



Submitted By  
Ryan Marsh  
Submitted On  
1/30/2017 10:36:09 AM  
Affiliation

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

My name is Ryan Marsh and I am writing to express my concern over wildlife on the northeast boundary of Denali National Park and Preserve. I am a conservation biologist and work as a Naturalist Guide for Camp Denali and North Face Lodge. Denali National Park and Preserve was created to protect wildlife, and wildlife is the primary draw for the vast majority of the 650,000 visitors to the park just last year. Studies have shown that wildlife viewing is worth millions to Alaska's economy and creates thousands of jobs. Despite Alaska's remoteness, Denali NPP is regarded as one of the best places to view wolves and as a place to study intact ecosystems. Unfortunately, less than 5% of visitors to Denali last year were able to see wolves as opposed to over 40% in 2010 when a buffer zone was in place. Packs have been decimated by a few unfortunate (but legal) trappings in the northeast region, risking trophic effects such as mesopredator release as well as risking the reputation of Denali of as a premier wildlife viewing area. Maybe visitors from the Lower 48 should go to Yellowstone instead?

It is the responsibility of this Board to manage wildlife in the state. A buffer zone in this region makes ecological and economic sense. I urge the Board to vote in favor of proposal 142 to recreate a small buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve.

Sincerely,

Ryan Marsh



Submitted By  
Philip S Marshall  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 9:03:30 PM  
Affiliation

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Address  
1300 Skyline Drive  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

I ask you to support Proposal 142 to reestablish the wolf buffer on the NE corner of Denali National Park & Preserve. I am a 36-year resident of the Interior and have fished and hunted all during this time. But conservation, a fully-intact ecosystem and management for all State residents should be more thoroughly considered in your deliberations. I reiterate my testimony from last spring before you in Fairbanks: "Bring back the wolf buffer zone."



Submitted By  
Milli Martin  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 6:50:13 AM  
Affiliation

Please support Prop. 142, that would once again establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park, and allow the Park to once again host more wolves. This park sees thousands of visitors from around the world -- the two animals they want most to see are wolves and bears. I was at the Park last year -- and greatly disappointed that my guests did not see a wolf. In years past we did see them, but no longer. Please help get them back into the Park. Please support Prop. 142.

Thank you.



Submitted By  
Laura Maschal  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 7:09:27 AM  
Affiliation

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[ljmaschal@gmail.com](mailto:ljmaschal@gmail.com)

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4603 Long Beach Blvd  
Brant Beach, New Jersey 08008

Hello, I write to strongly urge you to support proposal 142. Wolves are critical to the health of our wild places, creating a trophic cascade! Tourists want to see wolves. Ten years ago, we saw so many - a privilege I will never ever forget. This past year, none. It is discouraging that the hunters know the easiest "pickings" are right outside the borders of Denali. We have so few wild places left and there is a new war on wildlife happening within the current administration. 2016 Saw the decimation of the Druid wolf pack. This is not ok!! Please do your part to protect for generations to come, the legacy of wolves in Alaska. This is one small step, but could mean life and death for this species. If you don't work to protect these animals, the who?

Thank you for doing the right thing on proposal 142!



Submitted By  
George Matz  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 10:55:22 AM  
Affiliation

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Alaska Board of Game  
ADF&G Boards Support  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK, 99811-5526

Feb. 3, 2017

Dear Members of the BOG:

I write to support Proposals 141 and 142, similar proposals that close a portion of GMU 20C to the taking of wolves. The proposals were submitted by Denali National Park and Preserve and the Denali Citizens Council/Alaska Wildlife Alliance. My support is based on the conviction that state and federal wildlife managers have a legal and professional obligation to manage for key wildlife viewing opportunities as well as the sustainable harvest of game animals. Viewing wolves in Denali is one of the most valued wildlife viewing opportunities in the State of Alaska and it has been measurably diminished by hunting and trapping on the border of Denali. Hunting and trapping here was not legal since 2001, but has been for the past few years because of regulation changes approved by the BOG in 2010.

I was particularly impressed with the Denali National Park and Preserve proposal. It was comprehensive, science-based, and fairly considered the effects on relevant stakeholders. The proposal should be considered a model for others. It limited closure to only those parts of the Stampede corridor that serve the purpose of protecting from hunting and trapping, wolves that are of interest to wildlife viewers who visit Denali.

Some argue that wolf populations in the Denali region are healthy and there is no need to restrict their hunting or trapping, even in certain viewing areas. However, micromanaging the consumptive as well as nonconsumptive use of portions of a wildlife population in key areas accessible to the public is often necessary to provide good viewing opportunities. Accordingly, micromanaging should not be considered an unorthodox practice. In fact, it is the basis why Alaska's anadromous fisheries have been sustainably managed for decades. Fisheries biologists recognize that some rivers/streams need more specific regulation than others, even though overall, Alaska's salmon populations remains healthy. Wildlife managers need to follow their example.

I served on the BOG in May, 2001 when the BOG first approved closing part of the Stampede corridor to the hunting and trapping of wolves. The BOG at the time recognized that micromanagement was needed and considered special regulations (mostly a buffer zone) for wolves that inhabit this area. They carefully considered where these wolves spend time within the park and where they might likely be found when wondering beyond park boundaries. The intent was to not overreach by imposing buffer zone regulations on hunting or trapping of wolves that were not likely to be seen by Denali visitors. And it worked. As the Denali Park proposal says, "the presence of the trapping and hunting buffer zone during 2000-2010 was associated with increased wolf sightings in Denali compared to 2011-2013 and 1997-2000... It should also be noted that the presence of the buffer did not decrease the average annual number of wolves harvested in UCUs overlapping the Stampede corridor."

However, as you know, in 2010 the BOG at the time opposed the buffer zone and repealed its regulations. As the record shows, the viewing of wolves in Denali has since suffered. I not only think that the BOG's decision then was biased and a mistake, but that it violated the spirit of Article VIII, Section 4 Sustained Yield of the State of Alaska Constitution, particularly the part that says, "subject to preferences among beneficial uses." Furthermore, the decision goes against the spirit of Section 2 of Article VIII which says, "conservation of all natural resources ...for the maximum benefit of its people." This is similar to a statement in 1905 by the great conservationist Gifford Pinchot who said, "Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." There can be no doubt that viewing wolves in Denali has substantial monetary and intrinsic value that has been sacrificed and that the greatest good is not now being served.

Fortunately, since wildlife can be a renewable resource and wolves have not been extirpated from the area, recovery of Denali's wolf viewing opportunities is possible. But that would take change by the BOG, which Proposal 141 or 142 should accomplish. I strongly encourage you adopt either of these proposals.

Sincerely,  
George Matz





Submitted By  
Fran Mauer  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 8:40:20 PM  
Affiliation  
Alaskans FOR Wildlife

Alaskans FOR Wildlife strongly supports Proposal 142, which would establish a no-kill buffer zone for wolves on State lands within the so-called Wolf Townships along the Stampede trail, and certain lands east of the Nenana River where some wolves associated with Denali National Park are known to use. Since a no-kill wolf buffer zone was abolished by the BOG in 2010, significant numbers of wolves that den in Denali Park have been killed, and the wolf population there is at the lowest level since data has been systematically collected. In particular, the renowned East Fork wolves have been essentially extirpated. This has had a profound effect on the opportunity for visitors to Denali of seeing wolves. The percent of visitors seeing wolves during their trip to the Park has declined from about 45% before the buffer was abolished to about 5% currently.

Wildlife viewing is a major interest for visitors to the Park, and seeing wolves and grizzlies are at the top of people's list. Last year there were some 650,000 visits to Denali, however due to low wolf numbers near the road, an estimated 250,000 people were denied a chance to see any wolves, largely due to the impacts of hunting and trapping within the former buffer zone. This situation is becoming well known around the country and the consequences may have significant impact on Alaska's economy during this period of fiscal problems.

It is time to help restore the decimated wolf populations of Denali and help safeguard our economy. We urge the Alaska Board of Game to pass proposal 142.



Submitted By  
Steven McCoy  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 7:49:17 PM  
Affiliation

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I worked in the tourist industry related to tourism of Denali Park. A prize for all tourists is to include a wolf sighting to their visit.

Opportunities for wolf sightings has gone down from over 40% to less than 10% coinciding with changes in state enforcement of the buffer zone.

There is no greater tourism ad than a tourist going south excited about their visit

We need the jobs and the boost to the economy much more than we need 15 more wolf pelts





Submitted By  
Cissy (Diane) McDonald  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 10:22:08 PM  
Affiliation

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Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

As a resident of Talkeetna, Alaska and having lived and worked in Denali National Park for the last 17 years, I have some concerns about the management of wolves in the Denali Park area. **There are many places in Alaska where hunting and trapping wolves is allowed, why can't there be a place where it is not. Especially, when the place in question borders one of the most iconic Wilderness areas in the world? Rather than catering to the few hunters and trappers just outside the Park, I hope you will consider the interests of the many of us who live, work and play in and around Denali and the many thousands of visitors who visit our Park annually.** Having been a shuttle bus driver for 14 years in the Park, I can tell you first-hand the joy and excitement seeing wolves in the wild brings to Alaska's visitors. I have been with thousands of visitors when they saw their first wolf in the wild (in Denali). The experience was meaningful to every person who had it, bringing some to tears. If things keep going the way they are, it will have also been the only and last wolf they may ever see. I have personally witnessed the demise of the Toklat wolf-pack over the years. The decline coincides dramatically with the change in the wolf-buffer along the Park's boundaries, as many of the collared wolves have been killed just outside the Park since the protective wolf-buffer was taken away. The Toklat wolf pack, a highly visible pack that brought so much happiness to the Park's many visitor's has been decimated in just a few years. **It is my impression that the Department of Fish and Game has a duty to insure that there is balance in our ecosystems. Predators are essential to healthy ecosystems. Just sitting back passively allowing hunting and trapping to continue just outside the Park's boundaries knowing that the Park's wolf packs are being slaughtered does not seem like the right thing to do.** As a resident of Alaska, as an employee of the Park, as an avid user of the Park's wilderness, as someone who has spent literally thousands of hours with visitors to Denali, I implore you to reconsider the protective buffer around the Park so that the wolf population may rebound. If Denali National Park is going to continue to be a "crown jewel" of the National Park system, attracting millions of visitors to our state for generations to come, it needs to maintain its character and wildness. This cannot be done without your help. It is my sincere hope that those of you who have the power to reinstate the buffer to help protect Denali's remaining wolves will do so. Please, please, reinstate the protective wolf-buffer around the Park's boundaries to give **these** wolves a chance. The future of Denali's wolves rests in your hands. It will be your legacy that either preserves the wolves for future generations, for the future millions of visitors to our great state and the countless residents who enjoy Denali's pristine wilderness, which includes iconic wildlife. Thank You very much for your time and consideration on this very important decision, Sincerely,  
Cissy (Diane) McDonald



Submitted By  
Margaret McGinnis  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 6:29:09 PM  
Affiliation

Support Proposal 142

- 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.
- 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.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance

P.O. Box 202022

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<http://www.akwildlife.org>



The Alaska Wildlife Alliance is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our tax identification number is 92-0073877. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Submitted By  
Rosemary McGlynn  
Submitted On  
1/30/2017 2:22:35 PM  
Affiliation  
AK visitor,former Camp Denali staff

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Members of the Board of Game,

My family & I first came to AK 27 years ago. Three nights in Denali was all it took to fall in love with its wild beauty. Since then we have returned as visitors and summer staff at Camp Denali. I cannot count the number of people over the years who have recounted their day's experiences in the park observing wildlife & their excitement when they had the chance to see wolves out doing what they do. Do you remember the first time you saw that lope that can go for miles? It would be a good thing if more people had the chance to know what that feels like. It is that unique way of connecting to wild country and wild things that draws so many visitors to Denali and keeps them returning. Of course, the number of visitors results in no small economic benefit in maintaining a healthy wolf population within the park and surrounding area. It seems clear that the wolves require certain protections if they are to remain a viable part of the Denali experience. So I ask that for the wolves and for the humans that you support Proposition 142. Please give it a chance.

Sincerely, Rosemary McGlynn



Submitted By  
Douglas McIntosh  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 9:32:58 AM  
Affiliation

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907 479-6827

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[fdjm@alaska.net](mailto:fdjm@alaska.net)

Address  
2208 Nottingham Drive  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

I support proposal 142. I have lived in Fairbanks since 1976. I like proposal 142 because it establishes a no hunting/trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park.



Submitted By  
Sierra McLane  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 1:41:40 PM  
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

This is my first day home by myself with a three-week old and a two-year old. Poop and tears are flowing, but this is important, so I'll keep it short. Please support proposal 142. The wolves that move between Denali National Park and the proposed buffer are worth far more alive than dead. Very few people benefit from hunting/trapping them compared to their value to science and society as part of a natural system in which they are icons of the wild. This is true symbolically, but also economically - "wildness" is at the root of what the half-million people who visit Denali each year come to experience, and seeing a wolf evokes a sense of wildness better than almost anything else.

Thank you for supporting this important proposal,

Sierra McLane

McKinley Village, AK, year-round resident since 2011



Submitted By  
Charles W McMillion  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 10:17:55 AM  
Affiliation  
Denali tourist

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2022579802

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Address  
223 F Street, NE  
Washington, District of Columbia 20002

My wife, three friends and I spent 16 glorious days in Alaska in July 2015. While our wonderful vacation included Fairbanks, Anchorage, Whittier and the Kenai/Seward area, our trip was entirely motivated by a week-long stay at the remarkable North Face Lodge in Denali. As did everyone else we met, we loved Denali and the Lodge. On our ride out of the park, we even saw a wolf near us on the road; this was one of the highlights of our trip and, we understand, an increasingly rare sighting.

Denali is such a unique and fabulous experience anywhere in the world that the five of us are expecting to return, perhaps adding more friends, in the near future. While it seems petty to even mention the Denali experience together with dollars and cents, I do hope the tremendous, varied and stable economic development benefits it brings to all of Alaska from visitors like me are fully appreciated by all. And that everything possible can be done to preserve and enhance that experience.

Sincerely,

Charles McMillion



Submitted By  
Tom Meacham  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 8:04:09 PM  
Affiliation  
none

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907-346-1077

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Address  
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Anchorage, Alaska 99507

As a former Board of Game member, I urge the Board to adopt Proposal 142 to re-estbalish a no-wolf-take buffer along the easterly edge of Denali National Park. The economic benefits of this proposal for the Alaska tourism indutsry and for the hundreds of thousands of Denali visitors each year (who include thousands of Alaskans) far outweigh the value of 10 or 15 wolf pelts to the few trappers who trap this area. The "greatest good for the greatest number," and the renewable-resoource nature of a live wolf seen by visitors over and over again throughout its lifetime, require tht this Buffer be ree-established. Thank you.





Submitted By  
Carol Melamed  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 5:35:57 PM  
Affiliation

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Address  
455 Forest Ave  
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Palo Alto, California 94301

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have been to Alaska about a dozen times in the last 20 years, and each time I visit, I appreciate the natural beauty and richness of your wonderful state.

I have seen many landscapes and animals over the years, but my most treasured experiences are the times that I have seen wolves in Denali National Park. I fervently hope that you will consider any and all measures to expand protection of these amazing creatures in and near the Park.

The Park boundary of course means nothing to the animals, and it is crucial to protect them on state land as well.

I am sure that I am not alone in my feelings about the wolves. Many of us who visit from the lower 48 are influenced to do so by their presence, and the impact on the state and regional economies from such visits is a positive one.

It seems to me that it is in Alaska's best interests to preserve and maximize the wolf population -- which is one of its unique resources that distinguish it from many other wild places.

Please do the right thing and conserve the wildlife that you are so blessed to have.

Very truly yours,

Carol Mealmed



Submitted By  
Mark Miller  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 1:01:11 PM  
Affiliation

I've read accounts of wolf management programs in Yellow Stone National Park that conclude wolf populations will stabilize with little or no human interference. These stable wolf populations are reported to level off with abundant, stable, and healthy prey populations. Those populations create abundant balanced and sustainable plant forage. It makes sense that the area returns to the natural state from before modern technology destroyed the natural balance in the area.

