



Submitted by: Christopher Perry and Multiple Signers

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I support proposals 155, 156, and 160 regarding beaver management.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 155: Support Proposal 156: Support Proposal 160: Support

Please support proposal numbers 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153 and 154. All these proposals concerning 100 yard setbacks and signage will help all users including trappers to understand their responsibility and usage of public trails, campgrounds, beaches etc. This will set a minimum standard for the “code of ethics” that has been the basic problem causing conflict between users. These are not anti-trapping proposals. Failure to address these issues and postponing these decisions will only cause more conflict and worse results down the road. I know of 11 dogs trapped in my area in two years. It is unacceptable for one trapper to trap four dogs in two years and refuse to post signage, or move traps further off trails and recognize that he may not be following the code of ethics as written by trapping regulations. Again these are not anti-trapping proposals every dog that is trapped is one more very negative and unnecessary story against trapping. Please support these proposals I thank you for your time and consideration.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support
Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support

I support proposals 146 and 147

See pdf below

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support



My name is Chris Perry I have lived in the Homer area for 40 years. I oppose proposal 162 extending hunting season for Ptarmigan in unit 15 north of Kachemak Bay. The area where I live, we normally saw abundant flocks of Ptarmigan until around 30 years ago. We haven't seen any ptarmigan again until the last two winters but none this winter even with good early snow conditions.

ADFG shortened the hunting season for ptarmigan in around 2015 and it has taken six years to have any repopulation in our area. With none in the area this winter, it is clearly too early to extend the hunting season. The spring hatch surveys have shown no birds in our area for many years. The hatch surveys that do show some fresh recruits are in the most easterly portions of this unit and should not be used as a good representation of abundance for this area.

The changes in number, speed and efficiency of snow machines in the last 30 years has clearly affected the ease of harvesting ptarmigan. The lowered bag limits haven't helped the repopulation as often the daily harvest in this area may only be two or three birds. In areas with healthy populations it is quite easy to get daily and possession bag limits.

Please vote against this proposal and thank you for your consideration.

Christopher Perry

Please support proposal number 145 concerning establishing 1/4 mile trapping buffer for the new highway wildlife crossing on the Cooper Landing bypass. Establishing a 1/4 mile buffer will allow unobstructed pathway between wilderness areas subdivided by the new highway construction. This method for safe passage has been proven to benefit the local populations of wildlife and allow them to prosper. Failure to protect passage may jeopardize the natural migration of these animals and negatively impact wildlife populations by the targeted trapping, hunting and Highway death after focusing the migration to this crossing. The buffers established in the Kenai national wildlife refuge and crossings across the country have been well proven to protect animals in the immediate area of crossings and allowing possibility of biodiversity within genetic pools. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote to support number 145.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 162: Oppose



Please support proposals #146 and #147 trap setbacks in the Homer area.

There have been 8 dogs trapped within a couple miles of my home in the last two years and 3 on the McNeil area ski trails this winter. Four dogs were trapped by one trapper and 2 dogs by another in my neighborhood. One dog was trapped in a snare for three days before release approximately 100 yards from the owners property. Most of these traps were set within 50 feet of a summer road and public easement. My dog was trapped 30 feet off of this roadside. There have not been any posted signs of active trapping and when asked, the trapper has refused to post signage for fear of drawing attention to his activity.

Trappers are asked to abide by a "code of ethics". One of these trappers checks his traps only weekly. The trappers code of ethics asks to reduce possibility of catching non-target animals and trapping in ways to minimize conflict with other trail user groups. Avoid high recreational use areas, areas near homes, or trails used by hikers, skiers, hunters. This trapper has caught four dogs within 50 feet of high use recreational trails without posting signage of active trapping, and with refusal to move traps more than 50 feet off of the trail. He only checks his traps weekly and refuses to avoid conflict. I question his adherence to the code of ethics and clearly the definition is interpreted differently by each individual.

The 100 yard setback in the Homer area proposals is for a very small segment of mapped trails and was recommended by a trapper representative and other user groups. These proposals were unanimously approved by the local AC last spring, and at the last minute were opposed in January 2023 as being too broad. When the AC was asked to reconsider the January vote in February, with trapper and recreational users present to comment, they would not reconsider. An AC committee member falsely stated that this proposal would close trapping on trails from Homer all the way to Ninilchik.

These are NOT anti trapping proposals. They only clarify the ethical placement of traps in high multi-use areas, in an effort to minimize conflict between user groups. My dogs have always stayed on trail and out of deep snow, never harassing moose or other wildlife. It is impossible for a dog to resist the scented baits placed 50' off trails. The argument that all animals travel and are trapped on trails is wrong. If so, a snowmachine trail 100 yards or more off of the main trail may attract more animals and not dogs. I think it is unreasonable for one unethical trapper's use of a trail to close any portion of borough or state land for public use for a 3 month period. There are no leash laws and baiting dogs with scented baits is no excuse for implementation of leash laws.

The proposed mapped trails in the Homer area are permanent, GPS located and do not move as some AC members have implied.

These are very important proposals to consider and approve of to help the trapping industry and other users compromise for safe trails and to reduce conflicts. Continued and increased conflicts will not help the trappers cause and will only make things worse in time.

Thank your for your consideration.

Trap Setback Proposals, Comments & Ballot

I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee and other agencies to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (Cooper Landing area) and Game Unit 15 (Homer) I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

*There are multiple proposals for trap setbacks or trap signage in the Cooper Landing, Homer, and Seward area. **Select the proposals that you are in support of (select all that apply).***

If there is more than one person in your household, please have each person submit their comments separately. Make copies of this form if needed or contact cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com to request more.

- ☐ **# 145 Wildlife Crossings:** ¼ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass
- ☒ **#149 Campgrounds:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **# 150 Roads and pullouts:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the pullouts listed: Quartz Creek Road, East Quartz Creek and Williams Road, Old Sterling Highway, Snug Harbor Road, Bean Creek Road, Russian Gap Road, and all pullouts along the Sterling Highway. AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **#151 Summit Recreation:** Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Japan Woods area, Tenderfoot Campground ski area, Park-N-Poke area, and Manitoba Mountain.
- ☒ **#152 Trails:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the following trailheads: Crescent Creek Trail, Lower Russian Lake Trail, Bean Creek Trail, Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail, Resurrection Trail (South End), West Juneau Bench Trail, Devil's Pass Ski Loops, and Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **#153 Beaches:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **# 154 Signage:** Establishing mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the Game Unit 7 area to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups.

Other areas setback proposals:

- ☐ **#146 Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park:** Establish 100-yard trapping setback from the Diamond Creek Trail, Grewingk Glacier Lake Trail and the Grewingk Saddle Trail.
- ☐ **#147 Ski Trails in Homer:** Establish 100-yard setback from the Snowmad Trails and the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails
- ☒ **# 148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100-yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.



Please support proposal number 145 concerning establishing 1/4 mile trapping buffer for the new highway wildlife crossing on the Cooper Landing bypass. Establishing a 1/4 mile buffer will allow unobstructed pathway between wilderness areas subdivided by the new highway construction. This method for safe passage has been proven to benefit the local populations of wildlife and allow them to prosper. Failure to protect passage may jeopardize the natural migration of these animals and negatively impact wildlife populations by the targeted trapping, hunting and Highway death after focusing the migration to this crossing. The buffers established in the Kenai national wildlife refuge and crossings across the country have been well proven to protect animals in the immediate area of crossings and allowing possibility of biodiversity within genetic pools. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote to support number 145.

(Feel free to add extra pages of comments!)

Printed Name (First and last)*: _____

Chris Perry

Organization (if any) _____

Signature*: _____

Chris Perry

date

3/3/23

Email*: _____

Street Address _____

City*: _____

Homer

State*: _____

AK

Zip code: _____

99603

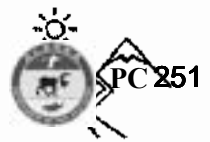
*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.

Send to: ADF&G Boards of Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Comments via mail must be received (not postmarked) by the due date of March 3rd!
Remember to have each household member submit separate comments individually.

✶

Chris Perry
Cooper Landing, Homer & Seward
Trap Setback Proposals, Comments & Ballot



I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee and other agencies to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (Cooper Landing area) and Game Unit 15 (Homer) I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

There are multiple proposals for trap setbacks or trap signage in the Cooper Landing, Homer, and Seward area. Select the proposals that you are in support of (select all that apply).

If there is more than one person in your household, please have each person submit their comments separately. Make copies of this form if needed or contact cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com to request more.

- ☐ **# 145 Wildlife Crossings:** ¼ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass
- ☐ **#149 Campgrounds:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☐ **# 150 Roads and pullouts:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the pullouts listed: Quartz Creek Road, East Quartz Creek and Williams Road, Old Sterling Highway, Snug Harbor Road, Bean Creek Road, Russian Gap Road, and all pullouts along the Sterling Highway. AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☐ **#151 Summit Recreation:** Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Japan Woods area, Tenderfoot Campground ski area, Park-N-Poke area, and Manitoba Mountain.
- ☐ **#152 Trails:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the following trailheads: Crescent Creek Trail, Lower Russian Lake Trail, Bean Creek Trail, Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail, Resurrection Trail (South End), West Juneau Bench Trail, Devil's Pass Ski Loops, and Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☐ **#153 Beaches:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☐ **# 154 Signage:** Establishing mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the Game Unit 7 area to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups.

Other areas setback proposals:

- ☒ **#146 Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park:** Establish 100-yard trapping setback from the Diamond Creek Trail, Grewingk Glacier Lake Trail and the Grewingk Saddle Trail.
- ☒ **#147 Ski Trails in Homer:** Establish 100-yard setback from the Snowmad Trails and the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails
- ☐ **# 148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100-yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.

Comments.



PC 251

See comment Page Attached
comment Page 1 A

(Feel free to add extra pages of comments!)

Printed Name (First and last)*:

Chris Perry

Organization (if any):

Signature*:

Chris Perry

date

3/3/23

Email*:

Street Address:

City:

Homer

State*:

AK

Zip code:

99603

*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.

Send to: ADF&G Boards of Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

Comments via mail must be received (not postmarked) by the due date of March 3rd!
Remember to have each household member submit separate comments individually.

Chris Perry

1A



PC 251

Please support proposals #146 and #147 trap setbacks in the Homer area.

There have been 8 dogs trapped within a couple miles of my home in the last two years and 3 on the McNeil area ski trails this winter. Four dogs were trapped by one trapper and 2 dogs by another in my neighborhood. One dog was trapped in a snare for three days before release approximately 100 yards from the owners property. Most of these traps were set within 50 feet of a summer road and public easement. My dog was trapped 30 feet off of this roadside. There have not been any posted signs of active trapping and when asked, the trapper has refused to post signage for fear of drawing attention to his activity.

Trappers are asked to abide by a "code of ethics". One of these trappers checks his traps only weekly. The trappers code of ethics asks to reduce possibility of catching non-target animals and trapping in ways to minimize conflict with other trail user groups. Avoid high recreational use areas, areas near homes, or trails used by hikers, skiers, hunters. This trapper has caught four dogs within 50 feet of high use recreational trails without posting signage of active trapping, and with refusal to move traps more than 50 feet off of the trail. He only checks his traps weekly and refuses to avoid conflict. I question his adherence to the code of ethics and clearly the definition is interpreted differently by each individual.

The 100 yard setback in the Homer area proposals is for a very small segment of mapped trails and was recommended by a trapper representative and other user groups. These proposals were unanimously approved by the local AC last spring, and at the last minute were opposed in January 2023 as being too broad. When the AC was asked to reconsider the January vote in February, with trapper and recreational users present to comment, they would not reconsider. An AC committee member falsely stated that this proposal would close trapping on trails from Homer all the way to Ninilchik.

These are NOT anti trapping proposals. They only clarify the ethical placement of traps in high multi-use areas, in an effort to minimize conflict between user groups. My dogs have always stayed on trail and out of deep snow, never harassing moose or other wildlife. It is impossible for a dog to resist the scented baits placed 50' off trails. The argument that all animals travel and are trapped on trails is wrong. If so, a snowmachine trail 100 yards or more off of the main trail may attract more animals and not dogs. I think it is unreasonable for one unethical trapper's use of a trail to close any portion of borough or state land for public use for a 3 month period. There are no leash laws and baiting dogs with scented baits is no excuse for implementation of leash laws.

The proposed mapped trails in the Homer area are permanent, GPS located and do not move as some AC members have implied.

These are very important proposals to consider and approve of to help the trapping industry and other users compromise for safe trails and to reduce conflicts. Continued and increased conflicts will not help the trappers cause and will only make things worse in time.

Thank your for your consideration.



Cooper Landing, Homer & Seward Trap Setback Proposals Petition



PC 251

I support the following proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (Cooper Landing Area) and Game Unit 15 (Homer). I believe these proposals suggesting 100-yard setbacks are reasonable to maintain safe recreation for all public land users and their pets.

145 Wildlife Crossings: ¼ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass

#149 Campgrounds in Cooper Landing: Establish a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds.

150 Roads and pullouts around Cooper Landing: Establish a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the pullouts listed: Quartz Creek Road, East Quartz Creek and Williams Road, Old Sterling Highway, Snug Harbor Road, Bean Creek Road, Russian Gap Road, and pullouts from mile markers 37(Tern Lake) - 54.9(Russian River Ferry).

#151 Summit Lake Recreation Area: Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Japan Woods area, Tenderfoot Campground ski area, Park-N-Poke area, and Manitoba Mountain.

#152 Trails in Cooper Landing Area: Establish a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the following trailheads: Crescent Creek Trail, Lower Russian Lake Trail, Bean Creek Trail, Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail, Resurrection Trail (South End), West Juneau Bench Trail, Devil's Pass Ski Loops, and Stetson Creek Parking area and first 400 yards of the trail.

#153 Kenai Lake Beaches: Establish a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake

154 Signage for Cooper Landing Area: Establishing mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the Game Unit 7 area to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups.

Homer & Seward setback proposals:

#146 Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park: Establish 100-yard trapping setback from the Diamond Creek Trail, Grewingk Glacier Lake Trail and the Grewingk Saddle Trail.

#147 Ski Trails in Homer: Establish 100-yard setback from the Mapped Trails south of Caribou Lake and the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails

148 Seward Trails: Establish a 100-yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.

PAGE 1 of 5

I support BOG proposals #145 through #154 all considering trapping setbacks and buffers on multi-use trails.



PC 251

Name (print)	Signature
1. S.T. Roufa	
2. Nicholas P. ...	
3. Holly Atkins	
4. Katie Weaver	
5. Brandon Thielke	
6. John ...	
7.	
8.	
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I support B56 proposals #145 through #154, all consider setbacks and buffers on multi use trails.

Supporters

	<u>Name print</u>	<u>Signature</u>
	<u>Address</u>	
1.	Colin McGovern	Homer AK 99603
2.	Emily Garity	Homer AK 99603
3.	JULIA GARTY	AK 99743
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[Handwritten signatures and notes]
Emily Garity
Julia Garity

I support BOG proposals #145 through #154 all considering trapping setbacks and buffers on multi-use trails.



PC 251

Name (print)	Address	Signature
1. Devon Hiltz		
2. Anna		
3. Nancy Webb		
4. Mallory Paine		
5. Abigail Clapp		
6. Tracey Tillion		
7. Tricia Caron		
8. Charlie Gilson		
9. Lynne Sinnhuber		
10. CRISTOBAL FIVE		
11. Paula Culhender		
12. Jessica Ford		
13. Kathleen Bassley		
14.		
15. Katie Rutalana		
16. Michael		
17. Michael Pe		
18. Catherine H		
19. JANET HEGLEY		
20.		
21. Jenny Stroyeck		
22. Linda Franklin		
23.		
24.		
25.		

I support BOG proposals #145 through #154 all considering trapping setbacks and buffers on multi-use trails.



PC 251

Name (print)

Address

Signature

1. ~~#13~~ Janette Spunkle

AK Janette Spunkle

2. Jennifer Bando

AK 99603 Jf B

3. Lori Cray-Ramsdell

AK 99603 Lori Cray

4. Megan Tashash

Point 99556 Megan

5. Christelle R

AK 99603 Christelle

6. Kara Bauer

AK 99603 Kara Bauer

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Submitted by: Kristen Peters

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Eagle River, AK/ Cooper Landing, AK

Comment:

In regards to the trapping set back proposals, specifically in unit 7 (148-154), it must be brought to light the disparity of these requests. Where trapping set backs are being requested in multi- use areas for the safety of children and unleashed dogs, there is zero enforcement of existing leash laws, which seems would solve this problem entirely.

I understand it is socially normal now to let your dog run, however it seems to be getting out of hand. As a mother to a 1 yo and 3 yo, we frequent multi-use trails in the winter and summer, and are nearly always met by dogs off leash. I often hear, "Oh my dog is nice", however as a parent it is my RESPONSIBILITY to ensure the safety of my kids so they do not get bitten. I like dogs! I have dogs. I recreate with them off leash when appropriate (not high trafficked areas). But I do not trust a dog I do not know. I never let a strange dog greet my child face to face, despite them running up to them constantly. AND, I make sure my dogs are close. Where is the responsibility to ensure a dog's safety and well being?

Furthermore, I have absolutely no fear of my kids being trapped, despite the argument frequently posed to justify setbacks. This would be extremely unlikely or better yet, a near impossible event.

Understandably, fearing your dog getting caught while recreating in the winter is upsetting. Leash laws are not enforced, so let there be specific trapping set backs for large traps, while still allowing dog safe trapping methods within these areas. Multi- use means multi-use, and let's eliminate the hypocrisy of these proposals.



