

ATA Minutes

XVI. ANTI TRAPPING ACTIVITIES IN OREGON

Randy summarized the issue. An animal rights initiative is coming through the process in Oregon. It would restrict hunting, fishing and trapping, as well as much of the animal husbandry industry in the state.

Discussion of whether we should contribute to the campaign against it.

Jim moved that we should make a cash contribution of \$1000.

Jody seconded the motion.

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Randy will check with NTA to see how we should donate.

XVII. GAME BOARD PROPOSALS

The Board of Game is scheduled to meet January 20 – 24 to consider proposals for Southeast. Comments on those proposals are due January 6. The BoD discussed the following proposals.

Proposal 6 would extend and unify the otter trapping season across Units 1 – 5 to November 10 to March 31. The BoD supports the standardization of seasons between adjacent units and the expansion of harvest opportunity but, for the sake of fur primeness, defers to the expertise of the Department and the disgression of the BoG regarding the dates.

Proposal 7 would extend and unify the marten trapping season across Units 1 – 5 to November 10 – February 28. The BoD takes the same position on this proposal as it does for proposal 6.

Proposal 8 would extend the marten trapping season in Units 1 and 2 to December 1 – February 28. Since the resource will support the additional opportunity and, since primeness is not an issue, the BoD supports this proposal.

Proposal 9 would extend the wolverine trapping season in Units 1 – 5 to November 10 – March 15. The BoD supports the standardization of seasons in adjacent units and the expanded harvest opportunity.

Proposal 27 would require a 100 yard trapping setback from hiking trails and driveable surfaces on Wrangell Island. The BoD opposes this type of regulation. It would unnecessarily eliminate a lot of legitimate trapping opportunity and would be difficult to enforce. It is normally a small number of people in a small number of locations that cause a problem. Rather than imposing an onerous, excessive closure, educational and signage efforts should be implemented to avert problems in public use areas.

(there is
workup)

Proposal 41 would eliminate the Douglas Island Management Area. The Board supports the proposal since the management area serves no purpose other than to unnecessarily restrict the harvest of wolves.

Proposal 46 would extend the wolf hunting season in Unit 2 to September 1 to March 31. The BoD sees no reason that this proposal should not be approved but notes that trapping should be considered the primary means of harvesting fur resources.

Proposals 45 and 47 – 54 are all intended to add restriction to the harvest of wolves in Unit 2. The BoD opposes all these proposals. They would over complicate management and set up a system that could forever be challenged with litigation. Wolf management in Unit 2 is really no different than game management statewide. ADF&G and the Board of Game should manage Unit 2 wolves in a manner which is consistent with other management throughout the state.

Norm will draft a comment letter to the Board of Game conveying the BoDs positions on these proposal.

COMMENTS

Bob met with Barry Whitehall, the Alaska representative for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. That organization would like to open a dialog with ATA. Discussion concluded that we should just stay friendly until we know more about that group. Randy may contact them to try to learn more about their operation.