

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Elijah Winrod [mailto:elijahwinrod@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, November 01, 2010 3:51 PM

**To:** Randall Zarnke

**Subject:** Re: Alaska Trappers Association

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My name is Elijah Winrod. POW resident for past 23 yrs .age 31 hunter wolf trapper.

In response to proposal no. 25 I believe I have some information that will be helpful regarding the issue of the question of wolf population & management in unit 2. It is obviously difficult to determine exact numbers. But from learning from pro wolf trappers on POW and my personal experience it is not to difficult to get close estimates, eg ,while deer hunting this yr (summer fall) alone; in all the usual pack ranges we have been to so far (i can think of 8 pack ranges visited), Consistently we have encountered healthy wolf populations estimating av. 5 pups per pack based on large no of pup tracks and scatts and wolf trail wear etc. concerning some of the statements(in proposal 25) that the unit 2 wolf pop is an isolated sub spiecies and being exploited; i do not know of any evidence supporting this. on the contrary i have read of a state study where a wolf went from hecetta,( island off the west coast of pow) to cleveland peninsula. We personally met a local cayacker who saw 9 wolf swimming from zarembo island to pow .and recently a seacucumber diver told us of a large pack he saw on brushy .(small island halfway between zarembo and pow.)i have personally seen them swimming numerous times, sometimes several miles. Although unit 2 islands define pack ranges to some degree,from my experience they pretty much come and go as determined by wolf populations and food sources. ---- As far as the more recent smaller harvest numbers compared with the numbers reported in the late nineties, the answer quite simply without doubt I believe, is that most of the trappers who were trapping in the late nineties are no longer trapping. thank you to all at this B.O.G .meeting for your time and interest.

Communication between local hunters and trappers and game management I believe is a vital part to maintain this delicate balance and healthy numbers of predators and prey. Sincerely  
Elijah Winrod. phone: 907 -723-3731



**Grateful Dogs  
of Juneau**

P.O. Box 20887  
Juneau, AK 99802  
[www.gratefuldogsofjuneau.org](http://www.gratefuldogsofjuneau.org)

November 1, 2010

ATTN: Board of Game Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Ketchikan Meeting:  
Proposal #10: Discretionary Conditions  
On Trapping Permits in Juneau

Dear Board of Game:

Grateful Dogs of Juneau respectfully submits the attached petition in support of Proposal #10:  
Discretionary Conditions on Trapping in Juneau.

We bring it to the Board's attention for its deliberations at the Ketchikan meeting to be held  
November 5 – 9, 2010.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Utermohle

President

Grateful Dogs of Juneau

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PETITION TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

PROPOSAL 10 - Discretionary Conditions on Trapping in Juneau Area

We support, and urge the Board of Game to adopt, Proposal 10: Discretionary Conditions on Trapping Permits in the Juneau Area. We believe the Department of Fish and Game should have the authority to establish reasonable conditions for trapping permits in the Juneau area, when the situation warrants. Proposal 10 is PRO-ACTIVE. Proposal 10 will have no effect on the ability to engage in lawful trapping in the Juneau area UNLESS AND UNTIL the Department determines that a situation exist where additional conditions on trapping permits are necessary to protect the public and trapping activities. The Juneau area is densely populated and contains many areas used by Juneau families for recreation. It is a safety issue.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
Linda Shaw	<i>Linda Shaw</i>	9684 Moraine Way, Juneau, AK 99801
Jos Bakker	<i>Jos Bakker</i>	PO Box 211403 Auke Bay 99821
TESS Quiner	<i>Tess Quiner</i>	9375 N. Douglas Hwy 99801
Michael Wilms	<i>M Wilms</i>	"
Robert G. Wain	<i>R Wain</i>	3220 FOSTER, Juneau, AK 99801
Wipie Weiss	<i>Wipie Weiss</i>	" "
Kelly Ludwig-Johnson	<i>Kelly Ludwig-Johnson</i>	POB 20372 Juneau, AK 99802
Jos Page	<i>Jos Page</i>	4801 River Road Juneau, AK
Ed Page	<i>Ed Page</i>	4801 River Rd. Juneau,
Charlotte Robertson	<i>Charlotte Robertson</i>	9605 Goldbelt Ave. Juneau
Rebecca Dritz	<i>Rebecca Dritz</i>	9162 Glenwood Dr Juneau AK
Jacque Farnsworth	<i>Jacque Farnsworth</i>	900 First St. #5 Douglas
Mary Ellen Frank	<i>Mary Ellen Frank</i>	611 St Anns Douglas 99824
Georgene Wallin	<i>Georgene Wallin</i>	PO Box 22375 Juneau 99802
Lisa Badger	<i>Lisa Badger</i>	PO Box 21004 Juneau AK 99802
Judy Gustafson	<i>Judy Gustafson</i>	9950 Steph Richards Juneau
Eric J Ponce	<i>Eric J Ponce</i>	9443 La Peroux Apt 6 Juneau, AK
Miriamet Botelho	<i>Miriamet Botelho</i>	170 95 St. Stephens 99801
Leslie Peters	<i>Leslie Peters</i>	PO Box 33125 Juneau, AK 99803