I'm concerned that Alaska's wolf management policies around Denali National Park seem to work for opposite results. Alaska's wolf management program seem to be very expensive, reduces wolf viewing for tourists and interferes with stabilizing prey populations.

I'm not a scientist or a wolf expert so I don't pretend to know the solution for wolf management around Denali National Park. I am concerned that much of the area management seems to be dictated by others who are not experts either. Wolf management needs to be done with sound and time tested science and not favor hunters or any other groups. I am a deer hunter in the Jueau area. I expect the same scientific management for area I hunt in. I know this means that some years will offer better deer hunting than others. I don't expect game management to create hunting preserves for me. I also don't accept anti hunting groups interfering with sustainable deer harvests. It comes back to leaving game management to real science and not politics or emotional interference.

Thanks, Mark Miller



Submitted By  
James M Mittl  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 8:20:20 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
3035820364

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Address  
142 Nero Rd  
Black Hawk, Colorado 80422

I am writing to implore the BOG to support Proposal 142 and close the taking of wolves within the boundaries defined in said proposal.

When I was a younger man, it was a dream of mine to visit, and perhaps someday live, in Alaska. The BOG's neverending reduction of protections for indigenous wolf populations, however, has made the dream a non-starter. As long as you continue to allow the slaughter of wolves to continue, using various barbaric means, I will NEVER step foot in your state nor will I purchase any Alaskan-made products. Many I know share this sentiment.

Please stop the assault on this magnificent and familial species NOW!



Submitted By  
KArI Monetti  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 5:48:21 PM  
Affiliation  
45 yr resident of Alaska

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907-322-0242  
Email  
[karlmonetti@gmail.com](mailto:karlmonetti@gmail.com)  
Address  
box 56303  
north pole, Alaska 99705

I am writing in support of Proposal 142.

I am a life-long hunter and although I do not trap I respect the desire of those who do. However, when it comes to relative importance of activities in Alaska, I would much rather see the dreams of many thousands of visitors (to see a wolf in the wild) fulfilled than the desires of a handful of trappers and hunters looking for a livelihood or simply a trophy on the wall.

There are millions of acres surrounding the Denali Park area open to trapping and it makes no sense to me to keep this narrow corridor, which is completely surrounded, west, south and east by the park, kept open for the benefit of a few versus the enjoyment of the many.

Thank you

Karl Monetti



Submitted By  
Kevin Morford  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 1:26:11 PM  
Affiliation  
Alaskan

As an Alaska resident since 1982, I have been into Denali National Park on many occasions over the last three and a half decades. One of the biggest thrills that I have had over those years was the pleasure of seeing wild Alaska wolves up close in their natural habitat. I have been a hunter in Alaska, and I support hunting as an activity when it is carried out in a legal and responsible manner. It is not responsible to allow the taking of wolves that spend most of their lives in a protected national park, but who occasionally foray outside of the park boundaries. Experience to date shows that the attrition from the take of these wolves on State lands is having a devastating negative effect on the numbers of wolves along the road to Wonder Lake. I urge you to support and vote in favor of Proposal 142, so that Alaskans and visitors alike will have a reasonable opportunity to share in the excitement of seeing these magnificent animals.



Submitted By  
Lenora Morford  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 7:31:01 PM  
Affiliation

2/2/17

RE Proposal 142

Dear Board of Game members:

I am a 35 year resident of Alaska and have worked with the tourists in Denali for four years. I urge the board to protect the valuable economic resource that wolves have become for the tourist industry.

Tourists spend a lot of money to come to Alaska and to Denali in particular to see wildlife. They are quite disappointed if they cannot see bears and wolves. They are shocked and amazed to learn that the animals they came to see are killed by trappers right on the edge of the Park.

These animals are of more value alive, not dead.

Please protect the few remaining wolves and SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142.

Thank you,

Lenora Morford

Chugiak, Alaska 99567



Submitted By  
Jan O. Murie  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 7:09:04 PM  
Affiliation  
University of Alberta

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Edmonton, Other T6H 2C2 Canada

I write to support Proposal 142 to limit killing wolves in areas adjacent to Denali National Park. As wolves within the Park often stray outside its borders, the viability of the Park wolf population depends on some protection outside the boundaries.

I now live in Canada, where we also have issues related to protecting wolf populations from over-exploitation, but remain a citizen of the USA (as well as Canada) and spent 4.5 years of my early life in Denali NP and have visited several times since. As a wildlife biologist I am well aware of the underlying reasons for enhancing protection of wolves in Denali.

Thanks for your attention,

Jan Murie



Submitted By  
Jo-Ann Murphy  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 1:34:27 PM  
Affiliation  
Mrs.

### **Support Proposal 142**

- 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.
- We need to preserve our biological diversity and we need to preserve these species.

Thank you for your time and consideration





Submitted By  
Rick Myers  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 6:18:03 AM  
Affiliation

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My name is Rick Myers. I work in Virginia for a state natural resources agency, the Department of Conservation and Recreation. I am a hunter, fisher, forester, fire ecologist, and father of teenage twins. My family visited Alaska in summer 2015 over a two week period. We were there to see and experience the last great wild place left in the United States. We visited Denali National Park, and hoped to see a wolf. We did not, but hope to return one day and have another chance.

You may appreciate that we spent \$25,000 on our 2015 two-week trip to Alaska. The intact ecosystems of Alaska, which retain apex predators including wolves, provide a strong incentive for people like me and my family to come to your state to visit and spend a lot of money to experience wildness. Wolves are the pinnacle symbol of wildness. Without them, or with few of them, your state and our country is diminished. Their value as a draw - both now and even more in the future - for eco-tourism cannot be overstated. Their value as an animal to be taken for recreational hunting or trapping is tiny, by comparison. Especially at this time when wolf populations are at historic lows and continuing to decline, the concept of legal take of wolves as a recreational pursuit is both economically destructive and indefensible from a resource management perspective. Legal take for the purpose of protecting lives and property is one thing and that should continue. Recreational take is, I believe, both fiscally and morally corrupt; and, irresponsible and indefensible.

Folks like me that live outside Alaska and that understand the significance of functional ecosystems hope that you will see how vulnerable wolves are to hunting and trapping, and what folly it is to allow these pursuits in the vicinity of tourism destinations such as Denali National Park. Denali's wolves are so much more important economically for tourism and your state's economy than they are for recreational take; the difference must be orders of magnitude.

Please conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region of Alaska. I want to come back to Denali with my kids someday, and see and/or hear wolves. Please consider and support Proposal 142.



Submitted By  
Kathryn Napier  
Submitted On  
1/30/2017 6:05:54 AM  
Affiliation

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I support closed areas around the national park to protect the wolves.



February 3, 2017

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

Submitted via email to: [dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov)

### **Proposal #142 - Support**

Dear members of the Board of Game,

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the February 2017 Board of Game proposals. Since our founding in 1919, NPCA has been an independent, nonpartisan voice working to strengthen and protect our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage. Together with our one million members and supporters, of which over 2,000 reside in Alaska, the National Parks Conservation Association speaks for America's favorite places.

Thank you for your previous and current efforts to find a solution to the long-standing concerns regarding protection of Denali wolves when they travel onto adjacent state land. **NPCA supports Proposal #142** because it is of value to the state to enhance wolf-viewing opportunities and this proposal is of modest, yet sufficient size.

#### **State protection enhances wolf-viewing opportunity**

For decades, the state land that extends into the northeast corner of Denali (often called the "wolf townships") has been identified as critical winter range for caribou, wolves and other park wildlife. When the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act (ANILCA) passed in 1980, the Senate report that accompanied the bill stated:

*In the northeast portion of the area, near the existing headquarters, there are some 3 townships of state lands which are critical for sheep, caribou, and wolf habitat and should eventually become a part of the park.*

- 1980, ANILCA Senate report 96-413, page 167

#### **Alaska Regional Office**

750 W., 2nd Ave, Suite 205 | Anchorage, AK 99501 | P 907.277.6722 | F 907-277-6723 | [npca.org](http://npca.org)



Concerns with impacts to park wolves due to hunting and trapping in this region has similarly been a concern for decades:

*Specific concerns for the wolf townships are that the Savage wolf pack populations have dropped drastically in recent years ... Adding the wolf townships to the park would complete the habitat and range protection of the Toklat and Savage wolf packs and the wintering caribou herd.*

- 1986 Denali General Management Plan, pgs. 98-99

Since the National Park Service began monitoring wolves in the 1980s, records show that hunting and trapping on adjacent state land has severely reduced or completely eliminated numerous Denali wolf packs. Unlike mortality from natural causes, hunting and trapping tends to take the alpha individuals. Loss of pack leaders frequently causes disruption and dispersal of entire family groups and results in a steep decline in wolf numbers, reproduction, and opportunities for viewing them. Recent examples of this include the Grant Creek family group in 2012, and the East Fork group in 2015 and 2016. When the most recent buffer was eliminated in 2010, visitors had a 45 percent chance of seeing a wolf along the Denali Park Road, but in 2015 and again in 2016, the odds had dropped to just 5 percent.

### **The Board of Game has a history of protecting Denali wolves**

In 1992, the Board of Game formally recognized the value of Denali wolves to the people of Alaska and created a buffer over 800 square miles – far larger than any recently proposed buffer (please see the attached map).

*The wolves that inhabit Denali National Park are a valued resource of the people of Alaska and the United States. ... The creation of Zone 2 lands in the lower Yanert River and Healy Creek drainages ... will adequately protect these wolves from hunting, trapping and control.*

- Findings of the Board of Game, No. 92-64-BOG, paragraph #8

The 1992 buffer was eliminated shortly after it was created for political reasons and then numerous buffers followed from 2000-2010. These buffers were helpful, but not large enough and losses of park wolves continued. NPCA supports proposal #142 because it is a reasonable size (mid-way between previous BOG buffers) and will provide sufficient protection. We appreciate the Park Service's effort to address this issue, but believe proposal #141 is too small to fully address the issue and doesn't protect Denali wolves during the winter months.

### **Protecting Denali wolves is in the best interest of the state**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game manages wildlife for a diverse set of purposes including both consumptive and non-consumptive uses. The department's wolf management report lists human uses for wolves in Interior Alaska to include "hunting, trapping, photography, viewing, listening, and scientific and education purposes." There are few places in the world where wolves can easily be seen in the wild and Denali National Park is one of those unique places. Alaskans and visitors alike place a high value on watching wildlife, particularly wolves. Seeing

### **Alaska Regional Office**



wildlife is one of the top reasons visitors say they choose Alaska, and these visitors support a vibrant tourism economy that employs many Alaskans and supports local businesses. In 2015, 560,000 Denali visitors contributed over \$500 million dollars to the local gateway economy.

Just as the state protects the bears of McNeil River, protecting some of the most viewed and photographed wolves in the world at Denali is of benefit to the state of Alaska.

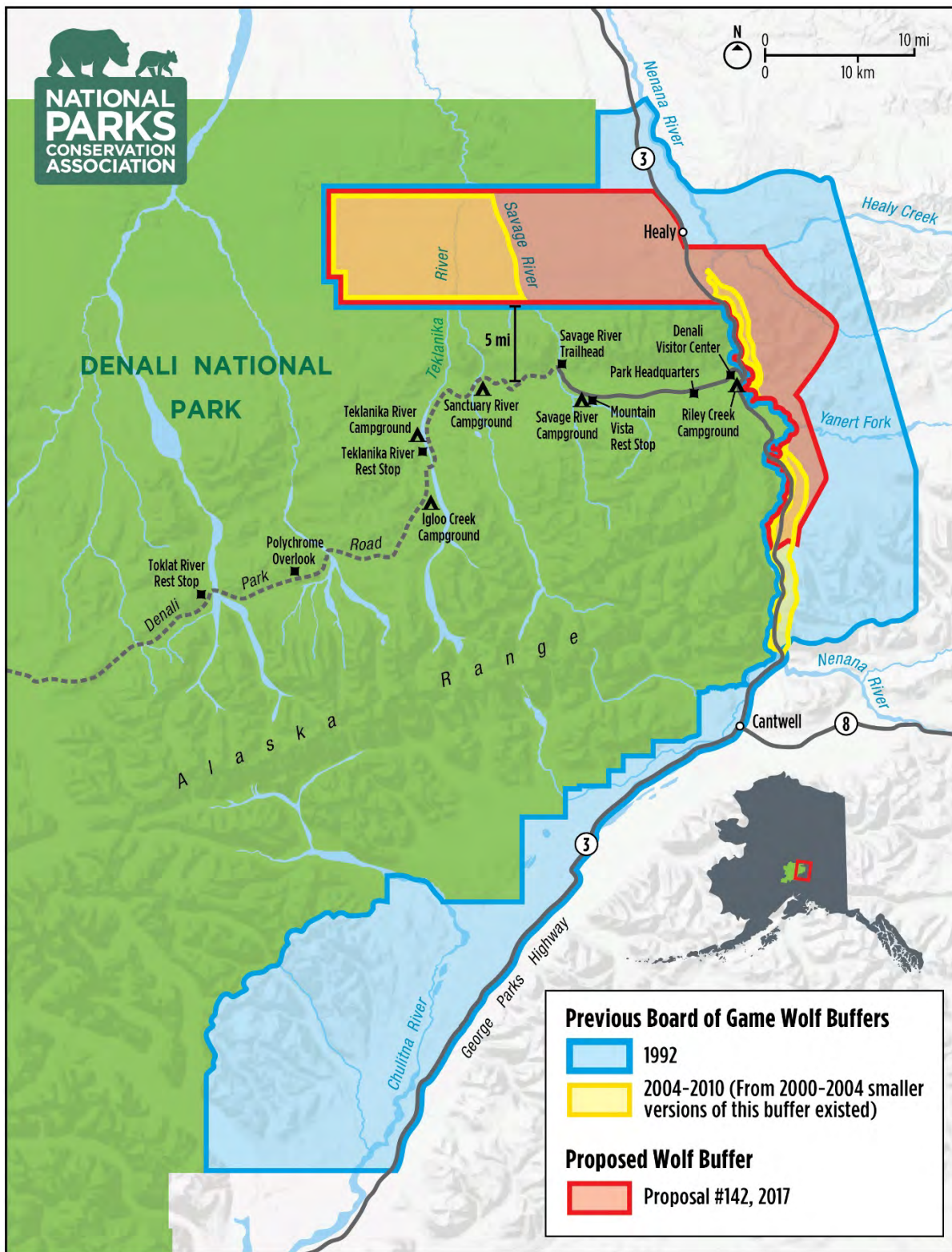
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Frankevich".

Joan Frankevich  
Program Manager

**Alaska Regional Office**



### Alaska Regional Office



February 3, 2017

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Submitted via email to: [dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov)

### **NPCA member comments in support of Proposal #142**

Dear members of the Board of Game,

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and preserving America's national parks. Recently we sent a message to our members asking for their support of Proposal #142. Our members care deeply about national parks and wildlife and we received an especially large response to this message: 16,267 took action and sent the message below. Additionally, 1,280 of those who responded also added their own personal thoughts and comments. For your convenience, we have summarized the results here.

