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I would like to share my comments with the Alaska Board of Game regarding trapping in Alaska in general and trapping in Ketchikan Gateway Borough. I apologize my comments are not more brief, but I felt each point was equally important for inclusion and consideration for this meeting and beyond. So please, if you don't have time to read them all today, please, take the time later.

I would like to start by saying that I am against all trapping, but, that I understand the need to compromise and my comments below are with compromise in mind. I say this not to anger the Board of Game or any trappers who may be present at the meeting, but to demonstrate that while some of us may be very opposed to what the others want, it is still possible to compromise in the interest of moving forward and minimizing conflict. I hope the Board of Game and trappers will also be willing to compromise as they consider trapping in areas of high recreational or other people use.

Please also, consider things from the point of what is reasonable for and of the average non trapper, since the overwhelming majority of Alaska's population and visitors are non-trappers. Reasonable behavior expectation has long been a standard basis for making determinations in Western law and should be used here.

For the purposes of my comments, I will use the term 'high use areas' to mean heavily populated areas, along road systems, popular beaches, near campgrounds, and along trails to name a few areas where there is maximum opportunity for conflict between trappers and other users. There may be other areas that should be considered high use areas as well.

I understand, per a Fish & Game representative at the recent Ketchikan Gateway Borough meeting, requests for emergency closures, addressing anything other than game management issues, are not considered. This in direct conflict with the intention of: Alaska Fish and Game Statute: 5 AAC 92.410. Taking game in defense of life or property, which makes it clear that 'defense of life, property, and domestic animals' is more important than game management so long as you have made reasonable efforts to avoid risk. Thus requests for emergency closures for the consideration of people, property and domestic animals should be considered.

**1-I ask the Board of Game amend their policies/resolutions/statutes to consider the safety of people and domestic animals as worthy of emergency closure orders which would fit under the intention of AS: 5AAC 92.410.**

From the pamphlet 2018-2019 Alaska Trapping Regulations put out by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, P4: Attention Trappers: Remember to act *responsibly* by trapping in ways that *minimize conflict between trappers and other users*.

While I do see this is a 'suggestion' and not a part of the regulation, it was considered important enough to put in the regulation pamphlet so it is important enough to be a point of discussion. By allowing trapping in 'high use areas' the Board of Game is not acting *responsibly* to minimize conflict between trappers and other users because allowing trapping in these areas knowingly puts trappers in conflict with non-trappers using the same areas.

In fact, allowing trapping in high use areas *maximizes the chance for conflict between trappers and other users*. Trapping close to high traffic areas increases the risk that a person, pet or other domestic animal



will be trapped or snared and injured, increases risk a person, unprepared to deal with an injured, enraged animal, will be injured themselves by trying to save a pet. Trapping in high use areas also maximizes conflict between those who do not want to see trapped animals, those who would feel compelled to address the suffering of a trapped live animal, children who could be very upset by seeing either their pet or a wild animal injured and traumatized in a trap.

Trapping in high use areas is not a *responsible* trapping practice. With millions of acres of wilderness rarely accessed by the majority of the population available to trappers, it would seem that requiring trapping to be done a safe distance from high use areas would have minimal impact to the trapper beyond convenience and would have maximum benefit to minimizing conflict. Resource users from commercial fishermen to subsistence seaweed gatherers are expected to travel to areas Fish and Game deems acceptable for harvest; these areas are often miles from the road system and access may require special equipment at considerable cost. It is reasonable to expect trappers to conform to similar requirements.

**2- I would ask the Board of Game to enact, across the state, at a minimum, closures to trapping within a radius 5 miles of 'high use areas' (with the exception of trapping to protect life and property) to minimize conflict between trappers and other users.**

Another way that allowing trapping in high use areas maximizes potential conflict is by removing wildlife viewing opportunities in these areas. For example: in Ketchikan, users of popular, yet minimally developed trails and beaches located within minutes of downtown, almost never have the opportunity to see beaver, martin, otter or other small fur bearing animals because these animals have been trapped in these areas to the point they are almost non-existent. This is in direct conflict with (AS 16.05.790): It is against state law to intentionally obstruct or hinder another person's lawful ... viewing of fish and game. It is illegal to create a sight, sound, smell, or physical stimulus (trap, snare) to alter the behavior of fish and game another person is attempting to take (view). Not only are local residents disappointed they do not get to see these beautiful animals when hiking our local trails, but visitors who pay money to take tours to hike along local trails hoping to see wildlife are disappointed as well: visitors who bring millions of dollars of revenue to the state of Alaska, to local communities, and to small businesses. I would expect this in very populated urban areas down south, yet I have seen more sign of small fur-bearing mammals in some cities down south because trapping is not allowed then I have in Ketchikan, which is in Alaska, which is known for its wildlife viewing. Deer are abundant in town because they are not hunted in town, yet mink, marten, otter are not because they are trapped. Since Juneau has had a trapping closure enacted in high use areas; reports and photos of beaver, mink, marten, and wolves in these areas have increased to the delight of almost everyone who now has the opportunity to see them.

