



Submitted By
Juliette Boselli
Submitted On
1/29/2017 7:38:12 PM
Affiliation

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I am writing in support of protection for Denali wolves on state land outside the boundary of Denali National park. Too many wolves who have wandered outside the boundaries of the park have been killed in traps and by hunters on adjacent state Lands. Packs have been decimated and populations reduced. These wolves are a world class attraction and an important resource. The intact ecosystem of Denali is also compromised by the killing of these wolves otherwise protected within the boundaries of the park. I urge the board of game to further protect these wolves on state lands, it is the only right and just thing to do.



Submitted By
Michael J Boyce
Submitted On
1/31/2017 7:38:56 PM
Affiliation

Greetings,

I am writing to you to express my support for Proposal 142, which would provide protection for Denali area wolves.

Though I now call Seward home, I was a Healy and Denali Park resident for many years, starting in the early 1990's. I worked as a guide in the Park and was fortunate enough show wolves to literally thousands of people over many years. I assure you that for many Alaska visitors, seeing a wolf in the wild-- a wild wolf! -- was both the highlight of their visit and a dream come true. Their interest and appreciation always grew as I explained that the first ever biological studies of wolves happened in Denali, and that they had been studied continuously since 1939, providing unique and valuable scientific data unparalleled in the world. They were awed that they were seeing the descendants of the very wolves first studied by the legendary wildlife biologist, Adolph Murie.

It's well known that in recent years, Denali wolves have suffered greatly as a result of hunting and trapping along the Park boundary, and their numbers have plummeted almost certainly due to this activity. As a longtime Alaskan, I support hunting and see it as one of the most basic ingredients of an enjoyable life in the Alaska. However, I also believe in balance, and in the name of balance and fairness, there is a clear choice to be made here.

When a wolf is killed in the area under consideration, one person benefits, and thousands of people are deprived -- not only our visitors who come here hoping just to see a wolf, but also the scientific community who understand the value of a continuously- studied population of wolves. Not to mention future generations who benefit from this knowledge.

I ask the Board to exercise it's clear authority over this area, and to exercise it's responsibility to protect wildlife in need of protection. Approve Proposal 142. Remember, when a Denali wolf dies, 1 man benefits, and thousands are deprived. Please vote for balance.

Sincerely,

Michael J Boyce



Submitted By
George Brady
Submitted On
1/29/2017 8:52:45 PM
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We have entered a new age where the worth of our resources goes well beyond their face value. A wolf is a perfect example of this. As one of the few naturalist guides in denali national park, I meet people from all over the world, and even from within our state, that bring incredible amounts of revenue and wonder to Alaska. Many of these people come with the sole purpose of wanting to see wolves in the wild. In 2008 visitors spent over \$150 million on their visits to Denali, and tourism is what drives the entire Denali Borough economy (https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/upload/EconomicImpacts_2012.pdf).

Since there are only select areas where most people have any chance of seeing a wild wolf, it is crucial for us to do what is in our power to protect packs and their habitats in these accessible areas. Yes, historically we have been able to hunt in these areas, but we must be willing to change and consider the needs and desires of those who will be here after our lifetimes. Can you imagine an interior, or anywhere for that matter, where it's IMPOSSIBLE to see wolves? Don't you want your kid's kids to have that experience?

George Duke Brady



Submitted By
Tamara Braithwaite
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:53:42 PM
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I am writing in the hopes that this board will do its duty to the wildlife in its care by eliminating the hunting and trapping of wolves in land adjacent to Denali National Park, management areas 20A and 20 C. Although there are many factors that affect wolf populations, trapping and hunting by humans also has a definite impact. With wolf numbers lower than in years past, it is essential that help is given to them.

I have visited your beautiful state twice and I am always in amazement at the beauty I see. It is so breathtaking and wondrous. My travels to Denali National Park were taken for many reasons but one of the main ones was to see a wolf. I only came as close as a footprint but even that left me thankful. Please do your part to ensure that visitors to your state can up their chances of seeing one of the most magnificent of creatures. Thank you for your time.



Submitted By
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2/3/2017 11:51:56 AM
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As a professional photographer I am strongly in favor of extending the no-hunting buffer zone around Denali National Park. I have spent over 100 days in Denali National Park. Since the buffer zone was lifted 6 years ago I have noticed significantly less wolves on my photography expeditions. People come from all over the world to Denali National Park to see nature as it should be but I feel that they are getting ripped off by hunting too close to the park. They spend millions of dollars in hotels, bus trips and park fees and they should be able to see wolves in their natural habitat. I also feel that the Judas collar program that the state uses is sick and disgusting unethical and shameful. I am so angry every time that I see a collared animal in the park. As a pro photographer, collars cost me money. It is impossible to sell a photo of a moose, caribou or wolf that has a tracking collar. With fur prices at a near all time low I can assure you that more money is being lost by allowing hunting of wolves close to the park that will ever be gained. I would guess that over my career collars and trapping near the park have cost me over 5,000 in sales. When I was camping there this summer I was speaking around the campfire with pro photographer from Switzerland and even they knew about the buffer zone issues and they were furious about it they claimed that they had driven all over the state and barely found any wildlife to photograph along the Denali Highway due to hunting. People around the world are taking notice. Denali National Park brings in millions of dollars of years. Wolves are easily my top-5 best selling pictures because tourists are not seeing them in the wild. I haven't seen a wolf in Denali in years. The buffer zone will keep tourists coming back, and provide everyone an opportunity (including the 85% of Alaskans who don't hunt) to see wolves. Right now, the State is only benefiting the few hunters and trappers who live right outside the park.



Submitted By
Donna Brookins
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:02:11 AM
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I visited beautiful Alaska last summer and want to return often. I support increased protection for wolves through Proposal 142. These magnificent creatures are important for the environment and tourism. Please help the wolves.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:04:15 PM
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I am writing to voice my support of the proposal to prohibit the taking of wolves in the Stampede Corridor / Wolf Townships on the northeast corner of Denali National Park. I worked in Denali National Park as an interpretive guide for five summers between 2009-2014 and spent many hours watching the Grant Creek Pack. I witnessed myself the dramatic declines in wolf encounters that followed the opening of trapping along the Stampede Corridor. As a guide, I was keenly aware of the excitement visitors had to see wolves in such a wild landscape, as well as their disappointment when viewing wolves became an almost-never-happens event. The causal link between wolf takes and reduced visitor encounters in the Park appears robust and supported. I sincerely hope the protections are reinstated.



Submitted By
Joanna Cahoon
Submitted On
2/2/2017 2:27:47 PM
Affiliation

Please *Support Proposal 142!*

As a hunter, lover of Denali Park, and an Alaskan worried about Alaska's fiscal future, I implore the BOG to please support Proposal 142. Alaska's wildlife should be managed so that our tourism industry is bolstered. That means we have to conserve those animals that bring people to our state. Hunting wolves that stray from our most cherished park - Denali - is a bad experiment. It should be ended immediately.

Denali wolves bring visitors to our state. Those tourist dollars have never been more important. Alaska has an experience to offer folks in the lower 48. We cannot allow needless hunting of the animals that draw people to Denali.

Keep Alaska's fiscal future in mind and please support prop 142!

Thank you,

Joanna



Submitted By
Sean Cahoon
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:56:18 PM
Affiliation

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for Proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. The BOG has historical precedent for such a buffer and has acknowledged that it considers DNPP wolves a valuable resource. As do frequent park visitors like myself. The BOG has a responsibility to wildlife viewers, who should have opportunities similar to hunters and trappers. Furthermore, the wolves of DNPP are valuable scientific subjects, which have been studied for eight decades and multiple generations - almost unprecedented in scientific circles. Wolves serve as a keystone species, acting to directly control herbivore populations, but also the myriad cascading effects on ecosystem structure and function. It is the pristine nature of Denali that attracts thousands of visitors each year - generating precious local and state revenue - that should be heavily weighted in the BOG's decision. Do the board members want to see that revenue decline if visitors decide Denali isn't worth it because the chances of spotting an iconic wolf have vanished? Please protect these wolves, their ecosystem and the sustainable source of revenue for the next generation of Alaskans and visitors from around the world.

Sean



Submitted By
Joan Campbell
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:49:59 AM
Affiliation

I address these comments to the matter of Proposal 142 and strongly add my support for a ban on hunting and trapping of wolves in game management units 20A and 20C.

Alaska's wildlife constitutes one of its greatest touristic assets and is of huge importance in attracting tourist and their dollars to the state - far more dollars than wolf-hunting licenses. To this fact is joined the fact of a recently diminished population of wolves in the Denali area, probably for a variety of reasons. It's only logical to use a conservative approach to their management, extending to them protection that goes beyond the (invisible, to them) boundaries of the National Park.

It is the Board's responsibility - and privilege - to nurture a vibrant, bio-diverse ecosystem in the Denali area, for both its intrinsic, moral value and its economic benefit to the state. For those of us in the Lower 48, the possibility of seeing a wolf during a visit to Denali is a tremendous lure, and actually seeing one (as I was lucky enough to do so a couple of years ago) a thrill that draws us back time and again.

Thank you for taking your obligation to the state and its wildlife seriously, and giving this matter careful consideration.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:58:58 AM
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I support proposal 142 to help protect wolves.

I have little hope that the board will act in a responsible manner as apparently slaughtering predators is a mandate.

This life long hunter and 30+ year Alaska residents finds the Board of Game seriously out of touch in managing game.

Thank You



Submitted By
Catherine C. Cave
Submitted On
1/31/2017 6:42:47 PM
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Hello,

Two summers ago my husband and I made our first trip to the stunning state of Alaska. The highlight of our trip was a 3-night stay at Camp Denali, where on one excursion we witnessed a pack of wolves with cubs. The guide was quite excited and said how unusual it was to see a full pack, that the wolf population had diminished greatly in recent years, and earlier in the season one of the few adult females of breeding age was trapped and killed very near, but outside, the boundaries of the protected area of the park. The death of this female endangered her offspring, who likely did not survive. I thought at the time how tragic and senseless this slaying was.

I sincerely urge you to support Proposal 142 to secure the future wolf population and help ensure this tragic end doesn't befall another breeding female - or any wolf who ventures beyond the territory of the Park.

My husband and I look forward to a return visit to Camp Denali and next time we will bring our entire family. But, we will look to this vote to see if the Alaska Board of Game takes the necessary steps to preserve the wildlife in the region. Though the scenery in your grand state is breathtaking, it is the wildlife that inspires us to cross the country to visit and spend our tourist dollars in Alaska, instead of elsewhere in the country or in Canada.

Please protect the wolves in Denali and support Proposal 142.

Catherine C. Cave

West Stockbridge, MA



Submitted By
Scott Chesney
Submitted On
2/3/2017 2:11:58 PM
Affiliation

Support proposal 142

There is a precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. The buffer zone needs to be reinstated. The BOG has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area. Park boundaries are a fictional line drawn around an area of land; wildlife neither know about or respects an arbitrary line. The old buffer zone more closely resembled natural boundaries and should be reinstated.

The state of Alaska's wildlife management should cease the war on predators, particularly the aspects in place at the behest of a tiny minority of the state's population.



Submitted By
Jerryne Cole
Submitted On
1/31/2017 12:44:05 PM
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Denali resident/business owner

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I would like to submit comment concerning proposal 142. Having been a business owner who has transported park visitors over the Denali Park road to our lodges in the center of the park for nearly forty years, I know first-hand that observing a wolf in the wild is one of visitors' three greatest aspirations.

Wolves that den inside Denali National Park near its northeast boundary risk hunting and trapping when moving onto state land. The Alaska Board of Game has responsibility for and authority to provide for conservation of state land outside the park boundary. Indeed, acknowledging that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, in 2001 and 2002 the Board of Game approved no-take closed areas (Stampede and Nenana Canyon) adjacent to the park when the wolf population was double the current number. This idea made economic sense then as it does now and it fulfills ADF& G's management goals. I support added protection for wolves as outlined in proposal 142 on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park.

