



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

February 18, 2022

Re: Comments to the Board of Game

Dear Chairman Burnett and Board of Game Members,

As you know, Kodiak's bear management system for the last 40+ years has been a huge success. It is a somewhat complex, intricate system developed over time that you must be careful changing. For this reason **I am opposed to proposals 78, 79 and 80.**

Proposal 79: require all hunters to apply for permit hunts and pay the application fee during the application period

- Only some of the draw permits on Kodiak are available due to the alternate list. Many areas have alternates drawn.
- Due to the nuances of the Federal Land Use Policy, the permits referred to as "not applied for" **are** utilized, but not drawn.
- The guided component of the Kodiak management system is key in the ability to have a consistent harvest and comprised of adult boars along with a low harvest of sows.
- This provision was put in place so that the non-resident bear tags would be filled to assist with management and the Kodiak system allows guides to fill hunts with "over-the-counter" tags,
- The current non-resident tag policy promotes easily managed biological sustainability and economic stimulus for Kodiak and the State.
- State constitution mandates that wildlife will be utilized for "maximum benefit for its people." The Kodiak Brown Bear is a "non-meat animal", thus it is not managed to maximize as a food source. Therefore, priority management is for economic and intrinsic value. "For the maximum benefit of the people" should thus involve a high percentage of nonresident guided hunters which clearly maximizes the economic value of the Kodiak bear.
- application fee lost (\$5) is infinitesimal in comparison to Non resident lic/tag fee (\$1160) matched three fold by PR funds (totaling \$4640/tag) plus a major loss of business to state and local economies , if these permits sit unused.
- Any management change can and will have a trickle effect with multiple and potentially lasting biological consequences.
- This is very important tool of the BOG and the Department
- Due to Federal selection system, areas having only one guide will have no alternates as guides can only sign contracts for the applicants to apply for the draw up to the number of permits available. If someone cancels, permit will sit idle.



- Proposer has problems with guides “taking permits off the table”. Guides are extremely knowledgeable of the areas they work. Probably more so than the ADF&G or USFWS. In fact, ADF&G and the USFWS have started a “citizen science” program asking guides to document sightings to assist them with management.
- Additionally, under Federal guidelines, guides are **required** to “assure a reasonable chance of success” and **must not** take the maximum number of permit holders allowed if needed to assure this.

Proposal 79: Transfer under-subscribed non-resident brown bear permits for unit 8 to the resident allocation

- All of the reasons listed above for proposal 78
- Would negate current system where ADF&G knows some permits will be unused and sets numbers accordingly
- It will start to negate historical harvest data and current management plan
- Increased biological concerns with resident higher rate of sow harvest

Proposal 80: Adjust the allocation of Unit 8 non-resident Brown Bear Permits to be not more than 35% in any hunt.

- Current system looks at Island wide %'s and not individual area
- Bear density different in different areas
- Other factors used: access to an area, areas around villages to reduce population, etc.
- Numbers have been in place since 1976 and it is working great

I am in favor of Proposal 81: Require all snares on Kodiak Road System to include breakaways

- The BOG has traditionally sided with the Alaska Trappers Association with not enacting any safety measures for wildlife and domestic animals, instead trying to use education. ATA has not provided any help as promised and it's time to be responsible and ethical and start to protect these animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns and I would like to thank you all for giving your time for the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

*Paul A. Chervenak*

Paul A. Chervenak



PC052

**Submitted by:** Dorothy Childers

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Indian, AK

**Comment:**

Proposal 98 - Brown bear hunt in Unit 14C, Rainbow Creek drainage

I urge the Board of Game to oppose proposal 98. I am a longtime resident of Rainbow Valley and I use the park year round for hiking, berry picking, and snow shoeing. Opening the narrow valley to a bear hunt would present a clear safety burden for people who use the area and for Rainbow Valley residents, including families with children. Having hunters navigating the private property boundary in the Rainbow Creek drainage would result in confusion and likely conflict. A hunt in this drainage would go against the Chugach State Park's management and purpose.

Proposal 103 - Establish a bear bait hunt for black and brown bears, Unit 14C McHugh Creek drainage

I urge the Board of Game to oppose proposal 103. It's hard to imagine a more dangerous proposition given the heavy recreational use of the McHugh Creek drainage. As a resident of Rainbow Valley, the prospect of bear baiting in the adjacent valley is very alarming. This is clearly not consistent with the management and purpose of this area of the park.

*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:*

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PC053

**Submitted by:** Bradley Christensen

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Anchorage, AK

**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 64: Support with Amendment Proposal 81: Support with Amendment Proposal 104: Oppose  
Proposal 145: Oppose Proposal 146: Oppose Proposal 147: Oppose Proposal 148: Oppose Proposal 149: Oppose Proposal  
150: Oppose Proposal 151: Oppose Proposal 152: Oppose Proposal 153: Oppose Proposal 154: Oppose Proposal 155:  
Oppose Proposal 156: Oppose Proposal 157: Support with Amendment Proposal 158: Support Proposal 159: Oppose  
Proposal 160: Oppose

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## South Central Region B.O.G Proposals 2023

### PROPOSAL 81

#### **Require all snares set on the Kodiak road system to include breakaway mechanisms.**

-I am hesitant to support this proposal as written. Break away devices (BAD's) are known to be finicky when it comes to measurable release poundage and it takes an above average snare builder to get consistent results with them. Should you find this proposal favorable, I would suggest foregoing any language about anchor strength or maximum release poundages due to enforceability issues. The below paper has excellent information regarding snares and break away devices.

[https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/5515/2002/6134/Modern\\_Snares\\_final.pdf](https://www.fishwildlife.org/application/files/5515/2002/6134/Modern_Snares_final.pdf)

### PROPOSAL 64

#### **Change the minimum jaw spread for trapping land otter in Unit 6 as follows: from 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ " to 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ "**

-I maintain a neutral stance on this proposal. I will note that should you allow the smaller foot hold traps to be used, it would be wise to create provisions for body grip traps. Here is the language I would propose using: "When trapping river otter in units where the mink and marten seasons are closed, you must use either a snare or a killer- style (body-grip) trap with an inside jaw spread of 6  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or greater, or a steel trap (foothold) with an inside jaw spread of 5  $\frac{1}{8}$ " or greater."

### PROPOSAL 104

#### **Close Chugach State Park and Glacier Creek drainage in Unit 14C to lynx hunting and trapping**

-I am opposed to this proposal. Much of this area resides inside of the Anchorage Closed Area already. Further this proposal ignores the naturally occurring extreme population cycles and ability to range over enormous distances that are inherent with lynx. With this in mind, it is a stretch to say that hunting and trapping play much, if any role in reducing viewing opportunities for these naturally elusive creatures in this area. By removing the ability to hunt and trap lynx in this area, you may inhibit the ability of the department to manage the social carrying capacity, especially during the peaks of the lynx cycle.

### PROPOSAL 145

#### **Close areas to hunting and trapping within 1/4 mile of parts of the Sterling Highway in Units 7 and 15.**

-I am opposed to this proposal. The structures mentioned in this proposal have yet to be built and the project is still several years out from completion. Since the structures do not currently exist, there is no issue. Further, there is no demonstrable data to support that trapping and hunting within a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of these five planned structures will have a detrimental effect on the local wildlife populations.

**PROPOSALS 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153****Establish trapping setbacks along trails, trailheads and pullouts in Units 7 and 15.**

-I wholeheartedly oppose all of the above proposals related to trapping setbacks. These continue to be a one sided “solution” to a two sided problem. Proposal 146’s author makes the point that *“Other considerations, including appropriate signage warning park users of traps during trapping seasons, would help avoid conflicts but is labor intensive and requires funding which is currently not available. Requiring park visitors to have their dogs on a leash during trapping season is another option. Skiing and snowshoeing with a dog on a leash is difficult and is not adhered to”*. In short, since other user groups would fail to follow regulations and other options are labor intensive, financially burdensome and *“regulation enforcement is difficult at best”*, trappers need to carry all of the burden and be excluded from the use of public land. These proposals would also greatly reduce trapping opportunities that pose little to no danger to domestic dogs such as submerged, elevated, under ice and enclosed traps. A better alternative would be for all user groups to follow the trappers’ lead and work to educate the public about being responsible and respectful multi-users of Alaska’s trails.

**PROPOSAL 154****Require signs be posted at all active trapping access points in Unit 7**

-I oppose this proposal. While “active trapline” signage along personal traplines is encouraged. “Active trapline” signs on multi-use trails could create conflict where there currently is none. For instance, if there are only marten and ermine sets set along a multi use trail, there is little to no danger to domestic dogs, but by signing the trail, users are now actively looking for sets. This could lead to tampering and theft as well as added undue stress to the non trapping public about a non issue. Advisory signage like the one’s the ATA has posted are a much better alternative. They remind all user groups, trappers and pet owners alike, to be respectful of one another and to be responsible in their trail use.

**PROPOSAL 155****Close Unit 15C to beaver trapping**

-I oppose this proposal unless biologically necessary. I would defer to the Department biologist to make an educated estimate of the beaver population and the impact regulated trapping harvest is having on said population. Moving the start of beaver season from Oct. 15 back to Nov. 10 would be a preferable alternative. By eliminating the early open water season the take would be reduced while still allowing a trapping season.

**PROPOSAL 156****Close beaver trapping in the Anchor River and Deep Creek Drainages in Unit 15C for six years**

-I oppose this proposal unless biologically necessary. I would defer to the Department biologist to make an educated estimate of the beaver population and the impact regulated trapping harvest is having on said population. Moving the start of beaver season from Oct. 15 back to Nov. 10 would be a preferable alternative. By eliminating the early open water season the take would be reduced while still allowing a trapping season.

**PROPOSAL 157****Shorten beaver trapping seasons in Unit 7 from Oct. 15 to Nov. 1**

-I support this proposal. I would amend it to push the season start date back to Nov. 10. Though there may not be a large decline in the overall beaver population in unit 7, there seems to be a localized decline in many of the most accessible areas of the unit. By essentially eliminating the early open water season, beaver populations should begin to rebound in these areas.

**PROPOSAL 158****Shorten the coyote trapping season in Unit 7 and 15 from Oct. 15 to Nov. 10**

-I support this proposal. By aligning the coyote season with the start of the rest of the general season, it will reduce some confusion by the non trapping public as to the start of "trapping season" and help reduce user conflict. This proposal will, to a small degree, help alleviate incidental take, though the lynx season in units 7 and 15 doesn't open until January 1 so this should not be used as the primary means of justification of this proposal's passage.

**PROPOSAL 159****Lengthen wolverine hunting season in unit 7 and 15 from Sept. 1 to Aug. 10**

-I oppose this proposal unless deemed biologically necessary by the department. I would defer to Department biologists on the impact wolverines are having on sheep and goat populations during this time. Trapping should remain the primary management tool for wolverines. The taking of wolverine in August may have an adverse effect on population recruitment due to kits still being dependent on their mothers at the time. Further, there is no prohibition on the taking of females or females with offspring in the hunting regulations regarding wolverine.

**PROPOSAL 160****Limit beaver trapping to one set per lodge in unit 7 and 15**

-I oppose this proposal unless the department deems it biologically necessary. Moving the start of beaver season from Oct. 15 back to Nov. 10 would be the preferable alternative. By eliminating the early open water season. The take would be reduced while still allowing a trapping season.



**Submitted by:** Sue Christiansen

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer

**Comment:**

Please support proposals 145,146,and 147

Requiring minimal trapping setbacks in multi-use areas will provide you with overwhelming support. Who doesn't want their dog to be with them safely outside?

99.6% of Alaskans do not trap and travel on recreational trails with their pets. Please serve these individuals, as well as trappers as the Alaskan Constitution dictates. It only takes 2 minutes to walk 100 yards and a trapper could very easily access these traps if on a snow machine.

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We don't have data on populations or harvest of sea ducks in our local area. I have seen the numbers of sea ducks radically decline since the 1970s. Many of Alaska's sea ducks do not go down to the Lower 48 to nest, where Pacific Flyway surveys are conducted. Our birds go up to Alaska's northern boreal forests and deltas to lay their eggs, and they don't get counted.

According to a study published in Science Magazine, there has been a 30% decline in the number of birds since 1970. Unless you take some action there is no expectation that this trend will slow or reverse. As a decision maker, your choices will impact the ability of your grandchildren and great grandchildren to be able to appreciate these birds.

90% of Cook Inlet Sea Ducks overwinter in Kachemak Bay. Sea ducks have site fidelity. They return to the same place every year. Kachemak Bay is the easiest place in Alaska to hunt ducks. There is so much we don't know. Why not do our best to increase populations? Populations will not recover from consecutive years of over-harvest—high site-fidelity and low reproduction rate. Please support 164, 166, 169, 171. Thank you.

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According to Alaska Statute 16.20.510 and the Alaska Constitution 5AAC95.610 as Board Members your priority is to encourage rehabilitation of depleted wildlife populations. It is too early to open Ptarmigan hunting up! Please maintain our current ptarmigan season and bag limit north of K-Bay in 15C. Being an "old timer" I can testify to huge ptarmigan numbers compared to present numbers due to changes in hunting practices and easy access with snowmobiles. ADFG research has shown that any mortality on ptarmigan after mid-January is additive and could cause population declines. Bag limits have little effect as most hunters take an average of 3 birds/trip. So it is the number of hunters, timing of season, and access that really drives effects from hunting.

Ptarmigan on the Peninsula are finally starting to show some recovery. We are only starting to see them in some places where they once were. Just because they have been noticed again is not a good reason to go back to the regulations that made them essentially disappear. Most of the places we used to see them, the birds are still not there. Why not have Ptarmigan in good numbers for awhile? Please oppose 162 and 163!

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Please close beaver trapping in Unit 15C.

There are very few beaver around these days on the Kenai Peninsula. Please give beavers some time to replenish themselves down here...just a few years, get the population back up. Give trappers some beaver to catch.

This is an issue bigger than beaver trapping. Beavers are engineers in rewetting and recharging ground water, essential for our diminishing salmon. They also have a huge ability to restore drying peatlands, vital for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. We need them. If you close Diamond Creek and Anchor River areas with monitoring and a 6 year sunset clause, at least they will be able to repopulate in that area. and move around. Your job description defined by the Alaska Constitution (5AAC 95.610) and (AS 16.20.510) includes "encouraging rehabilitation of depleted wildlife populations". That would be beavers...here on the Kenai Peninsula. No one else has the power to increase their numbers. Please support 155 or at least 156.