PETITION TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
Paula Terrel	Paula Terrel	5025 Throne Rd. Juneau 99801
Sandra Harris	Sandra Harris	424 4th St. Juneau AK 99801
J W Swertsen Jr	J W Swertsen Jr	424 Fourth St. Juneau AK 99801
Tina Brown	Tina Brown	19400 Beardsley Way Juneau AK 99801
Aran Felix	Aran Felix	3970 N. Douglas Hwy Juneau AK 99801
Gabrielle Aberle	Gabrielle Aberle	4543 Glacier Spur Rd Juneau
Jim Green	Jim Green	4950 Del Rio Road #2 Juneau
John Kremers	John Kremers	800 F. St. #K2 Juneau AK
Pat O'Brien	Pat O'Brien	9690 Moraine Way Tnd
Dolly Kremers	Dolly Kremers	800 F ST K2 Juneau AK
Margaret Lavender	Margaret Lavender	POB 240 478, Douglas 99824
Stephanie Butler	Stephanie Butler	POB 33338 JNU 99803
Victoria F. McLaughlin	Victoria F. McLaughlin	POB 20411 Juneau 99802
Geri Wright	Geri Wright	619 St. Ann's St Douglas 99824
Barbara Kelly-Page	Barbara Kelly-Page	4801 River Rd Juneau 99801
Sherry Anderson	Sherry Anderson	1670 Glacier Hwy Juneau AK 99801
Rich Anderson	Rich Anderson	1670 Glacier Hwy Juneau AK 99801
Jeanne Monk	Jeanne Monk	9560 N. Douglas 99801
Joni Land	Joni Land	11016 4th St #3 DGLS, AK 99824

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PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
Susan Schrader	Sue Schrader	PO Box 240325 Douglas, AK
Marcia J. Miller	Marcia J. Miller	9164 Wolfram Key Juneau, Alaska 99801
Linda Miller	Linda Miller	412 Gastineau Ave Apt 12
Sophy M. Moxon	Sophy Moxon	POB 32603 Juneau 99803
Mary Hicks	Mary Hicks	PO BOX 22565 Juneau 99802
Joann Lott	Joann Lott	17035 Pt Stephens Spar Rd,
Karen T. Wells	Karen T Wells	9851 Muenkle Cr Rd 99801
Sara Caldwell	Sara Caldwell	3195th St. Douglas 99824
Shirley Dean	Shirley DEAN	505 St Anns Douglas 99824
Jenn Farmichael	Jenn Farmichael	4510 Iconate
Melissa Neuhais	Melissa Neuhais	att off. ea 9950 Stephen Richard drive 99801
Phyllis Seal	Phyllis Seal	10115 Silver ST 99801
Pilar Scott	Pilar Scott	4312 Wendenhall Blvd 99801
Alli Rosen	Alli Rosen	4520 Trafalgar
Chelsea Lechner	Chelsea Lechner	PO Box 211064 Anko Bay 99821
GEORGE UTERMÖHLE	George Utermöhle	1470 GLACIER AVE 99801



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November 1, 2010

ATTN: Board of Game Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Ketchikan Meeting:  
Proposal #11: Treadwell Ditch  
Trail in Juneau Closed to Trapping

Dear Board of Game:

The Grateful Dogs of Juneau respectfully submits the attached petitions in support of Proposal #11: Treadwell Ditch Trail in Juneau Closed to Trapping.