#### **Over 16,000 NPCA members responded and sent the following letter:**

*Subject: Denali Wolves Should Be Seen, Not Hunted. Support proposal #142.*

*Dear Alaska Board of Game,*

*I value national parks and appreciate the ability to see wildlife in our nation's exceptional natural places like Denali National Park & Preserve. It's a rare opportunity to see a wolf in the wild, and Alaska's national parks are some of the best places to do so. I support proposal #142 so that future generations can continue to see wolves in Denali.*

*One of the primary reasons people like me choose to visit national parks is to see wildlife in its native habitat. I ask that you please support proposal #142 to protect Denali's wolves and the opportunity for Americans from across the country to see them in the wild.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

**Alaska Regional Office**



**Excerpts from some of the 1,280 personal comments added to the above letter:**

*On a visit to Denali National Park, I had the good fortune of seeing three wolves near a creek. I was able to watch them, from a safe distance, for a while. On the same day, I saw a grizzly sow with her cub. As of that time, I had spent most of my life living in Indiana. Perhaps you will understand when I tell you that this was a special day in my life; a day I shall always cherish.*

- Ms. Janet Parsanko  
Billings, MT

*Most importantly, I value the Alaskan experience. As a 23-year Alaskan hunter, fisherman, outdoor writer, and wildlife biologist, and one who saw an entire wolf pack with all my bus mates one trip out into the Park, I recognize the value of protecting a few populations so that others can see the wonders of the wild lands of Alaska.*

- Mr. Jeff Fair  
Palmer, AK

*Wolves also are an important component to the Denali ecosystem. Witness what the introduction of wolves did for Yellowstone Park. Yellowstone had been transformed to a healthy ecosystem. Damage that had occurred due to the imbalance was corrected.*

- Ms. Kristine Hutchin  
Eagle River, AK

*I was blessed with the opportunity to live and work in Yellowstone National Park this summer. It was an amazing experience to see wolves for the first time in my life. It was very interesting to see the thousands of people who came just to watch and photograph these wolves.*

- Ms. Lydia Kennedy  
Vero Beach, FL

*Denali is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen, and its wild creatures are essential to its charm.*

- Dr. Marguerite Shuster  
Sierra Madre, CA

**Alaska Regional Office**





*When reflecting on this issue, please weigh the value of tourism dollars to the Alaskan economy. This sustainable income source is largely driven by the icon image of the wolf and the possibility of seeing these majestic creatures.*

- Miss Melissa Sanderson  
Casper, WY

*As an Alaskan I would hope you would represent the interests of all citizens in the State.*

- Ms. Linda Shaw  
Juneau

*Wolves are an essential part of a healthy eco-system by maintaining the genetic health of the prey species as well as helping to preserve a biologically-sustainable prey population level. Multiple studies within the National Park System and outside of it have well-documented the constructive role of this iconic predator.*

*Besides the wildlife scientific aspect, one of the primary reasons people like me choose to visit national parks is to see wildlife in its native habitat. My family greatly enjoyed our visit to Yellowstone for that reason alone, which included wolf and grizzly sightings.*

*I urge you to support proposal #142 to protect Denali's wolves and the opportunity for Americans from across the country to see them in the wild as well as maintaining a healthy Denali eco-system.*

- Mr. Don Robinson  
Chester Springs, PA

*My wife and I have spent some time in Denali and truly think of this as one of America's crown jewels. All wildlife is valuable and the wolves need our protection.*

- Mr. Mark Bloch  
Anchorage

*I intend to go to Alaska and I would hope to see wolves.*

- Ms. Sheila Swigert  
Staten Island, NY

### **Alaska Regional Office**



*"The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."*

*-- Theodore Roosevelt*

- Mr. Christopher Lish  
San Rafael, CA

*Continuing the current policy of allowing hunting and trapping of wolves outside Denali National Park has significantly impacted the wolf population. As a result the chance of being able to see wolves in their natural habitat has also decreased. With the current challenges to Alaska's economy, tourism dollars are increasingly vital to the health of our economy.*

- Sandra Ryan  
Anchorage

*Spent a whole summer in Alaska in 1976. Not once did I see a wolf. My second visit was with my daughter when she was about 6 years old. No wolf sightings and we were camping out, not staying in a hotel. Then when she married she and her husband went to Alaska for their honeymoon. They went to Denali again, no wolf sighting. Trust me, people go to Alaska to see wildlife and the beautiful environment.*

*Now my daughter has a little girl. I wonder how things will be for her generation. Please do current and future generations a service and support proposal #142. ,*

- Joan Estes  
Canyon, Texas

*There is much more area available for hunting and trapping if that is what someone desires. Let the estimated half million visitors at least have the hope of seeing a wolf in the wild...the symbol of wilderness.*

- Ms. N J Gates  
Denali Park

*I went to Denali two years ago for the purpose of seeing wolves and did not see one.*

- Ms. Diane Weinstein  
Issaquah, WA

*I have personally been to Denali National Park twice already and have seen wolves from a distance both times. I am hoping sometime in the future to be able to repeat that experience.*

- Mrs. Linda Sutherland  
Ballwin, MO

**Alaska Regional Office**



*Seeing the Wolves is one of the main reasons we took a tour of Denali park. We were fortunate six years ago to see one.*

- Ms. Sue Habecker  
Lebanon, PA

*As a fifty-year resident of this wonderful State, I thank you for your consideration.*

- Ms. Dianna Ligus  
Anchorage

*This desire to see wolves in their native surroundings is #1 on my "Bucket List." That & the uniqueness of your incredible State.*

- Linda Gooding  
Cadiz, Ohio

Thank you for considering the viewpoint of NPCA members from across Alaska and across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Frankevich".

Joan Frankevich, Program Manager  
on behalf of NPCA members and supporters

**Alaska Regional Office**



Submitted By  
Dana  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 8:16:40 AM  
Affiliation  
tourist

I visitd Denali Park as a tourist recently, and it is one of the highlights of my life. I had the privilege of seeing a wolf in the wild. The wolf was walking down the main road during the day, and it was an extraordinary stroke of luck to see him. The leader pair of the last remaining wolf pack in Denali National Park had been killed when they were roaming out of the park, and the pack had broken up. The chance of the wolves surviving without their leaders to pass down their considerable knowledge was quite slim. The wolves are a main attraction to tourists, and their loss could impact tourism in the park. Please do all you can to preserve this precious resource that is so quickly disappearing. Thank you, Dana Nearburg



Submitted By  
Iris Neary  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 9:07:49 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-321-9090

Email  
[jump4chickens@yahoo.com](mailto:jump4chickens@yahoo.com)

Address  
17735 Pt. Stephens  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I write in full support of proposal 142. I work as a naturalist and hiking guide in Denali National Park, and have been a lifelong Alaskan. I see wolves as the epitome of a wild and healthy ecosystem. The guests I guide are always asking to see a wolf in Denali, and to them wolves symbolize a breathtakingly natural environment. Even if the data as of today does not claim that hunting and trapping wolves outside the park boundaries impacts the visitor experience inside the park, I still want to help the Alaskan wolf population thrive for the awe inspired in people, and the presence of a thriving natural habitat.



Submitted By  
Donald Neptune  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 3:50:22 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
530 365 4861

Email  
[djnep1@charter.net](mailto:djnep1@charter.net)

Address  
21353 Oak Park Ln  
Anderson, California 96007

### **Wolves around Denali Park, Proposal 142**

I fully support the proposal to prohibit the killing of wolves who populate Denali Park and its surrounding lands. I understand this proposal is similar to a previous ban which seemed to contribute to an improvement of the wolf population and survival of the Denali Wolf packs, and that support should be renewed.

I have been to Denali on four different occasions with 3-generations of family, a father, a brother, my wife, some Alaska canoe partners, and most recently my grandson. We have stayed for several days inside the park on 3 different occasions, and just outside the park on three of those trips, including one bus trip to Wonder Lake.

The Park is a wilderness that needs to be protected, with the wildlife to remain as an attraction. The Wolves and Bears, and Caribou, and Moose, and Sheep and the rest of the wildlife there all create exciting memories, and all should be part of a natural balance of nature. Allowing human interference with a detrimental impact should be discouraged. Action which supports a dwindling population should be encouraged. Denali Wolves should be protected from hunting and remain a viable part of the park and its future qualities.

When wolves leave the Park for such reasons as following Caribou migrations they become vulnerable to human depredation. It is most appropriate to leave the wolves free and allow them to remain a part of the wilderness environment that the Denali Park represents.



Submitted By  
William Nichols  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 9:40:08 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
(603) 444-2257  
Email  
[labradortea@yahoo.com](mailto:labradortea@yahoo.com)

Address  
63 East St.  
Littleton, New Hampshire 03561

My first siting of a wild wolf was on a trip to Camp Denali not far from the Illeson Visitors Center. It was a most memorable experience for me and as I tell others of this event creating a desire for others to visit this wonderfully wild place. Excited reports to the population back home = more tourists = tourists bring money to AK = tourism is a clean industry.

Another concern of mine is the wildlife crossing from protected Park land into state land where trapping & hunting jepordises their well being.

I trust that my feelings for the support of Proposal 142 to the Region III hearing will become part of the record.

Respectfully, William Nichols, 2/1/17



Submitted By  
Francis H. Noedel  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 9:53:46 AM  
Affiliation  
Visitor

A few years ago I had to opportunity to spend several days in Denali Park. Because of the wildlife I saw it remains the trip of my lifetime, and I'm nearly 80. Among the Parks many wonders are the wolves. Since they don't appreciate boundries we might draw on a map, they are bound to sometimes stray outside the protection of the park. So, I strongly urge you to adopt proposal 142 and protect the wolves from human predation in the areas designated.

Thank you.

Francis H Noedel

Bainbridge Island, WA





Submitted By  
John Nordstrom  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 5:22:22 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
978-546-2039

Email  
[john\\_nordstrom@hotmail.com](mailto:john_nordstrom@hotmail.com)

Address  
13 Pleasant Street  
Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to urge you to reinstate protection of wolf populations in the Stampede Road area and to the east of the Park entrance. I visit Alaska and Denali National Park every few years and feel strongly that the presence of wolves in the park is not only vital for the balance of nature, but that seeing a wolf in the wild, is also a source of great pleasure to the park visitors. It is a shame that a handful of hunters and trappers are allowed to kill the Denali wolves when they stray outside of the park thereby depriving so many of the chance to see one in the park. I hope you will decide in favor of the many who come so far to witness the beauty of Alaska and its wildlife. I am sure you realize that these visitors also spend a lot of money and create a lot of jobs in your state.

Best Regards,

John Nordstrom



Submitted By  
Patricia OBrien  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 4:09:54 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
(907) 789-9405

Email  
[patriciaobrien@gci.net](mailto:patriciaobrien@gci.net)

Address  
PO Box 35451  
Juneau, Alaska 99803

~~Please support Proposal 142

Numerous studies demonstrate that wildlife watchers far outnumber hunters and trappers and bring in many times more revenue than hunting and trapping. Especially in this time of economic hardship for Alaska, it only makes sense to support a buffer area for Denali. As an Alaskan for almost 50 years I've been fortunate to visit Denali and see wildlife including wolves and bears several times. But for tourists, photographers, and videographers, seeing wildlife, especially the larger ungulates and carnivores is a big deal. Our wildlife ranks as one of Alaska's biggest draws, perhaps the biggest.

With bear baiting now allowed, the number of carnivores that can be viewed from the road in Denali, especially wolves, has dropped. It is humiliating for Alaskan's when a trapper brags to a National Geographic photographer that he spoiled wildlife viewing for thousands of tourists. Many of us count on tourism for a living. Do the right thing and pass this or the previous proposal for a Denali buffer zone. Wildlife watchers, including those who wish to view and photograph carnivores, should have the chance of their lifetime to view these marvelous creatures.

Thank you for considering my comments.



Submitted By  
Deborah Oestreicher  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 9:19:51 AM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

We fell in love with Alaska on a vacation in 2014. We stayed at the North Face Lodge in backcountry Denali and appreciated the unique opportunity to view wildlife in their natural environment. I am writing to support Proposal 142. We believe it makes sense to preclude hunting and trapping of wolves on distinct areas of state land adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve, game management units 20A and 20C.

Wolves--which are internationally important to tourism as well as science--are vulnerable to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land. Intact, diverse animal populations are important to the regional and state economy. Revenues from tourism to Denali National Park are of greater value to the State of Alaska than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands.

We understand that the responsibility of the Alaska Board of Game includes conservation of the wilderness and wildlife in this region and hope that you will recognize the importance of Proposal 142 to fulfilling that responsibility.

Thank you,  
Deborah Oestreicher and Victor Magar



Submitted By

Susan Olsen

Submitted On

2/1/2017 5:09:31 PM

Affiliation

interested citizen who cares for wildlife

Phone

907-277-9968

Email

[soeh@alaska.net](mailto:soeh@alaska.net)

Address

8601 Sultana Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

I urge your support of Proposal 142 which requests the BOG to restrict hunting and trapping of wolves on state lands adjacent to Denali NP & P. The reasons for support are many. First, the BOG has a responsibility to manage Alaska's wildlife for the benefit of the animals themselves as well as the public at large. And, the public is not just made up of hunters and trappers of wolves, but the vast, vast majority do not hunt or trap and wish to have the opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat. Secondly, these wolves do not threaten subsistence resources so predator control is not involved. Thirdly, the economic benefit of wolf viewing in the Park far exceeds any economic benefit received by the very hunters and trappers who sell wolf pelts and I am not aware of any requirement in Alaska statutes which mandates BOG to preserve the hunting and trapping lifestyle at the cost of the wildlife itself. Fourthly, there is no question that wolves which den in the Park do wander onto the state lands in question; that the oldest studied pack has been decimated in the last few years and only by establishing a buffer zone on such state lands does the wolf population stand a chance to be revived.

Thank you for considering these comments.



Submitted By  
Mark Olson  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 6:26:21 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
206-331-1600

Email  
[markolsonseattle@hotmail.com](mailto:markolsonseattle@hotmail.com)

Address  
2615 W Galer  
Seattle, Washington 98199

Support Proposal 142

Hello,

I urge you to protect the Denali wolves as, we are planning a trip to the area and would like the ability to see these incredible creatures. A no hunting/trapping buffer would help the wolf populations and increase the enjoyment of our trip (and future trips).

Thank you for your time.

Mark Olson



Submitted By  
Ilene Orem  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 9:17:50 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
856-340-0163

Email  
[rboimo@comcast.net](mailto:rboimo@comcast.net)

Address  
3 Lamotte Court  
Clementon , New Jersey 08021

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK! SAVE OUR WOLVES ! THEY DESERVE PROTECTION NOT DESTRUCTION!



Submitted By  
Allison Ostrer  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 6:58:50 AM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Phone  
2062507359  
Email  
[aostrer@hotmail.com](mailto:aostrer@hotmail.com)  
Address  
15th Ave SW  
Seattle, Washington 98106

Please support Proposal 142.

Wolves are an important part of the American landscape. A buffer area is needed to protect them.

I've visited Alaska and loved it, more than anything for its friendly people and its beautiful wildlife. I want to come back again, and a chance to see a wolf is a dream. Since the chances of seeing a wolf have fallen so far since 2010, this buffer is essential.



Submitted By  
Gloria Oswald  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 4:10:04 PM  
Affiliation  
none

I have been fortunate to travel the world and see many amazing sights. The one that stands out the most in my travels is a family of wolves in Denali National Park. The family's interaction with the pups, the sub adults and the alpha's was something I will never forget. These wildlife sightings bring such joy to the Park visitors, it is a shame that most visitors will not have the opportunity to view these wolf families.

Please support Proposal 142.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Gloria Oswald





Submitted By  
Sylvia & Marius Panzarella  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 12:34:38 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-334-9291

Email  
[Chipscout@mac.com](mailto:Chipscout@mac.com)

Address  
7022 Tanaina Dr.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

. SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142

We strongly urge the Board of Game to establish a no hunting/trapping zone or buffer next to Denali Ntl. Park. If ethics do not inspire you to act then tourist dollars lost to poor planning by this Board should Many experienced and long respected biologists have led to these conclusions and have been mocked by some of the trappers you seem to be protecting. Remember the quotation " Pride goeth before a fall" Be that person who stands up to support Proposal 142. Don't let your pride or someone else's stop you Happy Trails,  
Sylvia & Marius Panzarella



Submitted By  
Caryl Pearson  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 5:39:56 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
8319150427

Email  
[wolfcoyotedeerek@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfcoyotedeerek@yahoo.com)

Address  
1401 E. 3rd Ave. # 108  
Durango, Colorado 81301

In support of Proposal 142, I ask you to please make the Stampede corridor and Nenana canyon safe for wolves. It isn't right to allow the destruction of any wolves based in Denali that make use of adjacent areas, and especially this particular pack, which as you know has been studied since 1939. Please do the right thing and give these wolves the protection they deserve, thereby giving park visitors a chance to see them. Thank you.