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Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 155: Support with Amendment  
Proposal 156: Support Proposal 162: Oppose Proposal 163: Oppose Proposal 164: Support Proposal 166: Support  
Proposal 169: Support Proposal 171: Support

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## **CHUGACH STATE PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD**

18620 Seward Hwy, Anchorage, AK 99516 Phone: 907-345-5014 Fax: 907-345-6982

February 28, 2023

ADF&G Boards Support Section  
Attn: Board of Game Comments  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

### **Subject: 2022/2023 Board of Game Proposals**

I am writing on behalf of the Chugach State Park Citizen Advisory Board regarding regulatory proposals that will affect Chugach State Park. Please consider these comments during the upcoming Board of Game meeting.

The Chugach State Park Citizen Advisory Board assists park staff in an advisory role with park management and development issues. As an advisory board, our decisions are guided by the five primary purposes established in creating the park:

- 1) To protect and supply a satisfactory water supply for the use of the people;
- 2) To provide recreational opportunities for the people by providing areas for specified uses and constructing the necessary facilities in those areas;
- 3) To protect areas of unique and exceptional scenic value;
- 4) To provide areas for the public display of local wildlife; and
- 5) To protect the existing wilderness characteristics of the easterly interior area.

The 15 member advisory board is comprised of park users representing various interests ranging from backcountry skiers, hikers, hunters, bikers, horseback riding enthusiasts, as well as ATV and snowmachine users. At approximately 495,000 acres, Chugach State Park comprises nearly half of the Alaska Game Management Unit (GMU) 14C. With over 1.3 million visits to the park annually, we have an interest in Board of Game regulation changes that may affect park resources and visitors.

We have carefully reviewed the 2022/2023 Board of Game regulatory proposals that will affect the park's wildlife and users. Our recommendations and proposed amendments are included below. These proposals were discussed at length during our Wildlife subcommittee meeting on December 16th, 2022, and our regular board meeting held February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Additional amendments to this letter were needed after the February 13th meeting, and a final vote was provided via email with 13 votes in favor, none opposed and 2 member unavailable for a vote. Findings are included below for the Board of Game to review and consider.

**PROPOSAL 89** REAUTHORIZE THE ANTLERLESS MOOSE SEASONS IN UNIT 14C  
AS PROPOSED BY THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME.



**Amendment(s) Discussed:** None

**Recommendation:** Support

**Findings:** This hunt has proven to be an effective tool at managing the moose population within Unit 14C for a number of years. This proposal comes directly from the state's authority on wildlife management, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Requiring annual renewal of this hunt allows the Department of Fish and Game to closely regulate antlerless moose harvest quotas to keep the moose population within a sustainable number. Keeping the moose population at the desired population level within the subunit helps to avoid over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts, and the resulting die-offs from starvation.

**PROPOSAL 90** ESTABLISH A PRIMITIVE OR ANY WEAPONS HUNT FOR BLACK BEAR IN UNIT 14C, SOUTH FORK EAGLE RIVER: ALL DRAINAGES INTO SOUTH FORK EAGLE RIVER EXCLUDING AREA WITHIN ½ MILE OF DEVELOPED FACILITY.

**Amendment(s) Discussed:** None

**Recommendation:** Oppose.

**PROPOSAL 97** ESTABLISH A PRIMITIVE OR ANY WEAPONS HUNT FOR BROWN BEAR IN UNIT 14C, SOUTH FORK EAGLE RIVER: ALL DRAINAGES INTO SOUTH FORK EAGLE RIVER EXCLUDING AREA WITHIN ½ MILE OF DEVELOPED FACILITY.

**Amendment(s) Discussed:** None

**Recommendation:** Oppose.

**Findings:** One of the purposes for establishing Chugach State Park was to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife. Negative wildlife-human interactions are not common within the park, but public safety is a concern as visitors seek to view wildlife and use park resources for recreational pursuits. Most visitors seem to be aware of the potential threats that come with recreating alongside wildlife and encountering bears has not prevented most residents from using area parks and trails. Certain activities occurring within the park such as hunting have been the source of public contention over the years because of individual personal recreational perspectives. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation manages public safety as well as the land and recreation resources. Accessible, year-round recreation areas like the South Fork of Eagle River and the interconnected trail system of the West fork of Eagle River drainage have been historically set aside from the use and discharge of weapons for this purpose, and we believe the intent of this should be upheld. Authorizing a hunt in this drainage would go against the Chugach State Park's management and purpose.

**PROPOSAL 98** ESTABLISH A BROWN BEAR HUNT WITHIN UNIT 14C, RAINBOW CREEK: ALL DRAINAGES INTO RAINBOW CREEK EXCLUDING AREA WITHIN ½ MILE OF DEVELOPED FACILITY.

**Amendment(s) Discussed:** None



**Recommendation:** Oppose.

**Findings:** One of the purposes for establishing Chugach State Park was to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife. Negative wildlife-human interactions are not common within the park, but public safety is a concern as visitors seek to view wildlife and use park resources for recreational pursuits. Most visitors seem to be aware of the potential threats that come with recreating alongside wildlife and encountering bears has not prevented most residents from using area parks and trails. Certain activities occurring within the park such as hunting have been the source of public contention over the years because of individual personal recreational perspectives. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation manages public safety as well as the land and recreation resources. Accessible, year-round recreation areas like Rainbow Creek drainage have been historically set aside from the use and discharge of weapons for this purpose, and we believe this intent of this should be upheld. Authorizing a hunt in this drainage would go against the Chugach State Park's management and purpose.

In addition, the Board has considered concerns from the local Rainbow Valley residents who will be impacted by this proposal and are opposed to it. They cited numerous concerns including: hunters being unaware of property lines and therefore unable to stay outside of the required ¼ mile from a developed facility; hunters searching for boundary lines will lead to trespassing; rifle bullets traveling well beyond the ¼ mile boundary and pose a safety concern for families in the area; undue burden on residents to maintain safety and potential increased conflicts with hunters.

**PROPOSAL 103** ESTABLISH A BEAR BAIT HUNT FOR BLACK AND BROWN BEARS WITHIN UNIT 14C, MCHUGH CREEK DRAINAGE: STATION FOR BEAR BAITING MAY 1-JUNE 15; UP TO 6 CERTIFIED USERS BY REGISTRATION PERMIT.

**Amendment(s) Discussed:** None

**Recommendation:** Oppose.

**Findings:** This proposal is in direct conflict with 11 AAC 12.220(b), and 11 AAC 12.050(a). One of the purposes for establishing Chugach State Park was to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife. Negative wildlife-human interactions are not common within the park, but public safety is a concern as visitors seek to view wildlife and use park resources for recreational pursuits. Most visitors seem to be aware of the potential threats that come with recreating alongside wildlife and encountering bears has not prevented most residents from using area parks and trails. Certain activities occurring within the park such as hunting have been the source of public contention over the years because of individual personal recreational perspectives. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation manages public safety as well as the land and recreation resources. McHugh Creek is one of the most highly developed trailheads along Turnagain Arm and being a mere 20-minute drive from Anchorage, it consequently receives heavy use year-round especially in the spring with its southern exposure. Areas like McHugh Creek drainage have been set aside from the use and discharge of weapons for this purpose.

It would be very challenging for hunters to meet the required 1 mile from a recreational facility and ¼ mile setbacks (5 AAC 92.044) from a developed trail within the steep, mountainous, non-motorized McHugh Creek drainage. Since McHugh drainage is so narrow, it is likely the bait



station will lure bears toward a developed trail rather than away. Park regulations prohibit leaving bait station equipment in the field for extended amounts of time unattended.

Additionally, the Chugach State Park Citizen Advisory Board reviewed a similar proposal during the 2018/2019 Board of Game cycle for Unit 14C. On February 13th, 2019 the Board submitted a public comment unanimously opposing a proposal to establish a baited bear hunt, citing concerns regarding increased bear/human interactions, encouraging frequent visitation due to feeding, habituation to non-natural food sources, and development of social trails by hunters who frequent certain sites. The Board acknowledges that bear bait hunts have merit when done responsibly, but does not believe the circumstances have changed since opposition in 2019. The Board does not believe this proposal is in the best interest of all park users and its peripheral residents.

The Chugach State Park Citizen Advisory Board would also like to express general support for proposals that seek to expand and/or create new hunting opportunities for various user types, given the proposed changes do not directly conflict with park management or regulations, create safety concerns, or have significantly negative impacts on wildlife populations (per Alaska Department of Fish and Game) or existing historical uses in the park.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to review and submit comments on these proposals. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these recommendations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Trond B Jensen*

Trond Jensen  
Chair

cc: Ben Corwin, Chugach State Park Superintendent

Dave Battle, ADF&G



**Submitted by:** Kevin Clark

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Seward, AK

**Comment:**

I am a hunter/trapper from Seward, and I am writing to oppose proposals

#144,#146,#147,#148,#149,#150,#151,#152,#153,#154 on the grounds that they are an unnecessary infringement on hunter/trapper rights.

Over the past few years, we have seen these same proposals come up claiming that this will make trails more safe and will limit user conflict. And every time they come up the reasoning is always someone's dog got caught in a trap so therefore trappers need to be limited in where they can trap. That logic is flawed.

Here in Seward, there were two instances of dog catches in traps. Neither of which occurred on a state/federal maintained/established trail. One was an off leash dog that got caught in a wolverine set up snow river when a group of backcountry skiers decided to utilize a trappers trail to go up the frozen river bed. In that instance there were multiple off leash dogs that the owners did not have under control. In the the other instance there was a dog caught in a snare off the railroad tracks near Kenai Lake. Again it was an off leash dog accompanied be a walker on a trappers trails to their trap line.

The underlining issue in both these (and every other dog catch scenario) is the fact that irresponsible dog owners do not leash their animals, the animals go and hunt up trappers sets because of the lures that we use, the dog gets caught and the trappers get blamed.

These set backs, if passed, won't salve the issue that an off leash dog can still go hunt up a trap. From my perspective, all that this would do is open the door for further future setbacks, and ultimately an all out ban on trapping. Look at New Mexico or Colorado. Two states with a storied past rich with trapping culture, now reduced to laws and regulations that prevent you from even owning a trap. Do we want that here? Do we want to start the inevitable stripping of Alaskan's rights to continue in the culture of their forefathers? Most of these trails that the set backs are proposed on were kicked in by trappers. Are we really going to now kick them off their own trails?

The plain and simple facts are this. Since Alaska was founded as a state, dog owners, trappers, and hunters have coexisted without the need for drastic intervention in the form of restrictive regulations such as the set back proposals. All it takes is responsibility from all user groups. Trappers already have regulations that we are required to adhere to. Hunters do as well. From my perspective, the only user group that doesn't have regs that restrict their activities are the same ones calling for these set backs. How is this fair? That some users should be held to regulatory restrictions while others have none? And those with none can lobby to impose more restrictions on user groups that already have restrictions? Surely you can see the hypocrisy in this.

I implore you, the Board, to vote down all these measures. Keep Alaska's public land accessible and free of needless burden.

Thank You

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

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PC057

**Submitted by:** Jeff Collins**Organization Name:****Community of Residence:** homer**Comment:**

I have run into traps, some right on the trail, with no signage while skiing,when signage was present it was very general,traps in the area,stopped taking my dog to some areas long ago,setbacks are common sense measures,trappers should be in favor,good for the sport,catching dogs,Bad

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Proposal 145: Support Proposal 146: Support Proposal 147: Support



PC058

**Submitted by:** Bob Bourland**Organization Name:** Compton Traditional Bowhunters**Community of Residence:** Damascus, Oregon**Comment:**

Compton Traditional Bowhunters, The National Traditional Bowhunting organization would like to support the following proposals. All of these proposals increase opportunities for our bowhunters in Alaska.

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

We oppose proposal 82 that would open an Archery area for Rifle sheep hunting.

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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:** Janette Cadieux, CLAPC Chair

**Organization Name:** Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commision

**Community of Residence:** Cooper Landing, AK

**Comment:**

See attached

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

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Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission  
Janette Cadieux, Chair  
[REDACTED]  
Cooper Landing, AK 99572

December 19, 2022

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board of Game  
Attn: Jerry Burnett, Chair  
[jerry.burnette@alaska.gov](mailto:jerry.burnette@alaska.gov)  
P.O. Box 115526  
1255 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Burnett:

I am writing this letter to make you and the entire Alaska Board of Game (BOG) aware of a recent vote taken by our community land planning commission. We support Proposal 145 currently before the board.

Since the earliest planning of the Cooper Landing Bypass in the 1980s the Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission (CLAPC) within the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Department has been involved in that effort. As you likely know, that enterprise, currently in staged build phase, is now called the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project. If needed, you may acquaint yourself with the project details at: <http://sterlinghighway.net>. Throughout this endeavor, the continued north/south passage of wildlife has remained highly important to the values and economic vitality of our community. This may be evidenced by our involvement with the document "Delineation of Landscape Linkages" that may be accessed on the CLAPC website: [https://www.kpb.us/images/KPB/PLN/APC/Cooper\\_Landing/Cooper\\_Landing\\_connectivity\\_revised\\_compressed\\_2.pdf](https://www.kpb.us/images/KPB/PLN/APC/Cooper_Landing/Cooper_Landing_connectivity_revised_compressed_2.pdf)

Knowing that the new highway would create a barrier to free movement of wildlife, we have been supportive of the wildlife under and over passes being built into this new highway design and were pleased to see the inclusion of the state's first wildlife overpass. We have also been concerned that, without proper regulation, the very structures designed to help wildlife move past the barrier of the new highway would promote targeting by trapping or hunting within, or in close proximity to, these structures thus doing the opposite of the designed intent of these facilities. We have met with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) as well as United States Forest Service (USFS) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in past CLAPC meetings to specifically discuss ecological impacts such as invasive species introduction, handling of tree cutting in the context of the spruce bark





beetle infestation, and the potential conflict with the taking of animals at highway wildlife passage structures. CLAPC has met once again to consider this last concern.

We encourage the Alaska Board of Game to take the common-sense action of Proposal 145 to protect wildlife in its use of the structures specifically built to provide safe wildlife passage. CLAPC also voted to encourage the BOG to extend the protections in Proposal 145 to other highway passage structures within the MP 45-60 Project including the three upsized culverts west of Juneau Creek Bridge, the road underpass in Kenai Area Plan, Unit 395, at the Juneau Creek Bridge both west and east side, the Slaughter Gulch underpass, and the Coyote Notch underpass. While these other structures were not built specifically for wildlife passage they will likely become additional points of wildlife passage and therefore should be included by amendment to Proposal 145.