Jerryne Cole



Submitted By

Janna Collins

Submitted On

2/2/2017 5:50:43 AM

Affiliation

US citizen, visitor to Alaska

Prop 142. Please support the protection area for wolves. Their social structure depends on a dominant leader of the pack and that loss leads to the death of many. They are vital to the ecology and balance of this endangered environment. There are great financial benefits to the state from tourism as well as what I would call a moral responsibility to conservative this portion of the earth.



Submitted By
Cathy Cooper
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:05:25 AM
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~~Dear Board Members

Last June I came to Alaska for the first time with a journalist. I had wanted to visit for a very long time but one thing that worried me was my pre-conceived notion that all locals loved to kill anything on four legs and that I would be regarded as a 'tree hugger' which seems to be the normal label for anyone that isn't into hunting. Instead I met local people who love and want to protect wildlife and keep the ecology chain moving.

I am from the UK where the tragedy still rings in people's minds that the last wolf was shot in Scotland a long time ago. People like me come to places like Alaska in the hope that we will spot a wolf in the wild. Getting to your state is easy now via Iceland. They in turn are expanding their airport to create one of the biggest hubs from Europe to North America. Tourism is on the up. People want to see expansive landscapes, mountains and most of all wildlife. You have it.

I was very lucky to stay in several of your National Parks including Denali. I couldn't have wished for a better experience. The mountain herself appeared in all her glory, the bears and moose were enjoying the sunshine and everything was perfect. One of our guides gave a talk about the dwindling wolf population and how hunters wait outside the Park boundary to shoot any wolf that strays over. This was very upsetting and left a stain on an otherwise perfect holiday.

I am therefore pleading as a tourist and believer that the welfare of natural predators maintains the balance in nature that you consider stopping the issue of hunting licences for the areas adjacent to the Park.

Wolves may disappear totally if hunting is allowed in this area. Please consider how this will affect tourism.

Alaska is a beautiful natural land. Please keep it that way.

Thank You



Submitted By
Jim Costigan
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:25:39 AM
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As we find ourselves in pivotal and often uncertain times in landscapes both figurative and literal, we look to Alaska as a bastion of the wildness, freedom and purity we vigorously seek yet so often struggle to find. For those of us that truly value these qualities as part of a life fulfilled, the wolf is truly an epitome. My own yearning for an experience so impactful as simply observing a wolf in its habitat is only outweighed by that of its preservation for generations to come. This is why I wholeheartedly support Proposal 142 - what we do at this moment will resound for years to come with those who need it most and otherwise couldn't.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
2/1/2017 5:49:38 AM
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I am writing in support of Proposal 142. As a visitor to Denali NP, I personally experienced the presence of the wolf population and can attest to the value of that experience in helping me and other visitors understand the interrelationship of species in the Denali ecosystem. I urge the Alaska Board of Game to exercise its responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife to preclude hunting and trapping of wolves on state land adjacent to Denali NP and Preserve. This action is key to reducing the vulnerability of wolves to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land, providing protection in the larger Denali ecosystem, and recognizing the critical importance of intact, diverse animal populations to the regional and state economy. The long term interests of the state and its human population are inextricably tied to the health of our natural environment and all its diversity. Thank you.



Submitted By
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Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:52:58 AM
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I support proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park. The board has the responsibility to manage wildlife conservation purposes. These wolves that frequent the Corridor/ Nenana/ Park Road are an extremely important scientific resource to some of the most famous and longest running studies of wolf packs in the country. These hunting activities will ultimately result in the loss of entire packs and prematurely end the decades of scientific research. Also, visitors to Denali want to see wolves and spend much of their income on the experience. This will result in losses for Alaskan tourism and present a poor look on Alaska's tourism industry. As documented by the National Parks Service in 2015 today only 4% of visitors will see a wolf alongside Park Road and before the buffer was scrapped in 2010 nearly 50% saw a wolf. Please consider these and many additional points to establish a no hunting and trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.



Submitted By
Kenneth Crowell
Submitted On
2/1/2017 1:36:15 PM
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I write in support of Proposal 142 which would establish a no-wolf-take zone in a small portion of GMU 20, subunits 20A and 20C, adjacent to Denali National Park.

While I am not an Alaskan resident, I have visited Alaska 11 times in the past, have spent substantial time and money in Alaska on guided and also unguided fishing and backpacking trips in the state and intend to visit Alaska multiple times in the future. I have visited Denali National Park four times and have stayed at Camp Denali and have also backpacked and day hiked on my own in the park. I have seen wolves in the park on three occasions and have heard wolves calling in the park while backpacking. These experiences were among the highlights of those particular trips and I can assure you that the experience of seeing and hearing wolves in the park is significant and meaningful to visitors and also is a contributing motivation for return and repeat trips. It certainly has been for me, for my wife and for my brother (who have accompanied me on some of these trips).

I believe that Alaska would be well served by providing protection to wolves on state lands adjoining the Park. Wolves of course do not know about Park boundaries and are particularly vulnerable when they cross over out of the Park since they are used to humans not being a threat (in the Park). While I admittedly have no data, it seems highly likely to me that the economic benefit of added tourism and spending in the state accruing due to protection of wolves in the limited area adjoining Denali would far outweigh any economic benefit of wolf take in GMU 20. In my case, on every trip I have taken to Alaska I spent in the region of \$5,000 to \$15,000 in Alaska. Considering the large number of visitors to Denali, and the fact that most of those visitors also visit and spend money in other regions of Alaska before or after they visit Denali, the economic case for Proposal 142 seems self-evident since clearly the value of the presence of wolves in the Park is on the order of many millions, perhaps tens of millions of dollars of tourism revenue to the state. There is of course also the fact that the Board of Game has the responsibility and duty to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in GMU 20.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

Ken Crowell



Submitted By
Stewart Cubley
Submitted On
1/29/2017 2:32:26 PM
Affiliation
Landowner

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In support of Proposal 142:

I have been a landowner in the Wolf Townships 30 miles west of Healy since 1976. My property borders Denali National Park and I have witnessed the rise and fall of the wolf population along the northern boundary for over 40 years. The absence of wolf activity over the last decade has been dramatic and alarming. In past decades, consistent sightings of individuals and families were commonplace, along with their auditory presence in the valley. Now and for the last number of years there's greatly reduced signs of activity.

The loss of this resource leaves an empty rung in the natural habitat of the area and impacts the experience of anyone who visits. This imbalance in diversity ripples out to the rest of the ecosystem with effects that are beyond our complete understanding but far-reaching in scope. And the impact on the local economy that depends on tourist's sightings of wolves in the wild (that can be found in a few other parts of the country) is a loss to anyone who travels to Alaska to experience Denali National Park.

The Denali wolves don't know when they cross that invisible northeastern boundary and leave their safe sanctuary. They don't know that they may never return to their families or to the interior of the park where they have made their home. The Alaska Board of Game has the authority to rectify this situation and restore a more balanced management plan governing this area. I sincerely hope this issue is taken seriously and that the necessary steps are taken to protect our wild wolf population before it's too late.

Signed, Stewart Cubley



Submitted By
Terry Cummings
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:23:01 AM
Affiliation

SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142

Wolves must be protected from trapping and hunting in this area around Denali Park. Visitors and residents of Alaska want this protection so they can view wolves in the wild. This is important for our economy and is very important for a healthy ecosystem. Wolf numbers have greatly decreased and packs have been wiped out by a few trappers, who knowingly trap this area as they know the habits of the wolves in Denali. Alaskans overwhelmingly want this area protected. Please pass this proposal for all of us and the ecosystem. Lets get out of the dark ages and protect this keystone species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Michelle Dalpes
Submitted On
1/19/2017 8:46:25 AM
Affiliation

Please re-instate the Denali National Park "Buffer Zone."

Please consider the statistics and benefit to American's. In 2010 45% of visitors to Denali National Park had the opportunity to see a wolf. Now visitors have a 5% chance. How many people benefit from a wolf killed in the buffer zone? What is the economic benefit of that one wolf? The death of a wolf especially an Alpha wolf can destroy the pack vs. the benefit to one person, is it worth it?

Please listen to the majority of Alaskan's who would rather see these wolves alive than dead. It is your job to consider the science, statistics, and the wishes of ALL Alaskan's.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michelle Dalpes



Submitted By
Lin Davis
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:11:27 PM
Affiliation
AK resident 24 years

I support Proposal 142 to establish a No Hunting/Trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.

The economic rewards of insuring there are wolves in Denali for tourists to see has been well documented. The majority of Alaskans support a buffer zone. As a committee entirely of trappers and hunters, you have a democratic responsibility to represent the majority viewpoint. There is wise precedent for a no hunting/no trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. And the 2001-02 BOG acknowledged Denali wolves as an important resource and worth conserving. Setting up the buffer is a small and democratic gesture. The Denali wolf population has greatly declined. Denali visitors now have a 4% chance of seeing a wolf. Because you are governor-appointed and charged with representing Alaskans who prefer non consumptive wildlife uses, thank you for passing this Proposal 142



Submitted By
Brad De Noble
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:13:55 AM
Affiliation

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Please support Propoasl 142! It is unconscionable to allow a few Alaskans to trap and kill wolves that so many Alaskans, Americans, and others want to see. Now, more than ever, we need tourist dollars and tourists pay to see wolves. Your removal of the buffer has caused visitors seeing wolves in DNP from 50% in 2010 to just 4% now. That, plus news that you allow DNP wolves to be trapped and killed, will only decrease the number of tourists and the income to this state further. And for what -- so a few people can kill wolves. That is complete BS. These wolves are also very important to science as they are some of the must studied in the world and continuance thereof is critical to better understand wolves. Plus, the vast majority of Alaskans support the buffer. Do your job for who you are supposed to -- all Alaskans, not just a few select Alaskans. Support Proposal 142 and re-establsih the buffer!!!!



Submitted By
Nancy Bale
Submitted On
2/3/2017 4:54:28 PM
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Denali Citizens Council

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposals for the upcoming Region III Board of Game meeting. The Denali Citizens Council, headquartered near Denali National Park, submits the following comments.

Proposal 142 – Area closed to wolf hunting and trapping adjacent to Denali National Park – Support

We urge the Board of Game to pass this proposal as a way to acknowledge the significance of wolf populations that den inside Denali Park and venture predictably onto state lands nearby. These wolves' movements have been studied since the 1980s, and a pattern of in and out migration is well known. Radiolocation maps over the past many years place the bulk of these movements within the wolf or stampede townships, a cut out of state land on the northeast boundary. Radiolocations also show that wolves spill over into the valley of the Nenana River Canyon specifically and predictably.

Because we have spoken before the board of game in the past, and have heard members of the board and public express certain concerns about protecting wolves who den in the park when on state lands nearby, we'd like to address the concerns in the points below.

1. Concern: Protecting Denali wolves is not the job of the Board of Game. The national park is already big enough.

Conservation of wolves is not only a core value of the national park, it is one of the state's many management goals for this species in Alaska. The Department of Fish and Game, in its 2011 management document on wolves, stated that "Management may include both the manipulation of wolf population size and total protection of wolves from human influence." The job of the board of game is broad under AS 16.05.255, and includes conservation of any species. Finally, the Board of Game has already exercised this authority, within the past two decades, by previously establishing no take areas for wolves adjacent to Denali National Park.

2. Concern: Protecting wolves in Units 20A and 20C violates intensive management stipulations.

Neither of the areas included in Proposal 142 have been identified by the state or board as authorized for intensive management activities at this time.