We bring it to the Board's attention for its deliberations at the Ketchikan meeting to be held November 5 – 9, 2010.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*George Utermohle*  
George Utermohle  
President  
Grateful Dogs of Juneau

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PETITION TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

PROPOSAL 11 - TREADWELL DITCH TRAIL CLOSED TO TRAPPING

We support, and urge the Board of Game to adopt, Proposal 11: closing the Treadwell Ditch Trail to trapping. The Treadwell Ditch Trail is a frequently used trail that is close to town. The trail passes near dense residential areas on Douglas and North Douglas Highways. The trail is undergoing renovations and upgrades and will receive increased year round use. It is a safety issue for hikers, skiers, parents, dog walkers, bird watchers and others who use the trail.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
Leslie Peters	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 33125 Juneau AK 99803
Marcia J. Miller	<i>[Signature]</i>	9164 Wolfram Way Juneau, AK 99801
Linda E. Miller	<i>[Signature]</i>	412 Gastineau Ave Apt 12
Michael W. Cobin	<i>[Signature]</i>	80 Box 33578 Juneau AK 99803
Laura Newsom	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 32603 Juneau 99803
Jeffrey M. Newsom	<i>[Signature]</i>	Po Box 32603 Juneau 99803
Tim C. Tullis	<i>[Signature]</i>	17800 Lenaly. JUN 99801
Mary Hicks	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 22565 JUN 99802
Jann Lott	<i>[Signature]</i>	17835 Pt Stephens Spur Rd.
Karen T. Wells	<i>[Signature]</i>	9851 Nine mile Cr Rd 99801
Sara Caldwell	<i>[Signature]</i>	319 5th St Douglas 99824
T. Mitch Deely	<i>[Signature]</i>	9188 WOLFRAM WAY 99801
Jenni for Much	<i>[Signature]</i>	4518 Kanata 99801
Melissa Neubaus	<i>[Signature]</i>	Att office 9950 Stephen Richard dr 99801
Gerry Kress	<i>[Signature]</i>	6004 12th St.
Phyllis Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	10115 Silver ST 99801
Pilar Scott	<i>[Signature]</i>	4312 Mendenhall Blvd 99801
Alli Rosen	<i>[Signature]</i>	4520 Trafalgar
Rebecca Daniels	<i>[Signature]</i>	PO Box 20737 Juneau 99802

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Linda Shaw	Linda Shaw	9684 Moraine Way Juneau, AK 99801
Tess Quinn	Tess Quinn	9375 N. Douglas Hwy 99801
Michael Wilmet	M Wilmet	"
Robert B Weiss	Robert B Weiss	3220 Foster Ave, Juneau, AK 99801
Dixie Weiss	Dixie Weiss	21 1.
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Jess Page	Jess Page	4801 River Road Juneau AK
ED PAGE	Ed Page	4801 River Rd, JUN
Charlotte Roberts	Charlotte Roberts	965 Goldbelt Ave JUN
Rick Dzink	Rick Dzink	9162 Glacimwood Dr JUN, AK
Jacque Farnsworth	Jacque Farnsworth	900 First St. #5 Douglas
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GEORGE UTERMÖHLE	George Utermöhle	1970 GLACIER AVE JUNEAU 99801



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

RE: Ketchikan Meeting:  
Proposals #10 & #11: Treadwell Ditch  
Trail in Juneau Closed to Trapping

Dear Board of Game:

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Proposal #10: Discretionary Conditions on Trapping Permits in Juneau  
Proposal #11: Treadwell Ditch Trail in Juneau Closed to Trapping.