Thank you for the opportunity to make BOG aware of our community's thoughts on this matter. The BOG is aware of the importance of wildlife to Alaskans and our community's economies. We feel certain you will see the sense in Proposal 145 and pass it. We encourage BOG to include the amendment CLAPC has put forth.

Respectfully,

Janette Cadieux  
Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission, Chair

Cc:

Stosh Hoffman, Vice Chair, [stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov](mailto:stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov)

Allen Barrette, Member, [allen.barrette@alaska.gov](mailto:allen.barrette@alaska.gov)

Jake Fletcher, Member, [jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov](mailto:jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov)

Lynn Keogh, Member, [lynn.keogh@alaska.gov](mailto:lynn.keogh@alaska.gov)

James Cooney, Member, [james.cooney@alaska.gov](mailto:james.cooney@alaska.gov)

Ruth Cusack, Member, [ruth.cusack@alaska.gov](mailto:ruth.cusack@alaska.gov)

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, [kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov](mailto:kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov)



Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission  
Janette Cadieux, Chair

[REDACTED]  
Cooper Landing, AK 99572  
[REDACTED]

January 9, 2023

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Board of Game  
Attn: Jerry Burnett, Chair  
[jerry.burnette@alaska.gov](mailto:jerry.burnette@alaska.gov)  
P.O. Box 115526  
1255 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Burnett:

I am writing this letter to make you and the entire Alaska Board of Game (BOG) aware of a recent vote taken by our community land planning commission. We support Proposals 149-154 inclusive, currently before the board.

It is our understanding that a survey of all Cooper Landing mailing addresses revealed that 83%-97% of respondents support set-backs on trails, at campgrounds, along beaches, and at pull-outs along with identifying signage of traps and trapping areas. Cooper Landing residents have multiple reasons for wanting these reasonable trapping regulations including safety for children and pets but also because trapping as it exists could threaten the nascent winter tourism in our community. There are plenty of things that can threaten the economic viability of our community but trapping should not be one of them. Trapping by .4% of Alaskans does not need to impact the other 99.6% of Alaskans so negatively. The two user groups can, with reasonable regulation of trapping, co-exist without rancor.

You have heard from our community recently regarding our support for BOG Proposal 145. We encourage the Alaska Board of Game to take the common-sense action of both Proposal 145 and Proposals 149-154 inclusive and make these a part of regulation. The BOG is aware of the importance of wildlife to Alaskans and our community's economies. We feel certain you will see the sense in Proposals 149-154 and pass them into regulation. Thank you for the opportunity to make BOG aware of our community's thoughts on this matter.

Respectfully,

Janette Cadieux  
Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission, Chair



**Submitted by:** Clay Coo

**Organization Name:** Cooper Landing Emergency Services

**Community of Residence:** Cooper Landing, AK

**Comment:**

I fully support all proposals pertaining specifically to Cooper Landing only.

*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

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**Submitted by:** Lorraine Temple

**Organization Name:** Cooper Landing Safe Trails

**Community of Residence:** Cooper Landing

**Comment:**

Dear Board of Game,

A bundle of 44 comments were submitted via USPS regarding the trap setbacks and active trapping signage in the Cooper Landing area. These comments were collected at Salmonfest in August 2022 prior to proposal numbers being assigned.

To clarify, the proposals referred to, and I'll give them to you in the order on the forms, are:

#154 - Signage

#152 - Trails

#149 - Campgrounds

#150 - Roads and Pullouts

#153 - Beaches

#151 - Summit Recreation Area

If I recall correctly, (and I'm doing this from memory) 41 were in favor of all the 100-yard setbacks, 2 were in favor of some of the proposals and 1 was totally opposed.

Please accept these as a batch under the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee submissions. They are all, with the exception of one, signed by the individual who filled it out.

Thank you for honoring these comments.

Regards,

Lorraine Temple

Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee, chair

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After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee recommends the following changes to proposals #149.. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee recommends the following changes to proposals #150. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and

easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee recommends the following changes to proposals #151. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee recommends the following changes to proposals #151. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

(see attached)

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee recommends the following changes to proposals #152. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

\*see attachement\*

Note: We just submitted suggested amendments for proposals #149 & #150 but did not write the verbiage, "see attached". Each of those submissions contains an attachment that needs to be opened.

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee recommends the following changes to proposals #153. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

\*see attached

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Please see the attached petition and signatures that were collected from Seward and from Anchorage residents who come down to the Kenai Peninsula to recreate. There were a total of 103 signatures of support collected over the course of 2 days.

*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

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Petition from Seward in support of proposals #145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150,151, 152, 153, 154

"See Attached"

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the *Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee* recommends the following changes to proposals #149.. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee*



## **PROPOSAL 149**

### **5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of campgrounds in Unit 7 as follows:

#### **1) SOLUTION:**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the campgrounds listed and described in the table provided, ~~2) We are requesting a 50 yard trapping setback for traps~~ with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes. ~~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.~~ We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing campgrounds in the Cooper Landing area.

#### **2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:**

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap setback of 100-yards on all sides of the campgrounds listed, ~~Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leg hold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50yards from all sides of the campgrounds listed.”~~**

#### **Amended to:**

**...with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes.”**

- Quartz Creek Campground
- Crescent Creek Campground
- Russian River Campground
- Cooper Creek Campgrounds, North & South

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state-managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

#### **1) ISSUE:**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish ~~4) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the campgrounds listed and described in the table provided,~~ ~~2) We are requesting a 50 yard trapping setback for~~ with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of





5 inches or less that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets' utilizing campgrounds in the Cooper Landing area.

Unit	Campground Name	Location	Winter Uses
7	Quartz Creek Campground	Mile 1 Quartz Creek Road, Cooper Landing	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, dog training,
7	Crescent Creek Campground	Mile 3 Quartz Creek Road, Cooper Landing	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, dog training,
7	Russian River Campground	Entrance is Mile 53 Sterling Highway, Cooper Landing	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, dog training,
7	Cooper Creek Campgrounds, North & South	Mile 50.7 Sterling Highway, Cooper Landing	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, dog training,

2) WHY:

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As the amount of winter recreation has increased over the past 20 years, so has the number of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. While many trappers



set their traps a responsible distance from campgrounds, trap placements close to campgrounds, present a very real danger, especially for young children and pets. As of late February 2022, seven dogs have been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Since land managers and law enforcement do not track trap safety incidents all reports are collected and tabulated unofficially and are considered incomplete. While we respect the rights of trappers to set their traplines near campgrounds, we are seeking trapping regulation that will ensure the safety of all area user groups.

Our proposed 100-yard ~~and 50-yard~~ trapping setbacks ~~are~~ **is** not large enough to significantly limit a trappers' opportunity to trap near a campground. Proposing setbacks for campgrounds still leave most other areas unrestricted to trapping. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenant, to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," most likely already set traps back from campgrounds. The setbacks we are requesting will not unduly impact trappers and will greatly improve all user groups' safety. These proposed setbacks would also align with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

The 100-~~and 50-~~yard setbacks we have proposed would not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require only an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby GMUs, have endorsed a 100- yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

Our proposed 100-yard ~~and 50-yard~~ setback distances will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed campgrounds. Should trapping a particular species within the setback become biologically necessary, the board could use a temporary permit

system to address any problem that might arise. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are similar, will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

Establishing trap setbacks in the Cooper Landing area has strong community support. Cooper Landing property owners and residents were surveyed about trapping issues in their area in March, 2021. Returned surveys were tallied to show that 90% of the respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt setbacks were unnecessary.

Our proposal includes all public campgrounds accessed by a variety of users groups during the trapping season. The campgrounds that we have proposed for trapping setbacks are used for: cross country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, travel by search and rescue dogs and personnel, hunting and trapping.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses.



**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

(HQ-F22-008)

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the *Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee* recommends the following changes to proposals #150. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee*



## **PROPOSAL150**

### **5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping setbacks along certain roads and pullouts in Unit 7 as follows:

#### **1) SOLUTION:**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the pullouts listed and described in the table provided, 2) ~~We are requesting a 50 yard trapping setback for traps~~ with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps set in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular roads and pullouts in the Cooper Landing area.

#### **2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:**

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap setback of 100-yards on both sides of roads and all sides of pullouts listed, ~~Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50 yards from the road or pullout.”~~**

#### **Amended to:**

**...with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes.”**

- Quartz Creek Road - Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the powerline crossing at approximately mile 2.5.
- Quartz Creek Road - From powerline crossing to Crescent Creek Trailhead at mile 3.5 (used in winter for skiing)
- East Quartz Creek and Williams Road - Entire East Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with Quartz Creek Road and Williams Road
- Old Sterling Highway (unmaintained portion of Quartz Creek Road) - Old Sterling Highway from the Crescent Creek Trailhead to Tern Lake Rest and Picnic area
- Snug Harbor Road - The first 2.8 miles of Snug Harbor Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the entrance of the Chugach Electric Power Station
- Bean Creek Road - The entire distance from the Sterling Hwy to end.

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach



State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

#### 1) ISSUE:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish ~~4~~ a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the pullouts listed and described in the table provided. ~~2) We are requesting a 50 yard trapping setback for~~ with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps set in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular roads and pullouts in the Cooper Landing area.

Unit	Road or Pullout Name:	Description	Winter Uses
7	Quartz Creek Road	Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the powerline crossing at approximately mile 2.5.	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Quartz Creek Road	From powerline crossing to Crescent Creek Trailhead at mile 3.5	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, and access to backcountry skiing
7	East Quartz Creek and Williams Road	Entire East Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with Quartz Creek Road and Williams Road	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking,
7	Old Sterling Highway (unmaintained portion of Quartz Creek Road)	Old Sterling Highway from the Crescent Creek Trailhead to Tern Lake Rest and Picnic area	Cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, skijoring, snowmachine use



7	Snug Harbor Road	The first 2.8 miles of Snug Harbor Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the entrance of the Chugach Electric Power Station	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Bean Creek Road	The entire distance. This road is mostly surrounded by private property, but unless posted, traps can be set.	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Russian Gap Road	The entire distance. This road is mostly surrounded by private property, but unless posted, traps can be set.	Walking, hiking fat-tire biking
	All vehicle pullouts along the Sterling Highway	Pullouts along the Sterling Highway from its junction with the Seward Highway to the entrance to the Russian River Ferry and Boat Launch	People use these pullouts to let their animals and children take bathroom breaks,
			stretch their legs, take in the views and gear up for backcountry activities

## 2) WHY:

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As the amount of winter recreation has increased over the past 20 years, so has the number of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. While many trappers set their traps a responsible distance from roads and pullouts, trap placements close

to roadways, or in pullouts, present a very real danger, especially for young children and pets. As of late February 2022, seven dogs have been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Since land managers and law enforcement do not track trap safety incidents all reports are collected and tabulated unofficially and are



considered incomplete. While we respect the rights of trappers to set their traplines near roads and pullouts, we are seeking trapping regulation that will ensure the safety of all area user groups.

Our proposed 100-~~and 50~~-yard trapping setbacks ~~are~~ is not large enough to significantly limit a trappers' opportunity to trap near a road or pullout. Proposing setbacks for only the most popular and heavily used roads and pullouts leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenant, to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," most likely already set traps back from heavily used roads and pullouts. The setbacks we are requesting will not unduly impact trappers and will greatly improve all user groups' safety. These proposed setbacks would also align with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

The 100- ~~and 50~~-yard setbacks we have proposed would not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require only an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than one minute. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby Units, have endorsed a 100- yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

Our proposed 100-yard ~~and 50-yard~~ setback distances will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed roads and pullouts. Should trapping a particular species within the setback become biologically necessary, the board could use a temporary permit system to address any problem that might arise. A similar proposal requesting a 100- yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer Advisory Committee. Having regulations that are similar, will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

Establishing trap setbacks in the Cooper Landing area has strong community support. Cooper Landing property owners and residents were surveyed about trapping issues in their area in March 2021. Returned surveys were tallied to show that 90% of the respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt setbacks were unnecessary.

Our proposal includes only the most popular roads and pullouts accessed by a variety of users groups during the trapping season. The popular roadways and pullouts that we have proposed for trapping setbacks are used for: cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, travel by search and rescue dogs and personnel, hunting and trapping.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

(HQ-F22-009)

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the *Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee* recommends the following changes to proposals #151. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee*



## **PROPOSAL 151**

### **5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping setbacks along highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in Unit 7 as follows:

#### **1) SOLUTION:**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails described in the table provided. We are requesting these changes to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of backcountry user groups to Unit 7.

#### **2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:**

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap setback of 100-yards along the perimeter of highway pullouts accessing backcountry areas along the Seward Highway, and on both sides of the winter trails listed within the Summit Lake Recreational Area, ~~However, traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leg-hold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50 yards from the trail or pullout.”~~**

#### **Amended to:**

**...with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes.”**

- Japan Woods - The west side of the Seward Highway from the southern-most tip of Summit Lake (MP 44.5) north to Colorado Creek (MP 46.5).
- Tenderfoot Campground – Ski Area - MP 46 of the Seward Highway.
- Park N Poke - The west side of the Seward Highway from the southern-most tip of Lower Summit Lake (MP 47) to the gravel pit at (MP 49).
- Manitoba Mountain - MP 48 of the Seward Highway, pullout on the east side of the highway for the Alaska Mountain Huts (non-profit organization), following the established .7-mile trail to the Manitoba Cabin, and up the Polly Mine Trail (1 mile) to where it meets with the Manitoba Mountain Trail and continuing up to tree line at the summit of Little Manitoba Mountain.