3. Concern: Wolf populations are not endangered in Units 20C and 20A next to the park.

It is not necessary to have a finding of "endangerment" to protect wolves in these areas, if the Board of Game finds that their viability is important for Alaska tourism and scientific study. It is true, however, that wolf numbers have been quite low throughout Unit 20C, and a census conducted in 2012 by the Department found a density of 10.7/1000mi², below the department's management floor of 11/1000mi². Despite this finding, however, the Board of Game increased the hunting bag limit for wolves from 5-10 at its 2014 Interior Region meeting.

4. Concern: Wolves die from other causes; mortality from hunting and trapping is a small portion of this loss

The department has stated that, according to its best estimate, approximately 4-6 wolves are taken in this general area per year through hunting and trapping. The population of wolves in Unit 20C has been low for several years, and there are no doubt multiple sources of mortality. There is little data from the department on fall to spring census numbers, but data from the National Park Service indicate a loss, from 2012-2015, of approximately 10 wolves per winter, on average (based on the difference between fall and spring census). This means that hunting/trapping take could be significant, up to 50% of the take. In addition, take after early February, by either trapping or hunting, can have a greater effect on wolf packs through the death of breeders. The disruption of packs that den in the eastern portions of the national park, where forays onto state lands are more documented, has been greater, as evidenced by the demise of the East Fork Pack.

5. Concern: The Board of Game took care of hunting pressure in 2016 by shortening the wolf hunting season in a portion of Unit 20C, to end on April 15th.

Although this change will certainly prevent the hunting of wolves when bear bait stations are active, it will not ultimately be enough to promote conservation of wolves in this area. We have questioned the regional biologist for this area, and he says that by far trapping is the method by which most wolves are taken in the area. Because of the relatively low population of wolves and the proportionately large take that data suggest is coming from hunting and trapping, we argue that more robust closures are needed.

Ultimately, a closure of state lands adjacent to Denali National Park, for purposes of **reducing risks** on a population of wolves that dens in the park and ventures predictably outside the park, will not be made from the standpoint of the species endangerment of these wolves. Instead, it will be made by a Board of Game that recognizes three things:

- The opinion of many Alaskans in support of this closure.
- The importance of reducing risks to this discreet population, in order to protect an economically and scientifically valuable Alaskan resource.
- The absolute authority and responsibility held by the Board of Game, and exercised in the past, to act on this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Chas Dense
Submitted On
2/1/2017 10:36:21 PM
Affiliation

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK. Animals do not recognize human political/managment boundaries. It makes little sense to allow the high economic value of wolves in Denali National Park to be essentially exterminated as soon as they cross the park boundary by just three or four trappers. I would personally contribute to a fund to pay the trappers fair market value for the number of wolves they have historically trapped if the Board of Game would establish a no hunting/trapping buffer in the Denali wolves' normal range outside the park boundary. A majority of Alaskans support creation of such a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.

I also agree with the many other reasons people have expressed in support of this buffer. The wolves are much more valuable to the Alaska economy alive than dead.

Please support Proposal 142. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Nancy Deschu
Submitted On
2/3/2017 8:18:46 AM
Affiliation
Alaska Resident

PROPOSAL 142 : Support to establish hunting and trapping adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve.

There are very few places in the world where people can travel to and see wolves in the wild. This is a critical aspect to visitors to Alaska and Denali in particular - the Chance to see a wolf in the wild. It may be difficult to put a dollar-value to the tourism that this adds to Alaska, however, I would be quite certain that the wolves that are trapped or hunted in the buffer area in question would bring in dollar-value to the state (and hence, ultimately the Alaska public). On a strictly monetary value, the establishment of a buffer area is the correct fiscal choice.

There are other places in Alaska besides a piece of land that is adjacent one of the US public's most respected national parks/preserves - and that respect and interest and support comes mainly from the variety of wildlife that can no be seen anywhere else in a national park in the US. Yes, some trappers and hunters will be inconvenienced if this buffer is established, but can the weight of a small group of people outweigh the the people across the nation who value this park, and would chose to see the Denali wolves protected.

Wolves of Denali have been studied for decades. There is a long history and scientific tradition of understanding wolves by studying hte Denali wolves. The lack of a buffere affects the most natural size and behavior of the wolf pack in question. This in turn affects the scientific research and can make the valuable data difficult to compare over decades as wolves are taken by hunting and trapping.

I imagein there are many otehr reasons to establish this buffere, but these two concerns alone - the dollar-value return to the state of Alaska, and the scientific value of this pack having a buffer - are very strong reasons to establish this buffer under this proposal 142..



Submitted By
Sue Deyoe
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:35:59 PM
Affiliation
none

I write you support of proposal 142, the wolf buffer by Denali Park. I have lived in Alaska for 25 years. For 15 of those years I lived near Healy. I worked inside Denali National Park for many years and saw the ebb and flow of wolf sightings. I also saw how important it was for visitors to see just one live wolf. Many people come to Alaska just to see a bear, others just want to see Denali. But there are many that hope to see a wolf, just one. And most times the only place that will happen is in Denali. Most visitors don't get off the road system, so Denali is it.

For years ADF&G was just about the hunters and trappers and the science of game management. As our state goes broke, it will be more and more about tourism. Millions flock to Alaska to fish, to hunt, to sightsee. The price of a live wolf is much higher than a dead one. I know others are covering the issue of diversity of species and importance of preservation. I really think there is a tipping point. We are close to it. I think the numbers show the importance of 'no take' of wolves for awhile. Please support proposal 142.



Submitted By
kay dorie
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:01:05 PM
Affiliation

I have been to Alaska as a visitor and the highlight of my trip was to see a wild wolf loping across the frozen Tanana River. I am hoping to return, and seeing another wolf is at the very top of my wish list. I hope you will not allow short-sighted special interests to destroy the animals that thousands of us in the Lower 48 come to see. I also would be reluctant to contribute my tourist dollars to a state government that will not protect at-risk wildlife and their necessary habitats in this day and age.



Submitted By
Lynn Driessen
Submitted On
2/3/2017 2:58:13 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
9202095061
Email
lawlady9@hotmail.com
Address
312 East Calumet Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Support Proposal 142

I strongly support Proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. There is precedent for such an area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. It is my understanding that the Board acknowledged in 2001-02 that the park wolves are a valuable resource for visitors such as myself, and therefore set aside areas closed to hunting. At that time the park's wolf population was 97 wolves, which is far greater than the current population.

A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this critically important area. The Board has the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes.

In addition, the wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource, as they are the subjects of the longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Unfortunately, hunting activities that ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end those decades of research.

Visitors to Denali such as myself are drawn there to see wolves and are willing to spend a significant amount for that opportunity. Alaska tourism is not well served in the absence of wolves, especially when it is reported that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area. Millions of tourism dollars are spent in the Denali area, and the entire state for that matter, providing a boost to the Alaska economy.

The statistics speak for themselves - before the buffer was scrapped in 2010, nearly 50 percent of visitors saw a wolf. In 2015, the National Park Service documented that there is only a 4 percent chance of spotting a wolf along the Park Road.

I urge the Board to re-establish protection for the Denali wolves with a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.



Submitted By
Wendy Driver
Submitted On
2/1/2017 2:05:57 AM
Affiliation

I support proposal 142 as I am worried about the vulnerability of wolves crossing the park boundary into state land. They are important both from an economic (tourism) and a scientific point of view. Tourism makes much higher revenues than hunting and trapping and it is important to keep diverse animal populations intact.

The Alaska Board of Game must take their responsibility to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in the region very seriously.



Submitted By
IVAN DUNN
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:01:12 PM
Affiliation

I strongly support Proposal 142. The experience in Yellowstone supports that. Having periodic kill periods to control the population makes absolutely no sense and is contrary to the entire philosophy behind Denali. I was there in August and the thing that stood out the most was the pristine, leave-mother nature-alone message that is everpresent. It's well known that leaving the population of wolves to maintain itself through natural means actually helps strengthen the other animals that serve as prey. Keeping the buffer zone in effect will help avoid human interaction with the wolves.

Please consider my comments in your deliberations.



Submitted By
JEFF EASTMEAD
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:32:21 AM
Affiliation
NONE

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469-387-5004
Email
jeastmead@flowserve.com
Address
9191 GARLAND RD
APT 417
DALLAS, Texas 75218

I am writing you on proposal 142 to create a buffer zone around Denali National Park where wolves cannot be hunted. I have been to Denali National Park and preserve 10 times and the being able to view and observe wild animals in their natural habitat is the reason me and my family visit frequently. Wolves are the number one animal we come to see - after wolves it would be Bears, Moose, Carribou and Dall Sheep. Last year was the first time we saw no wolves on our Fall visit to Denali. 2 years ago at the same time we saw 6 wolves all the way up to mile 19. We also saw a Pack on a ridge close to the Tokalat River. It is critical for the future of Alaska and Denali National Park that there is balance between hunting and protecting wildlife for all Alaska visitors. Please pass proposal 142 to encourage wolf protection in Denali National Park. I have many friends that come to Alaska to both observe wildlife and fish and and hunt (hunting for food not trophies mostly Moose) All agree with me that we must protect the Wildlife in Denali National Park for future generations.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

Regards

Jeff Eastmead



Submitted By
Patrick Endres
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:38:14 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9077504065

Email
patrick@alaskaphotographics.com

Address
2923 Moose Mountain Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-6072

Greetings from Fairbanks, Alaska

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I appreciate and respect that liberty. I'm a 37 year Alaska resident and have worked as a professional photographer for the past 24 years. I've been a visitor to Denali Park regularly since 1981, and photographed annually in the Park under a professional permit since 1995. I make my living from nature photography and have guided hundreds of visitors to Alaska since 1997. They come to see, to photograph and to enjoy this epic landscape. The economic benefit of wildlife viewing in this state is immense. Hundreds of thousands of people come to Denali Park to see wilderness in its raw form. Not all come specifically to see a wolf, but take a random survey and I bet every one on a Denali Park bus would love the opportunity. I strongly support doing what we can to perpetuate the experience of wildlife viewing. Those who come and see go and tell their friends and family of their experience, which is likely to bring more people to Alaska. Our state is under dire fiscal circumstances. It behooves all of us in responsible positions to make decisions that benefit the sustainability of our land and economy. Please back proposal 142.

Respectfully,

Patrick Endres



Submitted By
Jeff Fair
Submitted On
2/2/2017 12:44:47 PM
Affiliation
Alaska hunting and fishing

Phone
9077451522
Email
fairwinds@briloon.org
Address
P.O. Box 2947
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Game,

I write you as a 23-year Alaskan hunter, fisherman, outdoor writer, and wildlife biologist. I currently possess a permanent hunt/fish/trapping license. I am not a trapper, but I appreciate the tradition.

I'm writing in support of your reinstatement of a buffer zone to protect the Denali wolves using the habitats just north of the east end of the McKinley Park Road and extending southward along that section of the park.

The former buffer was a good idea; during those years I observed wolves--once an entire pack--from the park road on two of three visits to the park. Many Alaskans and many visitors and tourists saw what may be the only wild wolves they'd see in their lives along that stretch, from tour buses or their own vehicles. Seeing those wolves heightened the greater public good and enforced our Alaskan Constitution's requirement that "resources" (I have come to detest that word) be "developed" for the greatest good for ALL Alaskans. And some of that good is the income from tourism, the maintenance of a local pack for the Alaskan spirit and essence, and the protection of respect for Alaskan trappers and trapping. I've no truck with the trappers who benefited from the Board's removal of the old buffer, but I disagree with benefiting a few at the cost of many, including many Alaskans and Alaska's reputation. Let's put it back.

Like the trappers there, I am one among thousands who have benefited in a nonconsumptive way from the wolves who once wandered there--and I hope will again. As an outdoor writer, one of my trips into the park afforded me a view of all 11 wolves in the Grant Creek Wolf Pack back in 2007 or 2008, for a story published in Audubon magazine and which I opened with the wolf sighting. So I know first-hand the bounty--and thrill--of seeing them.