We bring these petitions to the Board's attention for its deliberations at the Ketchikan meeting to  
be held November 5 – 9, 2010.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*George Utermohle*  
George Utermohle  
President  
Grateful Dogs of Juneau

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ATTN: Board of Game Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Fax: 907-465-6094

Date: October 28, 2010

From: Kathryn Montgomery  
Phone: 907 225-8112

45 year Ketchikan Alaskan resident

PROPOSAL 3-5 AAC 92.510: Close the Eagle Creek/Whitman Lake Hatchery area to bear hunting: I am in support of this proposal for the same reasons listed for Proposal 4- 5 AAC 92.510

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.510: Close the Dog Salmon Creek Wildlife Viewing area to bear hunting in Unit 2. I am in support of this proposal for the same reasons listed for Proposal 4- 5 AAC 92.510

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.510: I am in support of Proposal 4 closing Margaret Creek in Traitors Cove to bear hunting. To simplify the area closed to hunting, it should read the same as at the Anan Creek Bear hunting closure: Margaret Creek: to within 1 mile of Margaret Creek downstream from the mouth of Margaret Lake including the area within one mile radius from the mouth of Margaret Creek outlet is closed to hunting. For review, Anan was closed to Black bear hunting in 1939 and to brown bear hunting in 1996. When the Anan Creek proposal came up for review in 1996, the ADF&G's recommendation to the Board of Game voted to adopt this closure. While the 2010 ADF&G recommendations to the Board of Game state "no recommendation" with respect to Proposal 4, in the Black Bear Management reports of 2001 and 2007, the ADF&G reports that "Margaret Creek is a contentious area." Further stating "that there have been several clashes with hunters and bear viewers during the past several years and that this site received more complaints to the Tongass USFS Supervisor than any other site in all of SE Alaska.

As a lifetime resident and from a family of hunters, although not bear hunters, I do understand the desire and pleasure of the hunting lifestyle. However, the BOG needs to address the dwindling bear numbers and the cross utilization use of areas for both the safety of people and the true spirit of hunting.

With this in mind The Alaska Board of Game needs to address the escalating problems that exist at Margaret Creek between the two user groups, bear hunters and bear viewers. The problems include but are not limited to: Dwindling Bear Populations, Safety, Incompatibility, Habituated Bears, Easy Access to Hunting and Economics.

Dwindling Bear Populations: Harvest data for Traitors Cove show non-resident hunting to account for 49% of the harvest there from 2000 to present (38 of 78 bears in 11 years) Additionally the ADF&G report that transporters are increasing in Unit 1A, which is supportive of non-resident hunters. These management reports also address the long term results of logging and the subsequent declines in bear populations. Margaret Creek/Traitors Cove is an area that has seen extensive logging. The report states "second growth stands at many previously logged Revilla Island sites are now reaching the stem exclusion stage and ADF&G expects productivity of this habitat to decline resulting in lower bear densities." Margaret Creek is one such an area. Supporting declines in populations, the 2010 Bear Trails reports the public (field biologists, local residents, hunting guides, tour operators, transporters, local hunters) are increasingly voicing concerns about chronic low bear numbers compared to 10-15 years ago. The lack of bears at Margaret could mean an annual economic loss to Ketchikan of over \$1.2 million.

Safety: There are approximately 60 visitors per day (or 3436 persons per year) permitted by the USFS to visit the Margaret Creek bear viewing observatory site. According to the USFS about 17% of the total bear viewing visitors to Margaret are non permitted local residents. That could bring the bear viewer count up to 70 persons on any given day. With this number of people in the area it is only a matter of time before someone is injured either by a stray bullet or a wounded bear. Some research has shown that a wounded bear may act aggressively towards people or abandon the area all together. (BOG's 1996 Proposal 16/Gilbert 1993)

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**Incompatibility:** Bear hunting and bear viewing activities are a dangerous and incongruent mix. It is difficult for bear viewers to understand why the State of Alaska Board of Game still allows hunting in this area.