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?****1) ISSUE:**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails described in the table provided. We are requesting these changes to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of backcountry user groups to Unit 7

Unit	Trail Name	Description	Winter Uses
7	Japan woods	The west side of the Seward Highway from the southern-most tip of Summit Lake ( <b>MP 44.5</b> ) north to Colorado Creek ( <b>MP 46.5</b> ).	Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking
7	Tenderfoot Campground – Ski Area	<b>MP 46</b> of the Seward Highway.	Backcountry skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking, snow machine use
7	Park N Poke	The west side of the Seward Highway from the southern-most tip of Lower Summit Lake ( <b>MP 47</b> ) to the gravel pit at ( <b>MP 49</b> ).	Backcountry Skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking
7	Manitoba Mountain	<b>MP 48</b> of the Seward Highway, pullout on the east side of the highway for the Alaska Mountain Huts (non-profit organization), following the established .7-mile trail to the Manitoba Cabin, and up the Polly Mine Trail (1 mile) to where it meets with the Manitoba Mountain Trail and continuing to tree line at the summit of Little Manitoba Mountain. <a href="https://www.alaskahuts.org/manitobahiking-guide/">https://www.alaskahuts.org/manitobahiking-guide/</a>	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking, backpacking for camping and cabin use

*Note: Maps for the following proposal are available at:*

[https://www.cnfaic.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/10/Summit\\_Lake\\_Area.jpg](https://www.cnfaic.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/10/Summit_Lake_Area.jpg)

**2) WHY:**



Trapping setbacks would establish safe zones for user groups accessing backcountry areas for: cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, ice fishing, bird hunting, cabin rentals and more.

Trapping setbacks would reduce some of the dangers to safety personnel called to respond to an area requiring the use of search and rescue dogs to find injured, lost, or buried victims.

The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings.

To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates **2,500 to 3,500** trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses. It would also align with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social*".

A survey conducted in Cooper Landing by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee, in March 2021, found that 90% of respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt that setbacks were unnecessary. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby GMU's, have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer Advisory Committee. Having regulations that are consistent within the region will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

(HQ-F22-011)

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Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the *Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee* recommends the following changes to proposals #152. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee*



## **PROPOSAL 152**

### **5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping setbacks along trails and trailheads in Unit 7 as follows:

#### **1) SOLUTION:**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 4) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the trailheads listed and described in the table provided. 2) ~~We are requesting a 50 yard trapping setback for traps~~ with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps set in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular multi-use trails in the Cooper Landing area.

#### **2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:**

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7:** “Trap setback of 100-yards on both sides of the trails and trailheads listed, ~~Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50 yards from the trail.~~”

#### **Amended to:**

**...with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes.”**

- 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
- Stetson Trail parking area and first 400 yards

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

#### **1) ISSUE:**



We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 4) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the trailheads listed and described in the table provided. ~~2) We are requesting a 50 yard trapping setback for~~ with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular multi-use trails in the Cooper Landing area.

Unit	Trail Name	Description	Winter Uses
7	Crescent Creek Trail  USGS Map Seward B7, C7 and C8  USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Crescent Creek Trail	Begins at Crescent Creek Trailhead parking area at mile 3.5 of Quartz Creek Road and ascends 6.5 miles to the Crescent Lake Cabin at the west end of the lake.	Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, backpacking, fat tire biking, and access to public use cabins
7	Lower Russian Lake Trail  USGS Map Seward B8, Kenai B1  USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Russian Lakes Trail	Lower Russian Lake Trail from the trailhead parking located in the Russian River Campground about 1.0 miles from the campground entrance to both the Barber Cabin on the shore of Lower Russian Lake and to the Russian River Falls Overlook.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, backpacking and access to public use cabins
7	Bean Creek Trail	Bean Creek Trail starting at its trailhead at mile 0.5 of the west end of Slaughter Ridge Road to its intersection of the main Resurrection Pass Trail above Juneau Falls.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, snow machining, dog mushing, backpacking, and access to public use cabins



7	Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail	This trail is referred to as the Quartz Creek Trail on the 2004 plat approved by the Kenai Peninsula Borough for the Russian Gap Subdivision. This trail ascends behind the west side of KPB parcel 11912507 and continues through parcel 11912513, connecting with the Russian Gap Trail and heading north easterly along a bench below Russian Gap.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, snowmachine use
7	Resurrection Trail, South End  USGS Maps Seward B8, C8 and D8	From the southern Resurrection Trail trailhead on the Sterling Highway continuing to the Swan Lake public use cabin	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, backpacking and access to public use cabins
7	West Juneau Bench Trail  USGS Maps Seward B8, C8 and D8	From the Sterling Highway pullout at mile 53.25 just west of the southern Resurrection Trail trailhead continuing to its intersection with the Resurrection Trail.	Back country and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, snow machining, fat tire biking, backpacking for camping and cabin use
7	Devil's Pass Ski Loops USGS Map Seward C7 and C8 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Devil's Pass Trail	These trails begin at the far end of the parking area for Devil's Pass Trail head at mile 39.5 of the Seward Highway. They loop along the cleared area to the northeast of the parking lot between Quartz Creek and the Seward Highway.	Backcountry ski access, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, fat-tire biking, skijoring





7	Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail	Stetson Trail parking area at milepost 50.7 of Sterling Highway. Setback of 100 yards around clearing beyond gate under the power line and first 400 yards up the trail.	Cooper Landing EMT training, search and rescue dog training, hiking and snowshoeing
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## 2) WHY:

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As the number of winter trail users has increased immensely over the past 20 years, so have the number of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. While many trappers set their traps a responsible distance from multi-use trails, trap placements close to (or in) trails and trailheads present a very real danger to all users, especially young children and pets. As of late February 2022, seven dogs have been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Since land managers and law enforcement do not track trap safety incidents all reports are collected and tabulated unofficially and are considered incomplete. While we respect the rights of trappers to use these multi-use trails, we are seeking trapping regulation that will ensure the safety of all trail users.

Our proposed 100- ~~and 50~~-yard trapping setbacks ~~are~~ is not large enough to significantly limit a trappers' opportunity along multi-use trails. Proposing setbacks for only the most popular

and heavily used multi-use trails leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenant, to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," most likely already set traps back from heavily used trails. The setbacks we are requesting will not unduly impact trappers and will greatly improve trail user safety. These proposed setbacks would also align with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

The 100- ~~and 50~~-yard setbacks we have proposed would not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require only an



additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than one minute. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby GMUs, have endorsed a 100- yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

Our proposed 100-yard ~~and 50-yard~~ setback distances will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed trails. Should trapping a particular species within the setback become biologically necessary, the board could use a temporary permit system to address any problem that might arise. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are similar, will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

Establishing trap setbacks in the Cooper Landing area has strong community support. Cooper Landing property owners and residents were surveyed about trapping issues in their area in March, 2021. Returned surveys were tallied to show that 90% of the respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt setbacks were unnecessary. 86-89% responded in favor of setbacks along the trails and trailheads listed above, while 10-12% did not feel they were necessary.

Our proposal includes only the most popular multi-use trails used by a variety of users during the trapping season. Popular trail uses in our area include: cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, travel by search and rescue dogs and personnel, hunting and trapping. The Stetson Trail parking area and first 400 yards has been utilized for search and rescue dog training which is critical to the active avalanche areas close by.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates **2,500 to 3,500** trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

(HQ-F22-012)

\*\*\*\*\*



Dear Board of Game,

After discussion with the Cooper Landing AC and more research, the *Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee* recommends the following changes to proposals #153. We feel this will make it more acceptable, more compromising and easier to understand. The original proposal language that we would like to remove has a strike-through, and the new language has been added in red.

Please consider these amendments to our proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee*



## **PROPOSAL 153**

### **5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Establish trapping setbacks along Kenai Lake beaches in Unit 7 as follows:

#### **1) SOLUTION:**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 ACC 92.550 to establish 4) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake as described in the table provided. 2) ~~We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps~~ with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps set in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular multi-use beaches in the Cooper Landing area.

#### **2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:**

**ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7:** “Trap setback of 100-yards from mean high-water mark of Kenai Lake on the north side from the Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past the end of Williams Road and on the south side from the Kenai River Bridge to ¼ mile past the powerline crossing (powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road), also, Kenai Lake Beach (Locally known as Waikiki Beach) ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road, ~~Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, which are at least 5 feet above the ground or snow level are allowed if more than 50 yards from the beach.”~~

#### **Amended to:**

**...with the exception of: traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 5 feet above the ground or snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes.”**

- Kenai Lake Beaches
- Kenai Lake Beach (Waikiki Beach)

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

#### **1) ISSUE:**

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 4) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake as described in the table provided. 2) ~~We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps~~ with the exception of: an inside spread of 5 inches or less that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or



snow level, size 3 leg-hold marten traps set in boxes, and size 110 and 120 conibear traps in boxes.

We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular multi-use beaches in the Cooper Landing area.

Unit	Beach Area	Description	Winter Uses
7	Kenai Lake Beaches	Kenai Lake Beaches: on the North side from the Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past the end of Williams Road and on the south side from the Kenai River Bridge to ¼ mile past the powerline crossing (powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road). <i>Area from the mean high-water mark to 100yds back.</i>	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skijoring, snow machining
7	Kenai Lake Beach	Kenai Lake Beach (Locally known as Waikiki Beach) ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road. <i>Area from the mean high-water mark to 100yds back.</i>	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skijoring, snow machining

## 2) WHY:

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As the amount of winter recreation has increased over the past 20 years, so has the number of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. While many trappers set their traps a responsible distance from popular beaches, trap placements close to (or on) multiuse beaches present a very real danger to all users, especially young children and pets. As of late February 2022, seven dogs have been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Since land managers and law enforcement do



not track trap safety incidents all reports are collected and tabulated unofficially and are considered incomplete. While we respect the rights of trappers to set their traplines near beaches, we are seeking trapping regulation that will ensure the safety of all area user groups.

Our proposed 100—~~and 50~~-yard trapping setbacks ~~are~~ **is** not large enough to significantly limit a trappers' opportunity to trap near beaches. Proposing setbacks for only the most popular and heavily used beaches leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenant, to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," most likely already set traps back from heavily used beaches. The setbacks we are requesting will not unduly impact trappers and will greatly improve all user groups' safety. These proposed setbacks would also align with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

The 100- ~~and 50~~-yard setbacks we have proposed would not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require only an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby Units, have endorsed a 100- yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

Our proposed 100-yard ~~and 50-yard~~ setback distances will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed beaches. Should trapping a particular species within the setback become biologically necessary, the board could use a temporary permit system to address any problem that might arise. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are similar, will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

Establishing trap setbacks in the Cooper Landing area has strong community support. Cooper Landing property owners and residents were surveyed about trapping issues in their area in March, 2021. Returned surveys were tallied to show that 90% of the respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt setbacks were unnecessary.

Our proposal includes only the most popular beaches used by a variety of user groups during the trapping season. Popular beach uses in our area include: cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, travel by search and rescue dogs and personnel, hunting and trapping.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee

(HQ-F22-007)

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# BOG: Southcentral Region Meeting

Submitted by: Anonymous user

Submitted time: Feb 23, 2023, 8:19:08 PM

First Name

**Lorraine**

Last Name

**Temple**

Organization Name (if applicable)

**Cooper Landing Safe Trails**

Community of Residence

**Cooper Landing**

Email Address

**[cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com](mailto:cooperlandingsafetrails@gmail.com)**

Write Your Comment Here:

**PC 061**

**Dear Board of Game,**

**A bundle of 44 comments were submitted via USPS regarding the trap setbacks and active trapping signage in the Cooper Landing area. These comments were collected at Salmonfest in August 2022 prior to proposal numbers being assigned.**

**To clarify, the proposals referred to, and I'll give them to you in the order on the forms, are:**

**#154 - Signage**

**#152 - Trails**

**#149 - Campgrounds**

**#150 - Roads and Pullouts**

**#153 - Beaches**

**#151 - Summit Recreation Area**

**If I recall correctly, (and I'm doing this from memory) 41 were in favor of all the 100-yard setbacks, 2 were in favor of some of the proposals and 1 was totally opposed.**

**Please accept these as a batch under the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee submissions. They are all, with the exception of one, signed by the individual who filled it out.**

**Thank you for honoring these comments.**

**Regards,**

**Lorraine Temple**

**Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee, chair**





## Cooper Landing, Homer & Seward Trap Setback Proposals Petition



PC 061

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 Snowmad 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.

# I SUPPORT 100-YD TRAP SETBACKS AND SIGNAG



PC 061

## Supporters

Name print

Signature

Address

1. Mike Amos Mike Amos
2. Janice Haas Janice Haas
3. Michelle / Houston Allen
4. Jim Solison Jim Solison
5. Michelle Keagle Michelle Keagle
6. (Libby) Elizabeth Ferrara Elizabeth Ferrara
7. Jill Hemstock Jill Hemstock
8. Elizabeth Suthin Elizabeth Suthin
9. Brianna Hutchison Brianna Hutchison P.O.

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# Cooper Landing, Homer & Seward Trap Setback Proposals Petition



PC 061

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 Snowmad 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.