Duane (Andy) & Petrina Peterson

[REDACTED]

Kodiak, Alaska. 99615

Re: **Proposal 76 "Support as Amended"**

Lengthen the brown bear registration hunt seasons for RB230 and RB260 in Unit 8 as follows:

RB230 Change dates to September 15 - November 30

RB 260 Change dates to March 1 - May 31

We greatly appreciate any changes that would promote the safety of Kodiak residents and property from any bear encounters.

We have lived at Anton Larsen Bay year round since 2003 and have had more frequent bear encounters with each passing year. Also, we have experienced property damage numerous times from bears that are in our yard. We never used to see any bears go thru our yard and now we have to carry a gun/bear spray while doing chores around the yard during the spring, summer and fall months.

According to the Kodiak Bear Fact Sheet on the ADFG website, there are about 3500 bears; a density of about .7 bears per square mile. We would greatly appreciate you doing what you can to reduce bear issues in the areas where people reside.

Sincerely,

Andy Peterson
Petrina Peterson



PC254

Submitted by: Candace Paige Petr

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, Alaska

Comment:

I support the proposals to increase setbacks because I walk, bike and ski Alaska's trails with children and dogs. A friend lost her dear dog in a bear trap set to trap wolverine in the winter. Thank you for your consideration.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support



PC255

Submitted by: Joseph Piper

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I support the very reasonable 100yd setback on trails shared by both recreational users and trappers.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support



Submitted by: Tyler Polum

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, AK

Comment:

I am opposed to the portion of proposal 73 that reduces the deer bag limit for all of unit 8 for residents to two. It should remain 3 or even increase the limit to 4 or 5 and let ADFG manage specific areas by emergency order. While some parts of Kodiak seem to have had a significant reduction in deer populations, I would counter that not all of Kodiak saw the same declines. There are places on the Eastside of the Island that seem much less affected by deer populations crashing than on the Westside of the Island. In addition, deer harvest does not seem to be a limiting factor in their population growth as they are almost entirely influenced by winter severity. If the goal was to manage deer for antler size and keeping older bucks in the population for trophy hunting, that would be one thing, but they are a subsistence resource for Island residents primarily, where deer age and size is much less of a factor. For my family, reducing the bag limit would have a significant effect as this is our primary source of meat each year.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 73: Oppose



Submitted by: Don Poole

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Soldotna, Alaska

Comment:

OPPOSE PROPOSAL #82 Bowhunting is a very short range weapon. Because of that, a limited harvest is allowing for more quality hunting. As hunting is becoming more regulated, more quality hunting is needed.

SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR NEW BOWHUNTS in #67, 71 & 72, 87, 91 - 93, 99 & 100, 110 -113, 119 - 126.

These new bowhunts allow for more quality hunting experiences as women and younger hunters step up to hunt in the quality experience of aging hunters.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 67: Support Proposal 71: Support Proposal 72: Support Proposal 82: Oppose Proposal 87: Support
 Proposal 91: Support Proposal 92: Support Proposal 93: Support Proposal 99: Support Proposal 100: Support Proposal
 101: Support Proposal 110: Support Proposal 111: Support Proposal 112: Support Proposal 113: Support Proposal
 119: Support Proposal 120: Support Proposal 121: Support Proposal 122: Support Proposal 123: Support Proposal 124:
 Support Proposal 125: Support Proposal 126: Support



Submitted by: Susan Post

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer

Comment:

Thank you for taking comments. As an active hiker and skier (and campground user) and as a dog owner who's dog was both trapped and snared on an existing trail close to our house, I feel 100 yards is the absolute minimum- I would like to see more. One of the traps that our dog was caught in was less than a foot off the trail we were on! I shudder if that had been a young child hiking or skiing with parents and fell right there and got a hand stuck in the trap. I am opposed to any trapping in state campgrounds or the Summit Lake Recreation Area. Many families are there, with young children, and again, 100 yards does not seem far enough away to ensure that children playing in the woods wouldn't be trapped. I guess if signs were required and parents knew there were traps, that might help, but who guarantees someone doesn't tear down a sign? I also wish there was more education as I feel the person who set the trap and snare our dog was caught in probably was a new trapper and had no clue what a horrible thing they did by setting the traps so close to a trail.

The proposals I am specifically commenting on here are #146, # 147, #149, #151, #152 and #154, however, I do think signs at any publicly used trails are important and necessary. As populations increase and tourism increases in Southcentral (and all of Alaska) I feel it is critical that safety and consideration of hikers and families with children and dogs need to be addressed. Trapping in this area no longer can be just off a trail or a parking lot.

Thank you,

Susan Post

Homer

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Oppose Proposal 147: Oppose Proposal 149: Oppose Proposal 150: Support
Proposal 151: Oppose Proposal 152: Support Proposal 154: Support



Proposal 204

Oppose

Members of the board,

I oppose proposal 204

I moved to Alaska in 1975 and have lived in south-central since then. I have been a full time outfitter and guide in 19C for nearly 40 years. I feel I am as intimate with the populations of sheep in my corner of the GMU 19C as anyone. As a pilot actually living and working in the area most of the year, I see the decline in numbers due to low lamb recruitment. I also see myself and the other stakeholders in the area voluntarily reducing impact on the sheep herd. I do not see a biological reason to close the season.

Dall sheep populations have shown a cyclical pattern ever since record keeping began in the 1920s. According to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) website,

“Sheep numbers typically fluctuate irregularly in response to a number of environmental factors. Sheep populations tend to increase during periods of mild weather. Then, sudden population declines may occur as a result of unusually deep snow, summer drought, or other severe weather events. Low birth rates, predation (primarily by wolves, coyotes, and golden eagles) and a difficult environment tend to keep Dall sheep population growth rates lower than many other big game species. However, their adaptation to the alpine environment seems to serve them well.”

Since 2018 the number of Dall sheep hunters going to the field in 19C has decreased some 15-25% per year. Are those hunters staying home or are they hunting elsewhere? A search on the ADF&G website, other areas have seen an increase in sheep hunters since 2018. By closing 19C, other Game Management Units will see a potential rise in sheep hunters, putting more pressure on other populations.

We also need to look at the current decline in the Parklands surrounding 19C. These are areas with NO hunter influence and we are still seeing a decline. Is closing the season a viable option or a knee-jerk reaction to uneducated public sentiment? I believe Proposal 204 is not biologically founded in research. With the full curl regulation that's in place, I have no doubt that the numbers will come back provided we have mild to average winters.



The full curl regulation is the best management tool for more than 30 years. Studies have shown that once a ram surpasses 8 years old, survivability diminishes in wild populations with very few rams surpassing 12 years of age. Full curl, 8 plus year old rams constitute less than 5% of total sheep population. Harvest of 8 year old rams has no effect on the overall sheep population. Furthermore, harvesting these older rams removes foraging pressure, reduces potential injuries for younger ram in their breeding prime during the rut.

The increase of sub-legal harvest the past few seasons is unacceptable. We must implement education for sheep hunters. Lack of knowledge and misunderstanding how we impact sheep herds are a large part of our current management problem. Social Media influence and entitlement are terrible influences within our hunting community.

I see the best way to resolve this as education of all stakeholders. This requires funding. We are long overdue for an increase in license and tag fees for ALL sheep hunters. A mandatory online Dall sheep hunter orientation course, similar to the nonresident moose hunter orientation on the hunt.alaska.gov website, for every resident, nonresident and guide would have a positive influence in solving this problem. I also feel there should be a field day requirement where the hunters can meet with the biologist and get hands on learning about not only judging, the entire life cycle, impact on sheep from hunting, and taking of sub-legal and young rams.

The Full-Curl Identification Guide already exists on the ADF&G website.

I believe education is paramount to protecting our resources as well as our heritage and opportunity to hunt. This said, fines may curtail some of the sub-legal harvest, however, I believe they also increase the percentage of sub-legal rams taken that are not reported. I suggest a “community service” penalty for first offenders 30-40 hours working with ADF&G. A second offense results in loss of license and a substantial fine, third offense or failing to self-report a sub legal ram loss of all hunting privileges for 5 years. Being caught hiding or altering a ram loss of hunting privileges permanently for all big game.

The welfare of the state’s game populations is first. Implementing proposals to positively maintain Dall sheep hunting opportunities rather completely closing the season should be the goal.



Consider Dall sheep regulations such as:

- The harvest of 1 ram every 4 years for both residents and nonresidents
- Shortening of the general season
- Placing a restriction on individuals that draw a sheep permit: if you draw a permit that is your sheep hunt for the year. You are not allowed to hunt in any other area during that regulatory year.
- Intensive predator control management.
- Creation of a Dall sheep working group in order to come up with the best path forward to Dall sheep conservation.
- Please be mindful of the consequences of this proposal. Historically once we lose an opportunity to hunt it is often permanently lost.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope we can move to implementing a positive change in education, knowledge and continued opportunity for all Sheep hunters.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pralle



Proposal 205

Oppose

Board of Game Members:

Equally concerned about the blatant disregard of the Farewell airstrip, surrounding lands, resources, and wildlife in general. The amount of trash, empty fuel drums and ATVs left at the taxiway and hidden in the bushes that hunters leave behind is atrocious! I find it embarrassing as an Alaskan and a hunter.

I have been hearing about this from our former Wildlife Trooper Gibbons from McGrath for years. I have flown over the area and can attest to the impact and mess left behind. I avoid the Farewell area during hunting season for these reasons.

The length of the Farewell air strip, the many ATV trails that spider out from Farewell and its relatively closeness to Anchorage make it a moose hunting magnet for residents and nonresidents alike to fly out their ATVs and camping gear in large cargo planes for an easy moose hunt. The registration permit area RM653 was created to get a more accurate grasp on the number of hunters and moose harvested within the Farewell area.

Historically, users are made up of 55% residents and 45% nonresidents with the moose harvest being about the same percentages of resident versus nonresidents. This past season saw 107 residents and 94 nonresidents, with 56 bulls harvested by residents and 50 by nonresidents, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). According to ADF&G the bull to cow ratio is 30 to 100 in the Farewell area currently. The bottom threshold for the area is 25 to 100. The mid 90s saw this threshold breached and crash in the moose population occurred. In more remote inaccessible areas, the bull to cow ratios is 60-80: 100 from the article Recovery of low bull: cow ratios of moose in interior Alaska by Young and Boertje. To get the bull ratio to come back up, a cap needs to be put on the number of bulls harvested within the registration area. That number, I have been told by ADF&G personnel is 60 bulls per year. Limiting nonresidents to 20 draw permits per this proposal will not solve the problem.

A secondary concern is the several "large camps" in the registration hunt area that bring in several hunters (friends, customers, employees, etc.) September 1-10 and then have a change out halfway through the season and bring in another set of hunters September 11-20. These large camps resemble a guiding and outfitting operation. There are only 2 state licensed outfitter/guides that are registered to conduct big game commercial services in the hunt area.

Another area of concern, the number of sublegal bulls harvested per year. I was told by an ADF&G wildlife trooper some years ago that 8 to 10 sublegal bulls are taken in the registration area every season. This needs to be corrected.



I support Spencer [REDACTED]'s suggestion to:

"To bring the bull to cow ratio and bull moose harvest into the parameters deemed optimal by ADF&G within the registration hunt area, I suggest establishing a moose draw permit for all user groups and mirror the nonresident draw permits to the Unit 21E moose hunt regulations. Unit 21E states that nonresident applicants may only apply for DM837 (nonguided only) or DM839 (guided only), but not both. Second, meat must remain on the bones of the front quarters, hindquarters, and ribs until removed from the field or it has been processed for human consumption. This is already a requirement in 19C. Third, nonresident moose hunters must complete the Nonresident Moose Hunter Orientation online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or must be accompanied in the field by an Alaska licensed guide. In accordance with the recommended harvest of 60 bulls and the historical user group history of 55% residents and 45% nonresidents within the hunt area, 40 tags to residents, 14 tags to nonguided nonresidents and 6 tags to guided nonresidents."

Summarized:

We have a "Pinch point" access issue

Creating more pressure than is desired

Lack of education resulting in sub-legal harvest

Lack of enforcement officers and subsequent abuse of State Land Use Regulations and Hunting Statutes

Lack of funding to resolve the above issues

Thank you for your time and dedication to this Board.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Submitted by: Myles Purington

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I am writing in support of proposals 154, 146, and 147. I am a skier and hiker in the Homer area and know several people who have had their dogs caught in leg traps within close proximity of well-used public easements, roads and ski trails. In our increasingly populated area, it seems a reasonable compromise for those engaged in trapping to keep their gear far enough off of public trails to keep dogs from casually encountering it. With regard to proposal 154, posted signage would help the public avoid unwanted interaction with traps.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 154: Support



Submitted by: Greta Pursley

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Rainbow Valley, Indian, Alaska

Comment:

Proposal 98

I oppose Proposal 98. I live in Rainbow Valley with my husband who has been there for 52 years! Hunters even close to the Valley present high safety concerns for all of our families living in the Valley and for the high amount of families with children walking the trails on all sides of our valley. We have many small children who live and range throughout Rainbow Valley all year. We have our pets who range within our boundaries. Our private community takes up about 80 acres and extends a whole mile all the way up one hillside to all the way up the other hillside- there is no room for hunting. Although hunters are supposed to stay away from buildings, our buildings have been integrated into the natural looks of the valley, our houses are very difficult to see and covered in trees and bushes, and hunters won't be able to spot where families and children may be living. There are no lawns and such to mark where people live; we are integrated into the very nature of our Valley! Any hunt would have to take place all the way up at the top of the ridge to be far enough away from our properties and even there we have all the tourists hiking over ridges in all seasons. This is not a Valley where families can be kept safe and separated from hunting areas, because there is no area where children and families from both inside and outside the Valley are not in danger from a stray bullet or arrow!

Please do not allow this to happen! Our children are the future of Alaska; imagine what a terrible thing it would be to have them shot by fellow Alaskans by mistake! We all know the caliber and the range necessary for hunting would carry bullets or arrows past their targets and endanger humans in this area. We also all know that once you allow hunting in an area, you cannot protect us from the individual hunters who may or may not follow boundary rules. We don't even have the option of immediate assistance should an emergency occur, since last time we had an emergency there was a lag time

of 5 hours due to having only one or two policemen for the whole Seward Highway; and ambulances cannot easily negotiate our roads in the hunting seasons. There simply is NO place where hunters can be in Rainbow Valley or even close by that won't jeopardize public safety, because there are so many people and so many families and buildings. Even below the Valley private holding is an area that is frequented in every season by children and families who walk the McHugh to Johnson Trails. You absolutely cannot guarantee our safety if this proposal goes through. Please, I beg of you, do not let the thought of making more money from hunting groups allow you to endanger families and children of Alaska!

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 98: Oppose



Submitted by: John Pursley

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Indian, Ak

Comment:

I strongly oppose Proposal #98

I have been a resident in Rainbow Valley for 52 years. Of all the homes in our community, our home is the nearest to the Seward Hwy. Because of this location, we have seen more people trespassing wanting to hunt sheep, moose, and bear over the years than most of our neighbors. Our community's private property stretches one mile East to West from up one hill side to up the other. Our homes are located throughout this area.

Several homes have children.

No one from outside the community would know where our private property boundaries are. Hunters would likely trespass attempting to reach the upper elevations above our property and have no idea where the homes are.

PLEASE do not include our little valley in your plans to open any hunting, most importantly bear hunting because of the caliber and range of the guns used for bear!

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 98: Oppose

I have been a resident in Rainbow Valley for 52 years. Of all the homes in our community, our home is the nearest to the Seward Hwy. Because of this location, we have seen more people trespassing wanting to hunt sheep, moose, and bear over the years than most of our neighbors. Our community's private property stretches one mile East to West from up one hill side to the other. Our homes are located throughout this area.

Several homes have children.

No one from outside the community would know where our private property boundaries are. Hunters would likely trespass attempting to reach the upper elevations above our property and have no idea where the homes are.

PLEASE do not include our little valley in your plans to open any hunting, most importantly bear hunting because of the caliber and range of the guns used for bear!



Submitted by: Kai Pyle

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

I oppose proposal 74. This proposal seeks primarily to stem potential waste by deer hunters that bone out deer meat before returning to a commercially operated vessels that afford commercial boat-based lodging and transport services specifically tailored to facilitate unguided deer hunting. Although the proposal targets potential waste by this group of hunters, if approved, it would affect all deer hunters in GMU 8. Requiring all deer hunters to pack deer meat out bone-in till they return from the field is unnecessary and discriminatory. Boning out meat in the field, when done properly, does not yield wasted meat. The requirement to pack out meat bone-in would unfairly discriminate against most deer hunters, residents, and non-residents alike, who hunt the backcountry. If solo hunters are required to leave meat bone-in then, in many cases, they would need multiple trips to pack the meat out of the field because they could not handle the heavy load of a big deer, up to 80-120 pounds, in one trip. Hunters who attempt to pack out a heavy load of bone-in meat would deal with increased safety hazard as they attempted to pack the heavy load out of the field from the kill site over often wet mountainous brushy terrain. On the other hand, hunters who decide to pack the bone-in deer in two trips would encounter a much higher risk of conflict potential with brown bear that homed in on the kill site while the hunter was away on the first pack trip. Not only would safety hazard for the hunter, but also for the bear. This is because, outside of towns, most of the Defense of Life and Property bear kills in the Kodiak area outside of towns, involve conflict with deer hunters after harvest action has occurred. Finally, approval of this proposal would be especially ironic and paradoxical in Kodiak where, by regulation, the state does not require recreational sport hunters of brown bear to pack any of the bear meat from the field. Wanton waste concern?

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 74: Oppose



Submitted by: Cecelia Quinn

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I am writing in support of proposals 145-154.

I support the 1/4 mile hunting/trapping buffers from the new wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass. It's not ethical to funnel animals to a crossing, where they are then killed!!!

