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Some corrections to my in person testimony.

My name is Chris Perry, I have lived in the hills above Homer for 40 years. In the vicinity of the watermelon trail.

Please support proposals #145 through #154, all considering trapping setbacks and signage on trails in the homer and cooper landing areas. I would like to firmly say that these proposals are not antitrapping proposals.

I live 2 miles from the Homer city limits. There have been 8 dogs trapped within a couple miles of my home in the last two years and 3 more on the McNeil area ski trails this winter. I know 8 of these dogs and their owners. Four dogs were trapped by one trapper and 2 dogs by another in my neighborhood. One dog was trapped in a snare for three days before release approximately 100 yards from the owners property. Most of these traps were set within 50 feet of the trail. My dog was trapped 20 feet off of this trail. There have not been any posted signs of active trapping and when asked, the trapper has refused to post signage for fear of drawing attention to his activity. Trappers are asked to abide by a "code of ethics". This trapper checks his traps only weekly. The Trappers Code of Ethics asks to reduce possibility of catching non-target animals and trapping in ways to minimize conflict with other trail user groups. Trappers are directed to avoid high recreational use areas, areas near homes, or trails used by hikers, skiers and hunters. This trapper has caught four dogs within 50 feet of high use recreational trails without posting signage of active trapping. He checks his traps only weekly. I can only look to the ADFG Trappers Regulations and the Trappers Code of Ethics for guidance and

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clearly these codes are interpreted differently by different people. This trapper considers himself an ethical trapper. Some of the codes of ethics are codified for enforcement ability but most are inferred guidance.

I believe that this "close to trail trapping" completely conflicts with dog bird hunting and shows complete disregard for the opportunity of this user group.

These proposals for 100 yard setbacks in the Homer area are for a very small segment of mapped trails and was recommended by trapper representatives. These proposals were unanimously approved by the local AC last spring and last minute were opposed in January 2023 as being too broad. An AC committee member falsely stated that this proposal would close trapping on trails from Homer all the way to Ninilchik and that the trails move often with weather conditions. The small number of proposed mapped trails in the homer area are GPS located and permanent with signage and do not move as some AC members have implied. These trails are maintained by the ski and snow machine clubs which have no ownership of the trails. Most of the ski trails were never trapping trails. They were developed as ski trails with no motorized vehicles and many allow dogs without leashes. We are not defending irresponsible dog behavior or management and all dogs should be leashed, E collard or under voice control. I was surprised to see the AWT comment that these proposals are unenforceable. The trails in Juneau area and other trails were accepted for setbacks and have been very affectively managed as multiuse trails.

These proposals are only directed toward unethical trappers. I don't believe anyone wants to trap dogs and every trapped dog is perceived as another mark against trapping. I believe there is a large majority of the Alaska resident population that believes that even 1 dog trapped is too many. These proposals give managers the ability to remove problem traps, which they do not have the legal ability to do now with no clear definitions in code of ethics defining ethical or legal placement of traps. Wolf traps are often placed on existing trails and can not discriminate between, wolf, leashed dog, hunting dog, dog team or people. These traps are completely

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legal and cannot be removed by anyone including an AWT.

There have been comments that 100 yards is an ineffective distance from a trail to avoid conflicts with loose dogs. A comment that it takes a dog 8 seconds to run 100 yards and 5 seconds for a dog to run 100 yards to a biscuit has no relevance. I know that a 24' retractable leash on my dog will not stop conflict with a highly baited trap placed 20 feet from a trail. Do I have to use a 5' leash in the back country of Alaska? 100 yards is a distance that will stop a dog with voice control from having conflict. this distance has been recommended by many longtime trappers. 100 yards and 1" clearly defines my fault with any conflict. The Code of Ethics has NO clear guidance with this issue.

I would like to make a reference to proposal #228 from the 2022 BOG meetings. "AWT BOG Comment SUPPORTS mandatory signage and labeling of traps. Stating there are no other ways in AK to passively take fish and game with unmarked devices except by trapping. Trappers should be held to the same standards as other resource users. Trap and snare ID would greatly enhance AWT's ability to enforce illegal traps and incidental catches of moose, caribou and dogs."

These are NOT anti trapping proposals. I would suggest they only clarify the ethical placement of traps in high multiuse areas and try to minimize conflict between user groups. I believe it is unacceptable for 1 unethical trapper to close any portion of borough or state land for hunting, dog mushing or any public use for any period of time.

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

I want to mention the compromises I make every day when i decide where to go snowshoeing, hiking or skiing. I cannot or do not go to any of the trails I

have used for 40 years because of unethical trappers. Signage DOES NOT guarantee that traps are not placed on trails and leashing my dog will not avoid trap contact. Trappers declarations that they will not post signage for fear of attracting attention to their activities and or inordinate cost of mandatory signage posting and marking traps.

The additional cost to travel to a safe place to run my dogs, considering time and distance, can be substantial. The beach areas in town, 14 miles from my home, where trapping is prohibited, and has always been a 'goto' for safe area, now have a \$300 dollar fine for" failure to leash" laws. Where can I run my dogs?

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Cost of implementing these regulations. I know of 1 dog trapping incident in January 2023 where ADFG and AWTs were called by the trapper to release a dog from a trap in my area. There was neither an illegal placement of trap nor any leash law violation. There was just a highly scented baited trap 30' from this road. This is costing the Department and the State time and money and the code of ethics protects neither trail user.

Some of the AWTs comments to the BOG 2022 meeting when they SUPPORTED the proposal 228 to request signage and labeling they stated the following.

" AWT spends an exorbitant amount of time trying to identify the owners of traps in both cases of violation and when stolen. Trapping does not have the same accountability as other user groups. Metal tags could also be issued from ADFG. The proposal to have an affixed or stamped means of ID would simply bring this method of take into alignment with all other resource users."

Some comments about the Watermelon trail in the Homer area and some history. There have been comments about some confusion of trail names around the Watermelon trail.

There is a Kiosk with maps, and has been there for around 20 years at the trailhead parking lot for the watermelon trail. There is a large ~ 4' square sign on

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the road marking the Snowmads parking lot and trailhead.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough has granted a prescriptive easement, on borough land, to the Snowmads on the Watermelon Trail. They are in the process of surveying the trail and updating Maps to show the actual dedicated easement, IE. 60 foot easement.

The Snowmads and Nordic Ski Club have a close working and financial relationship to develop and maintain trails with maps, permanent signage and grooming.

Directly across the road from the Watermelon trail Parking area/ trailhead is the Kachemak Ski Club Rope Tow. The club was organized in 1948. The rope tow has been in this location since the early 70s. On Sundays from Thanksgiving until the end of April there may be as many as 100+ cars parked in the watermelon trailhead parking area. There can be 200+ alpine skiers at the rope tow and trail users on the watermelon trail in 1 day.

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It needs to be understood by all Board members that there is no ordinance for leash laws in the majority of GMU 7 or 15 or the entire state.

Please find it in your hearts to approve these proposals 145 through 154.

Thank you sincerely for my opportunity
to testify and for your time and consideration.

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