**3- I would ask the Board of Game to enact, across the state, at a minimum, closures to trapping within a radius 5 miles of 'high use areas' (with the exception of trapping to protect life and property) to minimize the hindrance of another person's viewing of fish and game and even increase these opportunities for locals and tourists alike. This will have the added benefit of financially benefiting many small tour operators as they will be able to market more wildlife viewing tours.**

Code of Ethics

A Trappers Responsibility

(From the Alaska Trappers Manual, created in a joint effort the Alaska Trappers Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game)

9. Concentrate trapping in area where animals are overabundant for the supporting habitat.

While living in Juneau prior to the trapping closure in high use areas, I never saw a beaver or even a sign of beaver. Not even on the trails farther out the road that I hiked because trapping was allowed in all these areas. Now, thanks to the closure, I was excited this summer to see a beaver dam right along the road to the Mendenhall Glacier: now beaver and other small fur bearing animal viewing is almost commonplace. Living for the past 20 years in Ketchikan, I have never had the opportunity to see a beaver



or beaver dam anywhere in the Ketchikan area. I have almost never seen mink or marten either. As soon as there is sign, they are trapped. Yet I often see them when I go to trails on surrounding islands, and on more remote beaches. These animals are not overabundant for the habitat along the Ketchikan road system or most other high use areas in the state. Yet they are plentiful just a short boat ride away and I am sure even more abundant just a bit farther off the road and trail system. This is where trappers should be trapping per their own code of ethics.

**4-I would ask the Board of Fish and Game to enact regulations, in accordance with the Trappers Code of Ethics, to require traps and trap lines be in areas where animals are overabundant for the supporting habitat and at least outside a five mile radius around high use areas.**

I understand from the comments by a trapper at a recent meeting, that expecting trappers to move farther than 150 yards from popular trails is a hardship to some, but this argument does not hold sway with Fish and Game when considering open areas for seaweed subsistence gathering, open fishing areas, open hunting areas, commercial fishing, etc. It is not reasonable for trappers to receive special consideration, especially when the arguments supporting the regulations for the other resource uses apply to trapping.

**5- I would ask the Board of Fish and Game to consider their own existing expectations of fees, limits to open areas, gear, expectations for escapement, etc. for other resource users and make the expectations for trappers comparable.**

Below are additional arguments I have heard from trappers and Fish and Game in favor of the status quo.

1)Trappers don't want to mark trap lines or flag traps because they are worried others may raid trap lines or damage traps.

The same could be said for everything from cars to mail boxes, yet they are all marked. Traps are a safety hazard, and while it is not reasonable to mark all safety hazards and it is reasonable to expect people to exercise due caution in the wilderness judicial precedent says the expectation of due caution is based on a reasonable expectation of hazard ie. it is reasonable to watch your step on a trail, it is not reasonable to expect a non-native trap buried out of sight under the snow in an area where you have walked many times without there being a trap there. Having traps and lines marked by owners would help in the enforcement of trapping regulations and marking trap lines tells the average person to expect traps in the area and to exercise due caution thus minimizing conflict.

2)Non-trappers should carry trap release kits when on trails.

Where do they get these kits? Would it be reasonable for trappers to provide multiples of these at the trailhead of every trail so that visitors to our state are safe? These kits are heavy, require physical strength many may not have especially if they are rusted, are almost worthless unless you have the opportunity to practice with the actual traps you may encounter, would most often require two or more people to use safely around a panicked animal.

3)People should keep their pets on leash and kids close while on trails.

This is the same as saying trappers have priority use over all areas off trail. It is not reasonable to expect people and pets in high use areas to never venture off trail to do legal gathering, photography, recreation to avoid conflict with a trap. In fact, the Forest Service and Fish and Game provide information about subsistence gathering which is almost always done off trail which puts their recommendations in direct conflict with the trapper argument that non-trappers should stay on trail.

4)Most of these trails were started by trappers and so they should have priority.



Even if this is true, most areas that then become high use areas started as resource gathering points whether it be for fish, timber, minerals, or land for farming. As development happens to support the gathering of the resource, changes must be made to accommodate the increase in population. There is no longer hard rock gold mining in the middle of downtown Juneau, there is no longer a spruce mill in the middle of Ketchikan. There should no longer be trapping in the middle of high use areas.

5) Most trappers are responsible and so don't need additional regulations and additional regulations wouldn't work for irresponsible trappers anyway.

Doors (regulations) are a boundary that keep honest people out, they will not stop dishonest people. But the breaking down of the door (breaking of a law) is the sign to law enforcement that a dishonest person is at work and it is time for them to step in. Almost no laws are enacted to restrict responsible people. Laws are made to provide guidance to responsible people and to provide boundaries for irresponsible people. Further, most rules, laws, and regulations, have enforcement components which is the action item for law enforcement. This is what is used to address irresponsible behaviors. Sober drivers rarely fight drunk driving laws. If responsible trappers already aren't trapping in high use areas, already mark their trap lines, already avoid private property, then they should not fight regulations curtailing these things because they will not be impacted them and will in fact, benefit from the improved image of trapping.

6) There are almost no conflicts between traps and non-trappers and pets or you would hear about it.

There are many conflicts, but because trapping is legal and protected by Fish and Game so there is no log kept of complaints. No data taken when you complain. No one follows up with you. So it is easy to say no one complains.

I myself have had two very close calls with traps, one right next to a gravel road where the Forest Service sent me to cut a Christmas tree. My hand was mere inches from being caught in a 6-inch trap as I bent to cut a tree. Circumstances and location being what they were, I probably would have lost my hand. I called Fish and Game to complain and was told I was lucky I would not be prosecuted for tampering with the trap I set off, no report was filed.

My other experience was with a snare trap in the summer about 50 feet off a popular hiking trail just 10 minute from town. When I called to ask why the trail was not marked as having a trap line, I was told trappers did not have to mark trap lines and I should leave the trap alone. There was no comment from the Fish and Game rep that a trap in the summer was out of season. In fact, I was not even asked where the trap was beyond my volunteering the name of the trail.