# I SUPPORT 100 YARD SETBACKS & TRAPPING SIGNAGE



PC 061

## Supporters

	<u>Name print</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
1.	Ashley Coons	Ashley Coons	
2.	NOVIE PHIBBY		
3.	ANTONIO ORNETO	Antonio Orneto	
4.	Jesse Skidmore	Jesse Skidmore	
5.	Aimee Leatherman	Aimee Leatherman	
6.	Hannah Leatherman	Hannah Leatherman	
7.	Julie Allison	Julie Allison	
8.	Andy Billings	Andy Billings	
9.	ROSS MATER	Ross Mater	
10.	Paul Collins	Paul Collins	
11.	Rene Montgomery	Rene Montgomery	
12.	Charles Joseph	Charles Joseph	
13.	Laura Glasgow	Laura Glasgow	P.
14.	Lisa Maurice	Lisa Maurice	32
15.	Dawn Krause	Dawn Krause	
16.	Mallory Rangel	Mallory Rangel	
17.	Melinda Peters	Melinda Peters	
18.	Alyssa Legros	Alyssa Legros	
19.	Katalia Kalugin	Katalia Kalugin	
20.	Judah	Judah Brueckner	F
21.	Heather Shank	Heather Shank	PO
22.	John Higgins	John Higgins	
23.	Laura Perri	Laura Perri	B
24.	Merce Rodolf	Merce Rodolf	B
25.	Melissa Henderson	Melissa Henderson	





## Supporters

Name printSignatureAddress

- |                          |                      |  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1. Kathy Kloster         | Kathy Kloster        |  |
| 2. Marshall Miller       | Marshall Miller      |  |
| 3. Kelsey Weiford        | Kelsey Weiford       |  |
| 4. Cheryl Seese          | Cheryl Seese         |  |
| 5. Amy Hnat              | Amy Hnat             |  |
| 6. Katy Turner           | Katy Turner          |  |
| 7. Iris Seeno-Turner     | Iris Seeno-Turner    |  |
| 8. River Seeno-Turner    | River Seeno-Turner   |  |
| 9. Cheryl Verschueren    | Cheryl Verschueren   |  |
| 10. Susan Stamm          | Susan Stamm          |  |
| 11. Maddie Haas          | Maddie Haas          |  |
| 12. James Corant         | James Corant         |  |
| 13. MARGARET DEBBOUT     | Margaret Debbout     |  |
| 14. Kelli Palaka         | Kelli Palaka         |  |
| 15. Marvin Tapsheld      | Marvin Tapsheld      |  |
| 16. Camilla Warner       | Camilla Warner       |  |
| 17. Fred Moore           | Fred Moore           |  |
| 18. Oliver Smith         | Oliver Smith         |  |
| 19. Tonya Foote          | Tonya Foote          |  |
| 20. Lavinia C. Dickinson | Lavinia C. Dickinson |  |
| 21. Dana Van Slyke       | Dana Van Slyke       |  |
| 22. Virginia Corliss     | Virginia Corliss     |  |
| 23. Pam Humphrey         | Pam Humphrey         |  |
| 24. Ron Phelan           | Ronald W. Phelan     |  |
| 25. ART STIVERS          | Art Stivers          |  |

# I SUPPORT 100 YARD SETBACKS & TRAPPING SIGNAGE



PC 061

## Supporters

	<u>Name print</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
1.	Abby Hearth	Abby Hearth	
2.	Kareli Peltola	Kareli Peltola	
3.	Georgia Houde	Georgia Houde	
4.	Hannah Racette	Hannah Racette	
5.	Rylee Haddox	Rylee Haddox	
6.	Allie Hrabchak	Allie Hrabchak	
7.	Dana Drummond	Dana Drummond	
8.	Angus Batchelder	Angus Batchelder	
9.	Rebecca Marks	Rebecca Marks	
10.	Alyssa Walker	Alyssa Walker	
11.	Susan Boersma	Susan Boersma	
12.	Danielle Edwards	Danielle Edwards	
13.	Frank Miller	Frank Miller	
14.	Kara McMahon	Kara McMahon	
15.	BRETT ZIMMERMAN	Brett Zimmerman	
16.	Christian Howlett	Christian Howlett	
17.	Christian Cunningham	Christian Cunningham	
18.	Naomi Michelsfeld	Naomi Michelsfeld	
19.	Jonathan Humpal	Jonathan Humpal	
20.	Terry Slaven	Terry Slaven	
21.	Jamie Brown	Jamie Brown	
22.			
23.			
24.			
25.			



# I SUPPORT 100 YARD SETBACKS & TRAPPING SIGNAGE



PC 061

## Supporters

	<u>Name print</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
1.	Alex Loan		99518
2.	Clint Helander		99508
3.	<del>CHRISTOPHER HANSMAYER</del>		99507
4.	Seiji Takagi		99509
5.	Shawn Overstreet		99516
6.	ALDEN WORACHEK		99507
7.	Rick Rota		99507
8.	ISAAC SWANSON		99508
9.	Taken Cox		99518
10.	Nagmi Norem		Anchorage, AK
11.	<del>CHRISTOPHER SAGAN</del>		Anchorage, AK
12.	Timely Cox		
13.	Andy Duenow		
14.	CHRIS CALVERT		
15.	ANTONIO MENDOZA		
16.	Malcolm Loring		
17.	Derek Maier		
18.	Sarah Webster		
19.	Reed Lekander		
20.	Nicoleann Morris		
21.	Amenda Andros		
22.			
23.			
24.			
25.			

I SUPPORT 100 YARD SETBACKS & TRAPPING SIGNAGE  
Supporters



PC 061

Name print

Signature

Address

1. Andra Wardlaw Andra Wardlaw
2. Johet Van Driessche Johet Van Driessche
3. Colton Anthowiak Colton Anthowiak
4. Sarah Hunt Sarah Hunt
5. Victoria Monaco Victoria Monaco
6. Angel Monaco Angel Monaco
7. Gayle Forrest Gayle Forrest
8. Valerie Boulden Valerie Boulden
9. Rawlins D Apperson Rawlins D Apperson
10. Deborah Kellery Deborah Kellery P.O.

11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
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24. \_\_\_\_\_





**Submitted by:** Megan Corazza

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, Alaska

**Comment:**

Hello, my name is Megan Corazza and I was born and raised and still reside in Homer, Alaska. These comments are in support of proposals 146 and 147.

I was raised on a trapline across Cook Inlet and have been a trapper myself in my adult years. I support trapping. However, last spring I was out on the Watermelon Trail in Homer, a trail I grew up using on snowmachine, horseback, ATVs and skiing. That day, my dog got caught in a lynx trap less than 15 feet off the side of this well used trail. I learned that another group just ahead of us had their dog get caught in another trap 15 feet off the trail also, just an hour earlier.

I was very shocked to realize that people were actively trapping so close to such a well used public trail. In the days following I received much feedback from other trappers in Homer that they were also astounded that someone would be trapping so close to the trail. At least four other trappers chimed in that they didn't feel like the Watermelon Trail traps were ethical.

I was able to contact the trapper - turns out he was a friend of mine from commercial fishing, and he worked together with a safe trails group in Homer to propose a compromise for an allowable distance to trap off of SNOMAD-maintained trails and KNSC trails. This was approved by the Homer Advisory Fish and Game committee last spring.

I hope that a regulation can go in place to protect dogs while owners are recreating on these public trails. I understand and respect that the trails a trapper creates to run his or her trapline need to not be included in this regulation.

I am all for ethical trapping 100 yards off of the public trails as defined by Proposals 146 and 147.

Thank you,

Megan Corazza



Homer, Ak 99603



*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

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**Submitted by:** Ed Corneio

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Fairbanks, AK

**Comment:**

I support AWA's Proposal #145 to secure hunting and trapping setbacks from new wildlife crossings on the Sterling Highway Cooper Landing bypass. 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 55: Support Proposal 56: Support Proposal 57: Oppose Proposal 58: Support Proposal 59: Support  
Proposal 60: Support Proposal 61: Support Proposal 62: Oppose Proposal 63: Oppose Proposal 66: Support  
Proposal 67: Support Proposal 68: Support Proposal 69: Support Proposal 71: Support Proposal 72: Support  
Proposal 73: Support Proposal 74: Support Proposal 75: Support Proposal 76: Oppose Proposal 77: Support  
Proposal 78: Support Proposal 79: Oppose Proposal 81: Support Proposal 82: Oppose Proposal 83: Oppose  
Proposal 86: Oppose Proposal 89: Oppose Proposal 90: Oppose Proposal 97: Oppose Proposal 98: Oppose  
Proposal 101: Oppose Proposal 103: Oppose Proposal 104: Support Proposal 105: Support Proposal 107: Oppose  
Proposal 109: Support Proposal 114: Support Proposal 116: Support Proposal 117: Support Proposal 128: Oppose  
Proposal 132: Oppose Proposal 133: Support Proposal 134: Oppose Proposal 135: Oppose Proposal 136: Oppose  
Proposal 137: Oppose Proposal 138: Oppose Proposal 139: Oppose Proposal 140: Oppose Proposal 141: Oppose  
Proposal 143: 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: Oppose Proposal 160: Support Proposal 162: Oppose Proposal 163: Oppose 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 187: Oppose Proposal 188: Oppose

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PC064

**Submitted by:** Kenneth Corrigan

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Frenchtown, NJ

**Comment:**

Although I'm a non resident, I frequently spend a lot of time and money bowhunting 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 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



PC065

**Submitted by:** Benjamin Cox

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Sterling, AK

**Comment:**

I propose reinstating the original ptarmigan closure of March 31 in the whole of Unit 15. I have a cabin in the low lands of Caribou Hills near mile 17. I have seen more ptarmigan in the last 2 years, both lowland and in higher elevations, than any year before. Being a Disabled Veteran, I respect the current regulations but am unclear why it changed in the first place. I hunt from the main trails and venture off trail to retrieve the meat that I've shot. Ptarmigan hunting is a valuable resource that is needed and appreciated throughout all the communities of this state. I may not be physically able to partake in all of the hunting in this State, but a sustainable resource like that has a big impact on cultural and local subsistence. Though the game limits changed, the population of ptarmigan has increased drastically. I do enjoy hunting ptarmigan, but ultimately I enjoy seeing nature and all it has to show. I work on the Slope and see all facets of wildlife. I marvel at the experiences and views that now many get to see. My plea is that you reinstate the normal ptarmigan hunting season to March 31st.

Sincerely,

Sergeant Benjamin Cox

Operation Iraqi Freedom 2005-2006, 2008-2009

Stationed at Fort Wainwright, AK 2002-2010

*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 162: Support



**Submitted by:** Sandra Cronland

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer

**Comment:**

I support the following proposal(s) that have been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game to reduce conflicts with trappers & non trappers and increase safety for the increasing numbers of multi-use trail users in Game Unit 15(c) Homer AK area. I believe the 100 yard set back proposals are reasonable setbacks for safer recreation for all trail users and their pets.

.Proposal #146

100yd. Trapping Setbacks from 3 popular winter trails in Kachemak Bay State Park .

Proposal #147

100yd. Trapping Setbacks from mapped KNSC ski & mapped multi-use Snomads trails in Homer area.

*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:*

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**Submitted by:** Terry Cummings

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Anchorage, 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 146: Support Proposal 147: Support Proposal 149: Support Proposal 150: Support  
Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support Proposal 156: Support  
Proposal 157: Support Proposal 158: Support Proposal 159: Support with Amendment Proposal 160: Support

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**Submitted by:** Theresa Dale

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, Alaska

**Comment:**

Proposal 146-147

I'd like to see passing these proposals as a way to compromise the desire of ski enthusiasts and trappers. It's a big beautiful place we coexist in and I think these proposals address not stopping the activities (skiing or trapping) but simply making it safer for our pets.

So many people enjoy the commonalities of love for our dogs. Let's prevent things that can potentially cause great harm and trauma for all involved.

I'm not a ski person, nor a trapper/ hunter person. I am however an avid dog person. Let's help our furry friends in a safe and responsible manner and just give them some additional space.

Thank you in advance for your good guidance and common sense approach to this issue.

Kindly

Terrilynn Dale

Homer, 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 146: Support Proposal 147: Support

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### Proposal 145: Support

This proposal is key to allowing animals safe travel between landscapes. Without a 1/4 mile protection these under/over passes become SINKs (death traps) instead of safe passageways. This is a common-sense approach and should have been negotiated between the State and Department of Transportation as part of the original design and implementation of these structures. Unfortunately, it is now a decision the Board of Game is being asked to decide upon. Hopefully the BOG can realize the importance of keeping hunters and trappers a reasonable distance from these structures to allow them the opportunity to provide the benefits they were intended to provide. Other states have implemented similar regulations around these types of structures as it makes clear sense not to create a death trap for wildlife. Animals must funnel through these structures and thus they create the unfortunate scenario to funnel animals to hunters and trappers if they remain unprotected by some reasonable buffer around them. Please take the step to ensure wildlife has the fair and reasonable opportunity to pass safely from one landscape to another.

Carol Damberg, Anchorage, AK

### Proposal 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154: Support all

The Cooper Landing Safe Trail proposals are well thought out proposals. These have been discussed and are supported by many, especially locals and those who frequent the area to enjoy a diverse array of recreational activities. The Safe Trail committee has worked extensively and tirelessly to survey and speak with the diverse audiences that their proposals would effect. They have also worked in the past with the Board of Game to understand their concerns about trapping setbacks. The results are the following proposals that limit trap setbacks to the most highly used regions in the name of safety for pets and people.

Trappers are supporting these proposals because they know they are reasonable, they do not want to be responsible for injury to dogs or people, and they recognize that by doing nothing they are potentially reducing the public's support for trappers.

The Board of Game needs to start regulating trapping along trails – times have changed! These are not major closures and are in fact very well-reasoned proposals. If the Board of Game continues to deny away these types of proposals that seek balanced regulations for diverse user groups they diminish their credibility. The BOG members are appointed based upon their **interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field** of action of the board, and with a view **to providing diversity of interest and points of view** in the membership. Please consider the diversity of interests represented by these proposals. Do not ignore the viewpoints of other recreationists that share trails with trappers. Please seek balanced regulations that ensure safety and allow varied interests to co-exist with known boundaries and expectations.



Carol Damberg Anchorage, AK

### Proposal 159 – OPPOSE

The comment response by the ADFG asserts that increasing the hunting season will have no impact on wolverines and thus they support the proposal. Unfortunately, the ADFG does not refute the fact this proposal is submitted as predator management proposal that assumes that wolverines are major predators of Dall sheep and goats and responsible for their decline. The proposal also indicated “if you can shoot bears and wolves in August – why not wolverines”? Perhaps a look at the difference in biology between these species would be helpful. This is unfortunate that ADFG does not refute the flawed logic behind why this person submitted the proposal and why wolverine management should perhaps be different than bear and wolf management. The ADFG comment also does not acknowledge that the most recent population estimate was in 2004!. This is a species that can be very vulnerable to overharvest. This species exists in very low densities throughout its range but especially on the Kenai. Why extend the hunting season when

- 1) the wolverine population status is unknown
- 2) The new harvest dates could interfere with kit survival and mating periods and
- 3) the proposal is based on flawed assumptions that this species is a major predator of Dall sheep/goat and thus responsible for their population changes. You might ask the department what are the major factors causing sheep and goats to decline?

Please consider the following biological facts:

- Kits are born from January to April. Adult size is reached by early to mid-winter. Kits become independent from their mother in the fall (September....) at approximately 5 or 6 months of age but mostly remain within their natal home range until they become at least 1-year-old. Hence this regulation could impact the survival of first year kits if they are not independent by August 10 and the mother is killed.
- The breeding season extends from May through August (ADFG Website).(Hence this proposal would interrupt this important period of the wolverines life cycle – mating season)
- The author asserts that an extended season is needed because they believe wolverines are primarily found in the high country feeding on Dall sheep and mountain goats. **This is not true. Although wolverines are capable of taking large ungulates as live prey (Magoun 1985), most ungulate presence in the wolverine diet is from scavenging—** with some evidence of a seasonal reliance on local rodent abundance (Banci 1987, Magoun 1985, Gardner 1985) and marmots. Removing wolverines will not likely result in more Dall sheep and goats.