**Habituated Bears:** "Habituated bears are characterized by a lack of response to human presence or activity." (Aumiller 1994) "It is unclear whether all bears that become habituated to people in viewing areas are more susceptible to hunting mortality elsewhere" (Titus 1993) The potential hazards of allowing hunting near a bear viewing observatory warrants a closure of bear hunting within the Margaret Creek watershed. According to the USFS, consistency of bear-human interactions is an important guideline for management for bear viewing areas. "Humans who interact with bears should behave consistently and homogenous management encourages consistent behavior." (Aumiller 1994). Viewing bears in an area where the bear population is also hunted does not appear to be compatible under the circumstances now present at Margaret Creek. If Margaret Creek were closed to bear hunting, hunters in the area will benefit by not having negative reactions expressed by visitors when they learn that bears, being habituated to human presence, may also be hunted in the same area.

**Easy Access to Hunters:** ADF&G records indicate that bear hunters tend to target/concentrate in areas where access is easy and bears congregate. The ADF&G harvest records show from beginning in January 1, 2000 through October 22, 2010 there have been 844 black bears harvested in Unit 1A or an average of 76 bears per year. "Hunters harvest bears throughout Unit 1A, although the highest harvests continue to come from WAA's 405 (Thorne Arm), 406 (Carroll Inlet), 407 (George Inlet), and 510 (NW Revilla Island- which includes Traitors Cove)." (Black Bear Management Report 2007). Over the same time period, January 1, 2000 - October 22, 2010, 78 bears have been harvested in the Traitors Cove /Margaret Creek area an average of 7 bears per year. 7 bears per year represents 10% of all bears harvested annually in Unit 1A, are being taken from Traitors Cove (Harvest Units 904, 1004 & 1005). There are at least 104 minor harvest units altogether in Unit 1A. Margaret Creek offers easy access for hunters with a dock, a road system and congregating bears on the salmon stream. If 10% of all bears harvested in Unit 1A are coming from Traitors Cove, this demonstrates that they are using areas that have easy access. Closing only the Margaret Creek drainage to bear hunting would still leave most of Traitors Cove open to hunting.

**Economics:** The US Fish and Wildlife published a document in July 2008 entitled "Wildlife Watching in the US: The Economic Impacts on National and State Economies in 2006." This document states "Wildlife related-expenditures in 2006 were \$45.7 billion. Expenditures on wildlife watching are equivalent to the amount of revenue from all spectator sports (football, baseball, and other sports) all amusement parks, and arcades, casinos (except casino hotels), bowling centers and skiing facilities. Nearly a third of the US population, 71 million people, enjoyed wildlife watching in 2006. This is more than 4 times greater than attendance of all National League Football teams during the 2006 season. Expenditures rippled through the economy generating more than \$122 billion in total industry output and 1,063,482 jobs. The more than 1 million jobs supported by wildlife watchers are almost three times the number of people who work for the US Postal Service. The magnitude of the economic impact proves that wildlife watching is a major force, driving billions in spending around the country. These economic impacts can be the life blood of a local economy. Rural areas can attract thousands of wildlife watchers each year, generating millions of dollars." Wildlife watchers increased 24% from 2001 to 2006 and Trip Related Expenditures increased 38% from 2001-2006. This report includes a table listing the top ten states of economic output, Alaska is not on the list. In fact 24 states make more revenue in wildlife watching than Alaska. In 2006, of the total Wildlife-Watching Economic Expenditures Alaska saw less than 1% of the \$122 billion generated in the entire US.

The demand for wildlife viewing is growing and the current demand far exceeds the opportunities. It is time Alaska supported its wildlife viewing infrastructure and become proactive in protecting a vital resource for its future, the bears!