In Homer, proposals 146 asks for 100 yard setbacks for trapping on some trails in Kachemak Bay State Park. Proposal 147 asks for 100 yard setbacks on some ski trails in the Homer area. I support both of these, especially since my dog and 3 neighbor dogs have been caught in traps.

I also support proposals 148 through 153, requesting 100 yard setbacks in other Kenai Peninsula recreational areas and trails.

And I emphatically support proposal 154 which requests signage where active trapping is occurring. Honestly, that is a no brainer! A dog owner who doesn't know anything about traps, could call the trapper to ask how to release a caught pet. And it just seems like a basic safety issue to let people know loud and clear that there's trapping going on in the area.

Please, please vote to support these proposals to allow trappers and recreational users to exist on the same trails.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cecelia Quinn

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support Proposal 155: Support Proposal 156: Support Proposal 160: Support Proposal 162: Oppose

I am writing in support of proposals 146 and 147, which address 100 yard setbacks for trapping on certain high use trails in the Homer area. I know of 11 dogs that have been trapped in the last 2 years close to nearby trails, including my own dog, and a friend's dog. Her dog was trapped within 100 yards of her property and was left in a snare trap for 3 days. Although these setbacks would not help me where I walk my dog, it is a start to addressing safety on multi use trails. I will never forget the harrowing screams my dog let out when she was trapped about 30 feet off the trail we were walking, and there is no leash law where we are walking. I live in an area that has low population density, which makes it perfect for dogs to be able to stretch there legs off leash.....except for the trapping danger.

Of the 11 dogs trapped, 4 were trapped by the same trapper, who has agreed that 100 yards setbacks are necessary due to more and more people using the trails for recreation.

Please vote to support these proposals to allow trappers and recreational users to exist on the same trails.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cecelia Quinn

I oppose proposal 162. Forty years ago we often saw ptarmigan around our house in the winter. Then about 30 years ago we stopped seeing ANY in our area until a few years ago, like 2021-2022.

In 2015 ADF&G shortened the hunting season on ptarmigan, and it took 5 years before we saw them again. This year we haven't seen any ptarmigan. Pleased not approve this proposal to lengthen the hunting season again.

Thank you.

I support proposals 155,156, and 160 regarding beavers management.



Submitted by: Paul & Laurie Radzinski

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cooper Landing, Alaska

Comment:

Regarding Proposals #145, #146, #147, #148, #149, #150, #151, #152, #153, #154

As Cooper Landing landowners since 1992 and full time residents since 2015 we strongly support the above identified proposals.

We reside towards the end of Bean Creek road in Cooper Landing which gives us direct access to Bean Creek Trail and Resurrection Trail. We regularly use most of the trails located in the Cooper Landing area including Russian River trail, Slaughter Ridge road, Snug Harbor road, Quartz Creek road and associated trails and most associated campsites and beaches. We use these trails and roads all year for hiking, biking, skiing, snowmachining, snowshoeing, hunting and fishing. We usually take our dog and often friends and family on these excursions. Our trails and recreation areas in Cooper Landing are heavily used all year around. Recreation in Cooper Landing drives our economy. I nearly always run into people on the trails even in the winter. All the people I recreate with and run into on the trail systems all unanimously agree with some type of setback for trapping on these heavily used systems.

Dogs have been caught in the past in traps and will continue to be caught. Many children recreate with their parents on these outings and it is only a matter of time before the unthinkable happens. For me, 100 feet is only about 40 steps. I do not understand why such a small effort can not be made by the trapping community in order to reduce the danger and pain that unethical trapping exposes to children and pets and to promote good community common ground.

A significant majority of the residents of Cooper Landing and those that recreate here are in agreement with some type of trapping setback. No one wants to ban trapping. The community only wants common sense rules that protect and serve all the people that use these resources.

Please support the above mentioned proposals.

Regards,

Paul and Laurie Radzinski

Cooper Landing, Alaska

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Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support



To: ADF&G Boards Support Section
Attn: Board of Game Comments

From: Jeremiah Drage, President, Rainbow Valley Homeowners Association (RVHA)

Re: 2022/2023 Board of Game Proposal #98 - Open a hunt for brown bear in Rainbow Creek Drainage/Unit 14C

Proposal 98 states that the Board of Game (BOG) considered a black bear hunt in Rainbow Creek Drainage at their last cycle of meetings. The Rainbow Valley Homeowners Association (RVHA), representing 160 acres of private property and households within the Rainbow Creek Drainage, was unaware of those considerations at that time.

Now that RVHA has had an opportunity to review Proposal 98, we are opposed to the 2022/2023 Board of Game Proposal 98 and urge that there not be a brown bear hunt in Rainbow Creek Drainage/ Unit 14C for the following reasons:

1. With our homes scattered over 160 wooded acres in the center of the Rainbow Creek Drainage, hunters would be unable to easily measure a half mile distance from our homes, even if they could find each home.
2. To attempt to find each home and begin measuring a half-mile distance, hunters would likely need to trespass on our private property, which would be a violation of our property rights, and could lead to confusion and unnecessary confrontations between homeowners and hunters.
3. We will not allow hunters to cross our property to scout game, pack meat, or to pursue a wounded bear.
4. A wounded bear would pose an unacceptable danger to our families.
5. If we knew there was a wounded bear, we would contact the appropriate department at Fish and Game to track the animal. Upon hearing gun shots, we would, of course, have no way of knowing if a wounded bear was running among our homes. Living with this level of uncertainty is unacceptable.
6. High caliber rifle bullets can travel considerably farther than a half mile; and would pose an unacceptable danger to our families. There would be little, if any, terrain in the valley far enough from our homes for us to be safe from stray bullets.

We also would like to call your attention to the management of Chugach State Park lands, adjacent to our community, which prohibits the discharge of firearms within the Rainbow Creek Drainage (11 AAC 12.190). This area is easily accessed and well used by the public year-round for recreation. In addition, we note that the park was established by the legislature in part to "provide areas for the public display of local wildlife" (AS 41.21.121).

Our community has peacefully co-existed with bears for many years. Some of us hunt and we all know that hunting is part of Alaska's history and culture. However, we are opposed to the 2022/2023 Board of Game Proposal 98 and urge that there not be a brown bear hunt in Rainbow Creek Drainage/ Unit 14C.

Respectfully,

Jeremiah Drage
President- RVHA



Submitted by: Cindy Ranta

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Seward, AK

Comment:

Attached

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support
Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support



Comments for trapping setbacks, South Central AK

Proposal 145 – Support

I strongly support this proposal to achieve intended results of the wildlife corridor. The under/over passes would be a complete waste of resources otherwise.

Proposal 149 – Support

Agreed, large traps should have a setback of 100 yards from campgrounds, to ensure safety of *all users*.

Proposal 150 – Support

Agreed, large traps should have a setback of 100 yards from listed roads and pullouts, to ensure safety of *all users*.

Proposal 151 – Support

Agreed, large traps should have a setback of 100 yards from all listed pullouts, access points, and winter trails, to ensure safety of *all users*.

Proposal 152 – Support

Agreed, large traps should have a setback of 100 yards on listed multi use trails, to ensure safety of *all users*.

Proposal 153 – Support

Agreed, large traps should have a setback of 100 yards from the Kenai Lake Bench and Beaches, to ensure safety of *all users*.

Proposal 154 – Support

I strongly support this proposal to have posted signage at all active trapping access points. This will make all users aware of the activity and will ensure safety of *all users*.



PC268

Submitted by: Kathryn Recken

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cooper Landing, AK

Comment:

I support proposals #145 through 156 that request trapping setbacks, signage and other regulations along trails and in areas with high recreation and public use in the Cooper Landing and Kenai Peninsula areas.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147:
Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152:
Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support Proposal 155: Support Proposal 156: Support



PC269

Submitted by: Donald Rees

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, Alaska

Comment:

I fully “support” Proposal 145 which will close areas to hunting and trapping within 1/4 mile of parts of the Sterling Highway in Units 7 and 15.

I support this proposal because:

- 1) the new wildlife crossings along with proposed fencing on the Sterling Highway Cooper Landing bypass will act as bottlenecks for wildlife moving across the highway corridor and funnel wildlife to these crossings resulting in potentially disproportionate harmful unintended consequences.
- 2) the Sterling Highway Cooper Landing bypass will construct approximately 15 miles of new road and open many acres to public access in an area that has many wildlife travel corridors and many acres of wildlife habitat. Putting restrictions on hunting and trapping in these newly opened areas where wildlife will potentially be concentrated only makes common sense.

Thank you for considering my input.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support

Cooper Landing, AK Trap Setbacks



PC 270

I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (the Cooper Landing area). I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

There are multiple proposals for trap setbacks or trap signage in the Cooper Landing area.

Please select the proposals that you are in support of (select all that apply).

If there is more than one person in your household, please have each person submit their comments separately. You can copy this, or contact cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com for extra forms.

- ☒ **# 145 Wildlife Crossings:** ¼ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass
- ☒ **#149 Campgrounds:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **# 150 Roads and pullouts:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the the pullouts listed: Quartz Creek Road, East Quartz Creek and Williams Road, Old Sterling Highway, Snug Harbor Road, Bean Creek Road, Russian Gap Road, and all pullouts along the Sterling Highway. AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **#151 Summit Recreation:** Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Japan Woods area, Tenderfoot Campground ski area, Park-N-Poke area, and Manitoba Mountain.
- ☒ **#152 Trails:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the following trailheads: Crescent Creek Trail, Lower Russian Lake Trail, Bean Creek Trail, Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail, Resurrection Trail (South End), West Juneau Bench Trail, Devil's Pass Ski Loops, and Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **#153 Beaches:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **# 154 Signage:** Establishing mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the Game Unit 7 area to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups.

Other areas setback proposals:

- ☒ **#146 Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park:** Establish 100 yard trapping setback from the Diamond Creek Trail, the Grewingk Saddle Trail.
- ☒ **#147 Ski Trails in Homer:** Establish 100 yard setback from the Snowmad Trails and the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails
- ☒ **# 148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100 yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.

Comments:



PC 270

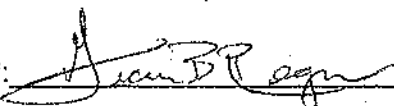
Thank you for considering this proposal. Grace

I feel there is a need to protect from harm our young children and our pets. Safety First!

(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)*: Grace Bluebird Reger

Organization (if any): N/A

Signature*: 

Email*: 

Street Address: 

City*: Cooper Landing

State*: AK

Zip code: 99572

*indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.



Submitted by: Alison Rein

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Seldovia

Comment:

Proposals 145-155: I support the creation of set-back from all access points, trails-and recreation areas mentioned in these 10 proposals, and posting signs where traps have been set so other users of the land are informed of the hazards present

Traps present significant hazards to recreationist and their pets and the presence of baited traps is not compatible with other public uses of the land. I would encourage the board of game to establish state-wide standards regarding trapping set-backs instead of this piecemeal approach to limiting places where traps can be set.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support
Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support
Proposal 155: Support



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

PO Box 60095, Fairbanks, Alaska 99706 (907) 371-7436
email info@residenthuntersofalaska.org web www.residenthuntersofalaska.org

February 28, 2023

**Comments to Alaska Board of Game
Region II Southcentral Meeting
March 17–22, 2023**

Proposals we support: 58, 61 as amended, 71, 72, 77 as amended, 78, 79, 82, 90-102, 119-126 as amended, 204 as amended

Proposals we oppose: 73, 104, 134-142, 145-154

Proposal 61 – 5AAC 85.030 Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer

Lower the resident and nonresident general season bag limit for deer in Unit 6

SUPPORT AS AMENDED to lower nonresident bag limit only

Recent federal proposals to curtail non-federally qualified deer hunting in Southeast Alaska have been a concern and the board recently lowered the bag limit for deer for all nonresidents in Units 1-4.

We agree with the proponent of this proposal that there should be a reduction in bag limit for all nonresident deer hunters, but we **oppose** any reductions in the resident bag limit.

Unit 6 – Deer

Nonresidents – 2 Deer total

Bucks Aug 1 – Sept 30

Any deer Oct 1 – Dec 31

Proposal 77 - 5AAC 92.061 Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts

Eliminate brown bear permits the following season, when a female bear is taken in Kodiak bear management units 8-16 on Kodiak Island.

SUPPORT AS AMENDED

Thank you to the Kodiak Advisory Committee for relating concerns for the brown bear population in the southwest portion of Kodiak Island.

As stated in the proposal, past RY94–RY06 regulations addressed these same conservation



concerns with penalties for the taking of any sow with a skull size under 9 inches wide and 15 inches long by nonresident guided hunters in these same southwest portions of Kodiak Island. Sows harvested that did not meet the minimum skull size requirements resulted in a loss of a permit the following regulatory year in the permit area where the sow was taken.

The Kodiak Archipelago Bear Conservation and Management Plan, in Appendix T, references survival of adult sows in the same southwest portion of the island with these comments (our emphasis: *"Survival of adult female brown bears on Kodiak Island is high even though they are a component of a hunted population. **This is a result of protection they are afforded when accompanied by offspring, by having minimum skull size restrictions in some permit areas, and by having generally lower trophy value (small size) compared to males.**"*

We are not sure why the past minimum sow skull size regulation for nonresident guided hunters in the southwestern portions of Unit 8 was rescinded, nor why it has taken so long to come forward again after management reports of declines in these areas.

The Department comments on this proposal state that, *"Although the effect and success of these female skull size restrictions is difficult to assess, it was widely believed this prior regulation (RY94-RY06) had a positive effect on the population."*

Again, the past regulation that had a minimum skull size for sows taken by **nonresident guided hunters only** in these areas was "widely believed" to have had a positive effect on the bear population. We see no reason to expand this minimum sow skull size requirement across the board for both residents, and nonresident guided hunters, when nonresident guided hunters currently receive such a high allocation of permits and when by all measures limiting it to nonresident guided hunters only had such a positive effect in the past.

We therefore support this proposal as amended to revert back to the same past skull size minimum requirements for sows taken by nonresident guided hunters in bear management units 8-16, but want to **stress that we oppose minimum sow skull size restrictions and penalties for resident hunters in these areas.**

Unit 8 – Nonresidents and Nonresident Aliens Hunting with an Alaska-licensed Guide

One bear every four regulatory years, except that in the Deadman Bay, Dog Salmon River, South Olga Lakes, Red Lake, Frazer Lake, Karluk Lake, Halibut Bay, Sturgeon River, and North Karluk River permit hunt areas, for each female bear with a skull length (posterior sagittal crest to center of upper incisors) of less than 15 inches or with a skull width (zygomatic breadth) of less than nine inches harvested in a regulatory year by a guided nonresident hunter, one permit will be deducted from the next regulatory year's nonresident allocation for the area in which that bear was taken.

Proposals 78 - 5AAC 92.061 Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts

Require all hunters to apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits, remove the loophole that allows nonresidents to skip the permit process

**SUPPORT**

Resident Hunters of Alaska submitted a similar proposal at the 2022 Statewide meeting to address the issue of nonresident guided hunters not being required to go through the draw permit lottery process for hunts on USFWS Refuge lands as residents are required to do.

We were advised that this needs to be a regional proposal specifically for Unit 8 during a Region II meeting, so we have resubmitted it to pertain specifically to Unit 8.

The continuation by the board to allow nonresident hunters to completely skirt the draw permit process as outlined in our proposal is highly troubling. No state should ever allow nonresident hunters to have a preference over resident hunters, but that's exactly what this loophole in regulation does. The evidence is clear that:

- Nonresident guided hunters for Kodiak brown bear don't have to go through a draw permit lottery process, pay the required application fee, or are under the requirement that their names be made public
- Nonresident guided hunters can hunt every year if they make a deal with a guide to pay a certain amount of money
- DB 100 series of nonresident guided-only "draw" permits are actually allocated to the guide with the exclusive guiding rights within Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge for that permit area to do with as the guide wishes. This is corroborated by statements from Kodiak guides, such as: *"Sometimes we take permits off the table."* A guide can't "take permits off the table" if those permits aren't allocated to him or her.

All hunters should be required for all draw hunts to go through the lottery draw permit process. Money and influence should not allow one group to have a better chance (let alone a 100% chance) at drawing a permit.

Proposal 79 – 5AAC 92.061 Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts**Transfer undersubscribed nonresident brown bear permits for Unit 8 to the resident allocation****SUPPORT**

At previous meetings, Kodiak guides have stated that for various reasons they will sometimes *"take permits off the table"* that are allocated to their specific guide concession area. Statements like that prove that these permits are actually allocated to the guide with the exclusive concession area for these permits. The Department allocates permits based on brown bear population information and the number of bears they believe can be sustainably harvested. For any nonresident permits not utilized, those permits for that area should be available to a resident hunter the following year.

Proposals 90–96 - 5AAC 85.015 Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear 5AAC 92.530 Management Areas

**SUPPORT**

Proposals 90-96 all ask for new black bear hunts or to include archery as an allowed methods and means to current weapons-restricted black bear hunts. The Department supports all of these proposals to allow additional black bear hunting opportunities and has no conservation concerns for any additional harvest.

Proposals 97-100 - 5AAC 85.020 Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear
5AAC 92.530 Management Areas**SUPPORT**

Proposals 97-100 all ask for new brown bear weapons-restricted or archery-only hunts. The Department supports all of these proposals to allow additional brown bear hunting opportunity in these areas and has no conservation concerns with any additional harvests.

Proposals 119-126 - 5AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose**Create new archery only moose hunts in Unit 15C****Support as amended for residents only**

We support the creation of new early season archery-only moose hunts for resident moose hunters when there are no conservation concerns with this additional moose hunting opportunity and when this additional opportunity will not lead to closures or loss of opportunity for general season moose hunts.

We **oppose** any additional nonresident moose hunting opportunity in Unit 15C.

