as a result of a small group of individuals who believe that their 'right' to use Kincaid Park trumps the obvious; the logical and necessary protection of our urban wildlife.

Thank you in advance for this forum,

Sincerely, Jonathan Galin, Anchorage, AK.



Submitted By
Kyle Drasky
Submitted On
1/13/2015 2:00:23 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-745-1510

Email
kyle.drasky@matsuk12.us

Address
11361 N wolverine rd
Palmer, Alaska 99645

As I live in Palmer I'm not a regular user of Kincaid park but when I head into Anchorage I'm always sure to grab either my Mtn. bike, ice skates or cross country skis. I have a hard time passing up the opportunity to enjoy the fantastic trail systems that Anchorage has to offer. I'm an avid outdoorsman and I love wildlife viewing however I'd like to lend my support to hunt proposal #150 first and foremost as a safety issue. Even as a limited user I have had several runs in with moose along the trail that were terrifying. I can't imagine what would have happened to me if a tree had been down on the trail or I crashed while being chased by a young bull or on multiple occasions a very angry cow with calves. On one instance I stayed on the trail for at least 1/2 hour to warn people who were approaching to not go down a trail where I had just been chased on my Mtn bike. Eventually I had to leave and I was quite concerned that some kids might come along and get stomped. I recently read some comments on ADN regarding this issue and one rponder asked what I believe to be the essential question regarding this issue: is this a park for people or is it a park for wildlife? I don't believe it has to be one or the other, I do believe however that the balance has shifted to the point where people's safety and even lives are in jeopardy if the moose population is not managed and these types of encounters are reduced.



Submitted By
Jeremiah Prater
Submitted On
1/14/2015 2:17:09 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9077700340
Email
jeremiah.prater@gmail.com
Address
3031 E. 42nd Ave #405
None
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Regarding the proposed hunt in Kincaid to cull the moose, I am strongly against this action for several reasons.

- 1) Moose are one of the many attractions that this city has to offer. Whenever guests come from out of state, they always ask to see a moose. While I can usually find one around the house near UAA/Prov, Kincaid is an almost guaranteed find.
- 2) In my 20 years of being an Alaska resident, I have never endured a moose attack. I've passed them on the coastal trail, Chester Creek, Kincaid, Hilltop, etc. Having good situational awareness and the willingness to change direction if necessary is all that's required.
- 3) Having grown up in a shotgun only hunting area, I've seen just how far a slug can travel. Even though this hunt is designed for the disabled (and there are some pretty able disabled folks), and parts of the park will be closed, there is still an increased risk of an accidental shooting.

Thanks for taking this into consideration, and I sincerely hope that we won't see hunting in the park for a long time to come.



Submitted By
Marty and Annette Cordano
Submitted On
1/15/2015 11:31:12 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-278-8016
Email
martyannette@gci.net

Address
4440 Woronzof Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

Re: Kincaid Park moose hunt proposal, (No. 150)

We are very much opposed to this proposed hunt. We frequently use Kincaid Park as a beautiful place to walk, ski, and to simply enjoy the natural world and all it has to offer, even if some risks are involved. (And with the number of people using the park vs. the number of negative moose encounters, the risk is extremely minimal). We have frequently seen moose there and have never had a negative experience involving them. For most people, seeing wildlife is a major part of the pleasure of the park experience. People just need to be aware, responsible, respectful, and enjoy sharing the space with Alaska's wildlife. So, please, we urge you to vote against this proposal. Thank you.

Submitted By
Lance Raymore
Submitted On
1/16/2015 3:02:45 PM
Affiliation



PC045
1 of 1

Proposals 132 and 192 are not needed actions. The current HIP data collection process has been determined by the USFWS and the ADFG to be sufficient for documenting hunter harvest of waterfowl in the US.

Proposal 194, My family dog is a hunting dog. So if I am walking my family dog on 11/1 and she gets stuck in a trap will I be breaking the law? Only if I have a firearm legal for upland bird harvest in an area with an open season? What if my neighbor's husky gets caught in a trap? Is that OK? But what if her husky is half lab? She's a vegan so she won't be hunting. This proposed regulation is preposterous.

Proposal 181. Requiring traps to be set a far distance from a public use trail or road is a good idea.

Sheep proposals (too numerous to list out).

Statewide non resident allocation determined by drawing is a good idea.

Increase the non resident fee to similar fees from other sheep hunting states. The state should exploit the resource financially.

Increase the resident fee to \$100 for sheep harvest ticket. I don't hunt sheep every year, but a free harvest ticket for a limited resource makes little sense.

Establishing a time duration for shooting after flying in sounds like a good idea, but in areas where walk in hunters and flown hunters can compete (TMA drainages on the north and east areas) the advantage is to the walk in hunters, but it all depends on timing or your arrival. If made a full 24 hours after arrival that may help with a perception of the issue. Hard to deal with the local TMA air service providers flying every day overhead checking on their customers. From my own experience that annoys sheep.