As a wildlife biologist, I've worked in Yellowstone the past four summers on a species of waterbird, work that takes me back into the Yellowstone backcountry. On one visit a few years ago, while I was behind camo trying to capture a member of the species under study, I saw a white wolf and a gray wolf come out of the timber and down to the water near me. Later, Yellowstone biologist Doug Smith would tell me they were the alpha pair of the Canyon Pack. I'd worked in Yellowstone 40 years ago, when there were no wolves about, so I know the thrill of celebrating the wolves' return.

The real issue is this: Conservationists have to band together in this modern world in order to protect the things we love. If we give a little here and there, we keep our traditions alive and protect the land and life that we know we need. The wolf--and especially the Alaskan wolf--is a symbol to most Alaskans, many Americans, and even visitors from afar, of the wild and natural world that still remains here. Let's give us all--hunters, fishermen, trappers, bird-watchers, flower and butterfly people, all of us--a good chance to see the wolves of Denali. Let's let them all know that Alaska is the place to see this and share the view.

Please reinstate a buffer in this one place,

Jeff Fair, Lazy Mountain, Alaska



Submitted By
Kelleen Farrell
Submitted On
2/3/2017 3:30:23 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
7072568508

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kfarrell@sonic.net

Address
1280 Roxie Ct.
Placerville, California 95667

Regarding Proposal 142, I support increased protection for the wolves of Denali National Park with a park buffer zone. Wolves certainly do not know there are boundary lines around a park and will wander in search of food, etc. Keeping healthy wolf populations is important for a number of reasons. They are necessary for the maintenance of a health ecosystem by controlling prey populations. The keep prey population healthier by culling the weak and sick. Studies in Yellowston have shown wolves have increased the health of the wetlands and affcted positively the flow of rivers and streams, thereby benefitting other species. Through all of this, ecotourism flourishes. Ecotourism brings in \$5 for each \$1 of hunter money, thereby improving the economy of the region. It is good for the environment and for the people who live in these wild areas. I encourage you to maintain these buffer zones and expand them.



Submitted By
Gary Feest
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:58:58 AM
Affiliation
Friend of the Earth

Phone
608-852-2508
Email
gfeest@sbcglobal.net
Address
530 Miller Ave.
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Support Proposal 142

Visitors to the park would love to hear the howl of these majestic creatures. They don't want to hear the sound of gunfire, knowing that another sentient living being is having it's life extinguished by a human. Let nature take care of itself.



Submitted By
Amanda Ferguson
Submitted On
2/1/2017 2:32:25 PM
Affiliation

Please support Proposal 142.

Wolves unfortunately are unable to read boundary signs and stay within areas of protection. Allowing for trapping and hunting again on state lands should not be allowed. These wolf populations are vulnerable. Existence in the Denali area is tough as it is for most wildlife. Contributing to the vulnerability of this apex predator does not bode well for maintaining a healthy, diverse ecosystem. One which tourists come to see and at a good expense.

I had the wonderful opportunity to stay in Denali National Park this past summer for four days. I was blown away by the natural beauty and the diversity of wildlife we were able to see. It surpassed my expectations, and I was touched by how unique and special this part of Alaska is. I've been to no other national park like it.

Do your part in protecting these wolves so that their populations may continue to improve and thrive and contribute to healthy, beautiful ecosystems that people will travel a very long way to visit. Denali and its gifts shouldn't end at a border.



Submitted By
Virginia Ferguson
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:54:06 AM
Affiliation
Visitor

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6197871749

Email
budgingy@gmail.com

Address
3582 Liggett Dr
San Diego, California 92106

It is extremely important to me that Proposal 142 be enacted. Wolves are an extremely important predator for the health of Denali and wild lands in North America in general. We have limited the ability of predators to manage wild lands and it is to our detriment. Many plants have disappeared along with intermediate species. This will give the wolves a chance to be outside the part without being hunted. Unfortunately, no one has yet been able to come up with a less than lethal set of instructions to tell predators where the boundaries are. Please give them a chance to make our earth a much richer place to be. Alaska is one of my favorite states and I love being a tourist there and at Denali and seeing the wonderful animals.



Submitted By
Sharon G Fisher
Submitted On
2/1/2017 6:23:16 AM
Affiliation

Phone
5406310205

Email
sfisher@humtech.com

Address
1447 Stoney Bottom Rd
Front Royal, Virginia 22630

I am asking the Board of Game to establish a no-wolf-take zone in a small portion of GMU 20, subunits 20A and 20C, adjacent to Denali National Park. As a wildlife photographer, being able to visit wolves within Denali is critical. The wolf population within the park and adjacent lands will be at significant risk for continued declines in numbers and viewability if the Board fails to protect them.

Reallocation of use from hunting/trapping to viewing wolves will enhance the economic benefit of this area to all Alaskans. The local and state tourism economies will benefit when visitors have an improved chance of seeing wolves. Almost thirty years of collaborative scientific study of wolf ecology in the Denali region will benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Simon B Fitzwilliam
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:37:40 PM
Affiliation

To Whom It May Concern,

This upcoming summer will be my fifth season working as a naturalist guide for a family owned tourism business based inside Denali National Park. Each summer (four days of every week, averaging 450 hours per summer, almost 2000 hours to date) I travel the park by road and foot with tourists who have traveled from far and wide to enjoy the natural landscape of the Denali region. Many, if not all, of these park visitors are harboring long held hopes of catching a glimpse of a wolf, that iconic animal of wilderness. Throughout the summers of 2013-2016, amongst all the hiking in the backcountry and the all day drives back and forth along the entire stretch of the park road, I have Never had a wolf sighting while with park visitors, not once. I'm certain that every member of the Board is fully aware of the vulnerability of these wolves to human predation after leaving the Denali Park boundaries (especially when crossing the Stampede Trail corridor); of the unprecedented integrity and duration of the scientific study of wolves that breed within Denali park boundaries; of the large sums of money tourists spend in Alaska pursuing their dreams of seeing a wolf in the wilds of Denali; and of the stated objective of the Board to "conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources." Wolves may be abundant enough to warrant legal harvest in much of Alaska, but they are not abundant in Denali National Park. I send this comment in support of Proposal 142 in an effort to protect the wolves of Denali from further harvest. Thank you for your time in considering this comment.

Sincerely,

Simon B. Fitzwilliam



Submitted By
William A Forsberg
Submitted On
1/30/2017 9:06:33 AM
Affiliation

I am writing to urge the BOG to adopt Proposal 142 and establish a predator trapping buffer zone in the Wolf Townships and along the eastern boundary of Denali National Park. I believe that the protection of predators in that area will enhance economic development in the area around Healy and Denali National Park. I live on Stampede Road and own property in several other locations in the Wolf Townships. During my winter travels between my properties in the Wolf Townships it has become very rare to see evidence of wolves and other predators. These animals are an economic asset for the adjacent Denali National Park and should now receive additional protection. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Dawn Foster
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:10:24 PM
Affiliation

I visited Denali in August 2012 and experienced numerous "once-in-a lifetime" events (at least for me from NM, although I hope they are not really "once-in-a-lifetime").....a female moose serenely eating in Wonder Lake (with a crystal clear Denali as a backdrop), sighting of a young inquisitive caribu encircling our hiking group, and the dancing Northern Lights! But some others in our group got a chance to see a wolf! How I wished I was with them when they saw it! Please don't take that opportunity away from me or other future visitors!

I still hope to one day re-visit Denali National Park, in hopes of seeing a wolf and much more. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.



Submitted By
Dee Frankfourth
Submitted On
2/3/2017 8:09:27 PM
Affiliation

I write in support of Proposal 142, to provide greater protection for the "wolf townships" adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve.

As a 3rd generation Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage, I have been to the Park many times, the first time nearly 60 years ago.

Since my first job out of college with ADF&G, I have been a student of the biology of McKinley/Denali, and keen to enhance its protection. It was a rare opportunity to be involved in the inception of the Denali Citizens Council in the mid-70s and to go on to work for over four years in Alaska and Washington, D.C. on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

These townships have always been of concern to wildlife biologists and I now urge your affirmative action to adopt Proposal 142.

Thank you for your consideration, Dee Frankfourth



Submitted By
Marnie Gaede
Submitted On
2/2/2017 12:31:24 PM
Affiliation

Phone
8189520108

Email
chacopress@earthlink.net

Address
5218 Donna Maria Lane
La Canada, California 91011

Support Proposal 142

Visitors to Denali want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to our economy.

The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.

The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.

Thanks,

Marnie Gaede



Submitted By
Stanley Gage
Submitted On
2/1/2017 3:48:53 PM
Affiliation

Phone
650-851-1924
Email
stan@ostassoc.com
Address
455 Old Spanish Trail
Portola Valley, California 94028

Please replace my earliier comments with the following correction.

Regarding Proposal 142

Apparently Alaska wants to continue the trapping and hunting of the wolf population in and around Denali and Proposal 142 is set forth to limit such activities in areas near Denali National Park. I visited Denali in 2013. I had no expectation of viewing wolves at that time as the population is quite low. The only time I have seen wolves anywhere in the world is, surprisingly, in 1995 in Colorado near an interstate highway.

At wildlife preserves in Africa involving millions of acres of area one is virtually immersed in huge herds of wildlife and associated predator species that exist largely in reasonable balance within the various species as well as with the human population. We could do much better throughtout America. Working diligently to restore a natural balance of wildlife throughout our country should be a goal that supplants the urge of some to kill wild life. Our hunting goals should be beautiful photos of wild life in nature and learning to coexist with wildlife. Somehow a stuffed head of a moose or bear on a wall is coming to represent an obscene arrogance, not something to be proud of.

I don't see tourist viewing of wolves as the most important issue here. It certainly would be an added tourist attraction. More important is extracting humans from the equation of a balance of wildlife populations. Humans bring extraordinary capabilities into this balance and have proven time and again that human participation in this balance leads to the imbalance in other wildlife populations and often to the extinction of the tartget species.

Seriously! Is the killiig of a few wolves each year for no real significant commercial purpose worth risking the extermination of an entire pack of this species? This activity is no more acceptable than the slaughter of elephants in Africa or Tigers in India to satisfy the needs of a few people for trinkits or useless tonics that serve nothing more than humans desires to demonstrate our prowess in the ability to kill other animals.

Alaska as a state should practice some introspection and ask as a population "why - really why - do we need to sanction this behavior".

Stanley R. Gage



Submitted By
John Gaguine
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:51:47 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9077892986

Email
Jgaguine@aol.com

Address
2551 Vista Drive D101
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Please support Proposal 142. It seems as though it is very important to tourism in Denali, which is of course very important to the state's economy.



Submitted By
Keri Gardner
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:50:28 PM
Affiliation

Phone
310-903-2079

Email
kerik@ucla.edu

Address
196 Low Road
Malone, New York 12953

The loss of the Denali wolves due to the lack of a buffer zone is a loss to the entire nation and a disgrace to Alaskans. Every citizen pays taxes to preserve the national park and its contents and letting a few individuals kill and maim them is stealing from every US citizen who wants to preserve the packs & ecosystem. You are letting those trappers/hunters negatively impact Alaskan income because visitors now spend 8 hours riding a rickety schoolbus without ever seeing a wolf—who is going to return for that?

I maintain my Alasa residence and residency despite being temporarily stationed out of state.



Submitted By
Michael Gawel
Submitted On
1/28/2017 9:27:24 PM
Affiliation
Wolf Township Land Owner

Phone
671-688-9873

Email
MGAWEL@GUAM.NET

Address
120 Bengbing St
Y-Paopao Estates
Dededo, Guam, Other 96929

Board Members and Others:

As a long time land owner in Wolf Township I am strongly in support of closing the areas to wolf hunting. My undeveloped wilderness property is near the Savage River just north of the old Denali Park boundary. I believe it is used as habitat for the wolves that mainly range within the national park. These play an important ecological role within the park and are the basis of valuable long term research carried out by my Denali scientist friends Ade Murie and Gordy Haber (both deceased) and their successors. I fear that hunters and trappers have even hunted and trapped while trespassing on my property. I want to do as much as possible to prevent that and to protect the Denali wolves which remain a most valuable resource of the national park and an economic tourism attraction to the State of Alaska.