Submitted By  
Robert L Pederson  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 1:44:46 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
5413880742

Email  
[pandg@nwlinc.com](mailto:pandg@nwlinc.com)

Address  
18925 Pinehurst Rd  
Bend, Oregon 97703

Numerous wildlife management decisions are based on providing opportunities for hunters, while the importance of wildlife viewing is frequently overlooked or underestimated. We both have graduate degrees in Wildlife Management and understand the pressures of trying to please people with vastly different viewpoints about wolves and other wild animals.

We have worked seasonally in Alaska for 31 years in the tourist industry. At one time we lived just outside of Denali National Park, and for a number of years had jobs within its boundaries. We currently work seasonally in Southeast Alaska. On the special occasions when we have seen a wolf, it has taken our breath away to watch such a magnificent symbol of wildness pass through our lives.

Most people on our planet will never see a wolf, but Alaska is one of the remaining locations where that is still a possibility. The state is highly dependent on tourist dollars. According to The Alaska Resource Development Council, direct visitor spending in Alaska is \$2.42 billion. Many of these visitors, as well as state residents, would love to see a wolf. We encourage you to do whatever you can to increase the chances for this opportunity. Supporting Proposal 142 at your Region III meeting later this month is a good step in that direction.

Sincerely,

Gretchen and Robert Pederson



Submitted By  
Christopher Perry  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 10:00:21 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
7143567992

Email  
[kcrizz\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:kcrizz_99@yahoo.com)

Address  
2506 Blossom Ln #B  
Redondo Beach, California 90278

i strongly support prop 142.. i am a frequent visitor to Denali National Park.i ssave money every year specifically to visit the park and take the chance to hopefully see and photograph the wolves there..with each year i have been less fortunate to see them and it really saddenes me. please do anything you can do to ensure the habitate in and around Denali for future generations to come..



Submitted By  
Cheri Pilant  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 12:42:26 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
402-453-5348

Email  
[cherjerjo1@aol.com](mailto:cherjerjo1@aol.com)

Address  
10607 N 50 Ave  
Omaha, Nebraska 68152

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK!

I don't care what state one is from, the majority of visitors come to see the beautiful wolves. They spend a lot of money for that 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. I think Alaska needs to realize the true value of this beautiful iconic animal.



Submitted By  
David Plant  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 9:50:13 AM  
Affiliation

I fully agree with and encourage the Board of Game to adopt the DCC-AWA Proposal 142 regarding the closure of the Stampede Townships and Nenana Canyon. I regard the NPS Proposal 141 as too limited. Having visited Denali Park a number of times, driving al to Kantishna and back, I have seen first hand how the wolf population in the park has significantly diminished. The facts and evidence linked to the Stampede Townships and Nenana Canyon hunting/trapping and the decline of the wolf population in the park are credible, clear and convincing. I the Board of Game's past and current position on this matter is the primary cause for this decline. The Alaska Constitution applies to all of the residents of the state, not just the hunters, it is time the Board of Game recognizes that fact.



Submitted By  
Kristen Pope  
Submitted On  
1/12/2017 10:43:39 AM  
Affiliation

For three summers, I worked in Denali National Park and witnessed the transformation that occurred when people saw their first wild wolf. People were thrilled to see these iconic animals in the wild and many had waited and saved their whole lives to travel to Alaska and witness these incredible animals in their native habitat.

I support proposal #142 to protect Denali's wolves and create a protective safe zone.

I worked in environmental education for years, and I know how important it is for people to have experiences with wild places and see magnificent animals in the wild. Time in nature is also proven to provide significant health benefits.

Many tourists travel to Alaska specifically to see wolves and other charismatic megafauna, and proposal #142 will help interior Alaska's tourism economy thrive. At a time when Alaska's economy is facing a downturn, this is especially important.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By  
Susan Pope  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 6:13:41 PM  
Affiliation

I urge you to approve Proposal 142, the creation of areas of no hunting and trapping of wolves on distinct areas adjacent to Denali National Park. The economic benefits of preserving this unique population of wolves for conservation and tourism far outweigh the value to a few who hunt and trap these wolves for their own profit. Most tourists (and Alaskans such as me) visit Denali specifically to see wolves, along with the other mammals and birds in the park. The wolves do not recognize the park boundaries, and to continue to hunt and trap them so close to the park will only lead to their complete elimination. Please preserve these valuable resources for all of us.

Thank you.

Susan M. Pope





Submitted By  
carola preuss  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 2:16:57 PM  
Affiliation

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+491631848252

Email  
[carola\\_preuss@posteo.de](mailto:carola_preuss@posteo.de)

Address  
Brühlstr. 40  
Steinheim an der Murr, Other 71711

oppose to Proposal 142

As two visitors of Camp Denali from far away (Germany) I am very much interested in the subject wolves to be seen further along in this region. And I do think it's important having an intact, diverse animal population to the regional and state economy. It is of greater benefit to the State of Alaska having the revenues from tourism to Denali National Park than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands.

And please remember as the State Board of Game it is your responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region not only for us but for the future generations as well.

Carola Preuss and Dr. Klaus Ruge, Biologist



Submitted By  
Mallory Primm  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 8:04:36 PM  
Affiliation

I am writing to voice my support for Proposal 142 which protects both my livelihood as an Alaskan and my values. The economic, ecologic and spritual advantages of protecting wolves on GMU 20 are clear. Wolves do not adhear to park boundaries and as such, should be protected in lands that surround park boundaries as well. The economic importance of wolves - that is - the tourism dollars specifically tied to the possibility of wolf sightings in and around Denali National Park at significant, and support my livelihood as a guide specifically. Additionally, wolves are an integral part of a healthy, dynamic and intact ecosystem and thus their protections is essential. Lastly, the presence of wolves reminds us of what it means to be human, to be a part of this great and wild land we call Alaska. I trust the board will prioritize Alaska's economy, ecosystem and all Alaskans by protecting wolves in GMU 20 by pasing Proposal 142.



Submitted By  
Marianne Purdy  
Submitted On  
1/30/2017 6:30:02 AM  
Affiliation  
Camp Denali

To whom it may concern:

We need to protect the stampede corridor in order to protect Denali Park's wolves. These wolves are at risk from both hunting and trapping, when they take forays onto state lands at the northeast boundaries of the park. These wolves are internationally important for tourism and scientific study. It is the absolute responsibility and authority of the Alaska Board of Game to provide conservation on state lands in this region.

As a guide and bus driver in Denali Park I have the pleasure of observing the wildlife every summer. I can tell you that over the past 5 years I have seen very few wolves. Every guest on my bus asks the same question "do you think we will see wolves?" and every summer I have to explain why their populations have been going down with each passing year. People come from all over the world to see these animals. Please take this opportunity to protect our wolves.

Thanks you.

Marianne



Submitted By  
Eileen Quinlan  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 4:30:42 PM  
Affiliation

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Address  
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Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

To the Members of the Alaska Fish and Game Board :

Please be aware of importance of wildlife diversity including wolves ~!!!

There is a vulnerability of wolves to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land.

Please keep in mind the international importance of Denali's wolves to tourism and science. The 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.

Thank you for your time and attention !

Eileen Quinlan

-it is your ,Alaska Board of Game"s responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region.



Submitted By  
Michael Raffaelli  
Submitted On  
1/28/2017 5:10:04 PM  
Affiliation

Submittal of comments in support of Proposal 142

To The Alaska Board of Game,

I have only lived in the Denali area since 2008 but have come to recognize how important the Park and the wolves that spend time in the park are to not only the visitors that come from all over the world, but to the many seasonal and permanent employees of the area that make a living from the tourism industry. Wolves do not know the boundaries that we have established yet scientific data does show the likelihood of the presence of the most visible wolf packs to both Alaskans and visitors to our state. It follows, that there is an economic interest, indeed perhaps a greater interest to the state as a whole to set aside lands that are not open to hunting and trapping to provide this experience for both Outside and Alaskan tourists. In the past several years, hunting and trapping have had a profound impact on the viewability of wolves in Denali National Park, as these wolves have spent time outside the protected areas of the park in the winter and spring, when pregnant females especially are at risk of being taken. Though fears arise about extending protections, it should be noted that these protections existed previously, and worked for all parties- hunters, trappers, and park visitors. It is the responsibility of the Board of Game to not only provide hunting and trapping opportunities, but also conservation, especially of such well studied packs as those that spend time in the park. Thank you for considering my comments in your deliberation.



Submitted By  
Hannah Ragland  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 9:46:34 PM  
Affiliation

I am a resident of the Denali Borough, and live outside of Healy on the Stampede Road. I am writing to encourage your discussion and approval of proposals 141 or 142, related to a closure of wolf hunting and/or trapping in the Stampede Townships. I also encourage you to oppose proposal 72, related to predator control throughout the region, specifically in Subunits 20A and 20C.

Tourism is a vital part of our local economy. Tourists from around Alaska, the nation, and around the world visit this area. A substantial part of this draw is to view wildlife. The income from bed taxes that the tourism economy provides our local government is the bedrock of our Borough's financial status, and a critical aspect of our local economy. Tourism income has a larger influence on our local economy than any other industry. This tourism is largely dependent on the protection of an intact ecosystem, which Proposals 141 and 142 seek to protect. Research by the National Park Service has directly addressed concerns that the Board of Game raised when the previous closure was eliminated. Will the Board of Game respond to this scientific research?

While I understand that there is reluctance by the Board of Game to even consider proposals to close or limit wolf hunting and/or trapping (as evidenced by previous actions), I also understand that it is wolf viewing opportunities, in an intact ecosystem, that supports our local economy and way of life. I encourage the Board of Game to step away from the political aspects of this issue, and consider the science and non-consumptive allocation issues that these proposals focus on.

I recognize that many in state management positions fear "giving" anything more to the federal government. However, I currently see the National Park Service attempting to protect local interests more aggressively than the state is. It is the federal government that provides funding for our local economy (based on tourism income, bed taxes, directly related to Denali National Park). It is also the federal government that provides a bulk of the scientific research that exists on local wolf populations. While the state does little to monitor wildlife populations in this area, the National Park Service provides extensive reporting on their research. This research shows that hunting and trapping of wolves near the boundary of the National Park, particularly during the breeding season, directly impacts the viewing of wolves and pack dispersal. This evidence is what the state asked for when the Board of Game refused to renew or reconsider a wolf trapping and hunting closure on Stampede when the last closure expired. This research from the National Park Service, more extensive than anything the state has produced, also makes clear that the fall wolf population density has been below what the state itself has set for wolf density in recent years (see the NPS research at <https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/upload/Denali-wolf-population-508-compliant.pdf>, in comparison to the state Wolf management report of survey-inventory activities, 1 July 2008–30 June 2011 at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=librarypublications.wildlifepublicationsdetails&pubidentifier=1145>, the latest summary of state management objectives).

The above reasons I have provided in support of resolutions 141 and 142 also support my reasons for opposing Proposal 72, related to expanded opportunities for predator harvest in this same area.

Will the Board of Game consider science and non-consumptive uses, or will you pass the buck once again and refuse to even discuss this issue? I hope the former.



Submitted By  
Raymond Ia  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 7:59:08 AM  
Affiliation

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2646 Castle Peak Way  
Pocatello , Idaho 83201

AS A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK! I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO ALASKA AND DENALI AND THE WOLVES ARE A BIG ATTRACTION AND DRAWING CARD.

907-465-6094



Alaska Board of Game:

I am asking you to support Proposal 142 that would establish a no hunting or trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.

Thank you.

Dane Raynor

I could go on and on about the horror of legalized animal cruelty, but it is obvious that you don't care.





Submitted By  
Elizabeth Richards  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 7:03:23 AM  
Affiliation

In order to support a healthy ecosystem in Denali Park it is vital that you act to protect the wolves of the park by passing 142. Visitors from all over the world come to the park to witness the wildlife. It will be a great disappointment to visitors if the ecosystem is allowed to deteriorate due to lack of action by the state of Alaska.



Submitted By  
Jerri Roberts  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 1:31:47 AM  
Affiliation  
Interested Citizen

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Denali Park, Alaska 99755

For some reason, unknown to me, the presence of wolves in Denali National Park is highly unappreciated and undervalued by a very small group of hunters and trappers in the area.

A great part of the local economy is based on tourism and one of the reasons people visit Denali National Park is to see and appreciate these very renowned wolves that have been in the Park since its inception.

Unfortunately, animals know nothing of boundaries and when they stray across the border, it appears guns and traps are ready for them. Why is the annihilation of animals such a priority in the minds of a few people who hunt and trap. Alaska has the chance to avoid the history of the lower 48 where animal populations were literally extirpated and had to be eventually reintroduced.

Why not give the wolves in this International Biosphere and chance to be admired and appreciated. There are plenty of other places to hunt and trap. Locals need to open their eyes to the value of these animals for enjoyment, appreciation and realization that their welfare is dependent largely on tourism and wolves are a part of the big picture of the DNP region.

Wolves are part of the intact ecosystem for which DNP is famous. They keep balance in other animal populations and provide opportunity for internationally important research that is valuable to wildlife biologists around the world.

Fish and Game has a moral responsibility to stop the carnage of these animals that stray across the very convoluted border in the Healy area and give them a chance to live and propropagate. For hunters and trappers, I say find another area to shoot and trap. How about a little appreciation for wildlife. You do not have to hunt and trap every moving creature in the environment. They all have a place in a balanced ecosystem.

I urge you to support a safe haven for these very admired animals and take your guns and traps to other areas where tourism and scientific research are not a focus and let the Park be a safe haven for tourism and appreciation for this very rare ecosystem that is being destroyed by the wonton destruction of the wolf population.

Jerri Roberts



Submitted By  
Elizabeth Roderick  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 12:42:27 PM  
Affiliation

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9072234487

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5316 E. 41st Ave  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Please vote in favor of proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer next to Denali National Park. I have lots of family and friends who travel long distances to visit Alaska because of their interest in viewing wildlife. Wolves are an especial favorite, and Denali National Park used to be one of the most reliable places for them to see these creatures. Many tourists share the same interest. But in recent years, their likelihood of seeing wolves has decreased dramatically. The wolves that traverse the Corridor and Nenana areas are the same wolves which most often den and/or hunt near the Park Road - the wolves most easily seen by visitors. The percentage of visitors lucky enough to see a wolf plummeted from nearly half in 2010 to about 4 percent in 2015. Please reestablish this buffer zone to ensure that visitors to our state continue to be enthusiastic about us as a wildlife viewing destination. As oil revenues dry up, we need to actively support a robust tourism economy. Taking this step would be a big move in the right direction. Thank you.

The proposal was written and submitted jointly by AWA and the Denali Citizens Council.



Submitted By  
Lydia Rogers  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 5:32:59 PM  
Affiliation

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978 371 2905

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Address  
210 Old Pickard Road  
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

We are writing in support of creating a no wolf-take zone in the portion of GMUD that is adjacent to Denali National Park. Our visit to Denali National Park about five years ago remains the trip we remember the most vividly and fondly. A significant part of that experience relates to being in a place where wolves can lead their lives successfully. A stable wolf population affords the public the chance in a life time to view wolves, the iconic symbol of wildness, in their natural habitat. Maintaining a healthy wolf population is also the key to sustaining the many people who directly and indirectly receive remuneration related to this kind of tourism. Please enthusiastically support this proposal. Sincerely, Burt Adelman and Lydia Rogers



Submitted By  
Carl Rosenberg  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 5:30:22 PM  
Affiliation

I have been a visitor to Denali Park since 1982. I have cherished the opportunity to back pack, hike, bicycle and travel through the park since that date. I grew up in Los Angeles, and thanks to my parents love of the wild outdoors, I had the good fortune to visit most of the major National Parks in the western US. Because of our visits to the wild lands of the west, I chose to move to Alaska, and lived there from 1976 through 1996 when I moved to New Mexico. My wife and I still visit the park, and our cabin adjacent to Camp Denali. I am very clear that one of the strong reasons people come from around the world to visit Denali is to experience nature and wild lands and wildlife unimpacted by the human species. Wild lands without it's total collection of wild life is no longer wild, and no longer special compared to the majority of the planet now suffering from human impact. I have seen first hand the impact of hunting adjacent to the park, and the significant reduction in wolf packs and size result in significantly less wolf sightings inside the park.