Proposals 134-142 - 5AAC 85.020 Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear**OPPOSE****Extend brown bear seasons in Units 7 and/or 15**

We cannot support extending brown bear seasons in these units due to Department concerns that increased harvest in the spring will result in closures for the general fall season. If the board should pass any of these proposals, we request that they **apply to residents only**.

Proposal 204 - 5AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep**Close resident and nonresident hunting for Dall sheep in Unit 19C for five years**

**SUPPORT AS AMENDED to close only nonresident Dall sheep hunting**

Resident Hunters of Alaska has been submitting proposals for several cycles, including out-of-cycle Agenda Change Requests (ACR), expressing conservation concerns for the 19C sheep population with continued allowance of unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

We submitted an ACR (ACR #12) for the 2022 ACR meeting to limit nonresident sheep hunting in 19C to draw-only permits based on conservation concerns for the sheep population and fears that residents would lose general sheep hunting opportunities if nonresidents were not limited. ACR 12 would have been – if accepted at the 2022 ACR meeting – a proposal for this 2023 Southcentral meeting, but the board said it did not meet the criteria for conservation concerns and voted it down. Just after the board voted our ACR 12 down, **based on it not meeting the criteria for conservation concerns**, the board voted to accept a board-generated proposal to close all sheep hunting in 19C for five years **based on conservation concerns!**

It is clear that the board did not follow its own policies as to ACR acceptance by voting down RHAK ACR 12, and purposely prevented another alternative to a complete sheep hunting closure in Unit 19C from being before the public.

The board has known for some time that the sheep population in Unit 19C was declining, and every proposal RHAK submitted previously asked to limit nonresident sheep hunters in 19C to draw permits only with a limited allocation in order to conserve the sheep population and ensure that resident general sheep hunting opportunity would continue. But the board consistently refused to limit nonresident sheep hunters.

The board now wants to close all sheep hunting in Unit 19C for everyone after years of refusing to limit the nonresident component that has been taking the vast majority of a declining sheep population. This is exactly what resident hunters have long feared but were told consistently would not happen.

All nonresident sheep hunting in 19C should be closed until the sheep population rebounds, and if it rebounds and nonresident sheep hunting opportunity can be reinstated, it should be strictly limited to draw-only permits with a limited allocation. Under no circumstances should this proposal pass as written! If this proposal should pass, there needs to be stipulations that when sheep hunting opens again, all nonresident sheep hunters in 19C are put on draw-only permits with a very limited allocation.

Thank you to Board of Game members for your service, and as always thank you to Board Support and Agency staff!

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)
www.residenthuntersofalaska.org

Cooper Landing, AK Trap Setbacks



PC 273

I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (the Cooper Landing area). I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

There are multiple proposals for trap setbacks or trap signage in the Cooper Landing area.

Please select the proposals that you are in support of (select all that apply).

If there is more than one person in your household, please have each person submit their comments separately. You can copy this, or contact cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com for extra forms.

1-mile!

- ☒ **# 145 Wildlife Crossings:** ~~1/2~~ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass
- ☐ **#149 Campgrounds:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☐ **# 150 Roads and pullouts:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the the pullouts listed: Quartz Creek Road, East Quartz Creek and Williams Road, Old Sterling Highway, Snug Harbor Road, Bean Creek Road, Russian Gap Road, and all pullouts along the Sterling Highway. AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☐ **#151 Summit Recreation:** Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Japan Woods area, Tenderfoot Campground ski area, Park-N-Poke area, and Manitoba Mountain.
- ☐ **#152 Trails:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the following trailheads: Crescent Creek Trail, Lower Russian Lake Trail, Bean Creek Trail, Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail, Resurrection Trail (South End), West Juneau Bench Trail, Devil's Pass Ski Loops, and Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☐ **#153 Beaches:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☐ **# 154 Signage:** Establishing mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the Game Unit 7 area to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups.

Other areas setback proposals:

- ☐ **#146 Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park:** Establish 100 yard trapping setback from the Diamond Creek Trail, the Grewingk Saddle Trail.
- ☐ **#147 Ski Trails in Homer:** Establish 100 yard setback from the Snowmad Trails and the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails
- ☐ **# 148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100 yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.



Road trapping is an insult to real wilderness trapping. Trapping from the road wipes out the few remaining fur bearers along the highways and trail systems. Plus, it is not an economical lifestyle. You may only end up with a stupid hat or so. Set backs ~~if~~ should be a minimum of 1-mile. Driving around in a pick-up truck and trapping $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off the road doesn't make you a trapper.

(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)*: Chris Rhodes - 74 yr. resident

Organization (if any) none

Signature*:

Chris Rhodes

Email*:

Street Address:

City*: Cooper Landing State*: AK Zip code: 99572

*indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.



PC274

Submitted by: Janet Rhodes

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Temecula, CA

Comment:

I support proposals 145-154. Thanks.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support



PC275

Submitted by: Antonio Ricciardi

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, Alaska

Comment:

We need protections in place to keep our pets safe from heartless traps set in areas where people and pets frequent.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support



PC276

Submitted by: Matt Rima

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cooper landing, ak

Comment:

Nobody wants to see a dog in a trap

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 154: Support



PC277

Submitted by: Doug Robbins

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, AK

Comment:

I am writing in support of Southcentral Proposal #145, to establish a 1/4 mile hunting and trapping set-backing from the Sterling Highway in units 7 and 15.

The Sterling Highway is a busy major roadway providing the only vehicle access to the lower Kenai Peninsula. Travelers need to be able to safely take a break from driving, take a short walk and relieve themselves or their pets. With current regulations, it is a matter of time before a needless tragedy. Hunting and trapping within 1/4 mile of the highway is a public hazard and should be prohibited.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support



PC278

Submitted by: Francie Roberts

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I support both Proposition 146 and 147. As the lower Kenai Peninsula has grown and become a destination for both winter and summer tourism, trails need to be a safe corridor for people and animals traveling through the back country. There is plenty of land available for trapping with these proposed corridors protected.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support



PC279

Submitted by: Jeanne Roche

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, Alaska

Comment:

I support both Proposal #146 and Proposal #147. There are so many more people using Homer recreation trails during trapping season, and this is only expected to increase. Due to numerous incidents, it is now time to implement a 100 yard setback on all the trails indicated in both of the above Proposals to make the trails safer for all users.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support



Submitted by: Carolyn Roemer

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Seward, Alaska

Comment:

There should be a set back for trapping on all multiuse trails on the kenai peninsula to protect pets. No one should have to face the death of their beloved companion because a trapper is too lazy to step away from public trails.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 55: Support Proposal 56: Support Proposal 57: Support Proposal 58: Support Proposal 59: Support Proposal 60: Support Proposal 61: Support Proposal 62: Support Proposal 63: Support Proposal 64: Support Proposal 65: Support Proposal 66: Support Proposal 67: Support Proposal 68: Support Proposal 69: Support Proposal 70: Support Proposal 71: Support Proposal 72: Support Proposal 73: Support Proposal 74: Support Proposal 75: Support Proposal 76: Support Proposal 77: Support Proposal 78: Support Proposal 79: Support Proposal 80: Support Proposal 81: Support Proposal 82: Support Proposal 83: Support Proposal 84: Support Proposal 85: Support Proposal 86: Support Proposal 87: Support Proposal 88: Support Proposal 89: Support Proposal 90: Support Proposal 91: Support Proposal 92: Support Proposal 93: Support Proposal 94: Support Proposal 95: Support Proposal 96: Support Proposal 97: Support Proposal 98: Support Proposal 99: Support Proposal 100: Support Proposal 101: Support Proposal 102: Support Proposal 103: Support Proposal 104: Support Proposal 105: Support Proposal 106: Support Proposal 107: Support Proposal 108: Support Proposal 109: Support Proposal 110: Support Proposal 111: Support Proposal 112: Support Proposal 113: Support Proposal 114: Support Proposal 115: Support Proposal 116: Support Proposal 117: Support Proposal 118: Support Proposal 119: Support Proposal 120: Support Proposal 121: Support Proposal 122: Support Proposal 123: Support Proposal 124: Support Proposal 125: Support Proposal 126: Support Proposal 127: Support Proposal 128: Support Proposal 129: Support Proposal 130: Support Proposal 132: Support Proposal 133: Support Proposal 134: Support Proposal 135: Support Proposal 136: Support Proposal 137: Support Proposal 138: Support Proposal 139: Support Proposal 140: Support Proposal 141: Support Proposal 142: Support Proposal 143: Support Proposal 144: Support Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support Proposal 155: Support Proposal 156: Support Proposal 157: Support Proposal 158: Support Proposal 159: Support Proposal 160: Support Proposal 161: Support Proposal 162: Support Proposal 163: Support Proposal 164: Support Proposal 165: Support Proposal 166: Support Proposal 167: Support Proposal 168: Support Proposal 169: Support Proposal 170: Support Proposal 171: Support Proposal 172: Support Proposal 173: Support Proposal 174: Support Proposal 175: Support Proposal 176: Support Proposal 177: Support Proposal 178: Support Proposal 179: Support Proposal 180: Support Proposal 181: Support Proposal 182: Support Proposal 183: Support Proposal 184: Support Proposal 185: Support Proposal 186: Support Proposal 187: Support Proposal 188: Support



Submitted by: Tavis Rogers

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Oak Creek, Colorado

Comment:

I am writing in opposition to Proposal 82 that would allow rifle hunting in an archery only area.

I am writing in support of Proposals 67, 71, 72, 87, 91, 92, 93, 99, 100, 101, 110, 111, 112, 113, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, and 126.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 67: Support Proposal 71: Support Proposal 72: Support Proposal 82: Oppose Proposal 87: Support
Proposal 91: Support Proposal 92: Support Proposal 93: Support Proposal 99: Support Proposal 100: Support Proposal
101: Support Proposal 110: Support Proposal 111: Support Proposal 112: Support Proposal 113: Support Proposal
119: Support Proposal 120: Support Proposal 121: Support Proposal 122: Support Proposal 123: Support Proposal 124:
Support Proposal 125: Support Proposal 126: Support

From the desk of

Sam Rohrer

Kodiak, AK 99615



PC 282

March 3, 2023

Kristy Tibbles
Executive Director, AK BOG
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: 2023 BOG Southcentral Meeting Comments

Chairman Burnett and BOG Members,

Thank you for serving our state and its wildlife resources and thank you for taking the time to read my comments on Statewide proposals.

Kodiak's Brown Bear Management Strategy is regarded as one of the most successful wildlife conservation programs in the world. This program is the result of careful work that the Kodiak community and ADF&G, in conjunction with the Board of Game has put together over the last 40 years. There are many important components to this system, and much time and thought has been given to how the whole system works together to benefit bears, hunters, the state of Alaska, and the Kodiak community. I respectfully ask that you keep this long history of success in mind as you carefully consider all of the Kodiak Brown Bear proposals.

Proposal 77 – SUPPORT

I ask that you pass proposal 77. This proposal was put forward by the Kodiak AC in response to bear population concerns in the Southwest portion of Kodiak (Unit 8). The Kodiak Brown Bear Management Plan specifies that when there is a decline in the Brown Bear population that female skull size minimums should be employed. This same strategy was in place in this region from 1994 – 2006, due to similar concerns over an apparent declining population. Once surveys demonstrated that the population had recovered, the Board removed the skull size minimums.

I encourage the Board to follow the Kodiak Brown Bear Management Plans recommendations and pass proposal 77.

Proposal – 78 OPPOSE

I ask that you reject proposal 78. This proposal would prohibit the Department from making undersubscribed permits available over the counter. Reissuing of undersubscribed permits is not a "loophole" as the proponent of this proposal suggests, but rather, it is a process that is clearly authorized under both 5AAC 92.052.(23) and 5AAC 92.061.(a)(4)(D).

5 AAC92.052.(23) is a statewide regulation, that gives the Department the discretionary authority to make undersubscribed permits available over the counter. There are many legitimate reasons why the department might choose to reissue undersubscribed permits. 5AAC92.061.(a)(4)(D) is a Unit 8 specific regulation that also authorizes the Department to make available undersubscribed permits. This regulation for Unit 8, serves to offer important consumer protections and helps to safeguard economic opportunities for small businesses.

Reissuing of undersubscribed permits allows nonresident hunters who for some reason must cancel their Kodiak Bear hunt an opportunity to cancel their hunt and it allows the hunting guide an opportunity to then rebook the hunt with a new client. If a client cancels their hunt, and the hunting guide is not able to rebook the hunt, then the client loses their deposit. This hurts both the client who lost their deposit, the guide who was not able to receive full payment for the hunt, but also other small businesses who benefit from nonresident hunters, such as local taxidermist, meat processors, bush plane operators, and hotels. It also causes ADF&G to lose out on valuable tag



fees. However, because the department can reissue a permit, a hunting guide is able to rebook a new client and return the canceled hunter's deposit. This is good for nonresident hunters, small businesses, and ADF&G.

Proposal 78 would prohibit the Department from issuing undersubscribed permits to nonresidents who do not go through the Application Drawing process, but what the proposal fails to mention is that 5AAC92.061(a)(1) only allows a guide to submit the same number of nonresident applications for a hunt as the number of permits available for that hunt. This means that on Federal lands, where only one guide is authorized to conduct guide activities, there would only ever be the same number of applicants as permits issued in each drawing. This would not allow for an alternate list, which would result in undersubscribed or canceled hunts leaving permits unusable.

Proposal 78 does nothing to benefit resident hunters, however it does hurt nonresident hunters, small businesses, and conservation funding. I ask that you unanimously reject this proposal.

Proposal – 79 OPPOSE

I ask that you reject proposal 79. This proposal would require that undersubscribed nonresident brown bear permits on Unit 8 be awarded to a resident applicant. There are several problems with this proposal. If undersubscribed permits were added to the resident pool in the following regulatory year, the result would be too many permits issued in that following year. There would be a strong potential for overharvest in that year, as well as hunter crowding in the field.

Additionally, this proposal, like proposal 78 before, would remove important consumer protections and economic safeguard for small businesses on Kodiak.

Lastly, this proposal would upend the longstanding allocation policy that has been in place on Kodiak for over 40 years. The BOG has a long-standing policy for evaluating allocative proposals, that includes considering the last 10 years of harvest history. This proposal seeks to make a change that would ultimately change the existing long-standing allocation. For these reasons, I ask that you unanimously reject this proposal.

Proposal – 80 OPPOSE

I ask that you reject proposal 80. This proposal would require that Kodiak brown bear draw permits cannot be allocated over the current average of 35% of the tags in an individual hunt going to a nonresident hunter. Currently regulations state that a maximum of 40 percent of the drawing permits go to nonresidents and a minimum of 60 percent go to residents. The current average consists of 65% of permits being issued to residents and 35% of permits issued to nonresidents. This average has been consistent for many years. This proposal is unnecessary and would tie the Departments hands when trying to make small permit changes to respond to specific hunt area concerns. For these reasons, I ask that you reject this proposal.

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully read my comments. I appreciate all that you do for Alaska!

Respectfully,

Sam Rohrer
Kodiak, AK





Submitted by: Nicole Rojas

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Chicago, Illinois.

Comment:

I support Proposal #145 to secure hunting and trapping setbacks from new wildlife crossings on the Sterling Highway Cooper Landing bypass.

I also. support Proposals 146 - 154 for trap setbacks from multiuse areas on the Kenai Peninsula.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:



I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (the Cooper Landing area). I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

There are multiple proposals for trap setbacks or trap signage in the Cooper Landing area.

Please select the proposals that you are in support of (select all that apply).

If there is more than one person in your household, please have each person submit their comments separately. You can copy this, or contact cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com for extra forms.

- ☒ **# 145 Wildlife Crossings:** ¼ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass
- ☒ **#149 Campgrounds:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **#150 Roads and pullouts:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the the pullouts listed: Quartz Creek Road, East Quartz Creek and Williams Road, Old Sterling Highway, Snug Harbor Road, Bean Creek Road, Russian Gap Road, and all pullouts along the Sterling Highway; AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **#151 Summit Recreation:** Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Japan Woods area, Tenderfoot Campground ski area, Park-N-Poke area, and Manitoba Mountain.
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- ☒ **# 148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100 yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.

Comments:



PC 284

Thankyou for keeping my son + fur babies
safe

(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)*: ~~Rachel Mundy~~ Cristina Rachel Rolfe

Organization (if any):

Signature*: C. Rolfe

Email*: [REDACTED]

Street Address: [REDACTED]

City*: Cooper Landing State*: AK Zip code: 99512

*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.



Thomas C. Rothe
[REDACTED]
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
Hm: [REDACTED] Cell: [REDACTED]
E-mail [REDACTED]

March 3, 2023

Alaska Board of Game
c/o Boards Support Section
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99801

Advance Transmittal By Email

Members of the Board of Game:

This letter is to transmit comments on regulation proposals for Southcentral Alaska to be considered at your March meeting in Soldotna. I plan to attend the meeting and testify, and I welcome any questions you may have by email or telephone. Thank you for considering my comments and recommendations.

I have been an Alaska resident and hunter since 1977, and until 2009 I have been a professional waterfowl biologist and manager for both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game—my latter career for 25 years as the Statewide Waterfowl Program Coordinator. My professional knowledge and experience support my extensive expertise in the biology and ecology of Alaska's waterfowl and wetlands, state and federal programs created to manage conservation of waterfowl populations and harvest across local and continental levels.