Thank you for consideration, Michael Gawel



Submitted By
Maya Gillett
Submitted On
2/1/2017 4:10:06 AM
Affiliation

Phone
(206) 679-1838

Email
mayagillett@gmail.com

Address
6223 23rd Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

It is of utmost importance that the Board fully and forcefully support Proposal 142. This proposal would be a step in the right direction towards protecting wildlife, especially wolves, who are vulnerable and whose populations are dwindling. The wolves in this area are an incredibly important part of the ecosystem, but they are also a magical aspect of the landscape of Denali. I remember visiting Denali when I was 17 and seeing a wolf in the park - it was one of the most beautiful and moving things I have ever seen. Not only is protecting the wolves the responsibility and duty of the board, but it will also ensure that future generations have a reason to come to Alaska and to learn about their environment. Please do everything in your power to act responsibly to protect this species. Support Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Jane golub
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:04:22 PM
Affiliation

Phone
6312714346

Email
Janelo82@yahoo.com

Address
7 beach dr
Huntington , New York 11743

To Whom it May Concern:

My husband and I have traveled to Denali twice and plan to again. I write to communicate our support for proposal 142. Wolves bring in more tourist dollars to the state than do hunting and trapping licenses. Furthermore, these activities have a negative impact on the wolves declining population in this important area. It's our feeling that the role of this department is to protect wildlife. We are asking you to do just that.

Thank you

Sincerely

Jane and Barry Golub



Submitted By
John H Gray
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:38:37 AM
Affiliation
none

Hello, Board of Game. I am writing in support of Proposal 142 to preclude hunting and trapping of wolves on state land adjacent to Denali National Park. I visited Alaska for 3 weeks in 2015, in large part because of the state's wildlife, and I was not disappointed!

I spent 3 great nights at the North Face Lodge in Denali National Park. I did not see a wolf, but a large part of Alaska's allure to a traveler like me was knowing diverse animals, including wolves, were in the vicinity and that a sighting was possible.

Thank you for exercising your responsibility and authority to protect wolves, an important cog in the region's web of life. Please adopt Proposal 142.



Submitted By
susan gregg
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:58:46 PM
Affiliation

Phone
7038610047
Email
sbgregg@aol.com
Address
418 East Street, NE
Vienna, Virginia 22180

As a visitor to and a lover of Alaska I ask you to consider the vulnerability of wolves to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land. As you know the Denali wolves have been decimated when they cross out of the park.

The presence of the wolves is essential to tourism and science and help preserve the diversity of the animal populations I would expect that the tourism revenue is greater than the hunting and trapping license fees.

thank you for your attention.

Susan Gregg

Remind the Alaska Board of Game that it is their responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region.



Submitted By
Dawn Groth
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:33:43 PM
Affiliation

Support Proposal 142

Please do not allow wolf kills or hunts. I have been a visitor in that area a number of times prior to 2010 and used to see wolves semi-regularly. Now, and recently, I hardly ever see a wolf. Please Stop the hunt or help reduce hunter wolf kills as much as you can.

Thank you, Dawn Groth



Submitted By
Janet Annabelle Hamm
Submitted On
2/2/2017 4:11:10 PM
Affiliation

Phone
607-539-7713

Email
Annabellehamm@yahoo.com

Address
730 Level Green Road
Berkshire, New York 13736

I have been coming to Denali Borough once a year for the last dozen years to spend winter, and sometimes summer, with my family there. I have gone into the park as far as Camp Denali on almost each visit. I have seen most of the wild species that live in and near the park, but one encounter stands out.

I was walking along the bluff above the Nenana, around milepost 229, when I saw something move backwards. Unknowingly, I was on a perpendicular path to that of a wolf. We spotted each other at about the same time. We both stood perfectly still and stared into each other's eyes. And then it continued on its path, and I watched as it stopped several times to look back at me as it made its way down the bluff. When I could no longer see it, I moved on, too. But, I shall never forget those eyes. I shall never forget that it found me not to be a threat. I shall never forget my lack of fear. I shall never forget that wolf.

I can live without taking such an animal, but that animal cannot live without my protection and the protection of the proposed regulation.



Submitted By
Jenna Hamm
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:32:40 AM
Affiliation
Camp Denali

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9075050534
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Mile 228 Parks Hwy
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Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Dear Board Members,

During your upcoming Interior Region meetings you will take up Proposal 142, authored by Denali Citizens Council and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. This proposal brings back to the Board the idea of precluding hunting and trapping of wolves on distinct areas of state land adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve, in game management units 20A and 20C.

The Board previously approved no-take areas for wolves in these same locations in 2001 and 2002 when the Park wolf population was much higher than the record-low numbers that have persisted in recent years. While research has shown that hunting and trapping do have a real affect on the park's wolf population, it is, of course, one of many factors that contribute to changes in population size. A buffer zone, however, will ease one of the known human-caused factors for wolves' recent population decline in Denali National Park. We fully support the language of Proposal 142.

We know first-hand how powerful and meaningful for park visitors is the experience of viewing wolves in the wild. My family owns and operates Camp Denali and North Face Lodge, two wilderness lodges in the Kantishna, the heart of Denali National Park. About 2000 park visitors come through our doors each summer. We've been in business for 65 years. The ability to view wildlife in the wild—wolves, bears, caribou, moose, mountain sheep, and birds from all seven continents—is one of the primary reasons our guests choose to visit Denali National Park.

This is an opportunity that ought to be in the best interest of all Alaskans. The revenue generated by park visitors does not just go into the pockets of the cruise tour industry. The vast majority of our guests choose other small, Alaskan-owned lodges, bed and breakfasts, small boat companies, tour operators and restaurants to round out their Alaska vacations. Money spent is being kept in our communities.

Furthermore, as park visitors bring home with them memories made with the wilderness and wildlife of Alaska, they are more apt to seek out and protect the same at home. Direct experiences with wildlife in the wild help build advocates for wildlife and wilderness.

Establishing a buffer zone with stricter hunting and trapping regulation around Denali National Park also forwards to the public a much more positive, collaborative relationship between the National Park Service and the State of Alaska. There currently is such glaring disparity state versus federal management of fish and wildlife across Alaska. This disparity is embarrassing and awkward to convey to park visitors. While on the public side of the park boundary wolves are perceived as an integral part of a full-functioning ecosystem, on the state side they are viewed as competition in a system that requires human intervention. Full-functioning ecosystems are healthy ones for predator and prey alike.

I urge you to re-create a no-take zone of wolves in game units 20A and 20C, to respond to the recent population decline of Park wolves, to put forth to the public a more collaborative relationship between federal and state wildlife managers, and to honor the long-held desire by many park visitors to see wolves in the wild.

Sincerely,

Jenna and Simon Hamm

Owners, Camp Denali and North Face Lodge

Denali National Park, Alaska



Submitted By
Jane Handy
Submitted On
2/3/2017 9:13:41 AM
Affiliation

To the Board of Fish and Game,

I'm writing to show support for a no-take buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park to protect the park's wolves, if they wander across the boundary. The loss of a pack leader is devastating to the pack's cohesion and hard to recover from.

The pack is a big draw to tourism.

thank you for your consideration for protecting this one pack that we need to protect as a unit in Alaska.

Jane Handy



Submitted By
Elizabeth Hatton
Submitted On
1/29/2017 12:07:26 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 277 9968

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libbyh@alaska.net

Address
8601 Sultana Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

I am writing in support of Proposal 142 which would establish some closed areas next to and surrounded by Denali National Park for the protection of iconic wolf families that often den in or near the east end of Denali National Park. These wolves are of special interest to tourists and Alaskans alike and serve as educational representatives of their species. Hunting and trapping are contributing to their decreased numbers.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Melanie Heacox
Submitted On
1/30/2017 12:27:25 PM
Affiliation

~~Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Proposal 142, scheduled for discussion at the Region III meetings Feb. 17-25, 2017.

Please prohibit the take of wolves on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park.

The Alaska Board of Game has acted in the past to create no wolf take zones to enhance their numbers for the viewing public. And that was at a time when the Denali population was double, what it is now. This idea makes economic sense and fulfills ADF&G management goals for wolves. It's time to do it again.

Here are the key points:

- These wolves face a specific risk from both hunting and trapping, when they take forays onto state lands at the northeast boundaries of the park.
- These wolves are of international importance for both tourism and scientific study.
- There is a biological and economic value in preserving a diverse animal population.
- The Board of Game has both the responsibility and authority to provide conservation on state lands in this region.

Unquestionably, Denali National Park's iconic wolves are high on visitors' lists of animals they hope to see. Those visitors spend money that has an enormous impact on the local Denali economy. A recent NPS report showed that the more than 530,000 visitors who came to the park in 2014 spent \$5.24 million dollars in nearby communities.

Therefore, I request that the Board of Game establish "no-wolf-take zones" in GMU 20, adjacent to Denali National Park as stated in Proposal 142. This reallocation of use from hunting/trapping - to viewing wolves will enhance the economic benefit of this area to all Alaskans. The local and state tourism economies will benefit when visitors have an improved chance of seeing wolves. And it will benefit the almost thirty years of collaborative scientific study of wolf ecology in the Denali region.

Thank you.



Submitted By
Melissa Head
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:09:26 PM
Affiliation

I am submitting this comment in support of Proposal 142. Wolves in Denali National Park and Denali State Park are important to Alaska's economy and provide an important role in the population dynamics of the parks. As an apex predator, wolves require a large home range and it has been documented that these wolves traverse the park boundaries. Wolves predictably den and spend their summers within the National Park and then travel onto State lands in the winter and spring. These are the same wolves that draw tourists from all over the world and bring in millions of tourism dollars. Because of the lack of protection on State lands, the wolf population has seen a steady decline. The Board of Game has statutory authority to conserve its resources and supporting the larger no-take zone as described in Proposal 142 will help conserve this important state resource.



Submitted By
Dianne Herman
Submitted On
1/29/2017 8:37:58 PM
Affiliation

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Cantwell, Alaska 99729

Although I get my mail in Cantwell, I live in the McKinley Village area. Since I first moved here, in 2005, I have seen fewer and fewer wolves on the trails in our area. (I mush dogs.) I am concerned about the wolves who wander out of the Denali Natl Park boundaries, and are thus prone to being killed by sport hunters and trappers. (Let's face it: who eats wolf meat???) My fellow neighbors like to see wolves. Thousands of tourists who visit Denali in the summer like to see wolves. Many of the wolf packs are being decimated because important members of their packs wander over the borders and get killed. There are plenty of caribou around, enough for humans to eat and wolves to eat. Let's permanently reinstate the buffer zone on the Stampede end of the Park!



Submitted By
Dan Hestad
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:02:52 AM
Affiliation

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Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29579

It is clearly in the best interests of Alaska, visitors to Denali, and all Americans that these wolves should be protected. Science has continuously shown that ecosystems thrive when wolves are part of it. Further, wolves are not generally a threat to humans or human activity. Finally, there is a significant financial benefit to protecting wolves in and around the National Park. As a wildlife photographer, I know the attraction people have to wolves. Some wait a lifetime for the chance to see one. Many pay significant money to take pictures of them. They are a national treasure.



Submitted By
Thom Hogan
Submitted On
2/1/2017 5:28:34 AM
Affiliation

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Address
PO Box 811
Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049

This comment is in reference to Proposal 142, establishing a buffer area for wolves adjacent to Denali National Park.