The third example I want to give is not mine, but an acquaintance. Her child found their dog dead, in a trap on their marked property. The dog had obviously been in the trap for a period of time and had suffered greatly. When she called to report it she was told the trap was legal because it was on a public waterway ie: small stream on her property so nothing could be done. Her family was heartbroken by the loss of their beloved pet and her child traumatized at having found their dog so damaged.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like clarification.

Respectfully,

Marie-Jeanne 'MJ' Cadle



Hi Everyone,

Please see the attached Trapping Resolution written by KGB Assembly Member Judith McQuerry petitioning the State of Alaska Board of Game (BOG) to enact an Emergency trapping restriction in the Ketchikan area to replace the USFS Emergency Closure Order for Public Safety of 2014 that was recently (mid November, 2018) rescinded by Earl Stewart, USFS Tongass National Forest Supervisor.

As we all agreed at the October 17, 2018 meeting with the USFS, ADF&G, and a representative of the Trappers Association, even the local trapper agreed, that we wanted the USFS to continue the trapping restrictions at the trails and campgrounds mentioned in the USFS Emergency Order and make it a permanent solution for reasons of public safety. However, the correct process is for BOG approval for trapping regulations as the BOG has jurisdiction for all animals in the State of Alaska.

Currently Juneau has BOG regulations restricting trapping in their recreational areas as stated in the State of Alaska Trapping

Regulations: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/applications/web/nocache/regulations/wildliferegulations/pdfs/trapping.pdf7B67357721F9E4052989DC2E5C5AD67C/trapping.pdf>

And an Ordinance a half mile around their public and private roads that are closed to trapping, which makes sense from a safety standpoint also:

08.45.030 - Trapping prohibited.

Except if done by an agent or employee of the federal, state, or municipal government on official business, it is unlawful for any person to set traps within one-half mile of any public or private street, road, right-of-way, or highway within the City and Borough.

[https://library.municode.com/ak/juneau/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR\\_TIT08ANCOPR\\_CH08.45OBANOTRE\\_08.45.030TRPR](https://library.municode.com/ak/juneau/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_TIT08ANCOPR_CH08.45OBANOTRE_08.45.030TRPR)

Skagway currently has submitted a proposal that will be decided upon at the next Board of Game meeting that will be in Petersburg, January 10-15, 2019. The deadline for proposals was May 1, 2018. The Skagway proposal is #32, Page 36.

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/2018-2019/proposals/se\\_all.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/2018-2019/proposals/se_all.pdf)

The next opportunity for proposals to be heard by the BOG will be in 3 years. That means traps can be set anywhere in our area, at this time, unless the KGB can successfully obtain emergency relief from the BOG.

The permanent solution the USFS has ended up with is signage and education. However, they haven't updated the current signs at trailheads for many years and admit they don't have funding to do so plus they would only install general information signs that traps may be present but nothing specific as if they are present or not. They held a presentation at the Discovery Center on December 14, 2018 with the various traps laid out on a table and a video presentation "Sharing Alaska's Trails" by the Alaska Trapping Association showing how traps are hidden under snow and how to free a dog/cat if it becomes trapped. <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=trapping.sharing>

Extremely difficult to do by only one person without the proper tools a trapper uses and a very high risk of injury from the terrified and in-pain pet. Even with two people it would be difficult. There are currently no requirements for trappers to post where the traps are set or any identification on each trap, as are required for shrimp and crab pots. Children and adults are also at risk of course as these traps could legally be anywhere. In addition to near streams for marten and in the water, including



Ward Lake and the Frog Pond for beaver, beaches are also popular trapping areas. People and their pets recreate everywhere, hiking trails, off-trail for numerous reasons such as berry picking, Christmas tree hunting, bark gathering, photography, potty breaks and just plain exploring.

There was an incident in Juneau a few years ago where an eagle was caught in a trap and other incidents with pets in traps and here in Ketchikan, Tina McPherson recounted a harrowing account of when her dog was caught in a trap and her husband had to stand in the freezing water of a creek near Connell Lake to support the dog for a long time waiting for help to arrive. With the protection from trapping now gone we need to be proactive to make our populated areas safe from traps.

Our friend, Angie Taggart, has 12 dogs that she has run, twice, in the Iditarod sled dog race. She needs to be able to run her dogs, off leash, off trail for exercise. She goes to the White River area and has had one of her dogs caught in a trap. She needs to be able to safely run her dogs.

The 150' asked for in the resolution is only 3 times the length of the KGB assembly chambers.

If you look at the back page of the brochure "Trap Safety for Pet Owners" produced by the Alaska Trappers Association, ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, you will see a long list of tools and equipment recommended to take with you when you go outdoors: totally impractical and cumbersome to have to take that much stuff on a hike. The list includes: stout rope, baling wire, muzzle, trap setters, and short board or piece of plywood.

At the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly meeting on Monday, January 7, 2019, there were 30 citizens who raised their hand in support of the KGB resolution and 10 people who spoke in favor of it, with no one speaking in opposition. The Ketchikan Humane Society and Ketchikan Dog Park had representatives speak in favor of the resolution. The resolution was passed by the Assembly unanimously.

We didn't know the USFS was going to rescind their Emergency Closure Order for Public Safety of 2014 until November, 2018, well past the deadline for proposals to the BOG that was May 1, 2018.

The 14,000 citizens of Ketchikan are asking, through their Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly process, for the BOG to enact protection from trapping in populated areas as outlined in the resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keep our citizens safe.