Over the years as logging has diminished on the Tongass, many businesses in Ketchikan have evolved to depend on tourism. The Ketchikan Visitors Bureau reports that 1,000,232 tourists visited Ketchikan in 2009. There are hundreds of Ketchikan businesses directly and indirectly involved in tourism, including land, sea and air tour companies. Currently there are 10 air taxi businesses operating in Ketchikan employing approximately 213 people. Additionally there are many ancillary businesses who depend on and benefit greatly from the air taxi companies. They include but are not limited to insurance companies, aviation maintenance, retail fuel companies, advertising & promotional companies, office supply companies, public utilities, independent tour salesman, local property taxes, licensing and permitting fees, the list goes on. Air taxi business is one of transportation, transportation of locals,

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loggers, tourists, hunters, etc.. The amount of air taxi revenue dollars generated during the summer months transporting tourists for bear viewing exceeds the dollars generated, over the entire year, from general transportation of locals. The combined potential revenue dollars to Ketchikan air taxi companies from all the bear viewing observatories in this area including Polk Inlet/Dog Salmon Creek, Margaret Creek/Traitors Cove, Anan Bay and Neets Bay amounts to over \$4.9 million annually. The following numbers were obtained from the USFS data and published bear viewing tour prices.

Dog Salmon/Polk Inlet	1600 visitors	(\$365 per person x 1600 = \$584,000)
Traitors Cove/Margaret Creek	3436 visitors	(\$365 per person x 4000 = \$1,254,140)
Anan Creek	384 visitors	(\$485 per person x 384 = \$147,456)
Neets Bay	8000 visitors	(\$365 per person x 8000 = \$2,920,000)
Totals for Bear Viewing	13,410 visitors	\$4,905,596 total revenue dollars

The AK Rainforest/Eagle Creek land based tour operation states they have 16,000 visitors who go to Herring Cove for bear viewing at \$100 per person x 16,000 = \$1,600,000. This brings the total bear viewing visitors up 29,410 and the revenue dollars for Ketchikan up to \$6,505,596. This amount does not include other land based or boat based operators who conduct bear/wildlife watching tours.

Ketchikan may have the largest bear viewing potential in the entire state. Wildlife viewing, in particular bear viewing, is a vital resource that we cannot afford to lose. Supporting and promoting bear viewing facilities and their infrastructure will help to ensure the future of Ketchikan's economic stability.

**Conclusion:** According to Alaska Statute AS 16.05.221 (B) which states that the Board of Game exists "For the purposed of the conservation and development of the game resources of the state" and, according to Regulations of the Board of Game Management Requirements, Alaska Statute AS 16.05.255 (1), "The setting apart of game reserves, refuges and sanctuaries in the water or on the land of the state over which it has jurisdiction." If it is true that the Board of Game exists to conserve resources and that the first item on the Board of Game management requirements is to set aside refuges or sanctuaries, then it must be true that the Board of Game's responsibility is to manage the game not only for hunters but for all the user groups in Alaska. According to the Outdoor Industry Foundation a census done in 2005 indicates that within the state of Alaska there are 235,000 residents (or 46% of the population) who participate in wildlife viewing and 70,776 residents (or 14% of the population) who participate in hunting. The vast majority of land in Alaska is open to bear hunting. Presently there are very few closed acreages. In all of the Tongass' 22 million acres only Pack Creek (Closed in 1984) and Anan Creek (closed in 1939 & 1996) are closed to hunting. Due to lack of bears, bear viewing has dropped significantly at Margaret Creek Observatory, Dog Salmon Observatory and Whitman Hatchery enough to threaten the future of bear viewing in these areas. Setting aside established bear viewing observatories such as Margaret Creek from bear hunting addresses the needs of a user group in the Ketchikan as well as ensuring a portion of Ketchikan's economic future by providing for the viewing of bears in safety. Allowing the status quo hunting at Margaret will no longer suffice. These problems must be addressed.

#### Literature Cited:

Alaska Board of Game: 1996 Proposal 16-5 AAC 92.510(2)(A) Unit 1B Anan Creek Closed Area

ADF&G Board of Game Recommendations; October 1996 Proposal 16; Department Recommendation: Amend and Adopt; This proposal was adopted by the Board of Game and amended with the collaboration of ADF&G and the USFS district ranger in Wrangell.