As a professional wildlife photographer who's worked in Denali National Park and the bounding areas many times over the last 25 years, and as someone who's contributed large sums to research within the park itself, I support the establishment of a buffer zone where wolves are not hunted. I believe that it's needed. I've watched critical habitats worldwide where edge boundary conditions have led to animal endangerment. In Denali, the proposed areas to be closed are particularly important: one is essentially an arbitrary reach into the protected areas and bounded on three sides by them, the other is the area where humans congregate and have a tendency to tempt wild animals through things like improper waste disposal and even something as simple as smell.

Let it be known that I'm not someone who believes in getting rid of hunting, only that we manage where and how we hunt in ways that are not producing highly negative results to animal populations in healthy ecosystems. I've contributed to animal research all around the world, and the one thing that comes up again and again is the dangers to animal populations when ill-considered human incursion (and hunting) take place at arbitrary boundaries the animals aren't likely to understand or respect. I've witnessed wolves in the areas where the hunting ban is proposed, and for good reason: one of the packs at the time was crossing that land as part of its overall territory. As you well know, the Denali wolves have fairly large territories; I think we're putting boundaries in that don't jive with their daily habits. Packs established outside the park boundaries and not protected from hunting are a different story, but they also don't tend to use the area in question. What's trying to be done with this proposal is make sure that the wolf packs native to Denali NP have a secure territory where they won't be hunted.

One of the reasons I return to Denali, often bringing a large group of workshop students, is because of the wolves. Not necessarily just the wolves per se, but the broad and interesting diversity of the animal populations contained within the park, and yes, the drama of animals living with and hunting other animals, as the wolves do. Denali is one of the few places in the US where we still have close to a fully functioning ecosystem. Damaging that in any way would start to remove the incentive for me and others to travel the long way to see it in action. If pack size gets reduced too much through hunting adjacent to the park, you may not have hunters coming to Alaska any more, too. The risk involved with not making this small protection is far too high.

Personally, I'm happy that you're even considering Proposal 142. There are places in the world that are not listening to constituencies and not living up to the responsibility of their job. Please consider the proposal carefully. I believe that closing those areas to hunting will help Alaska conserve the wildlife of the region and continue to make it attraction to ecotourism.



Submitted By
Marilyn Houser
Submitted On
2/3/2017 12:02:50 PM
Affiliation
Long time Alaskan

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lostinspace@matnet.com

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2411 Ingra Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

I support proposal 142. The proposed buffer (defined in the proposal) outside Denali National Park needs to be restored as an area closed to hunting and trapping of wolves. Removal of the buffer area has led to a reduction in the number of wolves and stable wolf packs in the park and significantly reduced the opportunities for Alaskans and visitors to our state to view wolves. I have lived in Alaska almost 40 years and despite numerous visits to DNP in the last +10 years I have not seen or heard a single wolf. There was a time when I frequently would catch a distant howl or a brief glimpse. PLEASE APPROVE PROPOSAL 142.



Submitted By
Maggie Howell
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:12:06 AM
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Executive Director

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South Salem, New York 10590

The Wolf Conservation Center Supports Proposal 142

The Wolf Conservation Center is a nonprofit organization that promotes wolf education and conservation, and it is currently supported by more than 3 million people across North America and beyond. In addition to many other educational experiences, we promote educational tourism opportunities throughout the USA and Canada, which enable participants to observe and learn about wolves in their natural habitat. Encouraged by growing interest, we explored trips to Denali National Park for the sole purpose of planning educational wolf watching adventures. Despite difficult economic times, we remain eager to support Alaska's tourism industry.

It is our understanding that from 2000 until 2010, the State of Alaska prohibited wolf hunting and trapping in two areas bordering the park, the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas, in order to protect two of the park's three most-commonly viewed wolf packs. At the spring 2010 meeting of the Alaska Board of Game, the National Park Service submitted a proposal to extend the eastern boundary of the Stampede Closed Area. Instead, the Board of Game decided to eliminate both closed areas and allow hunting and trapping wolves in all areas bordering the park.

In 2010, Denali National Park and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, with the cooperation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, began a study of wolf movements, wolf survival, and wolf viewing opportunities along the Denali Park Road. During the course of the study in 2012, the death of a breeding female from a pack that lived along the Denali Park Road was followed by a drop in wolf sightings. This was one of several instances where the death of an individual wolf, from legal trapping or hunting, sparked widespread media attention and concern in recent years.

Unfortunately, the national reputation of the State of Alaska in terms of its commitment to wildlife tourism was damaged when the Alaska Board of Game rejected a petition urging the Board to enact a wolf buffer (no-trapping/no-hunting) zone on a small parcel of state land along the eastern boundary of Denali National Park in 2012. Sadly, wolf densities for the past three years have been the lowest in Denali since 1987. The number of wolves in Denali has declined from 147 in fall 2007 to only 49 now, and the number of wolf family groups ("packs") declined from 20 in 2008 to only nine now. Visitor wolf-viewing success has declined from 45 percent in 2010, when the buffer was eliminated by the state, to only 5 percent last year.

More than 530,000 visitors come to Denali each year, about 50,000 of whom are Alaskans. Many cite the opportunity to see wolves as one of their primary objectives for visiting the park. A journey to Alaska requires a substantial financial investment on the part of those visitors. It would be unethical for us to ask our supporters to spend their hard-earned dollars on such an experience when, in all probability, they may not see the very wildlife they expected to see during a "wolf-watching" adventure.

Beyond eco-tourism, it is important to note that a healthy wolf population is more than x-number of wolves inhabiting y-square miles of territory. The notion that we can "harvest" a fixed percentage of an existing wolf population that corresponds to natural mortality rates and still maintain a viable population misses the point. It's not how many wolves you kill, it's about which wolves you kill. Natural losses typically take younger wolves, whereas hunting and trapping take the older, experienced, wolves that are essential to the pack's sustainability. They know the territory, prey movements, hunting techniques, denning sites, pup rearing and teaching. When a breeding wolf is killed by humans, it sets off a chain of events that leaves the rest of the pack at serious risk of survival.

Denali is one of Alaska's top tourism attractions, and is responsible for more than \$500 million in economic activity each year in Alaska. Wolf viewing rates are an economic indicator in a tourism economy where many of our supporters say the prospects of seeing a wolf is the reason they want to visit Alaska. The state should realize the obvious ecological and economic benefits of restoring and sustaining the wildlife of Denali but has yet to hear the voices of countless wildlife educators and conservationists.

In addition, such practices as wolf bounties and wolf trapping send a clear signal to potential visitors that the locals do not respect the wolf's place as valuable native wildlife. If, however, the proposed buffer zone were enacted, we believe we could reasonably assure our supporters that all was being done to encourage a positive and rewarding eco-education and tourism experience.

It is clear that the Alaska Board of Game needs to reassess their intent and ask what part of the public their decisions serve. What narrow special interests are pushing for no buffers? Do the majority of Alaskans really go out to hunt and trap wolves? When all the facts are weighed, we believe the perceived need to kill wolves will appropriately dissipate.

Thus, we support the Alaskan people in their recent petition to Alaska's Governor Walker which asks for three significant adjustments to



the current predator control/Intensive Management (IM) practices which would dramatically reduce the unnecessary killing of Alaska

wolves and bears. Not only will our organization be able to fulfill its educational mission, but the resulting positive ecological and economic impacts will benefit Alaska's wild ecosystems, its citizens and its tourism industry.

Wolf Conservation Center Executive Director, Maggie Howell



Submitted By
Arthur Howle
Submitted On
2/3/2017 10:03:49 AM
Affiliation

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8045196035

Email
bhowle1945@verizon.net

Address
615 Westham Woods drive
Richmond, Virginia 23229

I support the proposal for the establishment of a wolf sanctuary buffer zone adjacent to the Denali National Park.



Submitted By
Mark Huckel
Submitted On
2/3/2017 5:33:34 AM
Affiliation

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7273998572

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Pinknosser@aol.com

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6168 1/2 Seminole Blvd
Seminole, Florida 33772

142 should be set in place and enforced



Submitted By
Jean Hulbert
Submitted On
2/1/2017 11:32:43 AM
Affiliation

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Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Please support the protection of wolves from hunting on State lands adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve with Proposal 142. Park wolf populations are vulnerable to hunting and trapping when they cross Park boundaries onto State land. Visitors come from around the world to see the diverse wildlife in Denali National Park, and wolves are an important and special part of that diversity. It doesn't make sense to protect them in the Park only to have them hunted if they cross into State land.



Submitted By
Teresa Hunt
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:31:24 AM
Affiliation

I support proposal 142 mainly on moral grounds. I think it is wrong to establish a wolf population only to kill it off - what is the point? My husband and I have been hunters in the past, but we killed only for food. The hunters that target wolves are killing for sport. Trapping wolves for fur may have been necessary in the past, but those days are long gone. I can sympathize with ranchers who have to protect their herds - the presence of wolves adds another layer of difficulty, and the ranchers did not choose to have wolves reintroduced. The need to dispatch a wolf that can not be discouraged from targeting livestock may be necessary from time to time, but to kill a wolf for "fun", or as in the case of trapping, for money, is just wrong. Although it is unrealistic to think we can stop sport hunting, we can at least give the Denali wolves a little more of a chance for survival with this proposal. I am a wildlife biologist, and have been to Denali, though it was many years ago, and I saw no wolves. I've hunted elk in the area surrounding the park, as well. It is a stunning area, and wolves complete the picture there. I hope to someday see a Denali wolf, and this proposal would certainly help make that possible. But it's not about me. It's about a population of wolves that has been allowed to thrive only to be culled. Adults foraging for food are killed as they enter hunting zones, negatively affecting their pup's chances of surviving. It is only fair to give these spectacular animals a chance for a healthy, happy life -- we share the earth with them, and they deserve as special a life as we seek for ourselves.



Submitted By
Becky Irish
Submitted On
1/28/2017 7:08:46 PM
Affiliation

I fully support Proposal 142 -- prohibiting the take of wolves on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park.

I am Becky Irish and I have lived in McKinley Village for 19 years; I own my home in what I believe is the most beautiful place on the planet. I am a military veteran having retired from Clear AFS after serving 20 years in the Air Force. I am also a wilderness tour guide in Denali National Park and Preserve and have driven the Denali Park Road for the past 16 years. I interact with thousands of tourists throughout the summer who ride my tour bus into the park. Their primary reason for visiting DENALI is to see wildlife in their natural environment. Visitors feel disappointed on days with low wildlife sightings; they feel cheated when I tell them wolf numbers are at such low levels that they probably will never see one. Visitors walk away with a feeling of a wasted trip to Alaska, they may feel as though the tourist brochures portraying bears and wolves gave them false hope of experiencing a wild place. For many of my visitors - the Denali Park Road is the "wildest" place they may ever experience in their lives. If you were to talk to the old timers around here who have driven buses into the park for 30 or 40 years, they will tell you wildlife sightings now a days are fewer and farer between. The Denali Park Road really is one of the last places left on the planet where a visitor can ride on a bus for a day and have the opportunity to view sub-arctic wildlife.

Please prohibit the take of wolves on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park.



Submitted By
Mollie Isaacs
Submitted On
2/1/2017 10:39:13 AM
Affiliation

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Address
418 W. Palmetto St.
Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina 27948

Dear Board Members,

I am writing in support of Proposal 142, which would prohibit the take of wolves on lands adjacent to Denali National Park. I travel to the park every year, and bring photography groups from all over the country to the North Face Lodge. Each group expresses the most interest in seeing wolves, but we rarely see them. In the last 6 times I have visited the park, I have seen only 2 wolves. By comparison, each year we routinely see brown bear, caribou, moose, and more.

The number of wolves in the park is already very low, and is down by half from what it had been in the 2002 count. If the numbers continue to diminish, soon the packs will be unable to reproduce in adequate numbers to sustain themselves. If things remain unchanged, given that the wolf population is half of what it was 15 years ago, the chances are good that there will no wolves left in the area at all in another 15 years. That would be a very sad day for Denali National Park, for its visitors, for Alaska, and of course for the wolves.

