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Alaska Board of Game
Sitka Worksession
January 10, 2013

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Al Barrette

380 Peger rd.

Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

907-452-6047

Mr. Chairman and Broad of Game members

My comments in reference to your discussion on accepting proposal regarding the old Denali Buffer Zone/ moratorium, at the 10 Jan. 2013 meeting.

Philosophically I am opposed to such action as a moratorium on accepting proposal for any issue. As moratoriums on not accepting proposal for a certain issue circumvents our public process.

As far as the Denali Buffer Zone goes I also am opposed to the moratorium. I believe if the laws and their intent were followed as the legislature intended them to be. We never would have had a buffer zone that restricted subsistence uses of wolves. (AS 16.05.060, AS16.05.255 and AS 16.05.258)

When it comes to the management of wolves in and around Denali National Park, we must not manage or base our decisions from emotions or political agenda. We must base our decisions from our statutory law obligation and biological data. Both of which elevates us from emotions and agendas.

Our statutory laws are there to protect the conservation of game first and when it applies, as it does in this wolf issue, to protect the subsistence use. Furthermore when these Laws are applied as intended they also protect the non-consumptive uses also.

I have yet to see where the BOG has made a regulation, that a non-consumptive user has lost a "reasonable opportunity" to view any wildlife anywhere in the State.

My last comment is, if a portion of the public is truly convinced that our management of wolves in and around DNP is not in compliance with our constitution or current statutory law or their intent. Those persons need to address our legislature and not you the BOG.

I appreciate your time to take our comments

Al Barrette

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Barrette'.

26 Dec 2012



Patricia J. O'Brien
PO Box 35451
Juneau, Alaska 99803-5451
(907) 789-9405
December 26, 2012

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

Comments for Consideration
Board of Game meeting, Sitka Alaska
January 10-15, 2013.

Dear Members of the Board of Game,

Guiding Principle A resident of Alaska for 45 years, I have watched wildlife management move heavily toward supporting a shrinking population of users. As a young woman I hunted, but time has changed my views. I support reasonable hunting to feed families. I oppose massive slaughter of top predators as non-scientific and a threat to the legacy of Alaska's wildlife for future generations. In Southeast Alaska, wildlife viewing is the fastest growing activity in the tourism industry. Wildlife viewing opportunities affect far more individuals than consumers of wildlife. In Sitka, the Board of Game has an opportunity to regain esteem by balancing decisions to reflect the views of the wider population.

Proposals 18 and 19 - Support I have closely followed the cruel and indiscriminant "experiment" of bear snaring adopted from Canada. Bear snaring has no place in Alaska, and especially in SE Alaska. Here, the tourism industry provides income to residents in major ports, smaller towns, and even in villages. Bear viewing is offered from local tour boats, fly-ins, guided hikes, and at numerous specially built bear viewing platforms. Southeast entrepreneurs also feature bears in calendars, books, photos, videos, sculptures, and paintings - all prominently displayed in galleries. Talks by scientists draw large crowds, whenever bears are featured. Festivals focus on these magnificent animals. Proposals 18 and 19 are well done. Southeast Alaska is the logical place to draw the line and vote against bear snaring.

Proposal 20 – Support – I urge the board to support this well stated proposal to prohibit hunting and trapping of wolves in Southeast Alaska annually from March 1 to November 1. In addition to the reasons put forth in my Guiding Principle at the beginning of this letter, you should aware that there is a budding business in wolf viewing in the tourism industry. It is time the board considered the negative fiscal impact on small tourism businesses from previous Board of Game decisions – support Proposal 20.

RESCIND the Board of Game moratorium on Denali National Park No-Trapping Buffer zone. In my 72 years I have viewed wolves in the wild only twice – among my most prized memories. Board of Game action to remove and then retain the No Trapping Buffer Zone appears to most to be a mean spirited statement aimed toward the Park Service, or those in the tourism business, or those who question or disagree with Board of Game predator control decisions. The Buffer zone has widespread public support and should be restored by the Board of Game as a statement of good faith in representing all Alaskans.

Sincerely,


Patricia O'Brien



27 December 2012

ATTN: Board of Game Comments

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section

via FAX: 907-465-6094

Board Members:

I strongly urge you to **RESCIND YOUR MORATORIUM** on considering proposals to re-establish the no-trapping and hunting buffer zone in the Wolf Township adjacent to Denali National Park. As you know from the many proposals to re-create and expand this buffer, and from the precipitous decline of Denali's eastern wolf packs, this moratorium, and your refusal to create an adequate buffer, is causing the decline of these wolves, and a subsequent decline in visitor's wolf-viewing.

I **SUPPORT Proposals 18 and 19**, and urge you to approve them. Please prohibit bear snaring in Southeast Alaska. Such methods are not only about as far from "fair chase" as one can get, but are inhumane, indiscriminate, unscientific, and opposed by people across a broad spectrum of interests.

I very strongly **SUPPORT Proposal 20** and urge you to approve it. Wolves should not be hunted or trapped after March 1, when pregnant females might be killed—as was the case last April in the former buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park, thus causing the disintegration of the Grant Creek pack and a 70 percent drop in visitor's wolf viewing during the summer of 2012. Wolves should not be hunted or trapped before November 1, as the summer's pups are entirely reliant on adult wolves until at least November. Therefore, hunting and trapping wolves after March 1 or before November 1 essentially kills not just the wolf that is shot or trapped, but also jeopardizes, and often kills as in the case of the Grant Creek female, the entire pack's pups for the year. Without pups, as was seen with the Grant Creek female, the entire pack is put at risk. As well, dependant pups that don't survive aren't included in the "harvest" statistics; this is a very unscientific and unsustainable method of wildlife management.