The wolf is an iconic species, for all too long vilified by our culture. Until we can accept all of nature's critters as co-inhabitants of this planet, and live with them in peace, can we be peaceful ourselves. For people to watch and understand the wolf, its habits and activities is to learn how to understand the world we live in and how we too can live in balance.

Proposal 142 is essential to support the health of the wolf populations inside Denali specifically and to reduce the impact of hunting and trapping adjacent to the park. There is now strong scientific data clearly stating the devastation impact hunting has adjacent to National Parks, both in Alaska and the lower 48.

The role of the Board of Game in my mind is to first and foremost maintain significant populations of all game in Alaska. The first guiding principal of the Board is to "Provide for the greatest long-term opportunities for people to use and enjoy Alaska's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources". It is clear to me and to scientific research that the largest number of people who use and enjoy Alaska's wolves are visitors to Alaska's national parks. Alaska without wolves, bears and whales is an Alaska many people will no longer value to visit.

In the words of a family visiting Denali National Park many years ago said to me "when I live in the city I only think about living in the city, when I am here I think about what it is like to live on a planet". This perspective has now become critical for humans if we are going to be able to maintain this planet as our home.

Carl Rosenberg



Submitted By  
Anastasia Roy  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 6:21:45 AM  
Affiliation

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Ellsworth, Maine 04605

I oppose Proposal 142. Wolves do not respect human-drawn boundaries, and are susceptible to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land.

As a former naturalist guide in Denali, I understand the international importance of the Delta pack to tourism as well as to science. The rare presence of intact, diverse animal populations is invaluable to the regional and state economy. Hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands do not bring in as much revenue as the entire eco-tourism industry of the area.

It is the responsibility and authority of this governing body to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region.

Thanks for your time.



Submitted By  
Diane Sachaanski  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 1:11:10 PM  
Affiliation  
Mrs.

Support Proposal 142.

Wolves are an intrinsic part of your eco-system and are what draw tourists to your area. From 97 in number back in 2002, they are down in number and in danger of disappearing entirely. This is horrible for those of us who love wildlife - and have visited Alaska because of this- but bad for you as more and more of us refuse to visit your state because of the actions you are taking. I will not support a state/region that mistreats its ecology, its people and animals. My family has already stopped visiting your state until the Board takes a more progressive attitude towards wolves and realizes that they are a necessary part in keeping your entire ecosystem in balance. Killing them will just jeopardize the nature balance with other species and create even more problems. When will people learn to leave nature take its course. Killing is not the answer! Leave the areas around the park alone and let wolves roam there freely.

Hunters have enough ground elsewhere to pursue their activities. Do not let them lead wolves, a beautiful animal, to extinction!.

Sincerely,

Diane S.



Submitted By  
Nick Rusnak  
Submitted On  
1/30/2017 6:13:36 PM  
Affiliation

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Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

As the Bus Dispatcher for many years at the Eielson Visitor Center in Denali National Park, I commuted almost daily 13 miles between the Toklat Road Camp and Eielson, most often by bicycle. During this time, the Grant Creek pack began denning about a mile from Toklat, in a heavily used wilderness corridor just below the Park Road. They were marvelous. If I didn't see something amazing, I heard about it from the guests coming into the Visitor Center. There were literally thousands of people witnessing stalking, chasing, hunting, feasting and howling on a daily basis. One young female pup in particular began learning to forage for her own food by digging up the overpopulation of ground squirrels who were (and still are) excavating the cinder block foundations around the Toklat Road Camp. On more than one occasion I'd come outside to get my bike, and she would be busy digging under a log trying to get her breakfast. I'd say, "Good morning," and ride away. She'd watch a second, then go back to getting breakfast. A co-worker once awoke to several wolves on the picnic table outside his front door, howling. We all fell in love with the little buggers. That female pup grew up to inherit the position of alpha-female of the Grant Creek pack.

One summer, then First Lady Laura Bush and her daughters came to visit Denali National Park. Camp Denali bought a fancy new van, and everyone was making a big fuss. While riding back to Toklat from Eielson one afternoon, the van passed me going in the same direction. Then it stopped to view wildlife and I passed it. This happened a couple times, and to be honest, it was really fun riding my dilapidated bicycle, waving back to the President's wife and kids each time. Then, at the Stoney Creek bridge, another group joined our caravan, just behind the First Lady's van, and just in front of me. It was the new alpha-female and her entire brood of baby Spring Pups! So there we all were, First Lady and her brood, the alpha-female and her brood, and me bringing up the rear of Denali's most popular wolf pack ever... waving and smiling.

A couple years later, the alpha-female was killed.

the alpha-female's hide had been destroyed by wolverines. Her hide was useless. She was killed for nothing.

to think that simply killing wolves is beneficial, as it allows for larger moose and caribou populations. Is that what we call modern Big Game Hunting? If the Cleveland Browns decided to simply murder players from all the other NFL teams, would they earn the Lombardi Trophy at last? By killing the competition, it is no longer Big Game Hunting in the Wilderness, it's ranching, it's farming, it's an English pheasant shoot. Might as well gun down dairy cows in a field.

The Grant Creek pack is gone. Wolf sightings in Denali are rarer than ever, the wolves avoid the road and people. Thousands of excited visitors are now noticeably less excited. And every year we here about another local wolf being killed in what used to be a safe haven. Laura Bush's wolves are dead.





Submitted By  
Linda Saunders  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 12:50:03 PM  
Affiliation  
Wolf Haven International

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3602644695

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[lsaunders@wolfhaven.org](mailto:lsaunders@wolfhaven.org)

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Tenino, Washington 98589

Wolf Haven International supports proposal 142 to establish a no hunting or trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park. 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. We respectfully ask that you pass and implement proposal 142 which will continue to contribute to the important body of science relating to wolf pack family dynamics.



Submitted By  
Daniel Schaffer  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 3:09:18 PM  
Affiliation

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509-939-1205

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Address  
3319 W 23rd Ave  
Spokane, Washington 99224

I support Proposal 142 for establishing protected habitat for wolves.



Submitted By  
Arthur H Schaub  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 9:53:43 AM  
Affiliation  
1967

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4352608685  
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3014 E 17th Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Dear Board,

I am writing to express my support for proposal 142 which allows for a buffer of wolf protection from hunting and trapping outside of Denali National Park. I am a hunter myself and generally support game and fur bearer management using hunting and trapping as management tools. However, I also a viewer and appreciator of wildlife and recognize Denali National Park as one of the few remaining areas in the world with an intact ecology, functioning with a complete composition of large mammalian predator and prey species. Wolves are absolutely vital to that functioning ecology.

Furthermore, the value of viewable wolf packs should not be underrated for both an economic incentive for visitors to come to Denali and for the sheer experiential quality of seeing a fully functioning pack of large carnivores. Personally, as a former naturalist / guide for Camp Denali, I can say that following the activities of a highly viewable pack of wolves throughout the season in Denali is at the top of my list of valued and inspiring experiences in nature. I'm sure many other visitors of the park could say the same. It is rare to be able to see wolves in the wild, even where they exist. Denali is arguable the best place to view wolves in North America. It's certainly the best place I've ever been to see them, including Yellow Stone National Park. These wolves are now few and are much more valuable, on every level, alive than their pelts would be after harvest. This should not be viewed as taking away the rights of hunters or trappers but as an opportunity to protect a national treasure.

I hope this helps to influence the crucial decision set before you. Please extend further protection for a very vulnerable population of wolves by adopting proposal 142. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Art Schaub



Submitted By  
Eva  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 7:31:29 AM  
Affiliation

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Puslinch, Other N)B2J0

Reference - IN SUPPORT of proposal 142 - To establish a NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK.

The Board has the responsibility and ability to manage the wildlife habitat to meet the goal of a healthy ecosystem which includes all wildlife including the top apex predator i.e) the wolf. The wolves that frequent the Corridor Nenana/ Park Road are some of the most famous longest running scientific studies of wolf families in the US. The continuous interference and decimation of these wolves is not only a loss to the US but also to world. People have travelled to Denali to view these wonderful wolves which now are so scarce that it no longer justifies eco tourism. There are many reasons to maintaining a healthy wolf population and provide the required protection in establish the bugffer zones required. The huge scientific knowledge over so many years that is in jeopardy due to the continuous wolf killings, The ecotourism attraction that brings much money will also be affected. The enjoyment of so many people who take their holidays to places like Denali to see wolves, beacuse of the immense ejoy of this experinece that remains life long. These are things that money cannot buy. The sheer joy and pleasure that nature and wildlife bring to people is in measurable. I ask that you use your authority and compassion to protect these wolves for the whole world to enjoy , scinetists, photographers, tourists etc. These are priceless things that you are lucky enough to have at your doorstep and I think it is incumbent on you to ensure a healthy population is maintained and provided full protection as the wolves move out of the park to follow prey. Please provide the adequate and total establishment of the buffer zone. Regards. Eva Schorer



Submitted By  
Jim Schorer  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 10:01:06 AM  
Affiliation

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416-333-9771

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Collingwood, Other L9Y5B4

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.

Regards,

Jim Schorer



Submitted By  
Cynthia Scott  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 7:51:44 AM  
Affiliation  
Presidio Graduate School

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415 819 9488

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764 Ashbury St  
San Francisco, California 94117

My husband and I had the pleasure of taking a long awaited trip to Denali and stayed at the North Face Lodge, We will never forget our experience and tell many people to also go and visit. The wildlife is a vital part of making this experience memorable.

Seeing Wolves was one of our best memories. Please protect their habitat and make it possible for my grandchildren to see this precious wilderness with wolves. Cynthia Scott



Submitted By  
Alan Seegert  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 5:43:34 AM  
Affiliation

Please approve proposal 142. The impact of a handfull of trappers and hunters along the NE border of Denali Park is unjustifiable.



Submitted By  
Stan Senner  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 6:19:47 PM  
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I am a former Alaska resident, having lived for 23 years in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Going back to my earliest days in Alaska in 1974, I have visited Denali National Park and Preserve many times, often with my family and often with out of state guests. Although there may be other parts of the state with higher wildlife populations, Denali is the premier destination where large numbers of people can see a wide variety of native wildlife, including many large mammals. Historically, there was at least a reasonable possibility of seeing wolves. The Denali experience—including wolves and other large mammals—is simply priceless and far exceeds in value that of any wolves taken by sport hunters or trappers. For average folks, Denali is one of the great places on the planet, and maintaining that experience is in the best interests of Alaska's economy.

Hence, I encourage your support for of measure 142 to establish a no-wolf-take zone in a small portion of GMU 20, subunits 20A and 20C, adjacent to Denali National Park. The proposed boundaries coincide approximately with the Denali National Park wolf population area, as delineated by telemetry locations.

This is a great opportunity to set aside state-federal conflicts over wildlife management and take simple action to help maintain one of the great, accessible wildlife spectacles in the world. Thank you for your consideration.





Submitted By

Brenda Sharp

Submitted On

2/1/2017 7:17:38 AM

Affiliation

citizen and National Parks member

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302-745-2938

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[brensharp@comcast.net](mailto:brensharp@comcast.net)

Address

320 Captains Circle  
Lewes, Delaware 19958

Please reconsider the protection of the wolves of Denali and deny the hunting and trapping of these fiercely wild animals outside of the park. We pay good money to have a slim chance of seeing the wolves in the wild. You will find that by protecting them in the areas outside the park, you will make more money from tourism than from the licences for trapping and killing. Alaska is the supreme place of wildness and wilderness and needs your protection. Shouldn't there be a sanctuary for these superior animals to call their own? I would like my grandchildren to be able to see wild animals outside of a zoo. Please preserve your wonderful heritage and stop this procedure to allow hunting and trapping.



Submitted By  
Paul Shearer  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 11:49:33 PM  
Affiliation  
1955

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Address  
1532 Meadows Dr  
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

February 3, 2017

Alaska Board of Game,

I recommend that the Alaska Board of Game adopt Proposal 142 for the reasons stated in the proposal and those reasons highlighted below:

The Board should consider the significant decrease in wolf population in Denali National Park from a reported total of 97 in spring 2002, decreased to 49 in spring 2015. A 50% decrease in only 13 years.

The Board should realize that this proposal is one of the easier fixes to maintain a localized wolf population in Alaska, because it utilizes the existing protections in large area of Denali National Park and Preserve and therefore only needs to add restrictions in a relatively small buffer zone on lands in GMU 20 to accomplish the needed preservation of the Park wolf population. This will be easier than protecting other Alaskan wolf populations that don't have the initial protections of a large national park.

As an employee driving bus and guiding in the park from 1977 to 1992, and as an owner of a residence in Healy and inholdings in Kantishna within Denali National Park and Preserve, I have been observing wolves in the Park since 1977. I can state that wolf sightings were rare in 1970s and 1980s (reported as 5%), but increased significantly in 1990s and 2000s as the wolf populations near the Park Road increased. However regrettably my personal sightings and the recorded sightings have significantly decreased in 2010s since the population has decreased due to pressure from hunting and trapping outside the Park boundary on lands in GMU 20.

I have also personally witnessed wolves that have traveled over 10 miles from denning sites each night to hunt in the summer, and single wolves that have traveled over 60 miles from denning sites to hunt alone all summer before returning to meet back with the pack for the fall. The Proposal 142 also cites wolf studies that document wolves traveling similar distances outside the Park to the north and east into lands in GMU 20 to hunt in the winter. These observations and reports support the fact that these wolf populations will travel significant distances from their Park denning sites to hunt and therefore need the extra protections in the proposed buffer zones to maintain these Park wolf populations.

I therefore strongly recommend that Alaska Board of Game adopt Proposal 142 as an effective and necessary measure to protect the current and future wolf populations in Denali National Park that are a significant tourist attraction and help support the local and state economy.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shearer



Submitted By  
Bill Sherwonit  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 1:02:59 PM  
Affiliation  
self

#### Support Proposal 142

I ask the Alaska Board of Game's members to support Proposal 142, which would (re)establish a no-hunting/no-trapping buffer on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park in the Stampede Corridor and Nenana Canyon areas.

As members of the BOG are well aware, in 2010 the Board of Game placed a six-year moratorium on any Denali wolf-buffer proposals. With that moratorium now ended, it's time to reinstate a buffer. (Many of us Alaskans who support the buffer would argue it's long overdue.)

Again as you know, in winter and spring some wolves that primarily reside within Denali leave the protection of the park and travel through adjacent state lands in pursuit of prey. While on that state land they are (legally) targeted by hunters and trappers. Since the buffer was removed in 2010, several wolves have been killed in the areas named above, including some animals critical to the success of packs ("alpha" and breeding wolves, both male and female) that primarily reside within the national park. Though a number of factors contribute to the ups and downs of wolf numbers in Denali National Park (as elsewhere), there's little doubt that hunting and trapping on state lands adjacent to the national park have contributed to the recent declines of Denali's wolves, and also the disruption of packs that had been among the park's most visible. Whatever your personal beliefs about wolves (and the federal government), you must realize that many people—including substantial numbers of Alaskans—place great value on the wolves that inhabit Denali and would much prefer to have them alive than dead. For many years since the late 1980s, Denali has been among the best places for people to watch wild wolves. But that's no longer true, in large part because of key wolves killed on state lands adjacent to the park.

The Alaska BOG and Department of Fish and Game often like to say that wildlife conservation is the board's primary concern and objective. This is a place where the BOG can help to conserve wildlife—specifically wolves—that have great value to many people as wild, living beings. The proposed buffer area is one of the very few places managed by the state—McNeil River being another—where the protection of individual animals can make a huge difference and where the BOG can make a decision that benefits wildlife watchers and others—many of them Alaskans—who place great value on the ability to share wild landscapes with living animals, not to kill them. Thanks for considering my comments,

Bill Sherwonit, Anchorage



Submitted By  
Roz Shirack  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 12:13:45 PM  
Affiliation  
individual

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5033998615  
Email  
[rozshirack7@gmail.com](mailto:rozshirack7@gmail.com)  
Address  
1645 Church St. SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

When visiting Denali National Park last June I learned of the large decline in the Alaska wolf population, including packs in and near Denali National Park. I am asking you to ban hunting of wolves on state land near the Park boundaries. It is a shame that wolves that wander out of Park boundaries can be killed, especially when hunters specifically bait and draw the wolves out of the National Park, according to a recent program on PBS.