A big reason photographers travel with me to Denali National Park is to experience our country's Last Frontier. They also are eager to see a variety of species in the wild. And for so many people the wolf represents, more than almost any other animal, what wilderness and wildness are all about.

My understanding is that the wolves routinely cross boundaries from the protection of the National Park onto unprotected state land, and back again, as their needs require. The moment they leave the protection of the Park boundary, they are vulnerable to hunting and trapping. This would be minimized with the adoption of this proposal.

While money should not be the primary reason for any conservation efforts, the fact is that finances do have to be considered. It seems clear that revenues from tourism in the state of Alaska and Denali National Park are far in excess of any revenue that comes from issuing hunting and trapping licenses. The regional and state economies would benefit from the preservation of the Denali wolf population.

Wolves have always had great appeal. We revere their strength, their cunning, their group cooperation, their family values, and their beauty. Now is the time to protect their numbers, and preserve their presence in Denali National Park for the long-term future. It is the duty and responsibility of the Alaska Board of Game to assure the conservation and protection of the wildlife and the wilderness of this region. You have the mandated authority to take this action, and I hope that you will see fit to enact Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Gordon Isakson
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:12:18 AM
Affiliation

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9164439020

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Address
1861 8th Ave
Sacramento, California 95818

I am a California resident who has visited Alaska a number of times and strongly urge the Board to support Proposal 142 to protect Denali Park's wild wolf population. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Mary Lou Johnson
Submitted On
1/31/2017 7:48:17 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
5099915512

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Address
3319 W. 23rd Ave
Spokane, Washington 99224

I am writing in support of increasing protection for wolves as contemplated in Proposal 142. I've had the privilege of hearing a pack of wolves one night while doing volunteer trail work near the Snake River and I will never forget it. I was a second time visitor to Denali National Park this summer along with thousands of other tourists. I came to see the wildlife primarily but unfortunately I neither saw nor heard any wolves. I know that they are very vulnerable to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land. It is critically important that we have intact, diverse animal populations in the Denali region. Of greater benefit to the State of Alaska are the revenues from tourism to Denali National Park than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the taking of wolves on adjacent state lands. Please exercise your authority to fulfill your responsibility to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region for the generations that follow ours. "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." Native American Proverb.



Submitted By
Frank Keim
Submitted On
1/31/2017 8:54:14 PM
Affiliation
individual

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Address
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

ADFG BOARD OF GAME

To Whom It May Concern:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on saving the wolves of Denali National Park.

I'm a 56-year resident of Alaska and an owner of land on the Teklanika River immediately adjacent to the National Park. I would like to add my voice to those who wish to save the remaining 49 wolves in the Park by asking you to reinstate the protective Buffer Zone that you dismantled in 2010.

I have read Proposal 142 written and submitted by the Denali Citizens Council to the Board of Game for your consideration on Feb. 18, 2017, and I agree with both the letter and spirit of their proposal and the boundaries they recommend for the Buffer Zone.

Here are my reasons why I believe Denali wolves should be protected:

These wolves are important for the maintenance of the integrity of the ecosystem of the Park and the surrounding area. Since 2010, the wolves have suffered drastic declines in their numbers as a direct result of hunting and trapping on the N.E. borders of the Park.

The value of these wolves for continued scientific study is extremely important.

The importance of these wolves cannot be overestimated in terms of their monetary value to tourism. Viewing statistics by tourists (including myself) of these wolves are at an all-time low. This could have negative consequences for the local and state tourism economy.

It is the legal responsibility of the State of Alaska to protect these wolves as an integral part of the ecosystem of the area so that all Alaskan citizens may benefit equally from them whether for non-consumptive or consumptive uses.

Please respect these words and vote to restore the Buffer Zone.

Thanks.

Frank Keim

2220 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709





Submitted By
Catherine Kershner
Submitted On
1/29/2017 5:12:49 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 474-2022

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Address
2990 Tekapo Ct.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Please adopt some measure of added protection for the wolves in the Stampede Trail / Nenana Canyon. The financial gain of a few in the area who squander this unique resource for their personal betterment is irresponsible and short-sighted. Scientific studies conducted recently directly relate the wolf populations and pack integrity to the taking of alpha females, an act that has directly impacted park packs in recent years and a practice that needs to be avoided at all costs if the parks populations are to recover. The financial value of these wolves is far greater if they are seen in the park alive rather than on a hangar on a showroom floor or displayed privately in some wealthy trophy-hunter's wall. It is suspect that borders are where they are in the first place - it is an arrangement that was never fair to the wildlife in the area, and continuing this system is unconscionable. I hope you will give the wolves - and those who value them for more than the price of the hunt or their pelt - a chance to experience this vital part of Alaska as it was meant to be.

Catherine Kershner

Fairbanks



Submitted By
Patricia Kinnunen
Submitted On
2/2/2017 11:19:08 AM
Affiliation
1939

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same as above
anchorage, Alaska 99507

Please support Proposal 142 for the animals.

Patricia



Kiss A Moose
611 East Tenth Avenue, Apartment 7
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-223-7269

February 3, 2017

Via electronic mail to dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Support for Proposal 142

Dear Board of Game:

As you know, you have a long history of representing the goals and values of trappers and hunters while ignoring everyone else who is only concerned with wildlife viewing. This comment is being submitted in **support of Proposal 142** to reinstate the buffer for the Wolf Townships along Denali National Park (DNP). Our company may be called Kiss A Moose, but we stand up for predators because they are vital to our ecosystem and healthy populations of ungulates. Predators also bring a lot of enjoyment to us because it is really interesting to observe pups play or watch the social interactions of adults.

The proposed buffer is needed to protect wolves. Since the buffer was removed in 2010, wolves have been in a steady decline. A few short years ago, a visitor would see wolves 45% of the time. Now, the likelihood of seeing a wolf is about 5% because several packs, including the famous East Fork pack, are now gone. You have allowed them all to be killed in a short-sighted and scientifically unfounded predator control scheme.

Our company is owned and operated by people who are part of the 85% of people who do not hunt and are not represented by the Board of Game. We have a vested interest in keeping wolves alive. We are professional photographers, and wolf pictures are one of our top sellers. We have no video of wolves because they are so hard to find. Our best-selling wolf picture is a picture of a captive wolf because we have not been able to capture an image of a wild one in recent years.

Wolves are a keystone species and they belong in and around DNP if it is to remain an intact ecosystem. The last wolf I saw was a two-second glimpse back in 2015 (and it was not in DNP). We can spend a week or two in DNP without seeing a wolf, and no one on our staff has seen a wolf in DNP in years. I recently read an article written by a woman who lives within hours of DNP, but flew to Yellowstone National Park specifically so she and her daughter could see wolves. It is a tragedy that I, too, will be financing a trip for someone from my company to travel outside of Alaska to take wolf pictures when we should have plenty of wolves right here.



The general public is under the impression that DNP is a magnificent park where animals are completely wild and their numbers are unmanipulated by man. People are horrified when they find out that the Denali wolves are slaughtered as soon as they leave the park. They are even more horrified when they find out about the State's practice of collaring wolves to kill off entire packs or allowing people to kill pups in their dens or kill wolves when their pelts are worthless. These inhumane and unethical hunting practices—airial gunning, denning, killing over bait—are an embarrassment. The least you can do is protect the few wolves who live along DNP and reinstate the buffer rule.

Please do the right thing for Alaska by protecting these wolves. The Board knows that 85% of residents don't hunt. The Board knows that DNP is visited by hundreds of thousands of people each year. The Board knows that these visitors bring millions of dollars into the State each year. The Board knows that the wolf population has been decimated since the buffer zone was eliminated in 2010. **Therefore, the Board must know that the buffer zone is a necessity for our economy, natural diversity, and for public enjoyment of DNP.** The rest of Alaskans (and the millions who come here from all around the world) want to see the wolves alive. Stop catering to the handful of Trapper Creek trappers and hunters and listen to everyone else who wants to see these animals flourish in their natural habitat.

Kiss A Moose supports Proposal 142 and supports wolves having an opportunity to live in their natural habitat without interference and inhumane hunting and trapping methods.

Thank you,

Jeanette Frost
Director of Business Development



Submitted By
james e kowalsky
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:51:50 PM
Affiliation
self

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9074882434

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pobox 10640
820 amanita rd
fairbanks, Alaska 99710

I am supporting proposal 142 and I am urging the Board of Game to pass this proposal. This is central to the future of wolves that are a central attraction to visitors to Denali National Park. The visitor industry is a major component of the Alaskan economy. Wildlife viewing is paramount and must be considered as such in deliberations and decisions of the Board of Game. The attraction of Alaskan wildlife experiences including viewing has become a major use of Alaskan wildlife. The decimation of Denali wolves due to trapping and hunting has a negative impact upon visitor viewing of Denali wolves and has been documented in peer reviewed published research. This situation cannot be ignored in management decisions by the board. I make this earnest and personal plea to not choose half measures and to pass 142 as a major component of an overall economic reality of our state. Such support for wildlife viewing experiences is central to the good stewardship necessary to continued building of a major sustainable feature of our Alaskan economy and cannot in good conscience and good management be cast aside and ignored. Please do your share with passage of this proposal. Thank you.

James Kowalsy Fairbanks



Submitted By
Chris Kuhn
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:25:47 PM
Affiliation
--None--

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7075410180

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j.kuhn1@comcast.net

Address
188 WEMBLEY CT
SANTA ROSA, California 95403-1734

I am writing to lend my support to Proposal 142 regarding the establishment of wolf no-take zones adjacent to Denali National Park. While I live in California I have traveled to Alaska, drawn specifically by the chance to see wildlife in the natural habitat. I am happy to say that I have seen wolves within the park boundary and I am sure that these no-take zones will increase the chance for others to see these magnificent animals--with no adverse effects.



Submitted By
Nancy Kuhn
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:17:50 PM
Affiliation

Phone
4880329

Email
motherchukar@gmail.com

Address
2060 Amy Dyn Rd
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

I strongly support Proposal 142 which would finally establish a safe haven for wolves and bears along the Denali National Park and Preserve northeast boundary. The selfish behavior of trappers and hunters in regards to killing wolves and bears in the Wolf Townships is impacting visitors to the park who shoot with cameras and NOT with guns. It is time to stop the carnage and the BOG is asked to listen to the significant Alaskan and visitor population's desire to establish a safe haven from the 2 legged predators.

I am personally tired of supporting those who want special support for their chosen lifestyle. If someone wants to play Little House in the Far North, go for it. BUT don't expect there to be special rules to enable you to deny the thousands who want to see wolves and bears outside of a zoo. Non-consumptive behavior has a strong following.

BOG, I am asking you to consider representing the many; not just the few hunters and trappers which includes yourselves. I am an Alaskan of 28 years and my voice has the same value as any one of yours. Stop the egregious carnage,

How can you justify killing all the wolves in the Kenai area?

Nancy Kuhn
2060 Amy Dyan Rd
Fairbanks, AK

"Representing the many and not the select few"



Submitted By
Kevin laemmrich
Submitted On
1/29/2017 8:31:45 AM
Affiliation

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9073614990

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Kevin.c.laemmrich@gmail.com

Address
Po box 336
Girdwood, Alaska 99587

Stop killing the wolve, enough with trophy hunting.

- The predictable vulnerability of wolves that den and spend summers inside Denali Park when conducting forays onto state lands in winter and spring.
- The importance of wolf conservation in this region of the state of Alaska, where tourists from around the world come to see diverse animal groups.
- The economic importance of the conservation of wildlife in this region to the state of Alaska, bringing millions of dollars into the local economy yearly.
- The clear statutory authority of the Board of Game in providing for conservation of resources, and the appropriateness of making that type of decision for these particular lands.