In a nutshell: I recommend DO NOT ADOPT for Proposals 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169 and 170; instead, ADOPT Proposal 163. Proposals 164-170 are not supported by evidence that the sea duck species addressed have declined or harvest has increased to warrant bag limit restrictions. These proposals are arbitrary attempts to reduce sea duck hunting opportunity without adequate scientific rationale. Proposal 163 would reset sea duck bag limits in Kachemak Bay to levels in 2009 before the Board adopted arbitrary species restrictions. The proposed regulations in 163 would simplify bag limits that are supported by sound information on the biological status of sea duck species and contemporary harvest data, as well as making Kachemak Bay regulations consistent with conservative regional and statewide regulations that have been in place for over 20 years.

DO NOT ADOPT Proposals 171 or 172. In effect, these proposals would unnecessarily establish a permit hunt to require sea duck harvest reporting by Kachemak Bay hunters, in addition to existing registration and report through the Federal Harvest Information Program. In practice,



such a requirement could not be statistically designed to interpret harvest data at the subregional scale for species that are highly mobile seasonally and geographically. The end result would be expensive and intrusive collection of data that would be insufficient to produce reliable trends in harvest of sea ducks, much less any species of interest. The overall effect of such a permit hunt would be to discourage and complicate legitimate, sustainable sea duck hunting in one of a few areas most accessible and productive for a large proportion of Alaska's duck hunters.

The purported merits of requirements in the state of Washington are irrelevant because the sea duck resources and harvest considerations of Kachemak Bay are markedly different than those in Puget Sound. Moreover, the Washington sea duck management plan and chosen harvest strategies are neither proven effective nor applicable to entirely different conditions in south coastal Alaska.

Perspectives for Evaluating Relevant Information

Proposals 164-170 are the latest in a 15-year-long history of proposed restrictions to hunting sea ducks in Kachemak Bay. Although these proposals differ annually and are submitted by a variety of constituencies, they seem to have a common goal—to reduce or eliminate hunting of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay. In addition, most of these proposals are poorly justified by a mixture of false or uninformed narratives about: (1) the status and biology of sea duck species, (2) anecdotal impressions of brief and historic waterfowl abundance; (3) misinformation about the structure and management scale of waterfowl populations, (4) the magnitude and impact of public hunting; (5) the role and behavior of hunting guides; and (6) engagement of diverse governmental and political authorities to appropriately and effectively address substantive concerns. Below are some relevant concepts to help put the issues of sea duck hunting regulations for Kachemak Bay into perspective:

Status and Trends of Sea Duck Populations

First, current sea duck status assessments by the competent authorities describe only a couple situations that warrant special protection and conservation: (1) Eastern (Atlantic) Harlequin Duck and (2) Eastern (Atlantic) Barrow's Goldeneye, both subject to hunting restrictions; (3) the component of Western Harlequin Duck that breeds in the Rock Mountains and winters on the coasts of WA, OR and BC (separate from Alaska birds); (4) Spectacled Eider listed globally as threatened in Alaska and Russian Far East; and (5) Steller's Eider with Alaska-nesting segment listed as threatened. Hunting is closed for both eider species.

No other populations of 15 sea duck species are listed as at risk or subject to significant harvest restrictions by:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: primary federal authority for the U.S. (Dept. of the Interior and Alaska Region)
- Pacific Flyway Council: state wildlife agencies for 11 western states
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game: primary authority for Alaska
- Sea Duck Joint Venture: U.S./Canada research and advisory body



Other than the 2 listed eider species in western Alaska, none of the authorities have issued management cautions about the status of sea duck populations that are open to hunting in Alaska.

Periodic and historical boat and airplane surveys provide ideas of sea duck abundance in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, large areas of western and northern Alaska, AND multi-year surveys of Kachemak Bay by ADF&G.

Structure of Waterfowl Populations and Management Scales

Across North America, migratory waterfowl are managed based on demonstrated cohesive populations that generally occur across broad regions and migrate seasonally up and down flyways. Because of interannual shifts in distribution and extensive breeding grounds, population data for ducks are not precise but there is a consistent long-term dataset on trends. For nearly 70 years, data on breeding ducks over large areas have served as reliable bases for managing populations and adjusting hunting regulations.

Several aspects about sea duck populations have led to misinterpretations and poor assumptions. Sea ducks tend to seasonally gather during winter where pairs are formed and, more than dabbling ducks, sea duck females show substantial fidelity to previous nesting sites. However, this does not mean that local groups of sea ducks represent cohesive, persistent and absolutely fixed components of populations—there is and must be interchange between local areas and regions (e.g., among western Cook Inlet, Kachemak Bay and Prince William Sound). Harvest or other removal of sea ducks from coves, bays and other small areas does not constitute extirpation—replacement ducks will eventually repopulate vacancies. Consequently, it is only useful and meaningful to manage ducks over large areas, and it is not practical or effective to expend resources to document small ephemeral groups that may seem obvious to local observers.

Productivity and Mortality of Sea Duck Species

It is important to understand the differences in population dynamics between sea ducks and other taxa of waterfowl. In principle, sea ducks are less productive annually than other ducks, BUT they have substantially higher survival rates and sufficient long-term productivity to sustain populations. There are a few indicators of sea duck population changes that are monitored and, overall, harvest regulations for sea ducks are conservative across North America.

It is important to note that sea duck hunters and harvest across Alaska are small, relative to the total number of waterfowl hunters in the state and abundance of sea ducks that winter across the southern half of Alaska. For the past 20 years, Alaska as well as most other states, has relied on the improved Federal harvest survey to estimate various waterfowl harvests at the statewide level. In the 1970s and 1980s ADF&G conducted more detailed waterfowl harvest surveys, but they were largely not statistically reliable and provided an overview of harvest composition and distribution 30 years ago.



Attached are several relevant tables and graphs that illustrate numbers of sea duck hunters and harvests. Some important take-home points are worth noting:

- Over the past 20 years, the number of waterfowl hunters in Alaska has declined by about 15% after significant declines in the 1990s, and total duck harvest is down 40%. These declines track those in other states and the U.S. totals.
- In the past 10 years (2011-2021), the average number of active sea duck hunters has been 1,364 or about 27% of active Alaska duck hunters, and sea duck harvests have averaged 7,800 (about 15% of all ducks taken in Alaska). Since 2007, the trends in sea duck hunters and harvest have been quite stable. Historic studies showed that Kodiak (27%), Cook Inlet (26%) and Southeast accounted for most of the state sea duck harvest.
- The average active sea duck hunter annually spent less than 3 days in the field and harvested an average of 6 sea ducks per season.
- The current sea duck bag limits in Kachemak Bay, adopted in 2010 restricting resident daily limits to 1 eider (common/king), 2 harlequins and 2 long-tailed ducks amount to very significant arbitrary restrictions of harvest opportunity without any substantive biological evidence that sea ducks are declining or harvest has increased to warrant cutbacks.
- Additional bag limit restrictions proposed in Proposals 164-170 would arbitrarily compound the loss of opportunity by further reducing limits for harlequin and long-tailed ducks (1 each daily) and imposing more capricious and unsupported bag limit reductions for goldeneyes and buffleheads—collectively the most abundant and available sea duck species in Kachemak Bay.

Perspectives and Options for Addressing Apparent Conflicts

Based on available data on sea duck abundance and sea duck harvest, the Board has an opportunity to bring Kachemak Bay duck hunting regulations back onto a foundation of biological science and to reestablish a sound rationale for waterfowl hunting regulations consistent with long-standing and effective management principles.

The core of these long-running campaigns to reduce sea duck harvest opportunity, crimp the ability of hunters to conduct legal and proper hunts and to put a damper on waterfowl guiding services is to address perceived user conflicts between hunters and Kachemak Bay residents, both in Homer and remote south bay occupants. The travesty of most of these campaigns to reduce hunting has been wrapping specific real user conflicts in the guises of: (1) erroneous biological crises (claims of steep population declines, inherent impediments to productivity and survival, assertions that sea duck populations are structured such that each local group is a sacred and irreplaceable unit); (2) overstated and exaggerated depictions of sea duck harvest, unsubstantiated characterizations of values and behaviors of hunters and guides; and (3) disingenuous and hypocritical portrayals of impacts to specific constituencies (sport and subsistence hunters, guides and related businesses, wildlife viewers and local support businesses. The Board needs to carefully assess the true drivers of these regulation proposals, cut through the false and misleading arguments, and determine whether the Board has the appropriate tools and authorities to address the problems,



There are likely some aspects of these conflicts that can be addressed with appropriate authorities through open and transparent processes—that would seem to be the mutual goal of discussions. In this obfuscated set of arguments and proposals, after years of thought, I have concluded that the true heart of these conflicts is NOT related to sea duck population status, the magnitude of harvest or unseemly allegations by the participants—it is a zoning problem that concerns hunting activity (boats, gunfire and harvest of local animals) that offends some residents, especially those that occupy peaceful remote parcels, those that relate to seasonally accessible wildlife and those that are generally opposed to hunting/shooting.

In my view, these conflicts have nothing to do with the sustainability of duck populations and the Board of Game needs to be careful about its authority and ability to address the core issues—it is a slippery slope to voluntarily take on the social concerns of residents where hunting seasons are established or to mediate local disagreements just because a game animal is subject to harvest. In this case, I think the relevant authority is not the Board of Game, but the Kenai Peninsula Borough who can more properly address land and water uses, enact ordinances that mitigate disturbances and public safety risks, and apply meaningful standards of governance beyond the beaches of Kachemak Bay.

I am confident that an effective public process can be established to analyze and address mutually agreed problems in an appropriate collaboration of agencies and constituents (including ADF&G and the Board of Game).

I appreciate your attention to my comments and recommendations, and I am very willing to provide more information as needed.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Rothe



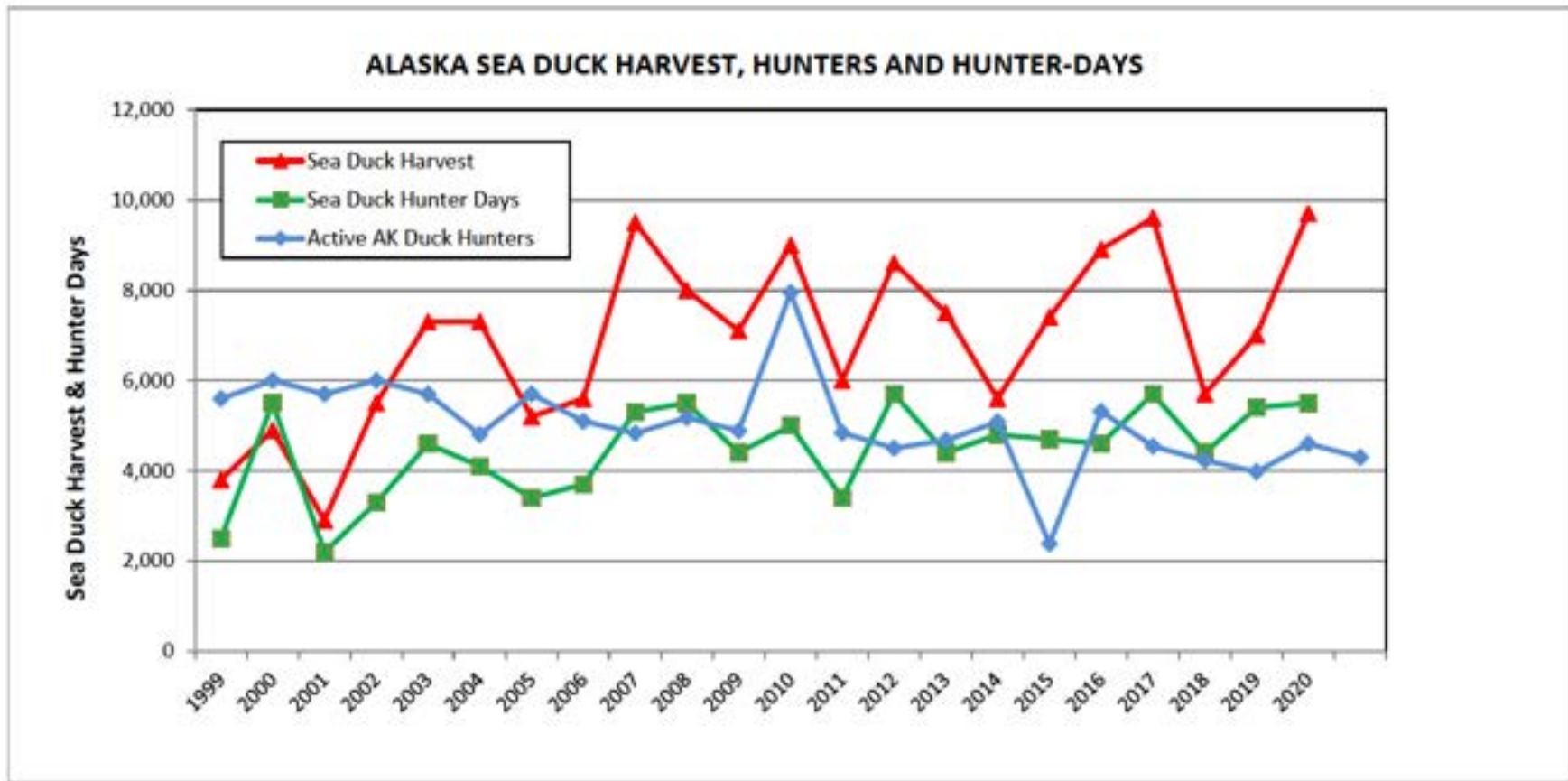
Attachments: Table and graphs depicting trends in Alaska waterfowl hunters and harvest.

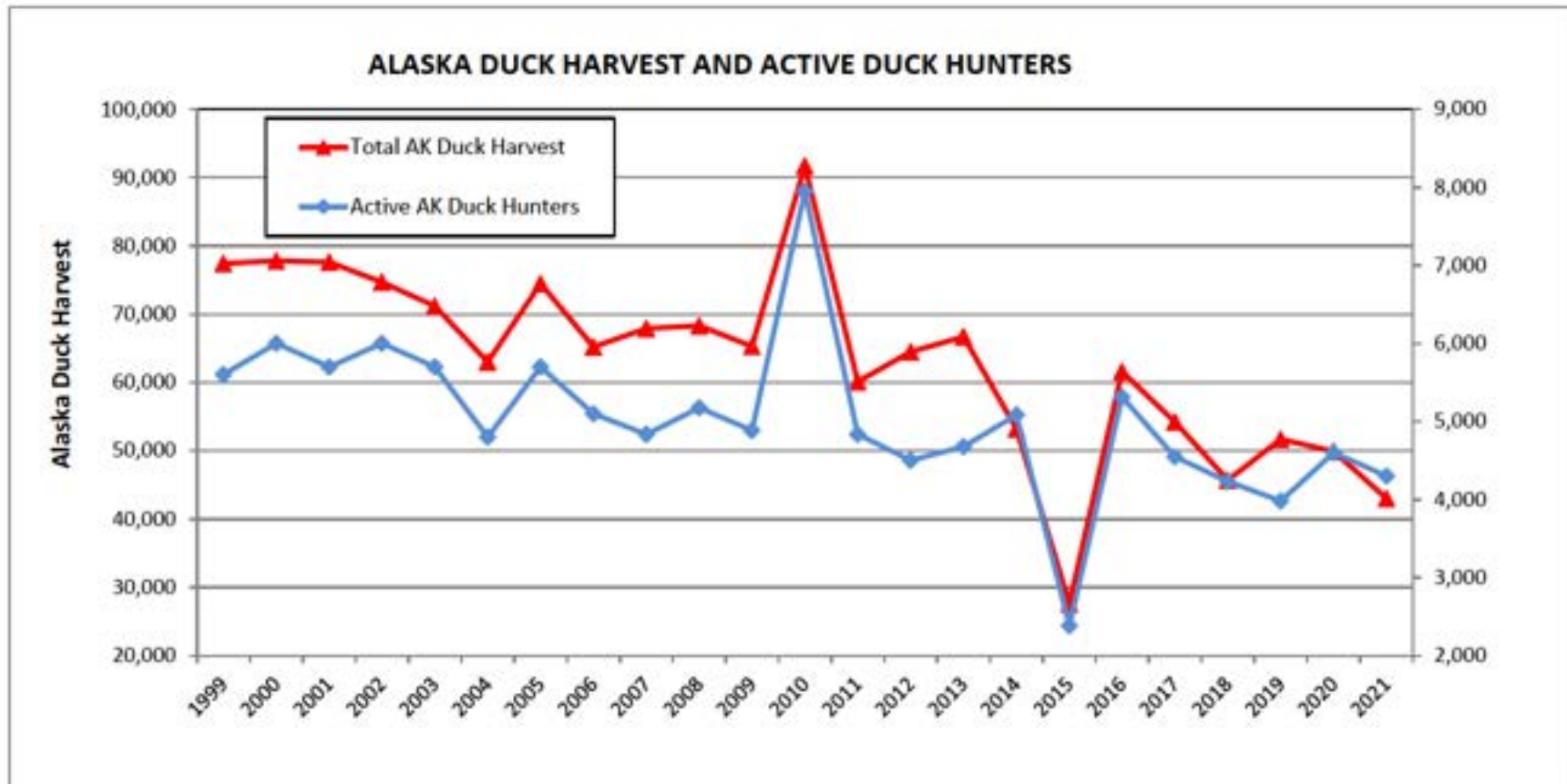
Cc: Ryan Scott, Deputy Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation
Hugh Clark, President Alaska Waterfowl Association
Dave Weber, Regional Director, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.