Bev and Jack Davies





**Assembly - Regular**

**9. b.**

**Meeting Date:** 01/07/2019

**Submitted By:** Kacie Paxton

**Department:** Clerk

**Approved for Submittal:** Cynna Gubatayao, Finance Director  
Deanna Thomas, Asst Manager  
Ruben Duran, Manager

**Approved as to form:** Glenn  
Brown,  
Borough  
Attorney

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**Information**

**TITLE**

A Resolution Requesting the Alaska Board of Game to Issue Emergency Measures to Govern Fur Trapping in the Ketchikan Region - *Assembly Member McQuerry*

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Assembly Member McQuerry is requesting the Assembly to adopt the following motion:

"I move to adopt the resolution requesting the Alaska Board of Game to issue emergency measures to govern fur trapping in the Ketchikan region."

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE**

In accordance with KGBC 2.15.030, on December 21, 2018, Assembly Member McQuerry submitted the attached sponsor statement and resolution. The resolution, if adopted, would request the Alaska Board of Game to issue an emergency declaration limiting trapping in the Ketchikan area to no closer than 150 feet of area public trails and roads. It would also request the Alaska Board of Game, in its emergency declaration, to issue regulations requiring a consistent format for signage on the public trails and roads adjacent to the placement of fur traps.

If adopted, a number will be assigned to the attached resolution, and a signed copy will be sent to the Alaska Board of Game and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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**Fiscal Impact**

**Attachments**

Sponsor Statement - McQuerry  
Trapping Resolution

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**Received in Clerk's Office: December 21, 2018**

**Meeting Date: January 7, 2019**

**Sponsored by: Judith McQuerry, Assembly Member**

### Title

Consideration of a Resolution Requesting the Alaska Board of Game to Issue Emergency Measures to Govern Fur Trapping in the Ketchikan Region

### REQUESTED ACTION

"I move to adopt the attached resolution Requesting the Alaska Board of Game to Issue Emergency Measures to Govern Fur Trapping in the Ketchikan Region."

### SUMMARY OF ISSUE

Ketchikan has many recreational trails and miles of road system enjoyed by Borough residents, tourists, and their pets. The State of Alaska regulates fur trapping in the Ketchikan area, encouraging trappers and people to "share the trails", warning people that traps may be close by where they are hiking and walking their pets. However, the "sharing of trails" may have fatal consequences to hikers, children, and pets.

Due to the fact that the deadline has passed for new regulations to be submitted to the Alaska Board of Game was in May of 2018, an emergency declaration is in order for immediate attention to local trapping practices.

This draft resolution would request the Alaska Board of Game to issue an emergency declaration limiting trapping in the Ketchikan area to no closer than 150 feet of area public trails and roads. It would also request the Alaska Board of Game, in its emergency declaration, to issue regulations requiring a consistent format for signage on the public trails and roads adjacent to the placement of fur traps.

If adopted, a number will be assigned to the attached resolution, and a signed copy will be sent to the Alaska Board of Game and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.



Hoyt  
1 of 1

## KETCHIKAN AREA STATE PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

9883 North Tongass Highway, Ketchikan, AK 99901

January 9, 2019

RE: Trapping Regulations in the Ketchikan Area

Dear Board of Game,

The Ketchikan Area State Parks Citizens Advisory Board would like to express our support for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's Resolution No. 2798, requesting an emergency declaration by the Alaska Board of Game to limit trapping on trails originating from the Revillagigedo Island road system.

The unanticipated removal of the US Forest Service's order regulating trapping in November made it impossible to request a regulation change by the Board's May deadline. Considering that trapping regulations cannot be changed this session, we ask that the Board of Game act on the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's request for an emergency order to establish a trapping setback of 150' on recreational trails. It is our belief that this emergency declaration is necessary to protect the health and wellbeing of our recreational trail users and their pets.

It is the purpose of the Ketchikan Area State Parks Citizens Advisory Board to represent the broad interests of our recreational land users. We support hunting, fishing, subsistence harvesting, and trapping on our public lands so far as they do not infringe on the safety and wellbeing of other user-groups.

We appreciate the Board's consideration of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's request and would welcome any questions members may have.

Duly submitted on behalf of the entire Ketchikan Area State Parks Citizens Advisory Board.

Teri Hoyt, Chair

## Members:

Leslie Jackson, Amanda Kiely, Adam Minshall, Richard Hauver, Shelly Acteson, Caroline Seabright and Christine Newbill

CC: David Landis, Ketchikan Gateway Borough Mayor, Ethan Tyler, Director of Alaska State Parks, Preston Kroes, Southeast Region Superintendent, Aaron Ostby, Ketchikan Area Natural Resource Specialist II



**From:**  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: ketchikan buffers  
**Date:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 10:37:11 AM

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**From:** A. Jahnke Robert [mailto:bobkrisktn@kpunet.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 10, 2019 6:30 AM  
**To:** DFG, BOF Comments (DFG sponsored)  
**Cc:** itrap2@gci.net; tedspraker  
**Subject:** ketchikan buffers

I have been representing the Alaska Trappers Association Southern Southeast Chapter, and working closely with the USFS and ADF&G , going on a year now, with public meetings explaining our concessions with a new buffer plan on said trails. I personally have spent time and money also working on plans to create dog safe sets and to present them to the public. The public borough meeting was announced with only 4 or 5 days notice over a week- end and was attended by many emotionally pumped up dog owners who feel it is their right over any one else to allow their animals to run free among other trail users and our wildlife. The facts will bear out that the issues on these trails result far more from dog bites and attacks then any trap related issues that pertain to trapping in the two and one half month Marten season. This is what we asked for with relation to the buffers to be pulled back to. Some of the main proponents of this resolution have told me they are scared when they see a trap sign in July, thinking it is a active trap line. ATA's signs have been posted on the trail heads by the USFS and they explain our trap seasons along with all trail users responsibilities. The only threat that I see here to the children and our wildlife is by the free roaming dogs owned by irresponsible dog owners. I could go on about things like diseases spread by pets to our wildlife but I'm sure the board is well aware of this.