Submitted By
Eric Lee
Submitted On
1/16/2015 4:04:18 PM
Affiliation



PC046
1 of 1

Dear Board of Game,

I would like to inform you of my opposition to an upcoming proposal where the use of bird dogs would be prohibited or limited for upland game hunting. I can't understand why such a proposal would be necessary. It would unfairly and unnecessarily limit a large user group. Hunting upland game with dogs is not only enjoyable but safe and ethical too. I understand there might be certain risks, but I am capable of determining what is safe for the dogs I hunt with, minors I am hunting with, and myself. This proposal is plainly an unnecessary government intervention which would favor one user group over another. Hunting with dogs is a rewarding and fun outdoor experience which my family and friends enjoy. Please don't allow this proposal to become regulation. Thank you!

Eric Lee



Submitted By
Madeleine Grant
Submitted On
1/19/2015 8:39:00 PM
Affiliation
citizen

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Hello:
Regarding proposed Kincaid moose hunt (No. 150) (unit 14C), as a local frequent Kincaid trail user, I think this is not a good idea, for safety reasons. Kincaid park has many casual entry points as well as official ones, & numerous park users in October.

Thanks for listening & all your hard work



Submitted By
Scott Breitsprecher
Submitted On
1/22/2015 2:56:10 PM
Affiliation

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Dear Members of the Board of Game

I'm writing today to oppose Proposal 194. I'm an Alaskan hunter, outdoor enthusiast, owner of a well trained versatile hunting dog and a conservation minded supporter of responsible game management. Although I see the substance of this proposal to be important, I believe the proposal itself is off the mark. The South Central Region vast area and if passed this proposal would negatively affect the outdoor recreation of a vast number upland game hunters and families. It is my opinion, restrictions and shorting the season for upland game hunting with dogs is as ridiculous as limiting trapping during the small game season.

As Alaskan's we share the great outdoors with multiple types of outdoor enthusiast during the hunting season. The answer to recreating together is through education, being aware of your surrounding and being prepared. Upland game hunters with dogs have the responsibility to be aware of trapping practices, as well as trappers share a responsibly to be aware of upland game and dog handling procedures. Educating dog owners on trapping practices, identifying trap line markings, and proper releasing methods trapped dogs is critical. This can be accomplished if various ways, such as hunting dog clubs, fish and game or through local media. It is also critical that trappers ensure they mark trap lines properly and do not place traps in areas close to populated areas which are used heavily by dog owners of all types. Ethical practices for both groups is paramount.

In closing, limiting recreation to certain individuals or groups because of fear, prejudice, or limited incidents is neither fair nor reasonable. Learning how to utilize and share the land we love is more reasonable and key to the overall freedom we live by under the constitution. Communication and education of trappers and dog owners is clearly the way forward to utilize and share the lands we love and cherish.

Sincerely

Scott J. Breitsprecher

Submitted By
Andrew Scrivo
Submitted On
1/26/2015 11:03:48 AM
Affiliation



PC049
1 of 1

As both a trapper and a dog owner that takes advantage of public lands in the Seward area I am writing in opposition to proposal 181 - 5 AAC 92.095 submitted by Mark Luttrell in reference to trapping regulations in unit 7 more specifically, the Seward area. I am in opposition of this because I believe that fur is a renewable resource that we, as Alaska residents, have a right to benefit from just as we do fish, game and firewood. Trapping done legally and ethically should bring no harm to people or pets. That said, it is written by the forest service that pets should be leashed and/or kept under control for the safety of EVERYONE, including the dogs. While this is not a true leash law, I think that people using public trail systems with or without dogs during the trapping season should be aware of what is going on and should make decisions accordingly as to how they are going to behave and allow their animals to behave.

Trappers following the law and trapping ethically have as much right to use these public lands as hikers and skiers.

The second main reason that I oppose these propositions is that forcing people to trap 250 feet from trails and roads will make the activity of trapping nearly impossible for MANY people who truly enjoy it, namely, the elderly and children. Especially in the Seward area of GMU 7 snow loads can be extremely heavy and this will make it much too difficult for older and younger trappers alike to get to sets that are 250 feet from the trails. Also, too from a trapper's point of view you might realize that the animals use the trails just like we do and sometimes, I find, the trails actually concentrate the populations because like us, the animals are looking for the path of least resistance... i.e. the trail!

Now, because I do not want to just put down these ideas without offering any of my own and because I am equally upset by the unethical actions of some trappers that put a black mark on our group as a whole, I would like to propose this: put restrictions on the use of large conibears and visible bait sets. I think conibears 220 and larger should be set at least 250 ft from a road or trail, the only exception being in the flow of water, that is under the high water mark or below banks. Also, sets with visible bait that might lure in pets should, in my eyes, have the same restriction, at least 250 feet from a trail or road for the safety of people and pets. I think this would eliminate many of the conflicts that people are having.

Thank you,

Andrew Scrivo



Submitted By
Warren Buck Brown
Submitted On
1/27/2015 4:37:14 PM
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Waterfowl guide

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Board of Game Members 1-27-2015

Thanks for taking the time to read my comments, I will keep it brief.

Proposal 131: I oppose the reduction in bag limit for goldeneyes (Common and Barrows) because the west coast of Alaska does not seem to have any big population problem. The numbers are down a bit but duck numbers change from year to year. If the Department really sees a drastic drop in the big picture and feels it is a good move for the birds, not the author, then I will back the departments recommendations for a reduced bag limit.

Proposal 132. I oppose this proposal as I opposed it last year when it was voted down. This is an attempt at public oversight of the department and oversight of hunters, that is not necessary.

Thanks for your time and effort, Buck