Alaska Sea Duck Harvest and Hunter Activity from HIP 1999-2021

	Sea Duck Harvest		Active AK Sea Duck Hunters		Sea Duck Hunter Days		Sea Ducks/ AK Sea Duck Hunter	Sea Ducks/ Duck Hunter	% Sea Ducks In Harvest		Total AK Duck Harvest	Active AK Duck Hunters	Ducks/ AK Hunter
		±		±			±						
1999	3,800	30%	600	44%	2,500	54%	6.7	72%	0.7	4.9%	77,400	5,600	13.8
2000	4,900	52%	900	27%	5,500	44%	5.4	59%	0.8	6.3%	77,800	6,000	13.0
2001	2,900	54%	500	28%	2,200	44%	5.3	61%	0.5	3.7%	77,600	5,700	13.6
2002	5,500	40%	800	21%	3,300	27%	6.7	45%	0.9	7.4%	74,700	6,000	12.5
2003	7,300	24%	1,200	18%	4,600	21%	6.0	30%	1.3	10.3%	71,200	5,700	12.5
2004	7,300	24%	900	20%	4,100	22%	7.3	41%	1.5	11.6%	63,000	4,800	13.1
2005	5,200	38%	900	34%	3,400	38%	6.1	51%	0.9	7.0%	74,500	5,700	13.1
2006	5,600	73%	800	38%	3,700	54%	7.0	80%	1.1	8.6%	65,200	5,100	12.8
2007	9,500	32%	1,100	24%	5,300	34%	8.7	40%	2.0	14.0%	67,900	4,834	14.0
2008	8,000	26%	1,100	19%	5,500	58%	7.5	33%	1.5	11.7%	68,300	5,178	13.2
2009	7,100	32%	1,100	20%	4,400	25%	6.7	38%	1.5	10.9%	65,300	4,886	13.4
2010	9,000	32%	1,300	25%	5,000	35%	6.8	41%	1.1	9.8%	91,700	7,946	11.5
2011	6,000	47%	600	29%	3,400	50%	9.9	55%	1.2	10.0%	60,100	4,836	12.4
2012	8,600	28%	1,200	19%	5,700	22%	7.1	34%	1.9	13.3%	64,500	4,501	14.3
2013	7,500	33%	1,100	27%	4,400	34%	6.8	43%	1.6	11.2%	66,700	4,676	14.3
2014	5,600	36%	1,100	27%	4,800	43%	5.2	45%	1.1	10.5%	53,200	5,084	10.5
2015	7,400	66%	1,400	49%	4,700	56%	5.2	82%	3.1	26.8%	27,600	2,384	11.6
2016	8,900	36%	1,400	26%	4,600	31%	6.2	45%	1.7	14.4%	61,600	5,315	11.6
2017	9,600	38%	1,600	22%	5,700	32%	6.0	44%	2.1	17.7%	54,200	4,546	11.9
2018	5,700	47%	1,300	35%	4,400	41%	4.4	59%	1.3	12.5%	45,700	4,233	10.8
2019	7,000	35%	1,500	29%	5,400	43%	4.8	46%	1.8	13.5%	51,700	3,981	13.0
2020	9,700	30%	1,800	23%	5,500	25%	5.5	38%	2.1	19.4%	49,900	4,600	10.8
2021	10,100	33%	2,000	25%	5,900	16%	5.0	41%	2.3	23.5%	43,000	4,300	10.0
2022													
Avg	7,052	39%	1,139	27%	4,522	37%	6.4	49%	1.5	12%	63,165	5,039	12.5
10-Yr	7,827	39%	1,364	28%	4,955	36%	6.0	48%	1.9	16%	51,810	4,362	11.9







Submitted by: Sally Rothwell

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cooper Landing, Alaska

Comment:

I am a landowner in Cooper Landing and an avid hiker and biker. While I am not opposed to hunting and trapping in general, I am opposed to trapping anywhere near public access points; that is, near highways, wildlife structures, pullouts, campgrounds, trails and trailheads. It is just too potentially hazardous to people and pets and there are many other available places for trappers to go. Below are my comments to selected proposals.

145 - support

148 - support

149 - support

150 - support

152 - support

153 - support

154 - support



I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (the Cooper Landing area). I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

There are multiple proposals for trap setbacks or trap signage in the Cooper Landing area.

Please select the proposals that you are in support of (select all that apply).

If there is more than one person in your household, please have each person submit their comments separately. You can copy this, or contact cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com for extra forms.

- ☒ **#145 Wildlife Crossings:** ¼ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass
- ☒ **#149 Campgrounds:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
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 - ☒ **#147 Ski Trails in Homer:** Establish 100 yard setback from the Snowmad Trails and the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails
 - ☒ **#148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100 yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.

Comments:



PC 287

(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)*: Cory Route

Organization (if any): _____

Signature*: Cory Route

Email*: [REDACTED]

Street Address: [REDACTED]

City*: Cooper Landing State*: AK Zip code: 99572

*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.

Cooper Landing Trap Setback Proposals, Comments & Ballot



PC 288

I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (the Cooper Landing area). I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

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- ☒ **# 148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100 yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.

Comments:



PC 288


(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)*: Eric Rowe

Organization (if any) _____

Signature*: 

Email*: 

Street Address: 

City*: Cooper Landing State*: AK Zip code: 99572

*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.



Submitted by: Amy Russell and Multiple Signers

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

The attachment here shows my support of BOG proposals 145-154, all considering trapping setbacks and buffers on multi-use trails, as well as the support of another 43 Homer area residents.

My personal experience is finding an unmarked trapline was on Easterday Road, last year where I could see his numerous traps from my ski trail. Easterday Road is 3 miles from a major road in Homer, Ohlson Mountain Road-a winter playland for the Homer area. I left him a kindly written note alerting him to the fact that that road has been a recreational area for many in this neighborhood. I returned the next day to find the note crumble up and returned to its place.

I called the wildlife trooper and he explained to me this man has the right to set a trapline here. I explained that clearly the law values the trapper's rights over our rights. Even if my dog didn't get caught in the traps (which other dogs did!), I should not be subject to happening upon a dead or dying animal in a trap. He is clearly a lazy trapper. He had a snowmachine and acres of backcountry at his access but he chose to drive to a road.

Previous to finding that trapline I have recreated on Easterday at least a dozen times a year. I have skied there since hearing dogs were trapped there.

I would appreciate if the Board recognized roads and common trails should not be used to trap animals, domestic or wild.

Thank you very much,

Amy Russell

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147:

Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152:

Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support




Name print

Signature

Address

1. KRISTIN TRUEDELL Kristin Truedell
2. Kristy Stevenson Keller-Kristy Stevenson
3. Emily Lamb Emily Lamb
4. Beth Schott Beth Schott
5. Laura Peck Laura Peck
6. Rachel Allmendinger Rachel Allmendinger
7. Sarah Brewer Sarah Brewer
8. Brooke Varian Brooke Varian
9. Angela Harter Angela Harter
10. Elizabeth Love Elizabeth Love
11. Sharron Cotogna Sharron Cotogna
12. Eric Watson Banzett Eric Watson Banzett
13. Britney Christinson Britney Christinson
14. Jonaki Brost Jonaki Brost
15. Amy Russell Amy Russell
16. Samuel Crowl Samuel Crowl
17. Abigail Ross Abigail Ross
18. Cherry Peterson Cherry Peterson
19. Dara Ector Dara Ector
20. Madien Winsor Madien Winsor
21. Connor McCarron Connor McCarron
22. Julie McCarron Julie McCarron
23. Katy Coseglia Katy Coseglia
24. Zachariah Richards Zachariah Richards
25. ANTHONY PERELLI Anthony Perelli
26. Jackie DeLaCruz Jackie DeLaCruz

I SUPPORT BPG Proposals 145-154

Setbacks and buffers on mu  VS 289

Printed Sign Address

- 27 Charidy Haerte Charidy Haerte
- 28 Marge Dunn Marge Dunn
- 29 RICHARD DUNN Richard Dunn
- 30 YOLANDA FIMON Yolanda Fimon
- 31 Stephanie Zauati Stephanie Zauati
- 32 Joni Wise Joni Wise
- 33 Revell Russell Revell Russell
- 34 Katie Byrnagle Katie Byrnagle
35. DEREK BYRNAGLE Derek Byrnagle
- 36 Henry Russell Henry Russell
- 37 Ashley Hansen Ashley Hansen
- 38 Taro Sasaki Taro Sasaki
- 39 Krista Parrett Krista Parrett
- 40 Carlin Rauch Carlin Rauch
- 41 Cindy Slisson Cindy Slisson
42. Susie Malone Susie Malone
43. Sarah Banks Sarah Banks
44. OMAR GUCER Omar Gucer



Submitted by: Revelle Russell

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I am writing in support of Proposals 146 and 147.

I feel a 100 yard setback on multi use trails is not an unreasonable. There is plenty space of room for everyone. What I do find unreasonable is when user group takes away the right of another user group to use a trail.

By trapping on a multi use trail you are effectively shutting that trail down to skiing with animals. There are only so many trails I can ski with my dog. Trapping on multi use trails reduces that number.

I respect the rights of people to trap but by I feel my rights are not respected when traps are set right on a trail. I feel a 100 yard set back on multiuse trail is a reasonable compromise. Thank you.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support



Submitted by: Kathy Sarns Irwin

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer Alaska

Comment:

See Attached

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support
Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support Proposal 156: Support Proposal 160: Support Proposal 162: Oppose
Proposal 163: Oppose Proposal 164: Support Proposal 166: Support Proposal 169: Support Proposal 171: Support



I Support Proposal 145

The highway construction plans include multiple wildlife underpasses and Alaska's first wildlife overpass. Fencing is meant to keep wildlife off the road and funnel them through crossings, but current regulations allow for hunting and trapping on these crossings. Make these multi-million dollar crossings safe passages for wildlife.

I Support Proposal 149

Establishing these reasonable trapping buffers for public safety around these campgrounds is a common sense proposal. Please support this to help prevent user conflicts in the future.

I Support Proposal 150

The proposed 100 and 50-yard trapping setbacks in this proposal are not large enough to significantly limit a trappers' opportunity to trap near a road or pullout. This proposal would only prevent conflicts and tragedies at the most used and popular pullouts and highways in Cooper Landing.

I Support Proposal 151

Please support these reasonable Trapping setbacks to establish safe zones for the increasing numbers of user groups accessing backcountry areas for: cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, ice fishing, bird hunting, cabin rentals.

I Support Proposal 152

As the number of winter trail users has increased so have the number of dangerous encounters between other user groups and traps set in recreational areas. These reasonable setbacks will help prevent conflicts in these recreational areas.

I Support Proposal 153

these proposed 100 and 50-yard trapping setbacks are not large enough to limit a trappers' opportunity to trap near beaches. These Proposed setbacks are only for the most popular and heavily used beaches to help prevent user conflicts.

I Support Proposal 154

Mandatory posted signs are in line with the Alaska Trappers Association Official Position Statement "Trapline Signs" that states:

"The Alaska Trappers Association encourages trappers in road-accessible regions of the State to post signs near major points of access to their personal trapline trails. These signs should explain that there are traps and/or snares on or near the trail. The signs could also include the trappers name and contact information. These signs are intended to alert other trail users of the purpose of the trail, so that they can avoid conflict with the trapper. This approach of posting signs should be beneficial for everyone involved."

I Support Proposal 156

The Anchor River beaver population needs some time to recover! Please support this proposal.

Support Proposal 160

This is a carefully crafted proposal to allow for beaver trapping to continue (as many members of the Board of Game want to see) but try to make sure that they do not continue to over-harvest. It has been tested in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge with good results.

I Support Proposal 164

Please support this proposal to help reduce the decline in sea duck numbers in Kachemak Bay. Limiting harvest is one of the only ways to protect populations and support their recovery.

I Support Proposal 166

Please support this proposal to help reduce the decline in sea duck numbers in Kachemak Bay.



I OPPOSE the following 2 proposals:

I Oppose Proposal 163

This proposal not supported by the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee. It is not supported by local sea duck hunters or commercial guides, because it is not necessary to increase harvest on these populations.

I Oppose Proposal 162

The ptarmigan season was shortened for good reasons in 2014-2015 and there is not a good reason to revert back to a longer season.

Kathy Sarns Irwin
Homer, Alaska

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping setbacks along certain snow machine/multi-use trails and nordic ski trails in Unit 15C as follows:

We recommend no trapping within 100 yards from 4 public mapped snow-machine/multi-use trails south of Caribou Lake in Unit 15C : 1) McNeil Canyon Trail 2) Eagle Lake/Caribou Lake Trail 3) Mathews Hill Trail 4) Watermelon Trail.
and 100 yards from public mapped Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails in Unit 15C.

5 AAC 92.550
(4) Unit 15C

E. within 100 yards from 4 public mapped trails south of Caribou Lake: 1) McNeil Canyon Trail, 2) Eagle Lake/Caribou Lake Trail, 3) Mathews Hill Trail, 4) Watermelon Trail, all in 15(C);

F. within 100 yards from public mapped Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails in 15(C).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

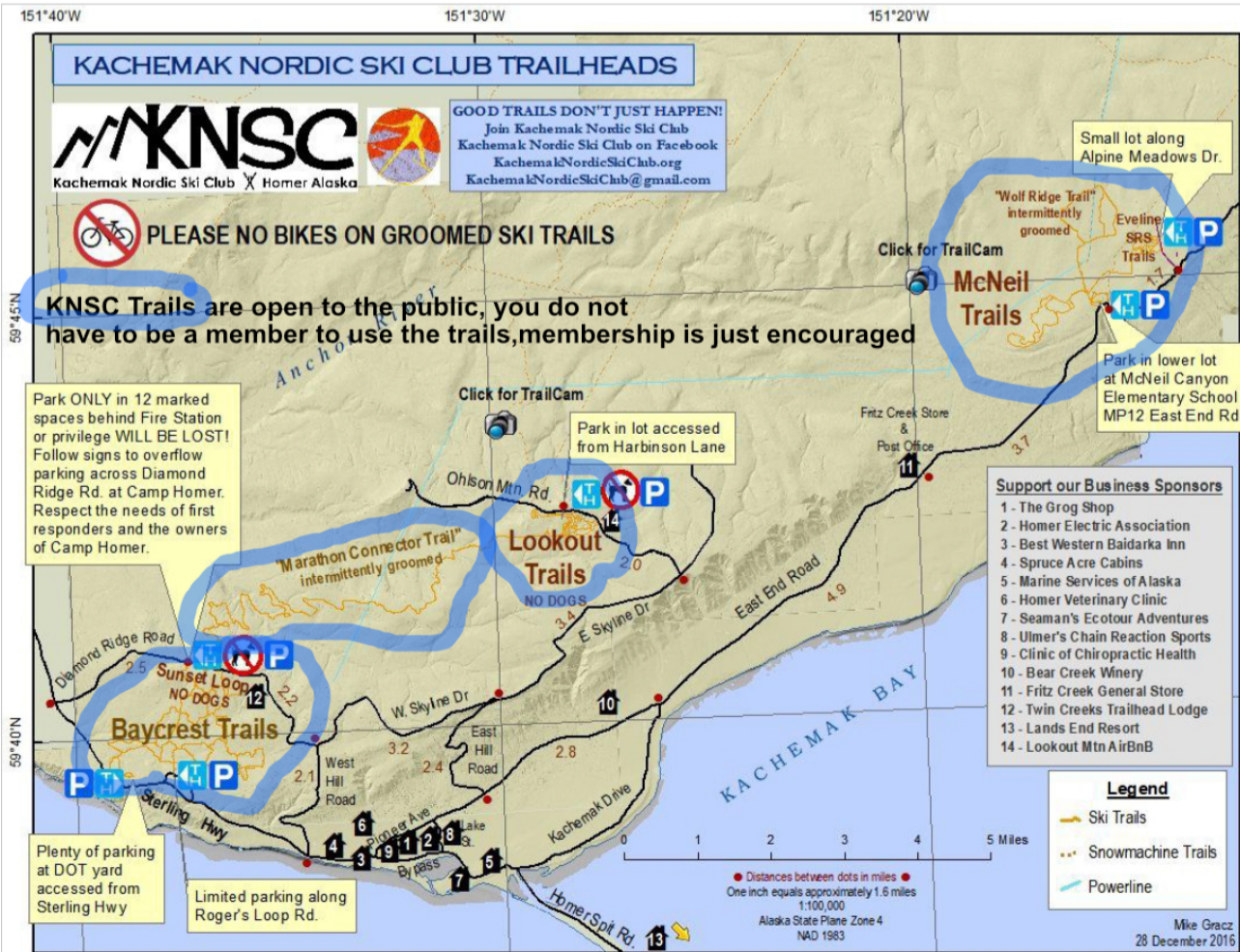
With a growing population on the lower Kenai Peninsula and an increase in non-consumptive users on multi-use trails, conflict with traditional trapping areas and incidents of pet dogs being caught in traps is becoming more common in Unit 15C.

Local trappers, non-consumptive trail users, and the Homer AC working together propose that: traps set adjacent to public mapped trails in Unit 15C be at least 100 yards from the main trail.

