

R C 023

To the Board of Game:

I am submitting these comments in full support of Proposal 142. The trapping of wolves in this area puts money in the pockets of a mere handful of trappers. At the same time, it destroys a resource that thousands of people enjoy, animals that have been the subject of extensive, expensive and valuable research and violates the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game policy that wolf population management will include "photography, viewing, listening, and scientific and educational purposes." ADF&G says it "recognize[s] the aesthetic value of observing wolves in their natural environment as an important human use of wolves." The Board should honor this.

There is a clear inverse correlation between the number of wolves and wolf sightings in Denali Park and trapping in this corridor. These wolves "belong" to all of us, but the Board of Game has been managing them for the benefit a very, very few. The following is taken directly from the Board of Game page on the ADF&G website:

The Board of Game consists of seven members serving three-year terms. Members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. Members are appointed on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership (see Alaska Statute 16.05.221). The Board of Game's main role is to conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources.

It is my strong feeling that this Board is in violation of its mandate by allowing trapping to continue on the Denali Park border. If the Board were balanced and more accurately reflected the diverse interests of Alaska's population (the large majority of which are non-consumptive users) this would not even be an issue – the buffer would have been kept in place since it was established in 2001.

Thank you,

Linda DeFoliart
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