

RC 013

RE: Emergency Petition

Denali Buffer: Support

Dear Board of Game:

I ask of you to think of the intent of this situation. What is your intent? This is not just about the wolf. It is economics, politics and survival. However, it is all about the wolf! This animal is not vermin and has no knowledge of human behavior or boundaries we set on them as creatures of nature. We can live together, provided the humans, their caretakers, acknowledge their true intent either to protect the wolf or not. Compassion must be introduced to the equation. For the human has the ultimate control over the survival of the wolf and over humans as well. So I ask of you for future generations, for your grandchildren and great grandchildren what will you say was your intent? What will your actions command? Survival or extinction, pain and loss of life?

- According to the National Park Service, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does. *No creature can live under such duress without consequences.*
- Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system. *The economics is suffering because people want to see wildlife.*
- *A place void of wildlife seems void of life itself.*
- Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves. *Think of all the things people buy with the picture of the wolf on it. What does it mean to them?*
- Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination. *Remember people from the World not just the US come to see your treasure.*
- Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves.
- The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board of Game.

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Respectfully yours,

Cindy Marwin - U.S. of A. Citizen
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