- The author also asserts that the Dall sheep in the Kenai Mountains are on a steady decline while predators continue to grow. **This is also not true.** Wolverine populations on parts of the Kenai Peninsula were estimated in 1995 and 2004. The most complete survey, conducted in 2004, estimated a population density of 3.0 wolverines per 1,000 square kilometers in the upper Turnagain Arm and Kenai Mountains (Golden et al. 2007b). A 1995 survey, using similar methodology but restricted to the northeast corner of the Refuge, estimated a density of 5.2 wolverines per 1,000 square kilometers (Golden 1996).
- Wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) are uncommon on the Kenai Refuge. They are primarily restricted to the rugged subalpine and alpine habitats in the mountainous eastern region of the Refuge and appear to be rare on the western lowlands of the Refuge.
- The wolverine's affinity for remote wilderness, rugged terrain, low densities, and large home-range sizes, coupled with its sensitivity to human disturbance, all contribute to the challenge of managing and conserving this solitary and secretive species (Ruggiero et al. 1994 cited in Tomasik and Cook 2005).
- Because wolverines have few natural predators, harvest by humans is believed to be the greatest factor influencing adult wolverine numbers (Hornocker and Hash 1981). Krebs et al. (2004) indicated that human-caused mortality was additive to natural mortality and that trapped populations of wolverine would decline in the absence of immigration from untrapped populations. However, as long as there was a source meta-population within a protected nearby refugium, harvested wolverine populations would likely persist. As with other low-density species, maintaining high annual survival of adult females is central to sustaining populations and harvest (Eberhardt 1990, Golden et al. 2007a).

Carol Damberg, Anchorage, AK

### Proposals 146, 147, 156, 157, 158 160 Support

Carol Damberg, Anchorage, AK.



PC070

**Submitted by:** Jon Dawson

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Cooper Landing

**Comment:**

My wife and I have a residence in Cooper Landing and care deeply about land use in the community. We make regular use of trails in the area, and frequently venture off the trails into surrounding woods. I am writing to express support for the proposals for trap setbacks from heavily used recreation areas and, most importantly, the proposal to require signage for active trapping--Proposal 154. We have a dog and three grandchildren, and are especially worried about the risks that traps pose to pets and children. Signage would allow us to take appropriate precautions when enjoying this beautiful locale.

*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

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PC071

**Submitted by:** Toran Degen

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** (Rainbow Valley) Indian, AK

**Comment:**

Opposed to prop 98 due to increased danger to valley residents (including children) and hikers in the area. The added risk of hunters in our valley is too dangerous to be allowed. Concerns include, trespassing, safety risk of weapons being fired near/around/at residents /hikers.

*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

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**Submitted by:** Fred Dickerson

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, Alaska

**Comment:**

I support proposal #146 & #147. We frequently take our dog on local ski trails. Would be nice to not have it potentially getting trapped when leaving the trail.

*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

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December 16, 2022

ADF&G Boards Support Section  
Attn: Board of Game Comments  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Subject: 2022/2023 Board of Game Proposals.**

In 1970 the legislature restricted the state-owned land and water described in Alaska Statutes (AS 41.21.120-41.21.125) to use as Chugach State Park. In doing so, this land was closed to multiple-purpose use and designated as a special-purpose site under Article 8, section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska. Because these lands are not available for multiple-purpose use, leasing and subsurface development are precluded. Five primary purposes were outlined for Chugach State Park in statute:

- To protect and supply a satisfactory water supply for the use of the people.
- To provide recreational opportunities for the people by providing areas for specified uses and constructing the necessary facilities in those areas.
- To protect areas of unique and exceptional scenic value.
- To provide areas for the public display of local wildlife.
- To protect the existing wilderness characteristics of the easterly interior area.

Chugach State Park is located in Southcentral Alaska mostly within the Municipality of Anchorage. The park contains approximately 495,000 acres of land and comprises nearly half of the Alaska Game Management Unit (GMU) 14C. Although vast portions of the Southcentral Alaska region are sparsely populated, almost half of the State's population resides in or near Anchorage. Anchorage represents the most highly developed urban area in Alaska.

Management responsibility for the park, described in AS 41.21.122, is assigned to the Department of Natural Resources for control, development, and maintenance. The statute states that the Department of Fish and Game shall cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources for the park purposes described above (AS 41.21.121) relevant to the duties of the Department of Fish and Game.

With over 1.3 million visitors annually, Chugach State Park has carefully reviewed the 2022/2023 regulatory proposals that will affect the park's wildlife and users.

**PROPOSAL 90**

**5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.**

**5 AAC 92.530. Management Areas.**

This proposal seeks to establish a primitive weapon or any weapons hunt for black bear in the West Fork of Eagle River Drainage in Unit 14C as follows:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, South Fork Eagle River: all drainages into South Fork Eagle River, excluding that area within ½ mile of a developed facility.



December 16, 2022

Page 2 of 2

**Amendment:** None

**Recommendation:** Oppose

**Findings: 11 AAC 12.190. Firearms and other weapons.** (a) A person may not discharge a weapon within a state park except as provided by this section, AS 41.21, 11 AAC 20, or 11 AAC 21.

(d) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, a person may discharge a weapon in a state park for the purpose of lawful hunting or trapping, except that a person may not discharge a weapon in a state park as follows:

(1) within one-quarter mile of a developed facility or as otherwise provided by this section, AS 41.21, 11 AAC 20, or 11 AAC 21;

(4) in Chugach State Park within the following drainages:

(B) Eagle River and all tributary drainages downstream from the confluence of Icicle Creek and Eagle River located in Section 24, T13N, R1E, Seward Meridian.

One of the purposes for establishing Chugach State Park was to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife. Negative wildlife-human interactions are not common within the park, but public safety is a concern as visitors seek to view wildlife and use park resources for recreational pursuits. Most visitors seem to be aware of the potential threats that come with recreating alongside wildlife and encountering bears has not prevented most residents from using area parks and trails.

Certain activities occurring within the park such as hunting have been the source of public contention over the years because of individual personal recreational perspectives. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation manages public safety as well as the land and recreation resources. Accessible, year-round recreation areas like the South Fork of Eagle River and the interconnected trail system of the West fork of Eagle River drainage have been set aside from the use and discharge of weapons for this purpose.

Authorizing a hunt in this drainage would go against 11 AAC 12.190(4)(F) and the Chugach State Park's management and purpose.

### **PROPOSAL 97**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

**5 AAC 92.530. Management Areas.**

This proposal seeks to establish a primitive weapon or any weapons hunt for brown bear in the West Fork of Eagle River Drainage in Unit 14C as follows:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, South Fork Eagle River: all drainages into South Fork Eagle River, excluding that area within ½ mile of a developed facility.

**Amendment:** None

**Recommendation:** Oppose

**Findings: 11 AAC 12.190. Firearms and other weapons.** (a) A person may not discharge a weapon within a state park except as provided by this section, AS 41.21, 11 AAC 20, or 11 AAC 21.

(d) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, a person may discharge a weapon in a state park for the purpose of lawful hunting or trapping, except that a person may not discharge a weapon in a state park as follows:



December 16, 2022

Page 3 of 2

(1) within one-quarter mile of a developed facility or as otherwise provided by this section, AS 41.21, 11 AAC 20, or 11 AAC 21;

(4) in Chugach State Park within the following drainages:

(B) Eagle River and all tributary drainages downstream from the confluence of Icicle Creek and Eagle River located in Section 24, T13N, R1E, Seward Meridian.

One of the purposes for establishing Chugach State Park was to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife. Negative wildlife-human interactions are not common within the park, but public safety is a concern as visitors seek to view wildlife and use park resources for recreational pursuits. Most visitors seem to be aware of the potential threats that come with recreating alongside wildlife and encountering bears has not prevented most residents from using area parks and trails.

Certain activities occurring within the park such as hunting have been the source of public contention over the years because of individual personal recreational perspectives. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation manages public safety as well as the land and recreation resources. Accessible, year-round recreation areas like the South Fork of Eagle River and the interconnected trail system of the West fork of Eagle River drainage have been set aside from the use and discharge of weapons for this purpose.

Authorizing a hunt in this drainage would go against 11 AAC 12.190(4)(F) and the Chugach State Park's management and purpose.

### **PROPOSAL 98**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**

**5 AAC 92.530. Management Areas.**

This proposal seeks to open a hunt for brown bear within the Rainbow Creek drainage in Unit 14C as follows:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, Rainbow Creek: all drainages flowing into Rainbow Creek, excluding that area within ½ mile of the Seward Highway or within ½ mile of a developed facility.

**Amendment:** None

**Recommendation:** Oppose

**Findings: 11 AAC 12.190. Firearms and other weapons.** (a) A person may not discharge a weapon within a state park except as provided by this section, AS 41.21, 11 AAC 20, or 11 AAC 21.

(d) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, a person may discharge a weapon in a state park for the purpose of lawful hunting or trapping, except that a person may not discharge a weapon in a state park as follows:

(1) within one-quarter mile of a developed facility or as otherwise provided by this section, AS 41.21, 11 AAC 20, or 11 AAC 21;

(4) in Chugach State Park within the following drainages:

(F) Rainbow Creek.

One of the purposes for establishing Chugach State Park was to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife. Negative wildlife-human interactions are not common within the park, but public



December 16, 2022

Page 4 of 2

safety is a concern as visitors seek to view wildlife and use park resources for recreational pursuits. Most visitors seem to be aware of the potential threats that come with recreating alongside wildlife and encountering bears has not prevented most residents from using area parks and trails.

Certain activities occurring within the park such as hunting have been the source of public contention over the years because of individual personal recreational perspectives. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation manages public safety as well as the land and recreation resources. Accessible, year-round recreation areas like Rainbow Creek drainage have been set aside from the use and discharge of weapons for this purpose.

Authorizing a hunt in this drainage would go against 11 AAC 12.190(4)(F) and the Chugach State Park's management and purpose.

### **PROPOSAL 103**

**5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.**

**5 AAC 85.020. Hunting season and bag limits for brown bear.**

**5AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

**5 AAC 92.530. Management Areas**

Establish a bear bait hunt in Unit 14C, the McHugh Creek drainage for black and brown bears as follows:

(1) Station for bear baiting for brown and black bears in Unit 14C McHugh Creek drainage area starting May 1 through June 15. Up to six certified users of the bait station shall operate the bait station by registration permit.

**Amendment:** None

**Recommendation:** Oppose

**Findings: 11 AAC 12.190. Firearms and other weapons.** (a) A person may not discharge a weapon within a state park except as provided by this section, AS 41.21, 11 AAC 20, or 11 AAC 21.

(d) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, a person may discharge a weapon in a state park for the purpose of lawful hunting or trapping, except that a person may not discharge a weapon in a state park as follows:

(1) within one-quarter mile of a developed facility or as otherwise provided by this section, AS 41.21, 11 AAC 20, or 11 AAC 21;

(4) in Chugach State Park within the following drainages:

(E) McHugh Creek.

**11 AAC 12.220. Unattended equipment.** (b) A person may not leave equipment in an undeveloped area of a state park for more than 72 hours unless the person is primarily engaged in recreation activities on a daily basis in the state park in which the equipment is located or on public land adjacent to the state park.

**11 AAC 12.050 Refuse and waste.** (a) No person may bring waste or refuse from a household into a state park.

One of the purposes for establishing Chugach State Park was to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife. Negative wildlife-human interactions are not common within the park, but public



December 16, 2022

Page 5 of 2

safety is a concern as visitors seek to view wildlife and use park resources for recreational pursuits. Most visitors seem to be aware of the potential threats that come with recreating alongside wildlife and encountering bears has not prevented most residents from using area parks and trails.

Certain activities occurring within the park such as hunting have been the source of public contention over the years because of individual personal recreational perspectives. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation manages public safety as well as the land and recreation resources. McHugh Creek is one of the most highly developed trailheads along Turnagain Arm and being a mere 20-minute drive from Anchorage, it consequently receives heavy use year-round especially in the spring with its southern exposure. Areas like McHugh Creek drainage have been set aside from the use and discharge of weapons for this purpose.

Additionally, it would be very challenging for hunters to meet the required 1 mile from a recreational facility and ¼ mile setbacks from a developed trail within the steep, mountainous, non-motorized McHugh Creek drainage. Since McHugh drainage is so narrow, it is likely the bait station will lure bears toward a developed trail rather than away. Park regulations prohibit leaving bait station equipment in the field for extended amounts of time unattended.

Authorizing a hunt in this drainage would go against 11 AAC 12.190(4)(E), 11 AAC 12.220 (b), 11 AAC 12.050, and the Chugach State Park's management and purpose.

2022/2023 Board of Game Proposals 90, 97, 98, and 103 are in direct conflict with park regulations and management. The locations of these proposals occur in the most heavily recreated areas of the park; areas that have been set aside from the use and discharge of weapons.

I greatly appreciate the opportunity to review and submit comments on the above proposals. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding these recommendations. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Ben Corwin  
Park Superintendent  
Chugach Region





**Submitted by:** Doug Dorner

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Kodiak AK

**Comment:**

Proposal 73 – I’m supporting this as amended by the Kodiak AC (reduce deer bag limit for nonresidents from 3 to 1)

Proposal 74 – I’m supporting this as amended by the Kodiak AC (deer must remain bone-in, the AC amended it just to make the language a little clearer based on input from AWT)

Proposal 81 – I’m supporting this. The Kodiak AC supported it unanimously. This would require snares set on the Kodiak Road System to have breakaway mechanisms.

*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: Support with Amendment Proposal 74: Support with Amendment Proposal 81: Support

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PC075

**Submitted by:** Melissa Dowell

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Kenai, AK

**Comment:**

Proposal 145 - Support

We are investing in the wildlife of this state by creating these wildlife crossings and it is imperative that we not turn these crossings into a trap for these same animals we are attempting to protect. As one of the largest and least inhabited states in the country, there are plenty of places to hunt and trap.

Proposal 146 - Support

Proposal 147 - Support

Proposal 148 - Support

Proposal 149 - Support

Proposal 150 - Support

Proposal 151 - Support

Proposal 152 - Support

Proposal 153 - Support

One of my greatest joys of living in Alaska is the amazing trails available to explore however I am consistently worried that I or my dogs may be injured while walking them because of the allowance of traps so close to the trails. As one of the largest and least inhabited states in the country, there are plenty of places to hunt and trap without allowing them to be set right alongside recreation trails. Alaska is an incredibly attractive destination for outdoor recreation which supports many community economies but if we get the reputation for people or domestic animals being injured due to traps that are placed right by trails, you can bet that tourism will decrease.

Proposal 154 - Support

One of my greatest joys of living in Alaska is the amazing trails available to explore however I am consistently worried that I or my dogs may be injured while walking them because of the allowance of traps in the same areas. Signage would decrease that worry because it would be clear where areas of concern are present.