Submitted By
David A Laughton
Submitted On
2/1/2017 10:03:07 AM
Affiliation

To whom it may concern on the BOG,

For 33 seasons I drove Wildlife Tours at Denali National Park. I raised my family near the park in the summer and in Anchorage in the winter. Over the thousands of trips that I took into Denali National Park I had the opportunity to share wolf sightings with thousands visitors. Given the connection between humans and canines, viewing a wolf in the wild is often a profound experience for park visitors.

The wolf packs of Denali are probably the most viewed wild wolves in the world. Over the years, many park wolves have been taken by either hunters and trappers, often very close to the Park boundary. Given the vast scale of Alaska, so much of which is open to wolf hunting and trapping, protecting critical wolf habitat adjacent to Denali National Park is a small sacrifice for state residents, but provides potentially huge benefits for park visitors.

Alaska is a state of tremendous vastness, most of which visitors never have a chance to see. If a trip along the Denali Park Road provides a visitor with an opportunity to view a wild wolf, we have afforded them a personal, genuine, wilderness experience they will remember for a lifetime.

I ask the BOG to please approve Proposal 142.

Most Sincerely,

David Laughton

907.947.7657



Submitted By
richard lautze
Submitted On
1/31/2017 8:00:18 PM
Affiliation
Mr.

Phone
4155939566

Email
rlautze@urbanschool.org

Address
870 45th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94121

I am writing to support increased protection of wolves through the measures identified in Proposal 142.

I recently visited Denali National Park for the first time and it was the trip of a lifetime. I am 63 years old and a teacher and an outdoor enthusiast. I teach ecology to middle school and high school students. Denali seems like it still contains the bio diversity that is rapidly disappearing in other parts of the country. The eco-system is still very much intact and wonderful to behold. While there, however, I did not see any wolves which was a disappointment. I was told that they are threatened by hunting in nearby areas. It seems important that the remaining wolves be protected. We need to do all we can to preserve and protect the species we have left. It is important that we maintain diverse animal populations. This is good for the natural ecology, but also a benefit to the State of Alaska because of the tourist revenues from tourism to Denali National Park. This importance will grow with time. Hunting the wolves is a deadend game, and very short sighted.

Please take action to protect the wolves by supporting Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Jeff Lebegue
Submitted On
1/29/2017 4:28:31 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-355-3259

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jeffbc@msn.com

Address
Box 324
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

The wolves of Denali Park and Preserve that foray onto state lands toward the northeast section of the Park need protection. If you believe in the value of science, and also believe in the value of tourism for this region and to the state of Alaska, then I would hope that you will prioritize these goals for the wolf population in the Denali area. Future generations of humans from all over the planet will thank you.



Submitted By
Judy lehman and kenn moon
Submitted On
1/31/2017 7:14:15 PM
Affiliation

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907-696-1715
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Address
Prob 772642
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

We strongly support proposal 142. Alaska wolves of Denali National Park need protection and buffer zones from hunters. The wolf population in DNP is dwindling and we feel the Alaska Board of Game must do their part to preserve our wildlife. Respectively, Judy Lehman and Kenn Moon



Submitted By
Karla Leithoff
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:24:21 PM
Affiliation

Support Proposal 142 to allow a buffer on State owned lands so Donali wolves can safely transverse without being subject to those who use this opportunity to hunt wolves. Wolves need to travel this corridor without the vulnerability of risking their lives - hunting for sport should be banned within a regulated buffer to insure their survivability.



Submitted By
Caitlin Lenahan
Submitted On
1/31/2017 9:45:35 AM
Affiliation
Denali Wilderness Centers LTD

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Address
106 W Bunnell Ave
Homer, Alaska 99603

I would like to voice my support for Proposal 142 to protect wolves along the northeast corner of Denali National Park. Wolves regularly cross borders unknown to them as they go on hunting forays outside the park. In tact animal populations are important to the overall health of the region, and including wolves as part of the ecosystem helps to keep other populations Alaskans rely on, like moose and caribou, healthy.

The East Fork wolf pack was the longest study of wolves to date, and as of last summer it was feared that, after finding the male dead, the pack was also dead with him, because the female and pups that remained would be unable to survive. It is a tragedy to lose that study especially as so much of interior Alaska is and will be going through major changes as the climate warms. What affect does the melting permafrost, increased temperatures and fires, and brushification of the arctic and sub arctic have on wolf populations? We may have a hard time gaining that knowledge with the passing of the East Fork pack.

I have the great privilege to work in Denali National Park each summer and share this, one of our planet's last wild gems, with guests from around the world. They come for respite from the "outside", to unplug and refresh, and to experience the wilderness. One of the long lasting symbols of that wilderness is the wolf. It seems to be every visitor's dream to glimpse one, and yet, I can say with absolute honesty that I have never seen one and the chances of observing a wolf in the wild are getting slimmer and slimmer. The wilderness, more and more, is driving the Alaskan economy as people flock here each summer. I ask you preserve this small piece of it, and protect wolves, as a symbol of Alaskan pride and the wilderness so many seek.

Thank you and please, VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL 142.



Submitted By
Doug Lenier
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:52:13 PM
Affiliation

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8189010975

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Valley Glen, California 91401-4328

SUPPORT PROPSAL 142

As a member and supporter of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Denali Citizens Council, I write in support of Proposal 142 to establish a NO HUNTING/TRAPPING buffer adjacent to Denali national Park.

There is much precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. In 2001-02 the Board acknowledged that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, and set aside areas closed to hunting. The park's wolf population (Spring 2002) was 97 wolves, far more than inhabit the park now.

The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.

Visitors to Denali (including my family) want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism, of which I, and my family are long time participants in. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area (including my dollars,) and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to the regional economy.

A mere 4 percent chance that a visitor will spot a wolf along the Park Road (as documented by the National Park Service in 2015) is an abysmally low number. Before the buffer was scrapped in 2010, nearly 50 percent saw a wolf.

I want the opportunity for my children and grandchildren to experience the incomparable Alaska wilderness, and for it to be preserved forever. Right now, the BOG can take this important step to help insure this outcome.

Thank you for considering my comments.



Submitted By
Sherry Lewis
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:14:10 AM
Affiliation

I have lived in Alaska over 40 years. Tourism is one of the largest moneymakers in Alaska. People come to Alaska to see wildlife, especially wolves and grizzly bears. Denali wolves are important to tourism. Please accept and pass Proposal 142 prohibiting the taking of wolves on lands in GMU 2 adjacent to Denali National Park. Wolves are part of a healthy ecosystem.



Submitted By
David Linn
Submitted On
2/3/2017 11:45:49 AM
Affiliation

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3605895805

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Address
918 Hassalo Ave SE
Ocean Shores, Washington 98569

I am writing in support of Proposal 142 to protect Denali wolves. I understand that this proposal will help prevent hunting and trapping of wolves in certain areas adjacent to the Denali National Park. I understand that the wolf population in the Park has been declining and I believe that efforts need to be made in order to maintain a healthy population. Wolves are a critical part of a healthy ecosystem and need your protection.



Submitted By
Charlie Loeb
Submitted On
2/3/2017 2:42:06 PM
Affiliation

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Address
5271 Miramar St.
Eugene, Oregon 97405

To the Members of the Alaska Board of Game,

I am writing to support Proposal 142 that will prohibit the take of wolves in areas adjacent to Denali National Park.

I am a long-time Alaska resident recently relocated out of state, but I retain my property off the Stampede Road west of Healy within the area contemplated for the restriction. My teenage daughter grew up traveling through Denali, and she thought wolves were the most common animal in the park because we saw them so regularly. We saw plenty of moose, caribou, and bear too, but those animals we commonly saw elsewhere in Alaska as well. The wolves were special to Denali.

No longer. It has been years since we have seen a wolf from the Denali park road. I recognize that there are many natural factors at work when it comes to wolf populations and the visibility of the animals in the park, but the targeted trapping along the park boundary undoubtedly has contributed the scarcity of visible wolves in Denali. The result has been a small reward to a handful individuals at the expense of literally hundreds of thousands of others. That represents utter craziness, particularly since opportunities to hunt and trap wolves are abundant everywhere in Alaska, while Denali is – or was – the one place people wanting to view wolves could go with a reasonable chance of seeing them. That includes people like my daughter who were born in Alaska and do not hunt or trap, but nonetheless greatly appreciate Alaska's wildlife.

What are you doing for her? Do you not represent her interests too?

Respectfully,

Charlie Loeb



Submitted By
Jeff Love
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:15:56 PM
Affiliation
Seneca Park Zoo

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5857307583

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Rochester, New York 14615

- There is a precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. In 2001-02 the Board acknowledged that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, and set aside areas closed to hunting. The park's wolf population (Spring 2002) was 97 wolves, far more than inhabit the park now.
- The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.
- The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.
- Visitors to Denali want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to our economy. Wolves need to be part of our Eco-System, this is very important and must happen .



Submitted By
Cheryl Lovegreen
Submitted On
1/28/2017 4:52:06 PM
Affiliation

I support Proposal 142 by the DCC and AWA prohibiting the taking of wolves in GMU 20. We need to preserve the ecosystem and give the wolves time and space to increase their population to a healthy number.



Submitted By
Brian Luenemann
Submitted On
1/28/2017 10:39:10 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9079472957

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luenemann@yahoo.com

Address
6120 Romania Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

i'm writing to express my support for the proposal concerning closing the two areas adjacent to denali national park to wolf hunting. i've been visiting denali national park since 2008 and have spent the equivalent of over 6 months of my life in the park. it is the only part of alaska i visit regularly. i go mainly to photograph wolves. from 2008 until 2012 i had moderate success in viewing and photographing wolves. on the days i did not see wolves, i at least saw many sets of tracks that at least gave me the assurance that they were still around. from 2013 to the present (when i have spent the bulk of those 6 months in the park), i have seen two wolves. tracks were also becoming more and more rare. i did not see a single set of tracks the last time i was in the park for four days in september 2016.

i promise you that the number of people who visit denali national park with the hope to see wolves is much, much higher than the few who benefit from the hunting and trapping of them. you already know that. it's time to manage alaska's lands and wildlife sensibly, and with greater benefit to the wildlife, not to the few who just want to kill them. history will judge the current alaska dept. of fish and game policies as short-sighted, foolish, unhealthy for the natural environment, and beneficial for only a small percentage of the population.



Submitted By
Charles Lynch
Submitted On
2/2/2017 2:07:31 AM
Affiliation

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207-234-2592

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lynchc@uninets.net

Address
47 Dahlia Farm Road
Newburgh, Maine 04444

I am offering my comments regarding my support for Proposal 142, regulating hunting and trapping of wolves in designated areas adjacent to Denali National Park. I have visited Alaska repeatedly over the last 40 years both as a fisherman and as a tourist with my family. We visited Denali Park a few years ago and we were privileged to observe wolves within the park during our visit. The opportunity to see wolves in the wild is a very important part of the attraction of Denali National Park to visitors. The wolves of Denali have declined in numbers and continuing to allow hunting and trapping of wolves in areas immediately adjacent to the Park will only further contribute to their continued decline. The wolves are particularly vulnerable as they emerge from their protection within the Park, and I fully support Proposal 142 which would provide some protection for the wolves in the designated areas immediately adjacent to the Park. Thank you for receiving and reading these comments.



Submitted By
Terry Marron
Submitted On
2/1/2017 5:12:45 AM
Affiliation
05/21/1960

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Address
637 Christmas Lane
Williston, Vermont 05495

Dear Board Members,

I am writing you about the vulnerability of wolves to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land. I feel there is an international importance of Denali's wolves to tourism and science. The importance of intact, diverse animal populations to the regional and state economy is great. Of greater benefit to the State of Alaska are the revenues from tourism to Denali National Park than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands. It is your responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region.

I have been to visit Alaska on more than one occasion and was lucky enough to see with my own eyes this beautiful animal in the wild. It is an experience that I will never forget. Please give the wolves the proper protection they deserve.