**From:** Carol Joan  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** limit trapping within 150 feet in Ketchikan  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 09, 2019 5:29:45 PM

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I attended this meeting to support limit trapping within 150 feet of recreation areas in Ketchikan.

## Assembly OK's trapping resolution

**By SCOTT BOWLEN**

**Daily News Staff Writer**

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly on Monday unanimously approved a revised resolution that requests the Alaska Board of Game to make an emergency declaration to limit trapping within 150 feet of certain trails and "vehicular ways or areas" within the borough.

The Assembly took the action understanding that the deadline has passed to request Board of Game action at the board's meeting that starts later this week in Petersburg, and that the resolution's trapping request doesn't likely fit the definition of a circumstance needed for the Board of Game would to consider an emergency request.

Still, with some Assembly members noting that unrestricted trapping along trails and other areas trafficked by people and pets poses a public safety issue, Assembly members approved the resolution as a means to make the concern known to the Board of Game and to make a start toward a solution.

"I believe that while we may not ... create a solution tonight, we are by (submitting) the resolution, we are beginning to create a solution that will occur," said Assembly Member Alan Bailey. "We can begin sometime, and this is the time to begin."

Local interest in a new prohibition on trapping along trails and roads follows the U.S. Forest Service's action in November to rescind a federal emergency order that had limited trapping within 150 feet from trails and campgrounds on Revillagigedo Island. That order, which was intended to be temporary, had been in effect since 2014.

When initiating the emergency order, the Forest Service highlighted that trapping in Alaska is regulated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Fish and Game manages wildlife through policy established by the Alaska Board of Game.

The Alaska Board of Game is a statewide entity, and meets regarding each region's issues on a three-year cycle. Its meeting regarding wildlife management issues in Southeast Alaska starts late this week in Petersburg. The deadline to submit proposals for management changes in

the region was in May.

On the agenda is a request by the community of Skagway for Skagway-specific trapping regulations similar to those sought by the Ketchikan resolution.

Assembly Member Judith McQuerry submitted the proposed resolution for Monday's agenda in the hope of obtaining Assembly approval to request that the Board of Game consider the Ketchikan issue on an emergency basis.

On Monday evening, the Assembly chamber was full of people, many of whom were present because of their interest in the topic.

At one point, an individual speaking during public comments asked for a show of hands of people in the audience who supported the proposed resolution. About 30 people raised their hands, according to Borough Mayor David Landis.

Ten people spoke in support of the resolution, which also requested the Board of Game to issue rules requiring consistent signage on roads and public trails adjacent to traps.

All of the 10 spoke in favor of limiting traps near trails and roads — generally as a public safety issue. Some speakers highlighted incidents that they'd experienced with traps firsthand.

The first public speaker was Tina McPherson, who related a June 2018 incident in which her dog was caught in a snare around its neck near Ward Creek along the road to Connell Lake. McPherson described an approximately 40-minute ordeal that concluded when an Alaska State Trooper arrived and was able cut the snare cable apart and free the dog.

"I'm concerned for public safety, for our animals and for our kids and for people, not knowing those things are there and not knowing what to do — feeling helpless," said McPherson, who'd noted that there were no signs indicating the presence of traps. "So I'd like to ask for your help in securing safety for our citizens and thier families. ... I think this is an issue that really needs to be solved now."

Also during the public comments, Ross Dorendorf, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Ketchikan-area wildlife conservation biologist, made note of the Board of Game's policy that states the board will deny a hearing on an issue outside of the regular cycle unless the issue deals with subsistence hunting (which would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis) — or if the request justifies a finding of an emergency. In this case, the policy's definition of emergency doesn't work in favor of the proposed resolution.

"An emergency is an unforeseen, unexpected event that either threatens a ... game resource,



or an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action, and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future,” states the policy, which adds that emergencies would be “held to a minimum and rarely found to exist.”

The Assembly discussed whether it would be possible for the borough to bar traps in specific areas, a concept that raised issues of jurisdiction, enforcement and whether the borough had the appropriate powers, and problems of enforcement.

Assembly Member Rodney Dial proposed a two-part amendment to the resolution. The first part changed the word road to the phrase “vehicular way or area,” which is defined in Alaska statute as a “way, path, or area, other than a highway or private property, that is designated by official traffic control devices or customary usage and that is open to the public for purposes of pedestrian or vehicular travel, and which way or area may be restricted in use to pedestrians, bicycles, or other specific types of vehicles as determined by the Department of Public Safety...”

Dial said the proposed change is intended to provide a clearer definition of the type of areas that the rules would apply to.

The second part of the amendment was to change the term “public trail” to a list of specific trails compiled by the borough manager or manager designee, to which the rule would apply. This in part would prevent individuals opposed to trapping from establishing a trail to a trapping area with the intent of stopping trapping there, according to Dial.

The Assembly approved the amendment by a vote of 6-1, with Assembly Member A.J. Pierce voting against the amendment.

Prior to the vote, Pierce had said that the deadline had already passed, and wondered whether the Assembly should continue investigating the issue and how to approach the issue. She said she completely empathized with the people who had spoken at the meeting.

“I want to make the best educated decision and I don’t feel like it’s tonight,” Pierce said. “And being that it’s not an emergency as to when we can file, could we consider a continuation for a couple of meetings?”

McQuerry said she shared Pierce’s concerns, but that the Board of Game wasn’t going to be meeting again for a long time.