I love Alaska and visit to experience and learn about its wildlife, plant life, and geology. I would think that live wolves provide more value and benefit to the State, in terms of tourism dollars and other wildlife values, than does hunting.

I have seen and heard wolves in Yellowstone NP, but alas, that was not possible during a week spent in the interior of Denali NP.

Thank you for exercising your responsibility to protect Alaska's wildlife by banning wolf hunting on state lands.



Submitted By  
Martha Siebe  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 9:42:13 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-346-3329

Email  
[pixie@alaska.net](mailto:pixie@alaska.net)

Address  
8700 Solar Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK! This includes the Stampede Corridor and Nenana Canyon areas. The wolves of this area are a special population in that they are the most likely to be seen by Denali National Park visitors. They have also been studied extensively. The value of these wolves to Alaska Tourism exceeds the value of a wolf pelt many thousands of times over. I understand that the chance of one wolf being seen in 2015 was 4% or less. I regularly follow the website [YellowstoneReports.com](http://YellowstoneReports.com). There have only been a handful of days this year when wolves (sometimes several packs) have not be available for Yellowstone Park visitors to view. If Alaska wants to boost the visitor dollars coming to the state, having more wolves to view in Denali is one way to do it.

Please protect this small area so that wolf packs can live and interact in a natural way within their ecosystem, and be observed by visitors who have never seen a wolf before, and studied by scientists who can learn the natural cycle of wolf packs. There are way more Alaskan observers, photographers, and non-consumptive users who will benefit from protecting this area, than local consumptive users. Just looking at the map, it is obvious that this area should be included in the no hunting/trapping regulations just as they are in the surrounding National Park.

Thank you for taking a larger/longer look at this issue.



Submitted By  
Andra Silgailis  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 2:35:02 PM  
Affiliation

Please support proposal 142, establish a buffer zone for Denai wolves. It is very unfortunate that the right to view wolves has been diminished for Alaskans and visitors alike, due to the policies of the BOG. Wolves need a no trapping buffer, in order to allow the maximum amount of citizens to view these creatures. It makes economical sense.



Submitted By  
Debbie Sis  
Submitted On  
1/28/2017 11:24:44 PM  
Affiliation

I am writing in support of the proposal to halt the hunting of wolves on state lands that border Denali . Let's allow the wolf population to rebound....no one is hunting these wolves for subsistence, they are hunting the wolves for sport. I support allowing the wolf population to return to a healthy population number.



Submitted By  
JoeRay Skrha  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 7:55:03 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073981800

Email  
[joeray@alaska.net](mailto:joeray@alaska.net)

Address  
2455 Watergate Way  
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Dear Members of the Board of Game... Please stop killing wolves... I live on the Kenai River and at one time was able to see wolves in the wild. No longer.. I've been to Denali National Park and have spent 48 days in the park over the last 5 years. Haven't seen a wolf. What is find most repulsive is that 85% of Alaskans do not want to see wolves exterminated just so big game hunters can kill more moose and caribou. You even authorize killing wolves in their dens. How proud are you to kill these pups before they stop feeding on their moms milk. Look, I was a professional fishing guide for 12 years on the Kenai River and I've been the biggest cheer leader for the State of Alaska during my 35 years of living and practicing law here on the Kenai but the one black eye Alaska has is the way the Board of Game treats wolves and lately bears. Please stop killing wolves especially those that migrate in and out of Denali National Park. Please allow my guests and kids to still see a wolf when they come up to Alaska and see our beautiful land.

Sincerely,

Joseph Raymond Skrha

Attorney At Law





Submitted By  
Laura Sneddon  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 5:17:18 PM  
Affiliation

*Support Proposal 142*

I'm writing to voice my support of proposal 142 for the following reasons:

- Wolves don't know the Denali park border and need a buffer zone to safely exist when they pursue prey.
- Without this buffer, the # of wolves trapped and killed increases. This reduces the chances that the public and tourists' have of spotting a wolf in the park, which is often their primary reason for visiting it or nearby Park Road.
- Hurting the survival of wolves will reduce tourism to the Park and state as well as reverse the dollars and hard work spent to foster an environment for wolves: The wolves that most often visit the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. Hunting activities will end these wolves' lives and unnaturally end one of the longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Similarly, the majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.



Submitted By  
Nancy K. Socha  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 2:53:34 PM  
Affiliation

To the Alaska Board of Game

Re: Proposal 142

I am writing to support Proposal 142 providing no-take areas adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. Hopefully, this will eventually increase the wolf population in the park. My husband and I spent 4 days and 4 nights in Denali in late July 2016 at the North Face Lodge. We hiked in the park every day. We saw every animal we hoped to see-except one-the wolf. I did find recent wolf scat on one hike (as confirmed by our naturalist guide) but no other evidence of these wonderful animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy K. Socha



Submitted By  
Don Soileau  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 1:50:13 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-440-2296

Email  
[donsoileau@hotmail.com](mailto:donsoileau@hotmail.com)

Address  
645 G Street #530  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

I would like to submit my support for Proposal 142 - the establishment of a no-hunting/trapping zone on the northeast boundary of Denali National Park&Preserve. I have been working in Denali as a tour guide since 1982 and can attest to the appreciation that visitors and locals alike derive from being able to see wolves in their natural habitat. An intact ecosystem is also vital to scientific research. Wolf numbers have declined dramatically since the previous save zone was rescinded and Bridget Borg's research indicates there is a direct correlation between the two. Please remember the desires hundreds of thousands of people who come to visit this special place to see wildlife alive as opposed to the few who prefer killing and diminishing this precious resource.

Don Soileau



Submitted By  
Ronald Soto, M.S.W.  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 1:58:27 PM  
Affiliation  
City of San Jose

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4085619751

Email  
[rsoto60@gmail.com](mailto:rsoto60@gmail.com)

Address  
21658 Almaden Road  
San Jose, California 95120

On my last stay at Camp Denali and North Face Lodge, I have the first time experience of watching a lone wolf running in a large river bed. I watch it from one side to the end until it when out of vision. It was such a powerful sight, and stays with me to this day. Please don't allow hunter or other people to have the opportunity to further reduce our wild wolf population. In other areas of the US, they are beginning to understand the value to humankind of our wilflife and are protect them better, don't go in the opposite direction in Alaska, our one last wilderness frontier.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ron



Submitted By  
Ben Spalding  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 1:55:43 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
6107033652  
Email  
[spalding@cissltd.com](mailto:spalding@cissltd.com)

Address  
2901 Meadowbrook Circle South  
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103

To Whom It May Concern at the AK Board of Game;

I visited Denali NP last year for the first time. I was really hoping to see a wolf - even if only from a distance - or the sound of howling at night would have been wonderful too. We stayed for a week, from Monday through Friday before moving on our next spot.

Much to my surprise when I got there - I had been told that the wolf population in the park had been cut by approx 2/3 from the previous year (from ~150 to ~50) because a buffer zone around the park had been removed and the wolves were shot or trapped that crossed the lines.

Very disappointing. Needless to say I saw and heard nothing.....and the guides we were gave us close to 0% odds in seeing them. Almost impossible for me to share glowing reviews of my trip on tripadvisor, or any other social media, because of the disappointment in AK in not protecting such a wonderful resource. Upsetting natures balance in Denali to satisfy a few hunters/trappers seems to me to be a study in making a few locals happy and discouraging a world full of tourists from visiting AK to see and experience what they cannot see at home.

AK is a huge state - leave a buffer around the park and let the local wolves thrive as best they can in the little space they are allocated proportionately .....hunters/guides can set up in the yukon or somewhere else for their trophy wolf. Isn't it the responsibility of the AK Board of Game and your authority alone to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region? What are you thinking?

Regards,

- Ben Spalding

2901 Meadowbrook Circle South

Allentown, PA 18103-5425

610-703-3652 [spalding@cissltd.com](mailto:spalding@cissltd.com)



Submitted By  
Rob St Andre  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 8:12:37 PM  
Affiliation

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(425) 922-7815  
Email  
[standre@ieee.org](mailto:standre@ieee.org)

Address  
610 MT OLYMPUS DR SW  
Issaquah, Washington 98027

Hi,

Having visited Denali National Park several times with my family, I would like to voice my support for increased protection of wolves through the measures identified in Proposal 142.

To this day, we remember seeing a wolf eating a rabbit on our first trip to the park. They are a critical element of the animal population.

Thank you,

Rob St Andre



Submitted By  
Sondra Stanway  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 12:11:24 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907 364 2536

Email  
[spstanway@yahoo.com](mailto:spstanway@yahoo.com)

Address  
2935 Simpson Ave  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

To Members of the Board of Game:

I am writing in support of a Denali Wildlife Conservation area on the NE boundary of the park to protect Alaska's wildlife. Here are my reasons:

1. Animals should not be hunted or trapped near the park. One of the most important goals tourists have on visits to Alaska is for wildlife viewing opportunities.
2. The economic benefits of tourism to the state are high and should be considered.
3. To restore and enhance the valuable wildlife viewing resource of Denali, a durable solution is needed. A Wildlife Conservation area will help with these goals.

Thank you,

Sondra Stanway

Juneau, Alaska



Submitted By  
Florence Stasch  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 10:43:15 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
949 759-9957

Email  
[magicflo1@aol.com](mailto:magicflo1@aol.com)

Address  
1952 Vista Caudal  
Newport Beach, Colorado 92660

Please set aside a buffer zone to protect wolves access to hunting areas. They deserve your attention. My husband and I have visited Denali 4 times to view wolves. We have met many tourists who were there for the same reason. Of course, we would not travel that far if the wolves were being killed for human recreation. Wolves are synonmoun with freedom and wildness. Including a buffer zone next to Denali would ensure their safety. Thank you





Submitted By  
Sarah Stehn  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 8:00:42 AM  
Affiliation

I am a lifelong Alaskan who has been living in the Denali area for 8 years. I would like to see the state lands around Denali National Park, as outlined in Proposal 142, protected from hunting and trapping.

I believe these wolves hold particular international importance for tourism and unparalleled scientific study and their loss would reflect shamefully on the state of Alaska. I believe visitors to Denali who get a chance to see a wolf are changed beings and should not have to give up this chance to just a few individuals who wish to partake in hunting and trapping activities in these particular areas. Additionally, I believe it is the absolute responsibility and authority of the Alaska Board of Game to provide conservation on state lands in this region.

Thank you for your time and I hope you consider passing proposal 142 to protect the Denali area wolves.



Submitted By  
Elizabeth W Sterns  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 3:53:45 PM  
Affiliation  
Tourist

Phone  
5105472152

Email  
[lizsterns@yahoo.com](mailto:lizsterns@yahoo.com)

Address  
1087 Hubert Road  
OAKLAND, California 94610

When I visited Denali National park for the second time w few years ago, our group was lucky enough to see a white wolf, identified to us as the female head of a Park pack, trotting along a river and then crossing it on the bridge we were waiting to cross. It was thrilling, and probably the most memorable thing we saw, among so many wonders. We heard later that "our" wolf was killed just outside the park in an area that allowed hunting. There are so few wolves. Is there any good reason they should be allowed to be hunted? Please provide what additional protection you can for them. Then I'll come back to see how they are doing! Thank you so much for your consideration. Elizabeth Sterns



Submitted By  
Benjamin Still  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 8:03:00 AM  
Affiliation

Please consider the following:

- 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.
- 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.



Submitted By  
John Strassenburgh  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 12:30:33 PM  
Affiliation

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907-733-6874  
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Address  
PO Box 766  
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

To whom it may concern:

I write to express my strong support for Proposal 142, which would reestablish the no-wolf-take buffers adjacent to Denali National Park in the Stampede Road area and east of the Park north and south of the Park Entrance.

I live in Talkeetna, and I have visited Denali National Park many times over the last 45 years, starting in the mid 1970's when driving into the Park in private vehicles was allowed without a permit in September, all the way to Wonder Lake. I have taken friends and relatives visiting from the lower 48.

Afterward, they usually can't stop talking about it. The scenic vistas are impressive, but it is the opportunity to see wolves and bears and many other animals in the wild that makes a lasting impression and an experience most will never forget.

In 2010, the protective buffers for the wolves were removed. I have a great interest in, and derive much enjoyment from, observing and photographing wildlife. I am not seeing wolves now like in the past. The last two visits, I saw no wolves. There certainly is a correlation between the removal of the no-take buffers and the decline in wolf sightings in the Park. Correlation does not necessarily reflect causation, but research has shown that hunting and trapping outside the Park have a marked effect on the population of wolves within the Park.

Denali National Park attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year from Alaska, Lower 48, and from all over the world. The vast majority of these people come to see the wildlife, and of course, an opportunity to see a wolf, even one wolf, is an exciting, memorable experience.

It is incredible to me that the BOG saw fit to remove the protective buffers in the first place, and even more misguided to not have reinstated them long before this. I just don't see the justification of diminishing the Denali Park visitor experience for so many, in favor of the handful of hunters or trappers.

I urge you to adopt Proposal 142.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By  
betty suh-burgmann  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 7:36:41 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
5109657177  
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[bsuhburgmann@yahoo.com](mailto:bsuhburgmann@yahoo.com)  
Address  
5 forest lane  
berkeley, California 94708

I am writing to urge you to support Proposal 142.

I visited Denali National Park, staying at Camp Denali, 4 years ago with my husband and 2 young boys. Bar none, it was the most enjoyable and inspiring vacation we have ever taken, and we are world travelers, having travelled throughout Europe, South Africa, and Central America with our kids.

What made Denali so special is its absolute unspoiled and vast nature, including the wildlife within it. Looking in any direction 300 miles across the Alaskan plane--if that is not good for the soul I don't know what is. We watched a bear and a wolf sparr over a moose carcass, we watched eagles soar overhead...These are the experiences that made it real. Since then I have sent many friends to visit Alaska as tourists based on my glowing reviews of the experience. We spent nearly 15K on our trip to Alaska and felt that it was well spent tourist dollars. I urge you not to underestimate not only the tourist impact of preserving wild spaces and wildlife, but also the fact that this is a resource that has the potential to NEVER "run out," unlike oil and gas reserves.

I know it is difficult for those in government to look past short term agendas, goals and political gains. But I urge you to make no mistake about what your greatest resource is in your great state--not oil, not gas, but the unspoiled and unique nature of the wild areas of your state.

Thank you,

Betty Suh-Burgmann



Submitted By  
Kelly Sullivan  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 5:03:16 AM  
Affiliation

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773 758 0064

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[Kelsully74@gmail.com](mailto:Kelsully74@gmail.com)

Address  
10560 S Sawyer  
Chicago , Illinois 60655

While I am sure you wonder how a science teacher from Chicago cares enough to send a note, I do think the note and my thoughts are worth considering. I am made aware of the wolves hunting regulations via a friend who is now an Alaska resident. He is passionate about Alaska. He loves the land, the animals, the snow, the photography and the people. He brought this to his whole network, not to say hunting is wrong, but to say hunting wolves for sport, instead of the feed a family, and hunting wolves in such a way that the population sizes are not healthy needs to be addressed. you cannot maintain any healthy population without appropriate predator numbers, so please be very mindful of the populations in Denali when you regulate the season.



Submitted By  
Douglass Swanson  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 9:24:06 AM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

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2527282939

Email  
[wildagin@earthlink.net](mailto:wildagin@earthlink.net)

Address  
115 Intracoastal Dr  
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516-7541

I fully support proposal 142. I have been a long time supporter of restoring buffer zones around Yellowstone National Park to protect wolf numbers during hunting season. and absolutely support this move around Denali. Wolves must have a rightful place in the ecosystem, and they are a huge driving force for ecotourism. An ecosystem is kept in balance by the presence of the apex predators, and we must do all that we can to look at the big picture. Fragmenting a wolf pack by killing any of its members is a cruel act and we must base management on science based information. Thank you for doing the right and humane thing!

