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**Proposal 141 - Support with the addition of the four modifications as detailed in the comments submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance and the Denali Citizens Council.**

\* The Denali wolves that den in the northeastern area of the park and cross the boundary onto state land are unique: they are the most easily viewed wolves in Alaska. They are an important financial, cultural and scientific resource and as such deserve special management considerations. More than 500,000 visitors come to Denali each year, spending more than \$5 million in the local economy. High on their must-see lists is wildlife, especially wolves.

\* Currently the park wolf population remains at a near-record low: visitors' chances of seeing a wolf are a near-impossible 4 percent. A significant cause for the decline is hunting and trapping adjacent to the park. Proposal 141 would remove hunting and trapping pressure when the wolves are most vulnerable, during breeding season.

\* Proposal 141 should be approved with the following modifications: immediate implementation in the 2015-16 regulatory year; expansion to include the entire Stampede Corridor area; closure of the hunting season earlier, on Mar 15 or April 1st; and closure of both the hunting and trapping seasons on April 15.

\* Proposal 141, even if passed with all of the requested modifications, is **not** a substitute for a no hunting/trapping buffer zone adjacent to the park. It will not provide the same protection as a buffer and it is supported only as a partial, interim solution to offer a measure of protection to breeding wolves.

\* Without these changes in regulations, it is entirely possible another breeding female will be killed this spring. The result - as the NPS documented in 2015 - will be continued low wolf population counts and dismal prospects for visitors who come to Denali with the hope of seeing a wolf.

\* The Alaska Department of Fish & Game acknowledged that instances of wolves from the park being attracted to and killed at bear-baiting stations was an unforeseen consequence of a recent change in those regulations. Given the resulting impact on the area's already-low wolf population, the BOG has the duty to revisit the issue and correct the problem.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.