“If we miss this window to let them know what our thoughts are, we might have well never



have brought it up at all,” McQuerry said. “I understand this is a far-less-than-perfect solution. I agree. I’m very interested in pursuing whatever we can do down the road in the interim, but I don’t think we should miss this opportunity to express our thoughts to the Board of ... Game.”

As the discussion continued, Landis, who as the general manager of the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association has had experience with emergency requests in the similar Alaska Board of Fisheries process, noted that the boards consider advisory committee perspectives heavily on issues, and that the Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee had been reformed recently. Going forward, the trapping topic would be something the Ketchikan Advisory Committee could work on toward the next regular board cycle.

The Assembly ultimately voted unanimously to approve the resolution as amended.

CJ Lagodich  
Ketchikan





Dear Board and Game members

Please find attached my response to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and their request for an Emergency stop for the trapping around trails and roadways.

There is no emergency, and there has been no attempt to work together to use the resource

Restricting trapping as they wish would prevent trapping mice at my house, nuisance animals destroying homes along the road and is just a one sided view about something a group doesn't like. I ask that we work together to live in harmony not push out a lawful user group.

Thank you

Jessica Mathews

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Good morning.

Last night 01/08/2019 the Ketchikan Borough passed a resolution asking for the board of game to stop trapping around trails in the borough

I am opposed to this.

The beef against this is to end trapping in the area not to work together with all user groups

There is no emergency needing a decision on this at the meeting in Petersburg this week and I would appreciate this being forwarded to that meeting attendees. I understand that the Board members are aware of the Borough stance but there was no time for me to respond since the meeting was last night

I would ask that inclusion be the approach not exclusion of one user group by another.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Matthews". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "L" and a cursive "Matthews".



The issue of trapping around the area never rose to an emergency situation; an outgoing Federal employee was somehow pulled into the matter and conducted an overreach into this issue as it is a state issue. This was never some crisis issue about the resource. It sat dormant and Alaska Trappers Association questioned this process and it was rightfully ended on the Federal level as it was not appropriate. Now we are here again, claiming an emergency when apparently no trapping had been in the area due to the so called "emergency restriction" that was in place. Yet there are claims of traps recently and this is either questionable facts or done by some unethical person that should be dealt with individually, not by punishing the entire user group. We have impaired drivers on the BOROUGH road system all the time but you do not see us limiting all drivers of legal drinking age from the highways for a few law breakers.

This is about sharing the resource, learning to be tolerant, and working together, educating yourself no matter which user group and behaving responsibly, access and inclusion should be our goal, not restrictions and not setting a precedent for further restrictions which ultimately people that have a profound dislike for something different tend to do. The Borough does oversee the public library which has promoted access to all—and the library has taken huge steps to protect that access but now apparently the same people that support that want to restrict one user group over another due to a dislike of the user group and their practices. I call foul on this. I participate in Special Olympics and their motto is for us to join the inclusion revolution. Not cast out people that are different but engage and include. I ask that the Borough do the same and put aside bias and emotional knee jerk reactions and demands. We are better for stepping outside of our culture and comfort zone and grow in knowing there are different lifestyles and ways of making a living. On this day of all days, I would want myself and others judged not by some arbitrary label like the color of my skin but the content of my character. Ethical Trappers, Hunters and Fisherman are some of the best people I know with the most integrity that can be found. So rather than push out some of the most solid people that I respect and admire, let's work together to educate and share the resource. We all have disdain for abusers of the natural setting we live in. But when was the last time anyone made a stink about the overwhelming litter, trash and garbage that is found in all these areas with trails and road access?—it is island wide. What about all the feces that dog lovers leave for others to contend with---that could actually harm native species with the amount of disease in the feces and being carriers of domesticated disease that exposes us to that and the wildlife to? On that note, why is the Borough not enforcing the leash laws that should actually be their mission focus, not restricting lawful trapping? What about the random dogs that roam and harass people and other dogs? Where is the enforcement of that? This happens often and yet no one is clamoring to stop dogs from the trails and areas or their highly irresponsible dog owners that knowingly violate this regularly. Where is that outrage or when a smaller child or person can't control their dog and it attacks another dog or person? What about when I have food stuffs in my backpack and am bothered by unmanaged dogs while on the trails or picnicking? This is constant and people just poo poo it off saying o my dog is friendly as their dog is in my personal space and being aggressive to my dog. Should we end all dogs on the trails because of the irresponsible dog owners? If we are applying the standard being used for lawful trappers than lawful dog owners should be restricted as well---Think about that? Are you prepared to do that, to treat each user group equally? Start restricting dogs and dog owners? As we can all see this is clearly flawed and that is WHY trappers should not be penalized



for being part of the community and different from the people wishing them removed---address the abuses on BOTH SIDES. On Martin Luther King Day I would hope that like Special Olympics we would support inclusion, tolerance and understanding.

During the last meeting and over this issue, emotional claims, fibs and hysteria about trapping was just accepted. This is a science matter not one that should be determined by emotional claims of a few encounters and subsequent people of the same viewpoint feeding off the hysteria. This should not be them verses us standard that is allowed. Some of the reports are more likely partial one sided opinions and over reactions, just like when people overact and call an AR 15 an assault rifle when it is clearly not. It is a lack of understanding of something different and unknown. The claims of maiming and death and loss of limbs are scare tactics. Are traps dangerous, sure they can be, but poor drivers in a massive vehicle present a far greater danger to all of us here, yet we tolerate that because we have a desire for the equipment. The type of trapping in the areas that have drawn attention would mostly be for martin. Large conibears or snares are not really ideal for the area and so the actual risk is minimal. Some of the claims I have heard about near death and the like are reactions after the fact of someone's perceived fear after the event was over and nothing actually happened. I do the same thing, after a "scare" or an incident and I will say I could've died...but really? No I was just startled and in the aftermath I embellish a little because of emotions. We can't drive others out because of "what might have happened" None of us can function with that questionable approach. The "What if" path is distracting and causes us to freeze up.