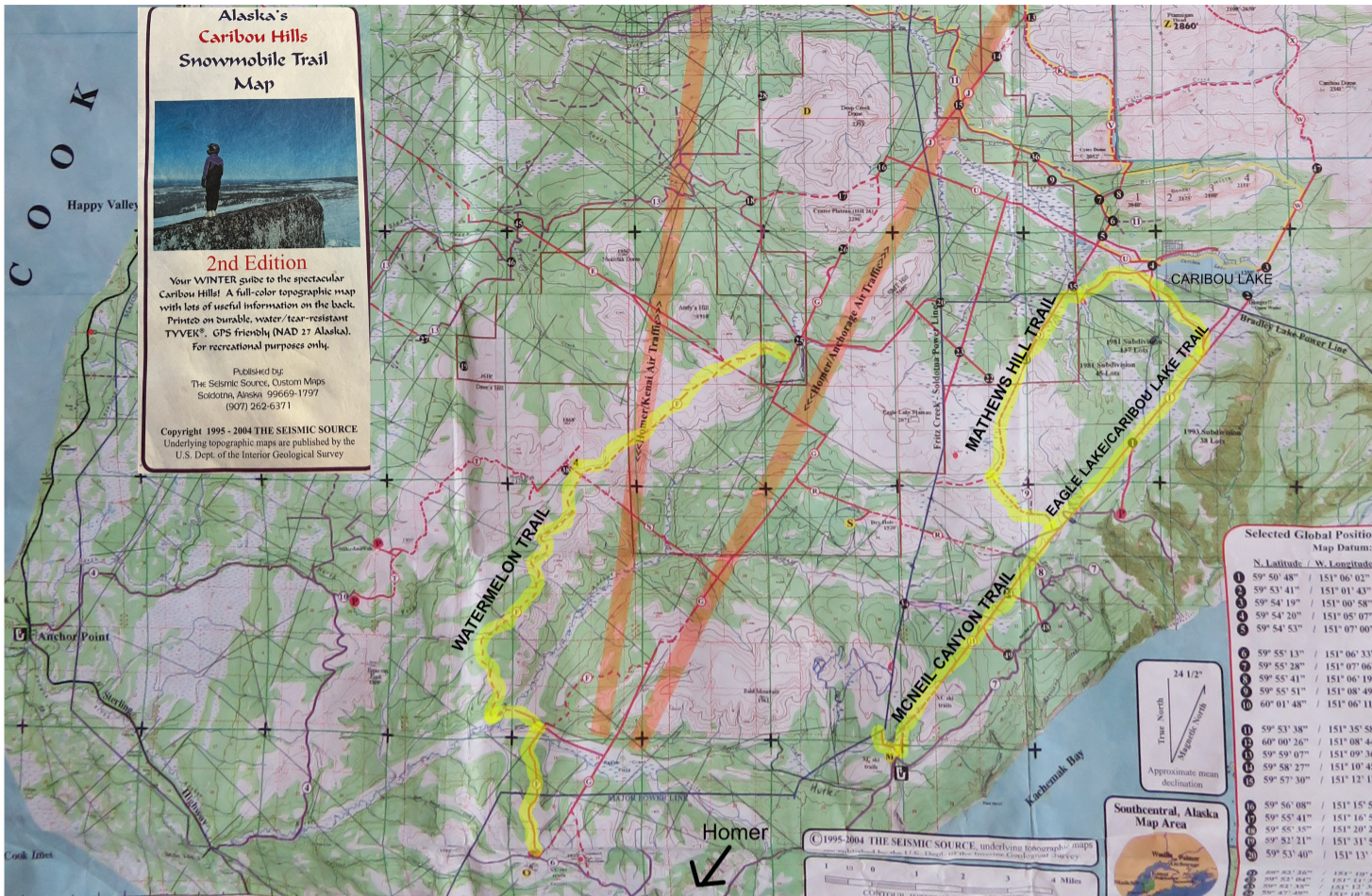
If a 100-yard setback is not implemented, there will be more user conflicts on public trails, as the number of non-consumptive users increases on public trails in winter each year in Unit 15C.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Sid Wolford and Kathy Sarns Irwin
(EG-F22-048)

#147 AREA MAP1 OF KACHEMAK NORDIC MAPPED PUBLIC SKI TRAILS in UNIT 15C
THEY ARE WELL MARKED AND GROOMED AND OBVIOUS PUBLIC TRAILS FOR SKIERS:
More detailed maps of each area also attached below



#147 MAP2 OF public multi-use trails south of Caribou Lake: 1. McNeil Canyon Trail, 2. Eagle Lake Trail, 3. Mathews Hill Trail, 4. Watermelon Trail:



I support Proposition #147

If a 100-yard setback is not implemented on the popular public mapped trails in this proposal, there will be more and more user conflicts on these public trails near Homer, as the number of non-consumptive users (local & visiting snowshoers, skiers, snowbikers, hikers, runners, snowmachiners) increases on popular public mapped trails in winter each year in Unit 15C. The trails suggested for the 100 yd setback in prop #147 are mapped public trails and are available to the public online and to purchase: Kachemak Nordic Ski Trails Maps, and the 4 most used snowmobile/multi-use trails south of Caribou lake: McNeil Canyon Trail, Eagle Lake/Caribou Lake Trail, Mathews Hill Trail, Watermelon Trail. The 100 yard setback was proposed by trappers when we met last April 2022 to find a workable solution to the growing problem of pets getting caught in traps on popular trails near Homer. This is a reasonable guideline that allows the trappers to trap and at the same time allows the increased number of other trail users to pass without conflict along these popular public mapped trails. It gives a guideline for everyone, so both trappers and other users know what to expect on certain popular mapped trails in winter. I was with a group of skiers last spring and 2 different dogs were trapped along the Watermelon trail that day. It was a terrible experience for all involved. It would have been prevented if the traps were 100 yards away from this popular multi-use trail, since that is far enough away that a dog will most likely not smell the trap bait scent. These dogs were traveling along the trail with their owners and when they smelled the trap bait right alongside the trail, they veered off just a little to inspect the smell and were caught in the traps. If the traps had been 100 yd away from this popular multi-use trail this would not have happened. Recently at least 8 dogs have been caught in traps in the Homer outer area on these popular mapped trails including 3 dogs caught along the KNSC groomed ski trails that are marked as “dog friendly” ski trails. This proposal only includes the most popular mapped trails used by many Homer families and visitors. There are miles of other trails not listed on this proposal that trappers can use without a setback. Please support Proposal #147 to help prevent user conflicts with the increasing numbers of non-consumptive trail users on these most popular public mapped trails as indicated in proposal #147.

Kathy Sarns Irwin
Homer Alaska

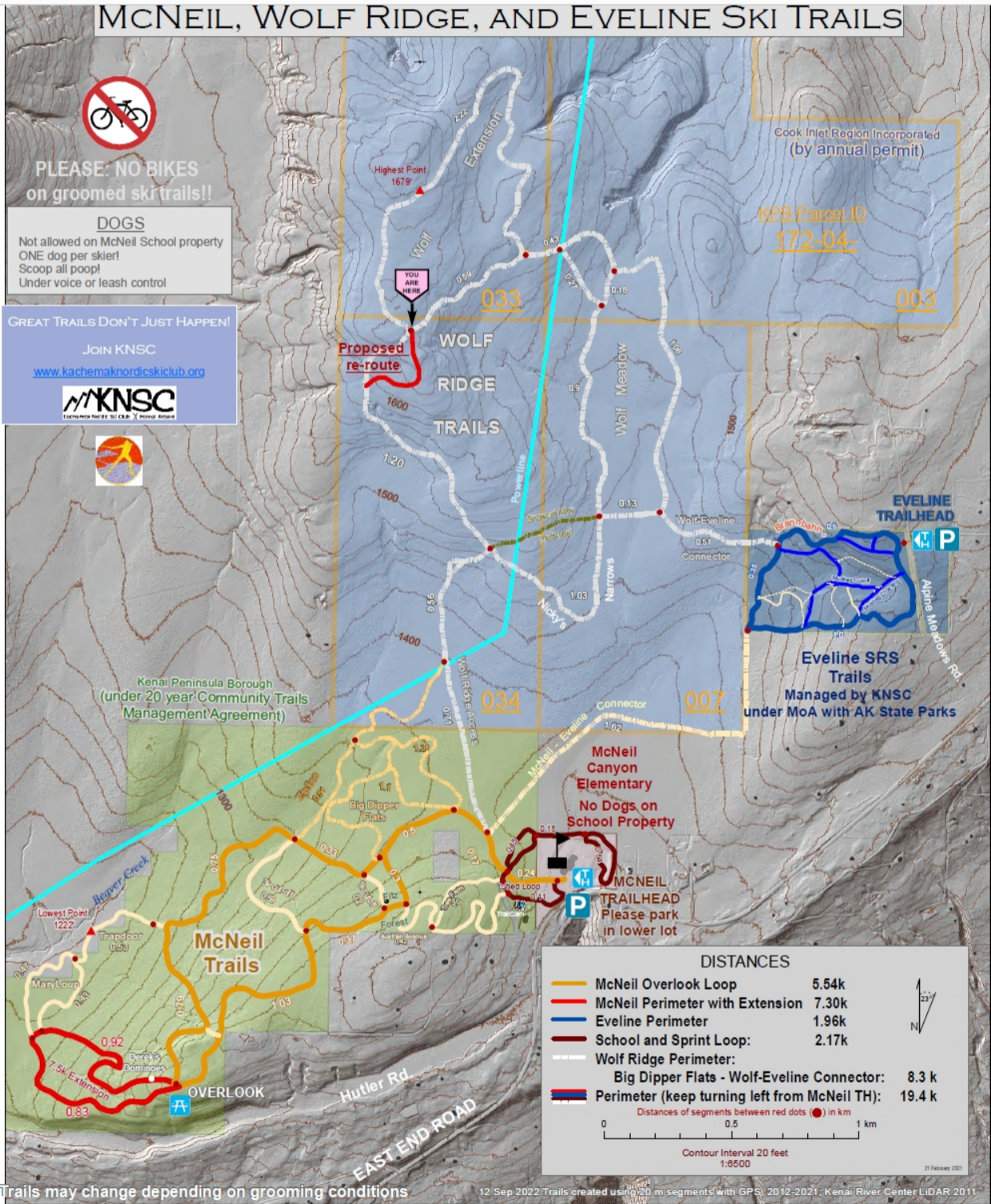
I support Propositions #146

Every winter 100s of families travel across Kachemak Bay by water taxi to ski on or to visit Grewingk Lake (in Kachemak Bay State Park). Families with pets hike on the Glacier Lake Trail and Saddle trail. Having a 100 yd setback along these 2 popular mapped trails would be a common sense regulation to prevent user conflicts and heartache for winter park visitors. The use of these 2 trails by hikers, skiers, snowshoers is growing every winter. There are many other miles of KBSP trails that are not in this proposal, so this 100 yd setback for only the most popular trails would not cause an inconvenience for trappers. Also The Diamond Ridge trails on Homer side of the Bay (in Kachemak Bay State park) are used by hundreds of local Homer and visiting cyclists, runners, snowshoers, & runners, with dogs by their side. Please support Proposal #146 for 100yd setbacks to prevent conflicts with the the growing number of multi-use trail users on these 3 most popular public mapped trails in Kachemak Bay State Park.

Kathy Sarns Irwin
Homer Alaska



Prop #147 DETAILED MAPS of 4 areas from Kachemak Nordic Ski Trails area map:



LOOKOUT TRAILS

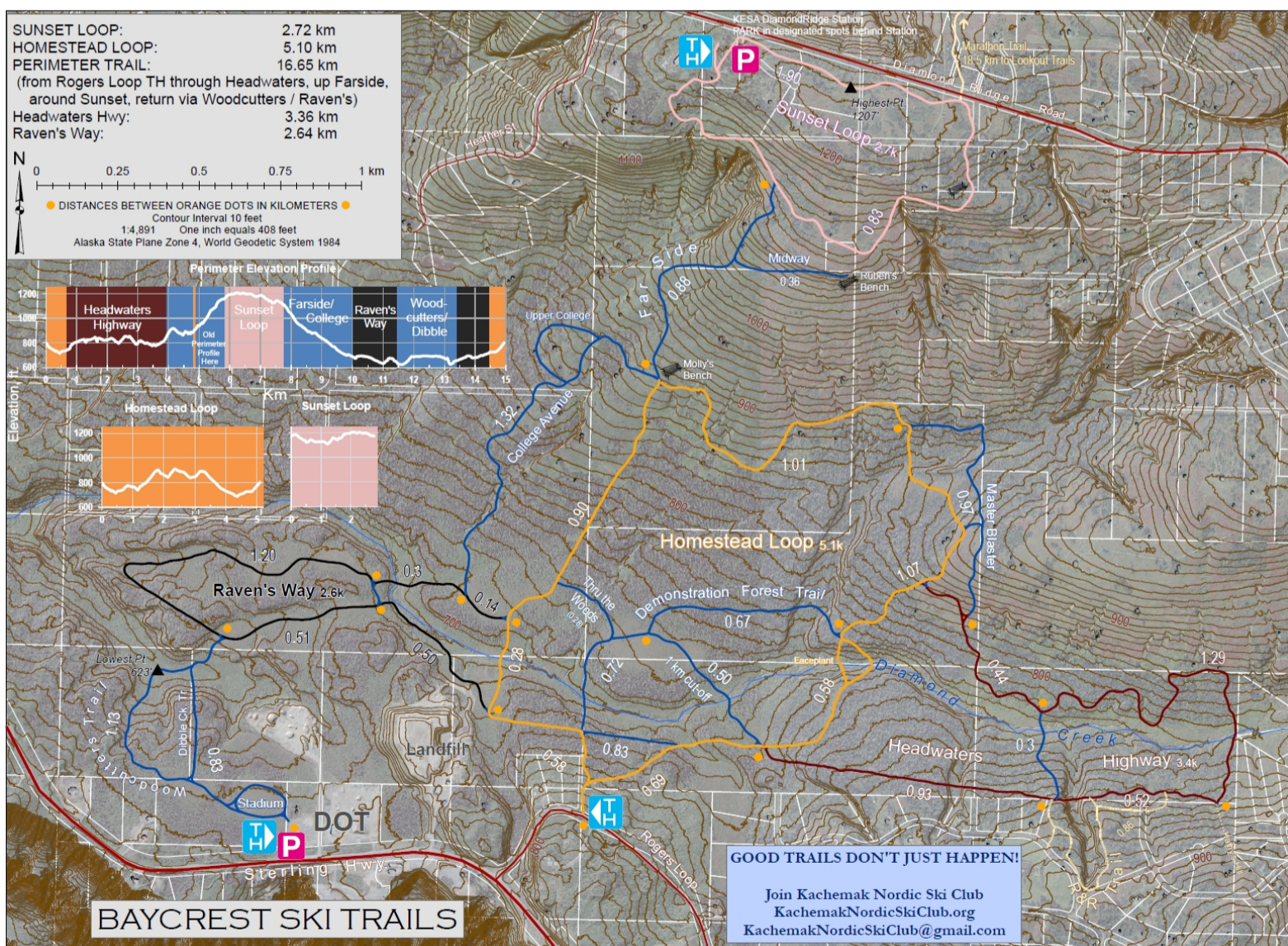
Kachemak Nordic Ski Club X Homer Alaska
Kachemaknordicskiclub.org

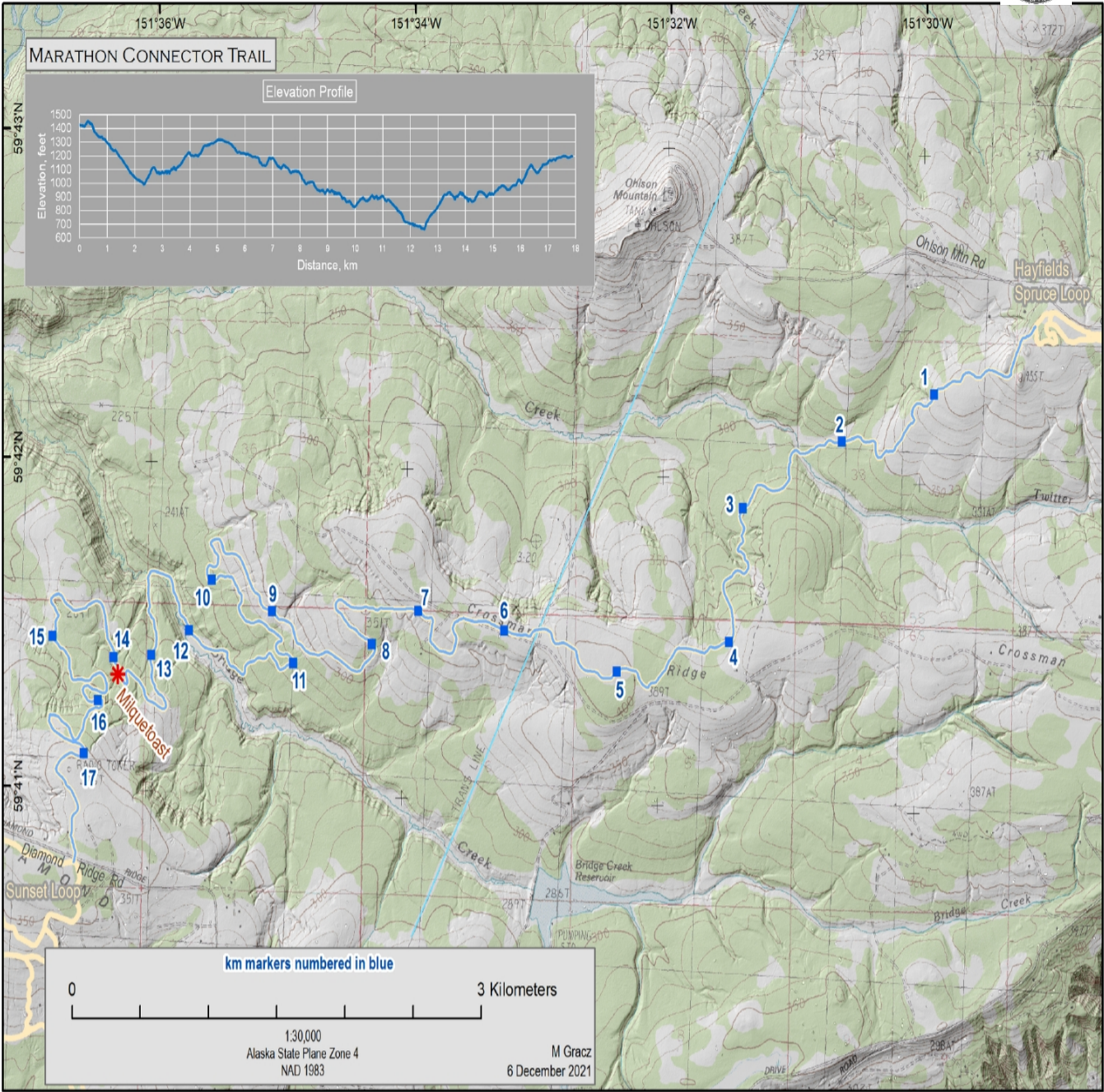
Trail land ownership and management

- Kenai Borough CTMA
- Private
- FAA Outgrant

Hayfields: filed for DNR trail easement

Distances between orange dots in meters
 Contour Interval 10 feet
 1: 6,000 One inch equals 500 feet
 Alaska State Plane Zone 4, World Geodetic System 1984







Submitted by: Kathy Sarns Irwin

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer Alaska

Comment:

Recommended Amendment for #147:

As one of the authors of #147, I conferred with the other individual author and propose the following recommended amendment to #147:

Please REMOVE the word “Snomad” from Proposal #147 and REPLACE “Snomad” with the names of 4 snowmobile/multi-use public mapped trails south of Caribou lake.