Proposal 156 - Support

Proposal 157 - Support

Proposal 160 - Support

Based on review by experts there are population concerns that would be addressed or, at least mitigated by these efforts. Retaining healthy populations of all species in Alaska is in everyone's best interest, humans and animals. If we do not address population concerns proactively, we risk loss of animals which takes more investment and management to correct.

#### Proposal 158

Making regulations easy to understand for all is the best way to promote adherence and awareness. Aligning timing whenever possible is a logical way to accomplish that goal.

#### Proposal 159 - Opposed

The assertions made are inaccurate. Extending the season is unlikely to result in greater Dall sheep abundance since they are not a primary portion of a wolverine's diet. On the adfg site it states that while ungulates can be killed by wolverines, this is a rare occurrence. Wolverines are not increasing in density over the peninsula. Again, on the adfg site it states, "Wolverines are found at low densities across Alaska. Results from a cooperative study with Chugach National Forest indicated a wolverine density of 4.5 to 5.0 wolverines per 1,000 square kilometers in Kenai Mountains and Turnagain Arm area, which is typical for other areas of South-central Alaska." This 4.5-5 count is, at best, stable and current guidelines should not be changed.

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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 Proposal 155: Support Proposal 156: Support Proposal 157: Support Proposal 158: Support Proposal 159: Oppose Proposal 160: Support



PC076

**Submitted by:** Ron Downing

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, AK

#### **Comment:**

Just today I heard about this matter of trapping near trails, campgrounds etc. I can't imagine walking carefree on one of our beautiful trails with my son or my dog only to wander off the trail to take a leak and find a trap. If I have heard correctly about this it seems like madness. I would say even 100 yard setbacks are too close. Please reconsider!

*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 150: Support Proposal 151: Support Proposal 152: Support Proposal 153: Support Proposal 154: Support

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PC077

**Submitted by:** Justin Dubay**Organization Name:****Community of Residence:** Wasilla, ALASKA**Comment:**

I am a guide/outfitter in Alaska who has hunted in 19C for 25 years. I will leave this short. The numbers of ewes and lambs is down quite a bit due to environmental and predation issues. Most of it being environmental. I oppose the closing of 19C to sheep hunting because limiting the harvest of mature rams will have no impact on the overall population. The problem lies in ewes and lambs not surviving the winter. I spend countless days in sheep country year round and have witnessed this first hand. This is a cycle like any other animal goes through. Closing the season to mature rams will only allow these rams to die on the mountain. I also believe the number of residents who harvest is down due to overall numbers being down. The decline in numbers is a state wide problem not limited to 19C. Please reconsider shutting this unit down at all let alone five years. 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 204: Oppose



PC078

**Submitted by:** Ben Dubbe**Organization Name:****Community of Residence:** Homer, AK**Comment:**

In support of Proposal 161 with amendments.

I am fully in support of this proposal and the reasons behind it. I would like it to be amended to include not just the south side of Kachemak Bay, but also the adjacent outer coast and islands. If deer were to be introduced to the south side of Kachemak Bay there is no barrier preventing deer from traveling to the outer coast and because of that it would effectively be in the reintroduction area. It has been my observation that short passages like the one to the Elizabeth Islands are not a barrier to Sitka deer. Additionally, it may be found that the habitat is better on the outer coast and a reintroduction would be better started there.

*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 105: Support with Amendment Proposal 106: Support with Amendment Proposal 107: Oppose Proposal 108: Support Proposal 110: Support with Amendment Proposal 112: Support Proposal 113: Support Proposal 114: Support Proposal 115: Support Proposal 121: Support Proposal 122: Support Proposal 123: Support Proposal 124: Support Proposal 125: Support Proposal 126: Support Proposal 129: Support Proposal 133: Oppose Proposal 134: Support

Proposal 135: Support Proposal 136: Support with Amendment Proposal 137: Support with Amendment Proposal 138: Support with Amendment Proposal 139: Support Proposal 140: Oppose Proposal 145: Oppose Proposal 146: Support with Amendment Proposal 147: Support with Amendment Proposal 148: Support with Amendment Proposal 149: Support with Amendment Proposal 150: Support with Amendment Proposal 151: Support with Amendment Proposal 152: Support with Amendment Proposal 153: Support with Amendment Proposal 154: Support Proposal 155: Oppose Proposal 156: Oppose Proposal 157: Oppose Proposal 158: Support Proposal 159: Support Proposal 160: Support Proposal 161: Support Proposal 171: Support Proposal 172: Support

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# Cooper Landing Trap Setback Proposals, Comments & Ballot



PC 079

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](mailto: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 079

Aate recreational use trumps trapping.

(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)\*: RALPH DIERRE

Organization (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature\*: R. Dierre

Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City\*: Anchorage State\*: AK Zip code: 99515

\*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.



PC080

**Submitted by:** William Durrant

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Hope

**Comment:**

Proposals 145-155. Trapping is incompatible with skiers, hikers and dogs. Too dangerous. Give some set back to ensure safety of children pets. Big state plenty of opportunities to trap away from people.

*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

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PC081

**Submitted by:** Caleb Eckert

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, AK

**Comment:**

In order to keep populations robust and healthy, more conservative limits on hunting help guarantee that harvest can continue. Not only do these support a balanced, thriving, healthy ecosystem, but they also encourage hunting in the long-term by easing pressure on sea duck populations as a whole. Retaining or increasing conservative measures for harvest limits for waterfowl is a sensible action that balances concerns about overharvest and desires from hunters. This is why I vocalize support for Proposals 164, 166, and 169—all of which lower bag limits yet still allow for hunting to continue.

In addition, I oppose Proposals 162 and 163 for precisely the same reasons as above: it is not clear that there is a need from area hunters for increased harvest limits, and there is no reason to put further pressure on waterfowl and ptarmigan populations without robust data to back up the liberalization/removal of hunting regulations. Reductions of hunting pressure and more conservative management helps guarantee the continuance of hunting in the long-term.

Additionally, I strongly support Proposal 171, due to its potential to provide more accurate and holistic data on sea duck populations to better guide effective management actions. There are few reasons for less data to be gathered on any species that is hunted or otherwise more heavily pressured by human activity.

I support Proposals 156 and 160. Beavers create critical habitats for a wide array of species across the board, and are vital co-managers of the wider ecosystem. Reductions in trapping pressure on this keystone species mean a healthier ecosystem for all users—including hunters and trappers—that can remain resilient to disruptions and crises of all kinds and more self-sustaining in the short and long term.



*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 156: Support    Proposal 160: Support    Proposal 162: Oppose    Proposal 163: Oppose    Proposal 164: Support  
Proposal 166: Support    Proposal 171: Support

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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.
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- ☒ **#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 082

I Think The distance should be  
greater - I've XC Skied in AK For  
20 yrs. , its great Fun To Take my  
dog AND go . I don't Like Trapping  
AT ALL .

(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)\*: Charles Roger ELKINS Jr

Organization (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature\*: Charles Roger Elkins Jr

Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.



**Submitted by:** Angelica Evans

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Anchorage, Alaska

**Comment:**

In regards to proposal 145, I support a trapping and hunting buffer surrounding the wildlife crossing in coopers landing.

While the proposed 1/4 mile buffer is a start, I would support a much more substantial buffer area of at least 1 mile surrounding the crossing.

*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 157:  
Support Proposal 158: Support Proposal 160: Support

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

Comments:



PC 084

As a landowner and dog owner here on the Kenai Peninsula, I enjoy the outdoors walking my dog and want it to be a stress free experience. Even though we live out East End Road, we stop along the highway going to Anchorage & Seward. All of the proposals for trap setbacks are potentially where I like to walk my dog. I am totally in favor of the 100yd setbacks to protect my pets, also to keep trappers equipment safe.

(Feel free to add extra pages of comments!)

Printed Name (First and last)\* Katherine Farrington

Organization (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature\*: Kath Farrington date 2/27/23

Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

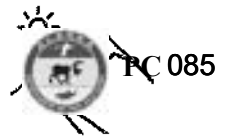
City\*: Homer State\*: AK Zip code: 99603-9725

\*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 3<sup>rd</sup>!  
Remember to have each household member submit separate comments individually.

# 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](mailto: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 085

Anyone that is too lazy to walk 100 yds off an established trail to set a trap should not be trapping. I am in favor of the 100 yd setback on all of the proposals.

(Feel free to add extra pages of comments!)

Printed Name (First and last)\*: Patrick Fallington

Organization (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature\*:  date 2/27/23

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 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Remember to have each household member submit separate comments individually.





**Submitted by:** Nina Faust

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer

**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 155: Support Proposal 156: Support with Amendment Proposal 160: Support

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As a long time Alaskan, I use trails in public areas. I am very concerned about the lack of buffers or zones along our public trails to keep public recreation separate from the trapping of animals. Multi-use areas are great, but some activities, like trapping, do not belong in close proximity to multi-use trails. I support new regulations to create setbacks. Specifically, I support Proposals 145 through 154 that will create setbacks along specific trails in Cooper Landing and Homer and Seward, as well as require signs where there is active trapping.

*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

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P.O. Box 2994

Homer AK 99603

December 15, 2022

Members of the Alaska Board of Game

Anchorage AK 99603

RE: Proposals 164-172 Regarding Sea duck Bag Limits and Reporting in Kachemak Bay, Unit 15C

Dear BOG Members:

I fully support all the proposals listed above that would reduce the bag limits for Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Harlequins, and Long-tailed ducks in Kachemak Bay and make the reporting requirements for take of these ducks more stringent.

The sea ducks in Kachemak Bay have been hit hard over the years with guided hunts in many of the fiords. These populations are very slow to recover so the decline due to the intense hunting is very evident.

Since Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area's purpose is "to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose" (Alaska Statute 16.20.500), it is clear the Board of Game needs to change the regulations to conserve these populations.

With populations so low, we need to be very conservative in setting the take of these long-lived but slowly reproducing populations. Please pass these proposals so the local Kachemak Bay sea duck flocks can recover.

Respectfully,

Nina Faust

*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 163: Oppose 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

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P.O. Box 2994

Homer AK 99603

October 20, 2022

Members of the Alaska Board of Game

Anchorage AK 99603

RE: Proposals 165-172 Regarding Sea duck Bag Limits and Reporting in Kachemak Bay, Unit 15C

Dear BOG Members:

I fully support all the proposals listed above that would reduce the bag limits for Goldeneyes, Buffleheads, Harlequins, and Long-tailed ducks in Kachemak Bay and make the reporting requirements for take of these ducks more stringent.

The sea ducks in Kachemak Bay have been hit hard over the years with guided hunts in many of the fiords. These populations are very slow to recover so the decline due to the intense hunting is very evident.

Since Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area's purpose is "to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose" (Alaska Statute 16.20.500), it is clear the Board of Game needs to change the regulations to conserve these populations.

With populations so low, we need to be very conservative in setting the take of these long-lived but slowly reproducing populations. Please pass these proposals so the local Kachemak Bay sea duck flocks can recover.

Respectfully,

Nina Faust

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Proposal 165: Support Proposal 166: Support  
Proposal 167: Support Proposal 168: Support Proposal 169: Support Proposal 170: Support Proposal 171: Support  
Proposal 172: Support

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P.O. Box 2994

Homer AK 99603

January 27, 2023

RE: Proposal 162 Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting, March 17-21, 2022

I have lived in the Skyline Drive area of Homer since 1986 and have skied and hiked all of the area extensively. In particular, I have skied almost all of the drainages from Lookout Mountain and all other drainages east of there down into the Beaver Flats and Fritz Creek drainage over the time period from 1986 until now. Ptarmigan used to be seen frequently on top and around Lookout Mountain and occasionally in some few areas closer to Skyline Drive. As more hunters with snow machines frequented the area, the numbers went way down to the point where no ptarmigan have been seen for years.

Last winter in spring of 2022, I finally saw a couple of ptarmigan again in the Skyline/Ohlson Mt Road area. I did not see any in the drainages or on the hillsides above. The population is not by any means recovered even to its sparse abundance of the 1980s compared to the historic dense flocks reported by homesteaders in the 1940s. The closure has successfully begun restoration of this depleted population but it has a long way to go to fully recover.

Please do not open the spring season for Ptarmigan hunting. In reality, splitting the season and allowing a fall hunt with the spring nesting season closure is good sense management for abundance. With the efficiency of snowmachines and the speed with which hunters can kill ptarmigan in willow patches it would make sense to maintain this closure permanently to allow the population to stay at a higher natural level. Photographers, hikers, skiers, and tourists along the Skyline Drive and Ohlson Mountain Road will be able to enjoy seeing our state bird from their cars. The split season makes it easy to manage this species for all Alaskans so it can become a bird that might easily be seen from the road which will attract birdwatchers to our community. Right now, spotting a ptarmigan from any commonly driven road is a rarity. It is important to remember that Alaska wildlife is to be managed for all Alaskans. This closure is starting to make a difference but it is a long way from allowing ptarmigan to once again become abundant.

I urge a no vote on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

*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 162: Oppose

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P.O. Box 2994

Homer AK 99603

October 20, 2022

RE: Proposal 162 Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting, March 17-21, 2022

I have lived in the Skyline Drive area of Homer since 1986 and have skied and hiked all of the area extensively. In particular, I have skied almost all of the drainages from Lookout Mountain and all other drainages east of there down into the Beaver Flats and Fritz Creek drainage over the time period from 1986 until now. Ptarmigan used to be seen frequently on top and around Lookout Mountain and occasionally in some few areas closer to Skyline Drive. As more hunters with snow machines frequented the area, the numbers went way down to the point where no ptarmigan have been seen for years.

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I urge a no vote on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

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Proposal 162: Support

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If I already commented on Proposal 162, I would prefer this version be used.

P.O. Box 2994

Homer AK 99603

January 27, 2023

RE: Proposal 162 Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting, March 17-21, 2022

I have lived in the Skyline Drive area of Homer since 1986 and have skied and hiked all of the area extensively. In particular, I have skied almost all of the drainages from Lookout Mountain and all other drainages east of there down into the Beaver Flats and Fritz Creek drainage over the time period from 1986 until now. Ptarmigan used to be seen frequently on top and around Lookout Mountain and occasionally in some few areas closer to Skyline Drive. As more hunters with snow machines frequented the area, the numbers went way down to the point where no ptarmigan have been seen for years.