I would like to share that my family have been active trappers. What did I learn from this? That it is hard work. Really really hard. It takes effort and cunning and patience and commitment. What an amazing thing to have people with a real work ethic, with a real understanding of life and to put those practices in other moral and ethical challenges throughout a lifetime? Any hiring manager will tell you, hiring is just a drain as people lack skills, knowledge and ability. But even more---work ethic. The things a young person learns from running a trap line are priceless. They are the people you want to hire and have in your community. They are self-reliant and resilient and with all the drug addiction we have in our community we should be supporting and helping young trappers. We shouldn't be freaking out with claims of doom. Everyone on both ends can educate themselves. The young folks are most likely using the trail areas that people are complaining about because they don't drive or have a boat. Again, would we remove new drivers because they are a danger and take them off the road system? No. We know they have to grow, learn and gain experience. My daughters have both trapped. Great thing, women trappers. I love it. Cheyenne completed a whole science project for Holy Name School about trapping. It sure was harder than any science project kit and she earned that grade every bit and then some. She makes an outstanding employee. Her first employer, recruited her, it was the Borough at the public library before she was even old enough to drive. Access it is all about access.

Trapping is a resource management tool. When Juneau eliminated trapping in their area---very shortly they had a beaver problem and had to hire people to eradicate them. Do you think they cared about continuing the resource then like trappers do? No. This is a silly California hands off approach where the renewable resource is untouched, people keep moving in and thus the whole system is out of



alignment---resulting in horrible tragic infernos. Trapping has its place in our community for good reason. People should respect what is different from themselves.

The precedent being set by the prior so called "emergency order" and the attempts now are just attacks that will generate potential push back and further restrictions. Don't fall into that. Trapping and that lifestyle may well die out on its own like newspapers and books. But it is a time honored admirable way to support oneself that has its place in harmony with other users. I struggle that one user group can push out another—I don't try to do that to others and yet I have to defend my way of life and beliefs to others that want no part of it. I don't judge you, I don't try and get you pushed out...I would like to see the Borough put its attention to things that are its business, like the dog leash enforcement, litter control as I pick up my fair share of disgusting garbage, I pull tons of tansy ragwort and other invasive plants that the Borough should be on the front lines fighting more than this issue. I spend considerable amount of time advocating for the mentally ill and homeless of our community. The Borough could focus more on that. Not the quiet independent trappers going about their business in our shared environment.

I would ask that tolerance, education and acceptance be the rule of the day, not intolerance, ignorance and discrimination.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J" that extends downwards.





McPherson Music &lt;mcpersonmusicheritage@gmail.com&gt;

**Public Safety Concern in Ketchikan: Snares and Traps**

1 message

McPherson Music &lt;mcpersonmusicheritage@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Jan 9, 2019 at 6:06  
PM

To: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

January 9, 2019

To: Alaska Board of Game

I am writing to you with a public safety concern which has been prevalent in the Ketchikan area for quite some time.

Our awareness was brought forth by an incident which took place in June of 2013. After a hike on the Salvage Trail, my husband and I decided to stop off at the creek located adjacent to Connell Lake Dam Road, and also around the corner from Last Chance Campground, with our two springer spaniels to wash the mud off and to cool off, which we had done many times for over 20 years. We were in the shallows just a few feet from the road bank, when one of our dogs started frantically waving his head back and forth and thrashing in the water. Upon looking closer, we saw a thick cable wrapped around his neck and pulled taught enough that we could not fit a finger between the noose and his skin. The other end of the cable had heavy steel brads securing it to a tree, which made it impossible to cut or release. While holding our 60-pound dog's front paws up on a log to keep the cable from getting any tighter, which could cut off his airway completely, each of us took turns trying to back off the rusty lock to release it. It was not budging, and our knife would not cut the cable, so I called the State Troopers for assistance, and I stopped a few passers-by to see if they were carrying any additional tools. Our dog was having difficulty breathing, and both my husband and he were shivering in the cold water, as it was at least a 40-minute wait until a Trooper arrived and cut the cable loose. Afterward we looked for posted signs, but there were none. Needless to say, we are very reluctant to visit the Ward Lake Recreation area. Since this happened I have found out that many local people here have had this happen with snares and traps over the years. One individual told us that she had seen dead beavers hanging from tree branches at Last Chance Campground in the wintertime. Many of these people spoke at the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly meeting on Monday of this week, where Judith McQuerry, an Assembly member, had drafted a resolution requesting of the Alaska Board of Game to issue an emergency order to limit fur traps to 150 feet from





roads/trails/campgrounds - places of public use. In my opinion, this is not a lot to ask, as I would prefer it to be a lot further away.

This is such a dire public safety hazard for adults, children and pets because of obvious potential negative outcomes, including crushed or severed body parts or death resulting from coming into contact with steel jaws and snares placed haphazardly in public recreation areas.

I am appealing to your individual and combined concern for public safety, to do what is right, albeit an emergency order, to uphold the safety of our Alaskan citizens, and to give us a voice in changing this dangerous situation.