1. McNeil Canyon Trail
2. Eagle Lake/Caribou Lake Trail
3. Mathews Hill Trail
4. Watermelon Trail.

The suggested revised language for amended #147 is on attached PDF.

Reason for suggested amendment for #147: the Snomads Inc non profit club asked the authors of #147 to remove the word Snomad from proposal #147. When proposal #147 was endorsed by Homer AC vote 10-2 in April 2022, “Snomad trails” was chosen at the Homer AC meeting because the term “Snomad Trails” is commonly used by Homer residents in reference to the mapped snowmobile/multi-use public trails that are part of Alaska DNR Snowmobile/multi-use Trail Grant Program in South Caribou Hills. We now understand Snomads concern that the word “Snomad” in proposal #147 (inadvertently) implies that Snomads Inc non profit helped create proposal #147, even though they are not the authors of #147. Snomads Inc non profit only maintains these trails and pointed out that calling them Snomad trails is incorrect and instead suggested using the trails' proper names. In the spirit of cooperation and for better clarification, we request to remove the word Snomad from the language in #147 and replace it with the specific names of 4 popular mapped multi-use trails south of Caribou Lake: 1. McNeil Canyon Trail, 2. Eagle Lake/Caribou Lake Trail, 3. Mathews Hill Trail, 4. Watermelon Trail. (Maps are attached in PDF)

As the author of prop #147 we are also adding maps for #147 see attachment

SEE ATTACHED PDF CONTAINING:

1. Suggested updated language for amended Proposal #147 (removing word Snomad from prop #147)
2. #147 MAP1 of Kachemak Nordic Ski Trails area mapped public Ski Trails (Homer residents and visitors and general public can easily find KNSC maps and download online.)
3. #147 MAP2 of public multi-use trails south of Caribou Lake: (produced by Seismic Source) showing the 4 trails highlighted in proposal #147,(this map is available for purchase by the public)
4. my support for Proposal #146
5. my support for Proposal #147
6. #147 four detailed maps of each of the 4 areas on the Kachemak Nordic Ski trails area map, that are groomed and are open to the public.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support with Amendment



PC292

Submitted by: Mary Schallert

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: anchorage alaska

Comment:

I support all proposed trap set backs from trails, beaches, roads, campsites and recreational areas in Cooper Landing and Homer. I also totally support setbacks from the underpasses for wildlife on the new bypass. This is an issue that needs to be resolved for the safety and harmonious usage of these multi-use areas.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support



PC293

Submitted by: Mark Schollenberger

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

Hello , I'm in full support of proposals 146 and 147. There should be a 100 yard setback from all trails and roads on the Kenai peninsula. Skiers, snowshoers bikers and hikers, who pursue these activities with their dogs, clearly outnumber trappers. It's not unreasonable to require traps to be set back 100 yards. It's a fair compromise.

Respectfully,

Mark Schollenberger

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support



Submitted by: Thomas Schwantes

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

I strongly support passage of Proposal 76.

My desire is to reduce the number of human/bear conflicts, to reduce property damage for Kodiak area residents, and to avoid future injury and/or loss of life.

See my comments in the attached PDF.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 76: Support



March 3, 2023

Comments to the Alaska Board of Game

Submitted by: Thomas L. Schwantes

**Re: Proposal 76, Unit 8, Kodiak Island
Strongly support this proposal**

I live with my wife, Lila, in Bells Flats, Kodiak, Alaska, on a one-acre lot in a large residential area near the head of Woman's Bay. This is approximately 12.5 miles from the City of Kodiak and in close proximity to the U. S. Coast Guard Base.

We have lived in this home for 43 years and plan to live here the rest of our days.

For the first 20-25 years that we lived here we never saw a bear in the area, let alone had one on our property. During the past 10-15 years, however, the bear population has increased at an alarming rate, and now we see bear in this area on a near-daily basis. This occurs from early spring through hibernation time, which can be late on the Island depending on how mild of a winter we are having.

We have gardened here for 43 years and have had compost piles and compost bins near the garden every year. We have never had a bear get into our compost, yet we have been told by a local biologist that we are attracting the bears with our composting.

In March of 2016 a bear tore down our 2-car garage door and got into a chest freezer inside the garage. There was no garbage in the garage to attract the bear and we were told by a biologist from ADF&G that ours was the seventh home that bear had broken into. The other six homes were in Nemetz Park Coast Guard housing. Each home had a garage attached with a freezer inside. That bear broke into another home at the top of our hill the very next evening by pushing the front door in.

In 2020 I had to put down two aggressive bears to protect myself and my wife. We were repeatedly and aggressively approached by two bears while harvesting apples in our back yard. I was 71 and recovering from double knee replacement at the time, and not particularly mobile when these bears approached and continued advancing within 35 feet, disregarding our repeated yelling, use of a loud whistle and all the while showing no fear of us. During the subsequent investigation we were told by a biologist from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that we were 'baiting the bears by growing apples.' We were also told that it was probably not safe to go in our back yard without bear spray.



This past summer we had numerous problems with bears coming into our yard, tearing down branches from our Mountain Ash trees to feed on the berries. We have worked hard over the past forty years to plant and care for these 17 trees, but it is only in the past three years that these trees have had any damage from bear (except for one incident ten years ago). This past year, 2022, every single tree was damaged by bear.

This past August my wife went to scatter some clover seed in the back yard. She came back in shortly, as white as a ghost and told me that there was a bear in the back yard below the garden. I decided to go have a look and try to chase it off. As I got to the back door, the thought came to me that I had better take a gun with me just in case. I got a shotgun and headed out to try to chase the bear away. But I did not see the bear where Lila said she had seen it, so I moved to a lower portion of the yard, much closer to the house, but still not seeing it. I did, however, see some tall grass and brush moving approximately thirty feet from where I was standing and believed that it might be a bear. In an attempt to scare it off I started to holler, but I had just opened my mouth when a large bear charged. I instinctively fired and the bear dropped six feet (literally) from where I stood. Instantly a second bear appeared and charged me. I fired and killed the second bear as well. The second bear dropped twenty four feet from where I stood. **There is no doubt in my mind if I hadn't taken the gun with me that morning I would have been mauled, and very possibly killed.**

Recently a small home in the Flats was broken into at night while [REDACTED] and his family were sleeping inside. Fortunately, Aaron had a firearm and was able to shoot the bear **inside the house** before he, his wife or children were attacked.

[REDACTED] just lost her golden lab to a bear attack in her Dark Lake residential neighborhood in February 2023.

[REDACTED] was mauled while hiking with his dog on a trail near Crescent Lake a few years back.

[REDACTED] was mauled while running on a popular trail two or three years ago. The sow mauled him and then left him only to return again. There is little doubt if he hadn't had bear spray with him to fend her off when she returned he may well have been killed.

These are events that have all been reported in the Kodiak Daily Mirror, and I know there have been others which I don't recall the details of probably because I didn't know the individual involved.

People in the community no longer feel safe letting their children play outside without close supervision. Some no longer feel safe going for their morning and evening walks



for fear of running into a sow with cubs or any bear for that matter. People don't feel safe in their own yards, nor do they feel safe allowing their children to walk to and from the school bus stops.

A friend of ours teaches at Petersen Elementary. She related one day that there was another teacher who wanted to take her students on a field trip, but when they were getting ready to leave, they saw three bears outside of the school. Consequently all outdoor activities were cancelled, and parents had to come to school to pick up their kids. Similar events have occurred on other occasions, she said.

Last summer I was working on a project in the yard and had four other guys helping clear brush when a sow with two cubs approached. All of us had to go quickly into the house, and I had to go out and fire warning shots so we could continue with our project.

Usually on any morning in the summer you can watch bears on the beach from the highway on Woman's Bay. Bear viewing has become a very popular pastime, and also a Trooper's headache because of traffic hazards; as pictures #3 and #4 indicate, clearly becoming a danger to bear viewers as they don't realize the harm they may be putting themselves in. The bears have become comfortable and unafraid being around people.

One morning last spring on KMXT Radio, the announcer was telling the public that there was a bear near East Elementary School, so parents and students could be aware. A few minutes later, they were announcing that a bear had been sighted swimming over to Near Island, and people were being warned, as the park on Near Island is a popular place for people to walk in the mornings.

This is just a handful of incidents I've shared. There are many, many stories of bears breaking into dumpsters, breaking into cars, charging vehicles, and even bears all over in the downtown areas. Last summer there was a sow with cubs in the parking lot of the US Post Office in the middle of town, in the middle of the day.

This is causing a huge drain on our police/ public safety agencies when they have plenty to do without dealing with these problems.

These bears are being managed for the guides, outfitters and the tourists, who all want to take or see more bears respectively. There is **LITTLE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS WHO LIVE HERE.**

Governor Dunleavy is encouraging Alaskans to grow more food to help us become more self-reliant and to help others obtain fresh, nutritious food. We all know how the shelves in our stores can be pretty low at times. We are told, however, by our local



biologist that when we try to grow fruit trees and berries, that we are attracting the bears.

For these and other reasons too numerous to mention, and in talking to people in our community, I find that many are having the same problems we are having and share the same feelings that I have.

There are simply too many bears. I believe the bear population has increased so much that they are being pushed by competition out of the rivers into residential areas in search of food. Regardless of the reason, the population has gotten totally out of control, and it is only a matter of time before someone else gets mauled or even killed.

Lila grew up in Kodiak and recalls as a youngster there were no bears in the areas surrounding the City of Kodiak, and there were no bear problems until about 10-15 years ago. 2022 was a record year for bear problems--no previous year even comes close.

We strongly urge the passage of Proposal 76 to extend the road system bear season, with the goal of reducing human/bear conflict and property damage in the residential Kodiak areas. It may not solve all our bear problems, but we believe it will help.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Schwantes
Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers (retired)



1) Our garage door destroyed by a bear on March 12, 2016.



2) Eleven bear on the beach at the head of Woman's Bay, Summer 2022



3) People watching bear near Russian River Bridge on the bank of Woman's Bay.



4) Tourists at the head of Woman's Bay watching a sow, not realizing the cubs were right behind them.





Submitted by: Matt Scott

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I am commenting in support of proposals 146 and 147. Asking for a setback is extremely reasonable. No one is asking for trapping to cease. Furthermore,

these very small areas being considered; hardly a comparison to the vastness of the Alaska backcountry still available to the trappers. Requiring minimal trapping setbacks in multi-use areas is not “anti-trapping” rather it is a “Safe Trails” issue. There’s plenty of room for both pursuits to exist.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support



Submitted by: Evelyn Seguela

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, Alaska

Comment:

Hello, I would like to be on record as supporting both proposals 146 and 147 which ask for a 100 yard setback for traplines from multiuse public trails around our area. We live out East Road in Homer and use McNeil and Evaline ski /hike trails often and love to take our dog along so would be sad to have to deal with a dog in a leghold trap! Thanks so much! Evelyn

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support

Cooper Landing, AK Trap Setbacks



PC 297

I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (the Cooper Landing area). I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

There are multiple proposals for trap setbacks or trap signage in the Cooper Landing area. **Please select the proposals that you are in support of (select all that apply).**

If there is more than one person in your household, please have each person submit their comments separately. You can copy this, or contact cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com for extra forms.

☐ **# 145 Wildlife Crossings:** ¼ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass

☒ **#149 Campgrounds:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.

☒ **# 150 Roads and pullouts:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the the pullouts listed: Quartz Creek Road, East Quartz Creek and Williams Road, Old Sterling Highway, Snug Harbor Road, Bean Creek Road, Russian Gap Road, and all pullouts along the Sterling Highway. AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.

☒ **#151 Summit Recreation:** Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Japan Woods area, Tenderfoot Campground ski area, Park-N-Poke area, and Manitoba Mountain.

☒ **#152 Trails:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the following trailheads: Crescent Creek Trail, Lower Russian Lake Trail, Bean Creek Trail, Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail, Resurrection Trail (South End), West Juneau Bench Trail, Devil's Pass Ski Loops, and Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.

☒ **#153 Beaches:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.

☒ **# 154 Signage:** Establishing mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the Game Unit 7 area to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups.

Other areas setback proposals:

☐ **#146 Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park:** Establish 100 yard trapping setback from the Diamond Creek Trail, the Grewingk Saddle Trail.

☒ **#147 Ski Trails in Homer:** Establish 100 yard setback from the Snowmad Trails and the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails

☒ **# 148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100 yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.

Comments:



PC 297

Trapping is essential to the livelihood of many Alaskans. This is not an anti-trapping initiative.

These proposed changes only enhance the safety or perceived safety of multiple users.

These are good ideas!


(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)*: BRUCE SERVICE

Organization (if any) N/A

Signature*: 

Email* 

Street Address 

City*: Copper Landing State*: AK Zip code: 99507

*indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.

↑
That's not a R.



Submitted by: Heather Shank

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Seward, AK

Comment:

I am writing in support of proposals 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, and 154. I support the proposed 100-yard setbacks in these popular multi-use recreational areas. I feel that these proposals are reasonable and will go a long ways towards reducing user conflict.

This 100 yard setback would not pose an undue burden on trappers as they will be able to continue to trap on most public lands. Having to travel the additional length of a football field to their trapline is minor.

However, these 100 yard setbacks would go a long way to ensure that other users (non-trappers) are able to use and enjoy these popular trails and areas with peace of mind.

I also support mandatory signage for traplines. I would like to be aware of trapping and therefore be able to protect my pets and children by either deciding to recreate elsewhere or keep them on a leash (the pets, not kids :).

I have been a year-round resident of Alaska since 1995, essentially my entire adult life. Like many Alaskans, most of my recreation involves our great outdoors. While I don't trap and hunt I respect those who do, and believe that most are ethical. With that said, I strongly believe that the referenced proposals are necessary.

A year ago I had the unfortunate experience of watching a friend's dog die in a conibear trap as we frantically and unsuccessfully tried to free her. I would greatly appreciate being able to hike and ski on local trails without worrying about a repeat of that awful day.

Thank you for considering and hopefully supporting these proposals.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support



Submitted by: Bob Shavelson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

Please adopt proposals 145-154 regarding trapping near public access and use areas. Traps near these areas present unreasonable risks to kids and pets, and it's just common sense to provide some setbacks to promote public safety.

Thank you.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 148: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support

Cooper Landing, AK Trap Setbacks



PC 300

I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Unit 7 (the Cooper Landing area). I believe the proposed are reasonable setbacks to maintain safe recreation for trail users and their pets.

There are multiple proposals for trap setbacks or trap signage in the Cooper Landing area.

Please select the proposals that you are in support of (select all that apply).

If there is more than one person in your household, please have each person submit their comments separately. You can copy this, or contact cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com for extra forms.

- ☒ **# 145 Wildlife Crossings:** ¼ mile hunting and trapping buffers from mouths of new highway wildlife crossings on the upcoming Cooper Landing bypass
- ☒ **#149 Campgrounds:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, Russian River, and Cooper Creek (North and South) campgrounds, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **# 150 Roads and pullouts:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the the pullouts listed: Quartz Creek Road, East Quartz Creek and Williams Road, Old Sterling Highway, Snug Harbor Road, Bean Creek Road, Russian Gap Road, and all pullouts along the Sterling Highway. AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **#151 Summit Recreation:** Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Japan Woods area, Tenderfoot Campground ski area, Park-N-Poke area, and Manitoba Mountain.
- ☒ **#152 Trails:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the following trailheads: Crescent Creek Trail, Lower Russian Lake Trail, Bean Creek Trail, Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail, Resurrection Trail (South End), West Juneau Bench Trail, Devil's Pass Ski Loops, and Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **#153 Beaches:** Establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake, AND 2) a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes.
- ☒ **# 154 Signage:** Establishing mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the Game Unit 7 area to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups.

Other areas setback proposals:

- ☒ **#146 Trails in Kachemak Bay State Park:** Establish 100 yard trapping setback from the Diamond Creek Trail, the Grewingk Saddle Trail.
- ☒ **#147 Ski Trails in Homer:** Establish 100 yard setback from the Snowmad Trails and the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails
- ☒ **# 148 Seward Trails:** Establish a 100 yard trapping setback from trails in Seward.



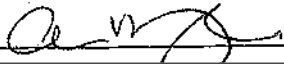
We have a cabin on Snug Harbor Road in Cooper Landing. We also have always had dogs. We have had this cabin for 20 years. We are always concerned about our dogs getting caught in a trap anytime we hike, bike or snowshoe around the trails and lake. We approve all the measures and would even love to see even larger buffer areas!

Thank you - Mark + Andrea
Silverman

(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)*: Andrea Silverman

Organization (if any) _____

Signature*: 

Email*: 

Street Address: 

City*: Anchorage

State*: AK

Zip code: 99507

*indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.