ADF&G Unit 1A Black Bear Harvest records 2000-2010

ADF&G 2001 & 2007 Black Bear Management reports

Auniller, LD, 1994 "Management of McNeil River State Game Sanctuary"

Bear Trails 2010, News from ADF&G

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Outdoor Industry Foundation: "The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy a \$730 Billion Contribution to the Economy"- Fall 2006 (Data was collected by Southwick Associates Inc.; specializes in qualifying the economics of fish, wildlife and outdoor related activities for government agencies and industry)

Published Internet Pricing

Titus, K., 1993 "Managing bears as both game and non-game"

US Fish and Wildlife Service; July 2008 "Wildlife Watching in the US: The Economic Impacts of National and State Economics 2006"

USFS 2010 Anas Season Review: Bear Monitoring records

USFS Special Use Permits records, Ketchikan-Misty Fjords Ranger District

Chairman Judkins and Board of Game

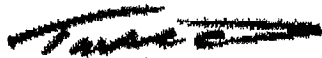
As the trapping representative to the Sitka AC, I had many thoughts about Proposal 31 (to prohibit the use of small traps for taking wolf and wolverine). As I am also the committee chairman and was chairing the meeting the night that we discussed this proposal I felt constrained by my duties as chairman to not raise all of my concerns, as some of them might be perceived as inappropriately influential for the chairman to bring forth. Hence I will use this forum instead.

My concerns have to do with the premise of the need for this proposal. The proposal statement implies that enforcement personnel are currently unable to routinely cite somebody for targeting marten or mink when the seasons for these animals is closed if the wolf or wolverine season is open. This seems absurd from the point of view of somebody with a basic understanding of trapping, as the techniques (and as the proposal mentions, size of traps) used are completely different. There would be little doubt in the mind of a trapper or a knowledgeable enforcement officer who came across somebody's trapline, as to whether the target species was marten or a wolverine. That being said, I can understand that a judge with no knowledge of trapping might not know the difference and this could make it difficult for the enforcement personnel to do their job.

Nonetheless, if this is the issue that the proposal is intending to address, it fails to do. The proposer apparently has overlooked the fact that squirrel trapping season is generally open all year round throughout Southeast. Unlike when trapping for wolf or wolverine, a trapper who is trying to catch squirrel would typically use traps very similar to those used for mink or marten. Also, leaning pole sets, tree boxes and ground cubbies are all effective sets for marten and squirrel alike. If enforcement is currently unable to make a citation hold up when a marten poacher claims to be trapping for wolf or wolverine, how likely is it that the citation will stand when the poacher claims to be trapping for squirrel?

For this reason, I suggest that the Board take no action on this proposal on the grounds that it is ineffective and hence needlessly complicates the regulation book.

Thank you,



Tad Fujjoka



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October 25, 2010

RECEIVED  
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 BOARDS

Cliff Judkins, Chair  
 Alaska Board of Game  
 c/o Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
 Boards Support Section  
 P.O. Box 115526  
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Judkins,

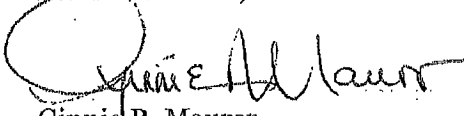
I am writing on behalf of The National Humane Education Society (NHES) and its nearly 400,000 members nationwide, many of whom are Alaska residents, to urge the Alaska Board of Game to protect the black bears of Alaska and not legalize trapping them.

As a nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of all animals, NHES strongly objects to hunting and trapping for either sport or trophy because neither serves any human survival need and is inherently cruel. Some hunting advocates argue that hunting is necessary to control wildlife population and to prevent wildlife from destroying the environment via overfeeding. NHES contends that in most instances ample forage exists to support the wildlife population, and nature has provided natural controls over population growth: as animals increase in numbers, reproduction decreases.