Tina McPherson  
PO Box 9261  
Ketchikan AK 99901  
907-220-7690



Rosie Roppel  
1354 Bostwick St.  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

***Regarding: "Emergency Trap Regulations" in Ketchikan***

First and foremost I want to say, I am not opposed to trapping or hunting. Many of my friends and family do either one or both. I am concerned for the safety of our inhabitants and visitors. We can co-exist happily. There is no reason for traps to be placed where trails have been constructed for people to hike and run.

Thank you for considering this Resolution that our Ketchikan Borough Assembly unanimously voted to bring this resolution before you to put in place an "emergency" regulatory trap placement in Ketchikan, Alaska. Thirty people representing different groups in Ketchikan attended this meeting to show their agreement with putting the "Emergency Trap Regulation" back in mainly for the public safety. It is unfortunate that the Forest Service rescinded the Emergency regulation in Nov. after your May deadline. This made it impossible for our town to protect itself for at least 2 years.

I have lived in Ketchikan for over 68 years and have decided to live in our community to teach school be able to safely access the trails and mountains year-round in and around our city. I realize we have had an "Emergency" trap restriction put in and around Ketchikan by the Forest Service either after the kid put his hand in the trap at Settlers Cove or after a Beaver was trapped that enraged everyone at Ward Lake, our main recreation area. The Forest Service can't find any documentation as it has just disappeared; however, we have people in the community that remember these incidents. Maybe it was put in because of people's kids/animals getting caught in the traps near to the hiking, swimming, and ice-skating areas.

I met with everyone Oct. 17, 2018, at the Southeast Discovery Center with the head of Fish and Game Ross Dorendorf, the head of the Trappers' association from Fairbanks, the local trappers, and the acting head of the Regional Forest Service supervisor Susan Howle. The group came to an amiable compromise that most of us were the impression when we left the meeting that the Forest Service was going to go from temporary to permanent...however, Earl Stewart, the Tongass National Forest Regional Supervisor who did not attend the meeting rescinded the temporary order. Susan Howle sent letter to us giving us the grim response.

In the past, I have happily walked, skied and hiked all over the mountains and trails around Ketchikan with a dog. Now I am nervous as I go. I love to stop by the streams with my dog, sometime kids, and friends on all of the trails summer and winter to get a little water. Now I am afraid to go near the streams knowing traps are set where wolves like to drink, etc. I am afraid to step off the trail for any reason, including let my dog roam on leash. I take a lot of photos where there is a lot of stepping. I walk along the streams in search of swans and other birds. In the winter, we skid down the banks of Frog Pond with our kids, friends, and dogs to ice



skate the Frog Pond. This is a prime Beaver Trapping area. I ski with my dog, family, and friends in the snow on the meadows, which could have traps under the snow.

Then I started hearing on tv about how to free our pets from traps...I was wondering why that "freeing your animal from Traps" information was ramped up. I, then, heard about the hearing which I attended in October where I heard about people and their animals getting stuck in wolf traps and how cats get in the traps in the trees near their homes. And how my friend Angie Taggart (2 time Iditarod runner) had one of her dogs caught in a trap. My other friend Tina and Roy McPhearson had their dog caught in a wolf snare in the middle of stream on a summer hike which nearly killed her husband and her dog. Another friend nearly got her hand into a wolf trap...up Silvis Lakes Rd. trying to cut a tree. These are all areas just off roads.

I got the brochures, found a trap and realized I am not strong enough to open the trap.... Now I am worried. Honestly, I couldn't save my dog or a kid or myself by myself.

I also want to thank the Forest Service for putting in the "emergency trap regulations" in the past. I am very sorry that they couldn't keep the regulation in force and I am sorry that after our last meeting which I thought was going to result in a compromise with the Trapping Association, that everything was dropped. It seems when heads of the Forest Service come to our areas, they don't know the dynamics and make change...even when consulted. It seems that the Trapping Association has strong lobbying.

Please consider adopting the Ketchikan Borough Assembly's recommendation for an "Emergency Regulation".

**Timeline:**

May 1, 2018 Board of Game Deadline for submissions

Oct. 17, 2018 USFS, Fish and Game, Trappers' State Association, and local citizens (who outnumbered everyone else.)

November ...late November...6 weeks after the meeting...everyone was notified of the USFS of the grim news...Forest Service Rescinded the Emergency Measure.

As you can see...we don't have a chance to 2 years to do anything now so please adopt the Ketchikan Borough's Resolution. I personally would like to see the setbacks to mirror Juneau's regulation.

Jan. 10, 2019 Board of Game meeting



About a year ago, in the fall, I took my daughter's and my dogs (13 dogs total) for a hike on a blocked-off logging road in the White River area. We went to this area where we can walk our dogs off-leash. The dogs and I had walked up the road about 300 yards when I heard one of the dogs yelping. I saw her standing about one foot off the road with her leg caught in a 6 inch spring trap. I put my foot on the trap and was able to release her leg. Fortunately, her leg was not damaged. We then started down the trail when I noticed a second trap about three feet away that was set and ready to trap. I sprang that trap so that no dog would step on it. Both traps were only about one foot away from the road, and there were no names or markings on either trap. There are other people, pets, and children who walk on this road, and they could have easily stepped on these traps. We contacted Fish and Game regarding this incident. They checked on this and could find no notice of a trap line in this area.

On another day's walk one summer (after the trapping season was over) on Gravina Island, one of my dogs was 10 feet off the road when I noticed him stopped and whining. I ran over and saw that he had a snare around his neck. It was fortunate that he had stopped and wasn't pulling and tightening the snare around his neck. Because I had no tools, I had to work for quite a while to remove the snare from his neck. Again, there was no identification of the owner on the snare. Since trapping season was over, this snare shouldn't have even been there. This could've happened to someone else's pet or child.

John Taggart