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I urge a no vote on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

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Proposal 162: Oppose

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[REDACTED]  
Homer AK 99603  
[REDACTED]

February 10, 2023

Members of the Alaska Board of Game  
Anchorage AK 99603

Dear Board Members:

RE: Proposal 155: **5 AAC 92.550 Areas closed to trapping.**

Beavers are important wetlands and stream engineers. Many of the drainages on the Kenai Peninsula have low populations of beaver, especially in the Anchor River and Fritz Creek Drainages that I am familiar with. I would like to see this proposal passed.

RE: Proposal 156: **5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

I support Proposal 156 but I would recommend it be amended. I would like to see the Fritz Creek Drainage added to the closure, and I would like to see the closure on the Anchor River and Fritz Creek drainages be for a 10-year period, with a review at the end of the closure to see if there are enough beaver to warrant reopening the season.

From my personal experience in exploring and hiking drainages flowing into the Beaver Flats and Fritz Creek, all the old beaver dams in the upper drainages coming down from the Skyline Drive and Ohlson Mountain Road area no longer have beaver. There used to be a thriving colony in the drainage that comes out of the wetlands area off the first big downhill on Ohlson Mountain Road. Further downstream, numerous active beaver dams hosted several animals. I know that snowmachiners accessed this lower colony and set traps. Eventually there were no more beavers.

Much research has been done throughout the country on the effects to watersheds when beavers are removed entirely from drainages. This research is providing methods for restoration efforts to help with drought, loss of fishery and animal habitat, erosion control, and many more benefits that come from restoring beaver. The book, *Eager: The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why they Matter* by Ben Goldfarb details the drastic transformation of land throughout America due to the intensive hunting, trapping, and eradication of beavers. It also discusses some of the new methods for dealing with problem beavers and methods for restoration of beaver in areas where they have been extirpated.

In Homer, Inspiration Ridge Preserve, owned by the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACS), is potentially a site for a beaver restoration project when historically there were beavers maintaining a dam and ponds in the wetlands near Ohlson Mountain Road. If pursued and



successful, restoration of beaver in this location would create wetlands for nesting waterfowl, the native dolly varden fish in this creek, and would store water from runoff, preventing erosion downstream and helping to recharge ground water. Educational opportunities about wetlands ecology and the role of beavers would be a side benefit.

However, if CACS invests in this project, it is important that the beaver are protected from trapping for a long enough period to establish a healthy thriving colony whose family members would eventually migrate downstream to repopulate other old dam sites. Whether that time-period is 6 years or 10 years may be debatable, but I feel we should provide a sufficiently long time period for the closure to allow full success of a project like this and for the repopulation of both the Anchor River and Fritz Creek Drainages. Restoring beaver throughout the drainage, especially of the Anchor River drainage, would benefit the popular salmon and steelhead fisheries.

So, I fully support an amended Proposal 156, as I have stated.

RE: Proposal 160: allows take of one beaver per lodge

I support this Proposal as it would end multiple sets on a single lodge and allow only one beaver to be removed. Makes sense to limit the take and allow the family to continue maintaining their lodge and reproducing. That will help protect the population of beavers in the drainage. Marking makes it easy for other trappers to see the lodge is not available for further trapping.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Faust



PC087

**Submitted by:** Vivian Finlay

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, Alaska

**Comment:**

I am in complete support of Proposals 146 and 147 requiring 100 yard setbacks for setting traps near established walking trails, and ski trails. We have vast areas of "wilderness" and dogs are often off leash when they are with their owners. Dogs can accidentally be caught in traps which are too close to the trails. Trappers and other trail users have agreed with the 100 yard setbacks previously. Please support their wishes. Thank you.

Vivian Finlay

*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

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PC088

**Submitted by:** Kate Finn

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer

**Comment:**

I live inside Homer City limits and am very concerned for the welfare of my own animals and those of others!

I feel very strongly about the passage of Proposal#146 regarding the Saddle/Glacier trails and Proposal #147 regarding the snowmobile and Nordic Ski Club trails!!

MAKE OUR TRAILS SAFE for ALL USERS

Thank you,

Gratefully,

Kate Finn

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**March 3, 2023**

**To: Alaska Board of Game, Southcentral Region Meeting Spring 2023**

Members of the Board of Game,

My name is Cody Fithian. I live in Wasilla, Alaska. I am a guide, but I also actively hunt with my family and can see both sides of the resident/non-resident conflict that can exist within our hunting community. My following comments are directed at **Proposals 204 and 205**, both affecting unit 19C. I guide in that unit, and also spend time each year hunting on my own and with my family. My experience in the unit is not limited to hunting, as I spend a considerable amount of time there throughout the year.

**Proposal 204: Opposed.**

I do not support Proposal 204. Making such a broad change to a resource in Alaska without any scientific support or research into the root issues is wrong and sets a bad precedent for other harvests and bag limits in the state for both resident and non-resident hunters.

Having been active in unit 19C since 1994, and seeing firsthand populations of both sheep, moose and caribou rise and fall due to either extreme winters or over population of wolves/ bears and subsequent predation, I do not see how shutting down the harvesting of sheep for five years will help the issues we are currently experiencing. I believe that sheep population statewide need to be studied and a broader approach taken to managing and dealing with low sheep numbers. It is also my opinion that increased predator control in unit 19 will have a greater impact on our sheep populations than eliminating human harvests. The last two years especially we have personally witnessed a large rise in wolf populations and signs of predation, and have observed an increase in late winter avalanches due to heavy snowfall and subsequent deaths within the sheep winter ranges. Eliminating human harvests of sheep for five years is not the right answer to the problem.

**Proposal 205: Opposed.**

I also do not support Proposal 205. The issue as I understand it is an unfair hunting opportunity for resident hunters due to over hunting and crowding by non-resident hunters. In my opinion, any time there is easy (relatively speaking) access to an area there will be overcrowding and conflicts. In unit 19C, the majority of the issues I have heard of are in the Farewell area where it is possible to land large aircraft and easily transport in ATV's and gear. In the last 19 years, as a pilot I have made numerous stops at Farewell to refuel, wait on weather, or occasionally pick up or drop off gear or supplies. While there are a number of guides utilizing the Farewell airfield, the overwhelming majority of people and camps I have seen around Farewell and its vicinity are resident hunters. Changing the non-resident season to a draw only hunt will not fix the problem, which I believe is specific to that "corner" of 19C and not reflective of the entire geographic area that unit 19C encompasses. A person only has to visit the Farewell area after the 1st of October when most people have left to realize there are plenty of moose.

Submitted respectfully,

Cody Fithian



**Submitted by:** Adrienne Fleek

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Cooper Landing, AK

**Comment:**

I use the trails around Cooper Landing twice a day and have my dogs with me. I'd greatly appreciate setbacks and signage for trapping so I can avoid incidents that impact my family. I also submitted hand written notes on this topic. Thank you for your condo and support for local residents.

*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

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**Submitted by:** Adrienne Fleek

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Cooper Landing

**Comment:**

Form Letter/See Attached

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# Cooper Landing Trap Setback Proposals, Comments & Ballot



PC 090

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.



I strongly support trap setbacks in Cooper Landing. I walk, mush, ski, and run with my dogs 1-2 times a day on the trails in and around Cooper Landing with my 2 dogs and would feel so much more secure knowing there are no game traps close to the area my family recreates in.

I am a lifelong Indigenous Alaskan and want to make sure these <sup>safe</sup> opportunities co-exist with trapping activities- which I also support in designated areas away from the primary places where residents recreate. Gunal'cheesh for including my comments (feel free to add extra pages of comments) + hearing this issue.

Printed Name (First and last)\*: Adrienne Fleck

Organization (if any):

Signature\*: 

Email\*: 

Street Address\*: 

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

\*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.



PC091

**Submitted by:** Courtney Fleek

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Cooper Landing

**Comment:**

My name is Courtney Fleek and I've had a home in Cooper Landing for over 10 years. I've used the many trails in the area in both winter and summer. It's the main reason I chose this town.

I support proposals #149-154 that create 100 yard setbacks and signage at areas the public accesses trails and beaches to recreate in this narrow valley. Many of these access points are at campgrounds and along the highway or at pullouts.

I've used these trails and beaches with children and pets and always have traps in the back of my mind. 100 yard setbacks for traps would really increase safety for the public. So would signage when traps are in the area.

The 1/4 mile buffer to the wildlife crossings to be built with the new highway in proposal 145 would be good to make the crossings as effective as possible.

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

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PC092

**Submitted by:** Mike Flora

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, Ak

**Comment:**

I support proposal 147. My feelings are that trappers should recognise that the public does enjoy recreating with dogs in the backcountry, free of worry about their dogs being injured. It is not asking much of trappers to maintain a trapline a reasonable distance from public trails. Please consider that when harvesting a public resource, all crabbers, cod fishermen, longliners, salmon netters, trollers, follow extensive requirements governing when , how, where, to set gear..trappers should not be an exception .

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Proposal 147: Support

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PC093

**Submitted by:** Lauren Flynn

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, AK

**Comment:**

Hello, I am writing in support of proposals 146 and 147 to create 100 yard trap setbacks off of some common winter trails in my area. I learned a lot when my dog was caught in a foot trap last winter during a ski. Though it was a surprising and scary situation, we got her out uninjured, and I had a really great and educational talk with the trapper. Now I am more in tune with trapping seasons and if i am nervous that an area might have traps, I keep my dog on a leash. Since the event, I have learned how 100 yard setbacks can benefit both trappers and dog owners, and how user groups have been coming together across the state to propose setbacks. I think it is a fair compromise. I hope the State is as inspired by this community driven compromise as I am and will support proposals 146, 147 and others like it.

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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

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PC094

**Submitted by:** Rick Foster

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer and Little Tutka Bay, Alaska

**Comment:**

Thank you for your service and for considering my comments

I am a Homer home owner and resident, but spending most time with extended family in our Little Tutka Bay cabin Retired state Habitat Biologist with PHD, Resource Ecology. My comments are result of my observations, knowledge, science-based findings

Proposals 164-170: proposals regarding reduction of bag limits for Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Harlequin & Long-tailed Duck: I SUPPORT

Proposal 171: Direct ADF&G to implement a method for accurate reporting of sea duck harvest for Units 6,7 & 15: SUPPORT.

Proposal 172: Require mandatory harvest reporting for sea ducks in Kachemak Bay Unit 15C: SUPPORT

Proposal 163: proposal to roll back existing protections for Sea Ducks in Kachemak Bay: OPPOSE.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rick Foster Thank you for your service and for considering my comments

I am a Homer home owner and resident, but spending most time with extended family in our Little Tutka Bay cabin  
Retired state Habitat Biologist with PHD, Resource Ecology. My comments are result of my observations, knowledge, science-based findings

Proposals 164-170: proposals regarding reduction of bag limits for Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Harlequin & Long-tailed Duck: I SUPPORT

Proposal 171: Direct ADF&G to implement a method for accurate reporting of sea duck harvest for Units 6,7 & 15: SUPPORT.

Proposal 172: Require mandatory harvest reporting for sea ducks in Kachemak Bay Unit 15C: SUPPORT

Proposal 163: proposal to roll back existing protections for Sea Ducks in Kachemak Bay: OPPOSE.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rick Foster

*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:*

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PC095

**Submitted by:** Jacob Fraley

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, Alaska

**Comment:**

Hello, my name is Jacob Fraley

I am opposing board proposals 146 and 147, trappers are facing more and more regulations every year and with the increase of user groups of trails that have their dogs accompanying them the unleashed pets are getting into trail sets. Instead of making the trappers change when they are already following the entire book of regulations. Why not impose leash laws on the people that are not controlling the animals that are accompanying them? Furbearers use trails and sets that are not on the trail will not produce. Please do not support these proposals. 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: Oppose Proposal 147: Oppose

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PC096

**Submitted by:** Allison Galbraith

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, Alaska

**Comment:**

As a very frequent, all-season user of the areas specified in proposal numbers 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, and 154, I wish to voice my support for the trapping setbacks in these areas and the posting of signage to indicate active trapping. Please consider keeping these high use and multi use areas safe for everyone.

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

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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:

CH



PC 097

~ all are good proposals but most  
Trappers ~~can't~~ read or pay attention to regs.  
won't

~ have had 2 dogs in traps within these  
corridors

~ Use these areas alot!

Peninsula needs these changes.

(feel free to add extra pages of comments)

Printed Name (First and last)\*:

GARY GALBRAITH

Organization (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature\*:

Gary Galbraith

Email\*:

Street Address:

City\*: COOPER LAUNDINE

State\*: AK

Zip code: 99572

\*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.

# Cooper Landing Trap Setback Proposals, Comments & Ballot



PC 098

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.



I am <sup>an</sup> Active member of our community and it is continuously frustrating to me not to have a place to go that we can walk our dog without being caught in a trap. Times have changed and there are more outdoor recreationalists who contribute to our economy, visit our area and their needs, interest and safety are being ignored. I am not fond of trapping, however I respect individuals rights for activities as long as it doesn't impact all user groups. In our community, it does that now. Vast majority in Cooper Landing took the time <sup>2-3</sup> several years ago in support of setbacks in high use areas. The support is there and in discussion with other trappers - those who trap ethically - they do not see a problem with setbacks as they already avoid those areas. It's those who don't we need the setbacks for, and the new wildlife crossings that are coming with the bypass that also should have this regulation in place.

Printed Name (First and last)\*:

Yvette Galbraith

Organization (if any)

Cooper Landing Community Club Board, CLES active EMS Provider, CLAPC Committee Member

Signature\*:

Yvette R. Galbraith

Email\*

Street Address

City\*:

Cooper Landing

State\*:

AK

Zip code:

99572

\*Indicates it must be filled in to be accepted.



PC099

**Submitted by:** Emily Garrity

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Homer, Alaska

**Comment:**

I oppose proposal #162 to lengthen the ptarmigan hunting season past January 1st.

We are just starting to see the return of ptarmigan to our area and feel it necessary to allow numbers to build back up before any further hunting is allowed.

*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

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PC100

**Submitted by:** Rob Gemmen

**Organization Name:**

**Community of Residence:** Anchor Point, Alaska

**Comment:**

I believe proposal 146 and proposal 147 are not in the best interests of public use. Dog owners concerned with the safety of their pet should keep them on a leash and learn to release them from any trap that they could legally encounter. The burden of protection for the pet someone chooses to bring into a legal trapping environment should not fall on the trapper but on the pet owner.

Help keep our time honored tradition alive and well!

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Proposal 146: Oppose Proposal 147: Oppose Proposal 150: Oppose

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