For these reasons, we urge you to protect the black bears of Alaska. We urge the Board to not legalize trapping them.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. NHES will continue to work for animal welfare and responsible and humane communities nationwide.

For the Animals,

  
 Ginnie R. Maurer  
 Humane Education Assistant

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 Fax 304/724-6765  
 www.spay-today.org

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If you are looking for an affordable black bear and Sitka blacktail hunt in Alaska, ~~of Alaska~~ may be your man. A hunt expeditor on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, he will completely set you up for a five-day, six night hunt for both animals for only \$1,895 for two people - that's \$948 per person for a week of hunting and/or fishing.

A word about Prince of Wales Island is in order first. PWI, as it is called, lies in the very southeastern corner of Alaska. It is the third largest island under the American flag, with only Hawaii and Kodiak beating it out on size. It is also heavily forested, with low coastal mountains. Add a prolific fishery and an active logging operation (which means there are lots of logging roads and clearcuts at various stages of regrowth) and you have the perfect place to stalk black bears and Sitka blacktail deer.

The bear density on Prince of Wales Island (Game Management Unit 2) is estimated at 1.4 to two bears per square mile. That makes it one of the densest black bear populations in the United States. Hard

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Submitted by: Mike Holman 11/4/10

numbers on deer are unavailable, but Alaska Fish & Game Wildlife Biologist Boyd Porter says the island supports a healthy population of Sitka blacktails as well. Although the coastal forest here is thick and heavily tangled in places, any hunter in good physical shape should be able to tag a bear or a buck on an on-your-own hunt.

I say on-your-own hunt because that's what you will get from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. He is not a hunting guide, and under Alaska game laws he is not allowed to accompany you to the field, help you track a wounded animal or retrieve your game from the woods.  
But.....(continued)

Facilitators: Alaska Department Of Fish And Game; ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ / ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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## Public Comments of Jack Davies – Co-Sponsor of Proposal #4

My name is Jack Davies. I am a lifelong (63 year) resident of Ketchikan. My family has resided here for over 100 years and has been in business in Ketchikan for 93 years.

I am speaking in favor of Proposal #4 related to restricting black bear hunting in the immediate vicinity of the bear viewing area at Margaret Creek, in Traitors' Cove.

Ketchikan used to be a timber town. Timber has been reduced to a secondary factor in our local economy. Like it or not, tourism is a growing and increasingly significant factor in keeping Ketchikan going. The income derived from tourism is indispensable to maintaining a healthy economy for us. Bear viewing is an important facet of Ketchikan's attraction to our visitors. Thousands of people come here each year specifically to see bears. Last summer many visitors to the bear viewing platform on Margaret Creek failed to see a single bear. If it continues much longer, this situation will ultimately result in a reduction in sales for local tour operators and an overall reduction in income to the Ketchikan economy.

In reviewing the comments submitted to the Board regarding the various proposals presented, it is clear that almost everyone agrees that the bear population in southern SE Alaska is declining. A restriction on the taking of black bears in the Traitor's Cove area could only have a positive impact on that bear population. It is the charge of the Board of Game to conserve game and to allocate game between users. Bear viewers and their transporters are a legitimate user group and they deserve your consideration.

Of course tourists are not the only people who visit this area to view bears. Locals, my wife and I among them, are very frequent users of the float, buoy, and anchorages in the Traitors' Cove area. I would estimate that several hundred Ketchikan residents come to this location to view bears each summer.

Bear viewers and bear hunters, each legitimate user groups, are nevertheless not compatible and should not be using the same area for their very divergent purposes. We are asking for a very, very small portion of the island to be reserved

for viewing. Black bear hunting would still be allowed, during the appropriate seasons, on the vast majority of the island.

While I understand that safety is not in your purview, it should certainly be contemplated when considering this allocation between user groups. Allowing hunting in close proximity to an area which is attracting large numbers of bear viewers does not make good sense.

Thank you for this opportunity. I appreciated your consideration.