Douglass Swanson



Submitted By  
Kneeland Taylor  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 1:16:20 PM  
Affiliation

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425 G St  
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501

#### Proposal 142. Support

I support Proposal 142. If adopted, it would establish a controlled use area on the north and east sides of the old Denali National Park boundaries. As drafted, Proposal 142 would prohibit the taking of wolves in the controlled use area.

I support amendment of Proposal 142, so that not only would the taking of wolves be prohibited, but, within the controlled use area, there would also be prohibited the baiting of bears, and the taking of lynx, wolverine, river otters, fox, and marten.

I was a member of a BOG subcommittee which was directed to attempt to reach consensus on this issue. That was in 2000-2001, as best I recall. I mention this to make the point that it has been 17 years now that I have closely followed this issue.

I won't discuss in this letter the decline in sightings of wolves along the Park road, or the decline in the population of wolves in the Park. But I do want to talk about the impact this issue has had on me. Some of you know me, and know that I have been a moderate, informed advocate for conservation and non-consumptive uses.

Let me summarize the impact of this issue on me:

For 17 years, the taking of wolves right along the north boundary of the Park, about 6-10 miles from the Park road, has been the #1 issue that has demonstrated to me that Alaska's wildlife management is fundamentally flawed; and that the decision-makers, both on the BOG and within the Department, are biased.

For 17 years, I have listened to, read, and considered most of the arguments given as to why 1-3 trappers and hunters should rob hundreds of thousands of people of the opportunity to view wolves. Those arguments are mere excuses. No person can honestly say that the value of trapping and hunting wolves by 1 - 3 people outweighs the value of viewing opportunity for 100,000 - 200,000 people riding Park buses, and otherwise visiting the Park.

I have concluded that Department's data is unreliable; that it has been organized for advocacy purposes; and the purpose is not to inform. My view is that the BOG and the Department have grievously injured themselves. This issue is Exhibit #1; the "Poster Child" for bias.

I still think that reform of the BOG process and of the Department is possible. But the outright bias needs to stop. There are many thousands of Alaskans who don't hunt and trap, and who treasure wildlife viewing. I urge you to adopt this proposal, and demonstrate by action that all Alaskans, and our visitors, are valued.

Very truly yours,  
Kneeland Taylor





Submitted By  
Jim Thiele  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 6:18:28 PM  
Affiliation

RE: Denali wolves.

It is absurd to me that a population of animals that are so important to the multitude of visitors to the State are not already protected from the exploitation by a few individuals. These animals have no concept of an arbitrary boundary. Trappers can move at will to another area. This nonsense has been going on way too long!



Submitted By  
Heidi + Manfred Thiesen  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 8:40:13 AM  
Affiliation

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Address  
Am Holzacker 33  
Schwabach, Germany, Other D-91126

Dear members of the board,

we are very happy having visited Denali National Park and the North Face Lodge in the past. It was a wonderful experience to see the unique harmony between wildlife habitat and a soft tourism that we have not experienced anywhere else. It is still one of our major wishes to repeat this extraordinary tour one day.

During our visit we had the lucky chance to view a grizzly with cubs, doll sheeps, caribous, a moose, beavers, a red fox, all the birds and... wolves!

We are disturbed that the population of the wolves is declining in this unique refuge allowing people like us to have the opportunity to observe all these animals in real wildlife.

Therefore we fully support the increased protection of wolves through the measures identified in Proposal 142.

We entreat you insistently to vote for a stable wolf population in Denali National Park.

Sincerely,

Heidi + Manfred Thiesen



Submitted By  
Jan Tomsen  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 8:06:54 AM  
Affiliation

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9075292660

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Address  
PO BOX 98  
Denali National Park, Alaska 99755-0041

Dear Board of Game,

I am writing, as an Alaskan who has lived and worked in the Denali area for 15 years, to voice my comments in support of a wolf buffer zone in the wolf townships area. I recall when wolves were often seen by visitors in Denali National Park, such as the summer of 2006, but in the past three years I have only seen one wolf each year. Wolves are vulnerable to hunting and trapping, and the boundaries between lands open to trapping and hunting and protected National Park lands are unknown to them. They follow the caribou or moose, which often travel into the former buffer zone.

In addition, I mush dogteams in winter, often in the Stampede area. In the past several years since the buffer was opened to trapping, I have had to avoid the area with the dogs for long stretches of time, and even now will not take young dogs in the area, and absolutely cannot allow a dog to run loose, due to the prevalence of traps, which have even been set right on the main trail. These actions foster no kindness for multiple use of the area between traditional Alaskan activities.

Please, consider re-instating the buffer zone. Listen to Alaskans. Listen to the Grandmothers from Ohio who long to see a wolf in the wild. Don't let the interests of one or two individuals win over the collective betterment of the locals, visitors, larger economy, and wilderness of Alaska.

Jan Tomsen

Denali, Alaska

BS Wildlife Biology, UAF



Submitted By  
Jessica Toubman  
Submitted On  
1/31/2017 10:18:28 AM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Dear Board of Game,

I'm writing to ask you to support Proposal 142 at the upcoming meeting in February.

I have lived and worked in and around Denali National Park seasonally since 2003 and year-round since 2008, mainly in the tourism industry which drives our seasonal economy.

Through talking with visitors, it seems people come from all over the world to this area for two primary reasons - see Denali (the mountain) and see wildlife in its natural habitat. Wolves are a big draw, and I have often heard they are the highlight of many visitors trip when they are lucky enough to see them while out on the Park Road.

It is well documented that the wolves seen from the Denali Park Road travel outside the park boundaries into the Stampede area, especially during the winter and breeding season. By closing this small area to trapping, it would inconvenience a few trappers but the benefits would be to the 100's of thousands of visitors to the National Park each year. Again, this buffer was in place from 2000 - 2010 and the trappers still found a way to make a living and the 2016 Bridget Borg study showed it had a positive impact on wolf viewability.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By  
Kathleen Toubman  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 3:48:25 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
207 441-4058

Email  
[katoubman@msn.com](mailto:katoubman@msn.com)

Address  
P.O. Box 262  
Rockland, Maine 04841

To Alaskan Board of Game,

I am asking The Board to support Proposal 142 and prohibit the taking of wolves on lands bounded by Denali Park. I have visited Denali Park and other regions of your beautiful state many times (7 visits). Denali is a special place and the wolves are an amazing resource, which is diminishing. Supporting the Denali wolves also supports a healthy ecosystem and the Alaskan tourist visitor market. Thank you for your consideration,

Kathleen Toubman, Rockland Maine



Submitted By  
Bruce  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 11:43:05 AM  
Affiliation

To the Alaska Board of Game:

I am writing to support Proposal 142.

After my first spectacular trip to Alaska in 1996, I convinced others to travel with me to Alaska. My family and I have travelled to Alaska several times in order to see and explore Alaska's treasured wilderness, including its wild animals. We have hiked, fished, canoed, and enjoyed guided tours. I have stayed inside Denali National Park twice and travelled to many other parts of the state. During our various trips, our family group has totaled over 100 visitor days in Alaska. During one stay inside Denali NP, we saw lots of wildlife with the most memorable being the sighting of a wolf running through the brush as we rode the bus taking us back to town.

The Denali wolves are highly vulnerable to being hunted or trapped when they cross the park boundary. The boundaries are meaningless to them as they try to eke out their existence in a world which threatens their very existence. The proposed buffer zone will certainly lessen one of the known human-caused factors in their population decline.

The Denali wolves are important to international tourism and to science. The state of Alaska gets far more tourism dollars from a robust wolf population as part of an intact and diverse wild animal population than it could possibly get from hunting licenses.

It is your responsibility to conserve the wilderness and wildlife of Alaska. I urge you to use your authority to do so by approving Proposal 142.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. Tow



Submitted By  
LOIS TOW  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 12:15:19 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
617-553-0972

Email  
[loistow@ix.netcom.com](mailto:loistow@ix.netcom.com)

Address  
50 Lila Rd  
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130

I am writing to support Proposal 142.

My family has travelled to Alaska several times in order to see and explore Alaska's spectacular wilderness, including its wild animals. We have hiked, fished, canoed, and enjoyed guided tours. We have stayed inside Denali National Park and elsewhere in the state. During our various trips, our family group has totaled over 100 visitor days in Alaska. During one stay inside Denali NP, we saw lots of wildlife with the most memorable being the sighting of a wolf running through the brush as we rode the bus taking us back to town. It created a lasting memory capping that fantastic trip.

The Denali wolves are highly vulnerable to being hunted or trapped when they cross the park boundary. The boundaries are meaningless to them as they try to eke out their existence in a world which threatens their very existence. The proposed buffer zone will certainly lessen one of the known human-caused factors in their population decline.

The Denali wolves are important to international tourism and to science. The state of Alaska gets far more tourism dollars from a robust wolf population as part of an intact and diverse wild animal population than it could possibly get from hunting licenses.

It is your responsibility to conserve the wilderness and wildlife of Alaska. I urge you to use your authority to do so by approving Proposal 142.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Tow



Submitted By  
Eric Townsend  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 9:58:06 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9787013904

Email  
[mrmadchemist@gmail.com](mailto:mrmadchemist@gmail.com)

Address  
6 Parker Street  
Rochdale, Massachusetts 01542

Hello,

I would like to voice my support for proposal 142 pertaining to the wolf population in Denali. My wife and I spent our honeymoon at the foothills of the great one and saw an enormous amount of wildlife however we did not see any wolves. Protection for this weakening population is important to conserve their presence for future lovers of the outdoors. I one day hope to bring my children to Denali and would love to cross a wolf sighting off my list!

Thank you, Eric





Submitted By  
Susan Valenti  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 2:08:40 PM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Phone  
9075754444  
Email  
[akarcticwren@gmail.com](mailto:akarcticwren@gmail.com)  
Address  
7010 E. 140th Ave.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

Dear Board of Game:

Please pass proposal 142 and re-instate the no hunting/no trapping buffer zone in Denali National Park.

It is well past the time for measures taken to preserve the wolf population in this area for research and wildlife observing purposes.

I know you will do the right thing.

Thank you.

Susan Valenti



Submitted By  
Vic Van Ballenberghe  
Submitted On  
2/1/2017 10:01:26 AM  
Affiliation

Regarding PROPOSAL 142: I strongly SUPPORT this proposal and urge the Board to adopt it.

After the Board of Game rescinded the buffers (in 2010) that offered critical protection for Denali National Park wolves that ventured outside the park during winter, wolves were trapped and shot in these areas. This resulted in greatly reduced wolf viewing opportunities for park visitors. Denali is one of the few areas in North America where people can potentially see or hear wild wolves. I support the concept that preserving this opportunity is important to Alaska. The best way to accomplish this is to adopt Proposal 142 and thereby reduce the risk that wolves in the park will be killed.

The background information and data presented in Proposal142 is accurate, thorough and complete and I need not reiterate it here. I think it presents a copelling case explaining why this proposal should be adopted.

Please carefully consider the numerous comments from those who support this proposal. I hope you will agree that now is the time to ensure that the park's wolves are adequately protected so that we can once again offer park visitors a reasonable opportunity to interact with this iconic Alaskan animal.



Submitted By  
Danielle Varney  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 10:24:50 AM  
Affiliation

SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142

To the Board of Game:

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.

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.



Submitted By  
Rebecca Vitale Mandich  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 4:19:06 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
6503257003

Email  
[rmandich@yahoo.com](mailto:rmandich@yahoo.com)

Address  
1527 Waverley St.  
Palo Alto, California 94301

Please Protect the Denali wolves they have been hunted terribly and without regard for their families or numbers .. I'm very concerned you are disregarding their welfare

I've been wanting to visit Alaska forever and I will next year .. one of your great tourist attractions is your wildlife please do all you can to protect and allow it to thrive for the people who do not wish to kill it .. but to leave them as we found them... alive !

Thank you



Submitted By  
Susan Vogt  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 3:57:16 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073888671

Email  
[bias@alaska.net](mailto:bias@alaska.net)

Address  
269 Bias Dr. #B  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

I support proposal 142!

Reinstate the buffer! I am an Alaskan that does not hunt or trap but spend alot of money on wildlife viewing around the state. I am tired of the BOG ignoring, dismissing, ridiculing Alaskans who don't agree with your kill everything policy. We far outnumber hunters and trappers in this state and we should be carry the appropriate weight when it comes to decisions. The history of this board proves the opposite!  
**REINSTATE THE BUFFER FOR WOLVES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



Submitted By  
Linda Wagner  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 1:35:27 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
615-833-5196

Email  
[lswagnre@comcast.net](mailto:lswagnre@comcast.net)

Address  
141 Neese Dr, V452  
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

### **Support Proposal 142**

**I support proposal 142 that establishes a no trapping/-hunting zone next to Denali National Park. Wolves often leave the park during winter and spring to enter the Stampede Corridor to cross the Parks Highway-Nenana River Canyon area to chase prey for food. This makes the wolves a target for now allowed hunting and trapping. In 2001-2002 the BOG established a protected zone for wolves because they were so popular with tourists who came to view them. Tourism, just to see the wolves, is a very significant economic source for the state. Also, these wolves have been scientifically observed and researched continuously and should remain thriving for ongoing future study. The many tourists who will visit this area will admire your visionary actions to look out for the wolve. Thank you.**



Submitted By  
Bill Watkins  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 8:28:16 AM  
Affiliation

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Email  
[watkinsnp@hotmail.com](mailto:watkinsnp@hotmail.com)  
Address  
PO. Box 147  
Denali Park , Alaska 99755

February 3, 2017

Slightly revised comments from previous comments already submitted on Feb 1, 2017. Revised portion asks the BOG to reject NPS Proposal 141.

Alaska Board of Game

Proposal 142 Authored by both the Denali Citizens Council and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance

I am writing you to urge you to support Proposal 142 that creates a protected buffer zone for Denali's wolves that prohibits both the hunting and trapping of wolves within the Wolf Townships and adjacent areas to the east of Denali National Park.

I have been working in the tourism industry within Denali for the past 30 years, taking up to 52 visitors into the park on a daily basis. I can attest to their excitement upon seeing wolves especially from 2003-2011 when Grant Creek was denning within a quarter mile of the park road.

I can also attest to their disappointment, anger, and lack of understanding when they learn that their viewing experience to Denali has been subverted by the actions of the both the BOG and trappers and hunters who target and kill Denali wolves who enter the Wolf Townships and areas east of the park.

The actions of the BOG in removing the previous protective buffer zone in the Wolf Townships in 2010 has directly lead to the deaths of high ranking members of both Grant Creek and East Fork and other family groups with the resulting consequential decline in visitor viewing from a high of 44% in 2010 to 4-6% over the past four years.

This has lead to cascading disruptions within these family groups that have caused den site shifting, changes in territorial use, changes in hunting habits and changes in their use of the park road corridor and has contributed to a reduction of wolves within the Denali eco-system born out by spring count (baseline) census over the past four years within Denali ranging from 52 wolves in 2013 to 49 wolves in 2016. See <https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/upload/Denali-wolf-population-508-compliant.pdf>

The 2016 spring census was taken prior to the hunter caused death of the East Fork alpha male and the possible death or dispersal of the last member of East Fork: the pregnant alpha female bringing the park wolf population down to 47 wolves.

Historically and currently, both NPS and the State have only considered the overall wolf population and not the individuals and family groups that make up these populations. High ranking individuals are critical to family cohesiveness, pass down necessary hunting, denning, territorial, pup rearing and travel information to younger wolves and are the primary decision makers within these family groups.

Both Drs. Tom Meier and Gordon Haber (both deceased) agreed that it was these high ranking wolves that were more susceptible to trapping/hunting caused losses in the Wolf Townships as opposed to other areas where younger, less experienced wolves are generally more vulnerable.

Due to this vulnerability to high ranking wolves, when they are killed it creates maximum disruption within these family groups within Denali.

Furthermore, current NPS biologist Bridget Borg has concluded that in 25% of the cases where one or the other or both breeding wolves (alpha males/females) are killed it leads to the disintegration of the entire family group.

I would like to add that when family groups do stay together after losing both the alpha male and female (example: East Fork in the February/spring of 2005) that disruptions occur that can continue for years which impact the visitor viewing of Denali's wolves. This is another fact that NPS and the State refuses to acknowledge and take into consideration for wolf management within Denali National Park and adjacent areas to the park.



When these two wolves were killed, it fundamentally changed the dynamics (see above disruptions) within this family group taking t away from the park road corridor which dramatically reduced visitor viewing of Denali's longest lived and primary family group.....for years. In fact, visitor viewing of this specific family group never recovered after 2005 prior to these deaths and believed disintegration of this family group in the summer of 2016.

This is not the only example as the Headquarters group which was finally trapped out east of the park in 1995 (their territory included the paved section of the park road) resulted in significant declines in visitor viewing along the pavement section for years. Other examples where trapping/hunting caused deaths disruption/disintegration to eastern family groups would be Mt. Margaret, Sanctuary, and other family groups.

As long as Denali's wolves have to survive the gauntlet of traps, snares and hunters within the Wolf Townships and adjacent to the park, I believe based on the evidence that family group continuity will be disrupted and visitor viewing will remain low and almost non-existent as it currently is.

NPS also has a proposal <https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/upload/Wolf-Buffer-Proposal-2017.pdf> before the BOG which I believe will do nothing to resolve this issue as it is deeply flawed.

Their proposal which only protects wolves in the eastern portion of the Wolf Townships and only for a limited time from February 1st to August 1st from hunting and from February 1st to November 1st from trapping allows for the killing of these critical high ranking and all wolves prior to the breeding season.

In other words, the NPS proposal allows for the killing and disruption of Denali's wolf family groups prior to the breeding season throwing them into chaos; where they may stay together although, seriously disrupted or they may disintegrate completely.

Furthermore, NPS chronically ignores the critical importance of high ranking (breeding pair) wolves to each specific family group that makes up the park wolf population, especially these eastern family groups that form the foundation of visitor viewing.

Until NPS and the BOG (State) recognize the critical importance of these high ranking wolves to potential family group continuity and the consequent establishment of territory, denning, hunting, pup rearing and travel habits which bring them in close proximity to the park road, and consider this as being essential to wolf conservation within Denali, then there is I believe, a serious and fundamental flaw in their management and a serious void in information that is not being considered.

NPS's and the State's present and historical practices which manages for overall numbers seems to imply that individuals and family groups are expendable as long as the population can be recolonized from outside the park.

This type of management whether by NPS or the State is ludicrous as it ignores the individuals and family groups that actually make up the population. You cannot have a population without individuals and family groups, it is this fact that both NPS and the State need to acknowledge and take into consideration with wolf management within Denali and also on adjacent State lands.

I would encourage the State and NPS to take into equal consideration the holistic and comprehensive approach of managing wolf populations as individuals and family groups that actually make up the overall population. And that these individuals and family groups are not only valuable from a healthy, functioning ecosystem standpoint but from a visitor viewing standpoint as well.

The Alaska Board of Game's responsibilities are not solely limited to promoting the interests of hunters and trappers but to equally consider the needs of non-consumptive users. In previous years, the BOG through their actions has chosen to sacrifice the viewing and visitor experience of over 500,000 visitors who visit Denali in favor of only a handful of trappers/hunters.

How is it, that a handful of trappers/hunters in the Wolf Townships and areas adjacent to the park is given more consideration and validation than up to 500,000+ Denali visitors, including Alaska residents? How is it that these trappers/hunters are considered more valuable than the millions of dollars that Denali tourists pump into the state's economy each and every year?

How is it that the Tourism Industry, Alaska's third largest industry who employs thousands of Alaskan and non-Alaskans alike and who wishes to offer a high quality experience to park visitors, must accept a subverted visitor experience to placate a handful of trappers/hunters within the Wolf Townships and areas adjacent to the park?

How is it that that the BOG doesn't recognize the overwhelming economic value of living Denali wolves to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, versus the minimal and one time economic value of dead wolves to a handful of trappers/hunters?

During a time when the state of Alaska is facing a 3-4 billion dollar budget deficit, when the state is believed to be in recession for the next three years (see <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2017/01/20/economists-say-recession-will-last-three-more-years-followed-by-a-smaller-poorer-alaska/>) and when it is believed that there will be a net loss of 30,000 Alaskans over the next decade, it would seem only prudent and practical to maximize the economic possibilities of the tourism industry by protecting the Wolf Townships and areas adjacent to Denali National Park for the park wolves.

For the above reasons, I ask the Alaska Board of Game to support the Denali Citizens Council/Alaska Wildlife Alliance Proposal 142

and.....reject NPS Proposal 141.



Sincerely

Bill Watkins

PO. Box 147,

Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Watkinsnp@hotmail.com





Submitted By  
Robert and Karen  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 8:23:38 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
574-656-8719  
Email  
[bob@bobwatsonphotography.com](mailto:bob@bobwatsonphotography.com)  
Address  
25945 New Rd  
North Liberty, Indiana 46554

Hi Folks,

We live in Indiana, but have visited Alaska 35 times since 1981 and hope to return again this summer. We travel all over, but cumulatively, we've spent well over a year in just Denali National Park. Why do we keep coming back? Because, we love Alaska. We love the wilderness and wildlife that's there. We've loved viewing the wolves of Denali National Park.

We've seen the wolf packs ebb and flow over the years, but we've also seen an overall steady decline in their population. I don't believe the Toklat pack even exists anymore. I hope you folks know how many people from around the world come to Alaska for the wilderness and wildlife.

I know you folks are responsible for the conservation interests on state land and many of you see your primary responsibility to the hunters and fishers of Alaska. However, I ask you to know and realize that what you do also reflects greatly on the conservation of all land and the interests of the entire world. You have an awesome responsibility. I ask you to look at it broadly, because it effects so much and so many people.

We ask you to please support Proposal 142 at your Region III meeting on February 17-25, 2017. Please do the right thing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob and Karen Watson



Submitted By  
Erica Watson  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 6:32:24 PM  
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I'm writing to ask you to support Proposal 142 at the upcoming meeting in February. This proposal offers reasonable, science-based management of the ecosystem surrounding Denali National Park.

I have lived and worked in and around Denali National Park seasonally since 2004 and year-round since 2009, often in some facet of the tourism industry, which drives our economy. For those who visit Denali from the lower 48 or around the world, the opportunity to see a wolf is certainly a draw, and increasingly unique to this area. It is irresponsible and absurd to destroy the very facets of our environment that people pay good money to come here to experience.

But we are all loathe to concede to the desires of tourists over our own, so let's focus on science, and food. Denali National Park's wolf population is among the longest-term studied in the world, and from this and other studies, we have learned of the utmost importance predators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems, including prey populations. I'm not a hunter, but I like to eat moose and caribou, and I benefit from the efforts of those who are willing to share with me. They benefit from a hunt that offers an animal big and healthy enough to have some to share. Wolves keep those populations healthy and balanced. It is your job to maintain those populations within the limits of what the ecosystem can actually support longterm.

So, specifically, Proposal 142: This would inconvenience a few trappers who have found ways to profit from the known migration of Denali's wolves, which has resulted in an unnaturally low wolf population in recent years. The area in question is miniscule in relation to the state lands where hunting and trapping are still allowed, but would have a benefit to the park's wolf population, and thus our local economy and scientific legacy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erica Watson



Submitted By  
Kate Weber  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 6:14:07 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
8143236804

Email  
[weberkate@hotmail.com](mailto:weberkate@hotmail.com)

Address  
PO 597  
Healy, Alaska 99743

i am a resident of Alaska since 08 in Healy . I had lived in the canyon for 3 yrs of truly pristine beauty in the 70 s. So I'm 71 now. I've only seen one wolf since 08 and oddly enough that was last year when I was cross country skiing in the Denali National Park. Long ago a wonderful silver wolf crossed my path while skiing. I guess we have to ask ourselves what we want for ourselves and our kids and their kids. A good friend who loves Denali hiking is now in Mongolia. National Geographic has shown us the enormous hunting possibilities of the many many many wolves there and the ritual of hunters on horses hunting wolves. But National Geographic also published this one huge wolf with this one fierce looking man who traps wolves in the Stampede area. Please leave some of the wolf families to be. I cannot see why the very few left would be hunting opportunity ? This is a major tourist area and almost impossible to get not a few jobs a day like the Eastern Europeans kids do. It's a rich community. So I don't see the sense in hunting a wolf in people's back yards and right next to Denali where these wolf families have been studied.



Submitted By  
Melanie Weberg  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 4:24:23 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9528544718

Email  
[shearessencealpacas@me.com](mailto:shearessencealpacas@me.com)

Address  
1860 Swede Lake Drive  
Osceola, Wisconsin 54020

Support Proposal 142

As an outdoor enthusiast, supporter of wildlands and wildlife, I encourage you to pass this proposal. The main reason for me to visit Denali as a newly retired teacher is to see Denali's wolves. That is no longer a possibility as the odds of seeing them has been drastically reduced due to hunting and trapping. I will not spend my retirement to travel to Denali if wolves are not protected. Furthermore, so much research has been conducted on Denali's wolves and that has been lost due to the loss of protected areas for wolves. Please support proposal 142.



Submitted By  
Pamela Williams  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 12:02:51 PM  
Affiliation

Please adopt the provisions of Proposal 142. Wildlife watchers far exceed hunters and trappers, and capitalizing on wildlife tourism promises much greater benefits to the Alaskan economy than killing for fur. The furs obtained largely end up accessorizing the growing Chinese and Russian affluent classes, which hardly seems beneficial to the Alaskan and American citizenry. Further, the arbitrary boundaries over which traveling wolves find themselves in severe peril represent the antithesis of fair chase principles. I value wild places and intact ecosystems. Wolves are an essential component. Please throw those of us who care about wild places and wildlife a bread crumb by adopting the provisions of Proposal 142.



Submitted By  
Sandy Williams  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 7:49:41 AM  
Affiliation  
interest of wolves in Denali

I support the proposal 142, save the wolves in Denali and no trapping in the corridor. I have been in the Denali park several times and have not ever seen a wolf. Please put this back so they are saved. sandy



Submitted By  
mary f. willson  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 5:48:11 PM  
Affiliation

I strongly support full protection for the wolves and other predators on the borders of Denali. Alaska gets more economic value from tourism than from hunting and trapping; people come from all over the world to view our wildlife. Thousands of people benefit from viewing; only a very few derive any benefit from the killing of these animals. Viewing opportunities have declined dramatically, because of trapping and hunting on the park borders. These predators are also valuable for scientific study. Their value for tourism and for science greatly outweighs their value to a few trappers/hunters.

The BOG really needs to take a more ecological perspective, considering the interactions within the whole ecosystem. It has responsibility for maintaining the biodiversity in this (and other) areas, and should not be serving the demands of a few persons whose killings damage the system at a cost to the rest of us, many of whom take pride in being a citizen of this state where wildlife still could flourish. In short, the BOG should serve all of us, not just a few.





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

Phone  
9147632373  
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[maggie@nywolf.org](mailto:maggie@nywolf.org)  
Address  
PO Box 421  
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's 166 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  
Ron Yarnell  
Submitted On  
1/28/2017 9:46:41 PM  
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Board of Game,

My name is Ron Yarnell. I own a wilderness guiding business. I have been leading trips in Alaska's wilderness areas since 1971. Our clients come from all over the world to see the world class wilderness & wildlife found in Alaska.

For the last ten years or so Denali National Park has had a lot of bad press, because of the loss of the popular wolf pack in the Toklat River area. This is a real shame. For visitors, seeing a wolf is one of the greatest experiences of their visit to Alaska.

The unique situation along the Stampede Road has made it difficult to control the hunting & trapping of wolves that stray out of the park. A buffer zone solves this problem.

It is way past time to once again reinstitute this buffer zone.

I urge the Board of Game to approve Proposal #142. It is the right thing to do. This situation has gone on far too long.

Sincerely, Ron Yarnell



Submitted By  
Jed Zimmerman  
Submitted On  
2/2/2017 4:03:37 PM  
Affiliation  
Mr.

*Support Proposal 142*

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK!



Submitted By  
karen  
Submitted On  
2/3/2017 2:29:32 PM  
Affiliation  
self

I am writing in support of Proposal 142.

Time and again Alaskans have shown their support of wolves and the conservation of their populations. To wit, the many times we have voted against aerial hunts.

The Board has an opportunity to create a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon and should do so. We know that wolves travel beyond the borders of Denali National Park, so to not give them a natural buffer means the packs that are protected within the Park are actually at great risk.

Though wolves have an inherent value within a healthy ecosystem we also know that they are of high value to Park visitors, an important economic contributor to the state.

The Board has the authority and, I believe, responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. We know that without this buffer we will lose even more Denali wolves.

Please do your part to ensure the desire of a majority of Alaskans, which is the creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area, is upheld.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.



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1/31/2017 4:19:08 PM  
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To Whom It May Concern, I urge you to support Proposal 142 for the following reasons: There is much we do not understand about wolves still and like so many other species, they form part of complex ecological webs. In addition, the wolf populations of Denali are a major draw for tourists and therefore catalyze significant revenues to the state. In their occupation and migration across territory, wolves are unable to discern the boundaries and borders that humans draw and this makes them extremely vulnerable to predation from humans. Finally, I think it is the responsibility of all human beings to concern and protect the extraordinary wilderness and wildlife that makes Denali what it is. My time there over several weeks was wondrous and I promised myself when I left that I would return again. Thank you for considering my comments when you make your decision.



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1/30/2017 3:20:42 PM  
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As a concerned citizen and property owner in the Village View Subdivision, located 8 miles south of the Denali Park Road, I support Proposal 142.

I strongly urge the Alaska Board of Game to exercise its authority and responsibility to support conservation of the remaining wolves in Denali Park. The diminishment in numbers of the Park's wolf population will continue if trapping near the Park is allowed. It goes without saying that wolves, smart as they are, still can't recognize the line drawn on a map that signifies the Park boundary. It is the Board of Game's duty to conserve the remaining wolves by protecting their home territory, and the most easily achieved option is to stop humans from trapping/killing Park wolves.

I sewed furs for many years in the 80's and 90's, back when I lived in Nome, Denali and Fairbanks, spending a lot of time in the cold with my dog team. Plenty of my fur mittens, ruffs, and hats kept a lot of other Alaskans warm. I bought a lot of wolf pelts, along with beaver, fox, marten, etc. I mention this only because I am not anti-trapping – rather, I am pro responsible trapping.

But the Denali Park wolves need to be conserved – they not only are a tourist attraction, but also offer opportunities for scientific study in a reasonably reachable and known environment. Once their very limited number has declined to a non-sustainable pack, we could very well lose their precious presence for a very long time, and perhaps forever.



Submitted By  
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2/3/2017 7:03:36 AM  
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I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER  
ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK!

- 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.
- 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.





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1/31/2017 4:20:28 PM  
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Please give the wolves your protection.



Submitted By  
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2/3/2017 11:14:23 AM  
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Wolves need protection from hunters, trappers, and others. They are important to balanced wildlife ecology, to healthy wilderness as a keystone species. They are also more important to your economy than hunters and trappers, as a tourism draw and the image of your state. Hunters and trappers Only harm the wildlife ecology by their remunerative and recreational killing, and by the additive nature of their depredations. It is not the wolves that kill too many ungulates, it is the hunting.



Submitted By  
kate johnston  
Submitted On  
1/29/2017 4:39:52 PM  
Affiliation

Please set restrictions on wolf hunting in your beautiful State. I am a former resident. Thank you. Kate Johnston



Submitted By  
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1/31/2017 8:48:58 PM  
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Are you crazy to allow further hunting of wolves? Your #1 resource is your natural resources...don't go screwing it up like the other 49 states!



Submitted By  
Patty Trammell  
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1/12/2017 8:34:44 PM  
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Please don't kill the wolves for trying to survive They are innocent and are prnly doing what's been done For generations. You could try relocation of wolves and of their prey. If you kill our wildlife there may not be any left someday and it will be too late to save them. Hunters just want a trophy for their living rooms. Thankyou, for your time.