I also strenuously **object to the ADF&G's Feasibility Assessments** calling for predator control on the Alexander Archipelago wolves in order to increase deer numbers for human hunters. This is the same subspecies that is currently being considered for endangered status under the ESA. This proposed "management experiment" is very ill-advised considering there is no data on the actual numbers of wolves, and very little science even indicating that the wolves are the primary cause of low deer numbers. Obviously, ADF&G hasn't even begun to do their research on this one.

I would appreciate you considering my comments, and I look forward to the day that you as a Board realize that you are supposed to represent ALL Alaskans, and begin acting as such.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Holleman

9138 Arlon Street, Suite A, Box 666, Anchorage, AK 99507



National Parks Conservation Association*

*Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations**

Alaska Regional Office , 750 W. 2nd Avenue . Suite 205 . Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 277.6722 . FAX 907.277.6723 . www.npca.org

December 28, 2012

Ted Spraker / Chair
Alaska Board of Game
ADF&G Board Support
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Chairman Spraker and members of the Board,

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide input on two proposals (#5 and #44) for the upcoming Board of Game (BOG) meeting scheduled for Sitka on January 11-15, 2013. In addition, we have a comment we would like to include for the one-day meeting the Board has scheduled for January 10, 2013, also in Sitka.

NPCA has a long history of interest and involvement in BOG actions, especially those that impact wildlife found on lands managed by the National Park Service (NPS). NPCA is America's only private nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System for present and future generations. Founded in 1919, NPCA has more than 740,000 members and supporters, of which nearly 2,000 reside in Alaska.

Comment on January 10, 2013 One-Day Meeting:

NPCA has been a consistent supporter of a wolf buffer on state lands to the north and east of Denali National Park. As such, we have signed onto several petitions to the BOG this year asking that an emergency regulation be considered given new information released by the National Park Service that wolf populations in Denali are at its lowest in 25 years and preliminary data that shows that the opportunity for the visiting public to view wolves on the Denali Park road has dropped from 45% in 2010, the last year the buffer was in place, to just 12% this past summer in 2012.

While the new information and emergency nature of these requests was not shared by the Board, nonetheless this issue warrants discussion at the board level. This is an economic issue – a couple trappers vs. thousands of park visitors and the millions of dollars they bring to the state each year, partly for their opportunity to see wolves in Denali. As such, we support the request to rescind the existing moratorium and provide everyone with the opportunity to have a discussion about these new



facts as they relate to the need for a buffer. We would hope that discussion could then occur at the Wasilla Board meeting in February without the confusion of the moratorium.

Comments on January 11 – 15, 2013 BOG meeting:

Proposal 5 - Oppose

The current brown bear harvest regulations were adopted by the Board to specifically address a historical increase in the brown bear harvest trend in GMU 5. These regulations, which included limiting resident harvest opportunity to one bear every four years, were further enhanced with the adoption of a registration hunt a few years later (RY 01/02). Combined, the two amendments adopted by previous Boards have been successful at stabilizing the brown bear harvest in GMU 5. Amending effective regulations that are successfully addressing historical management concerns should be based on solid data, not assumptions of an increasing brown bear population that then provides an additional harvest opportunity. We are concerned this change in harvest opportunity could have a negative impact on the brown bear population on national preserve lands found in GMU 5.

Currently the state has no brown bear population density estimate in GMU 5 and manages the harvest using male to female harvest objectives and minimum harvest age objectives. Managing this harvest, which appears to be near the maximum sustainable yield of the brown population, is a precarious balance using such low quality harvest assessments. Harvest indices in general, rather than a scientifically-sound population survey, provide low quality “feedback” on the overall health and composition of the brown bear population, and that feedback is further degraded by multiple regulation amendments over time which cloud the harvest results with varying degrees of vulnerability. With the harvest of brown bears being concentrated in Unit 5A, a region with high accessibility for resident hunters, the potential to tip the positive balance achieved over the past decade may be lost unnecessarily with the adoption of this proposal.

As noted by the AC, harvest of brown bears is primarily by nonresidents in GMU 5. Resident harvest has historically been as high as 20% of the yearly harvest. By amending the regulations to one bear every two years for residents, NPCA is concerned that an increase in resident harvest effort would have the potential to tip the balance by essentially returning to the historic regulation that contributed to an increasing harvest trend in the first place. NPCA does not support the amendment based on the AC’s lack of biological justification. Should the proposal be adopted, NPCA requests that lands managed by the National Park Service be excluded.

Proposal 44 - Oppose

The National Park Service has a long opposed brown bear tag fee revocations that apply to lands managed by the NPS. This proposal is the annual reauthorization of that exemption for GMUs 18, 22, 23, and 26. The Board acknowledges state park lands found within GMUs adopting a tag fee revocation policy are exempt from such regulations (i.e. Denali State Park), but to date, the Board has never exempted lands managed by the NPS, even when they are found within the same GMU where state park lands are exempted.



The initial justification for adopting a resident tag fee revocation in these GMUs was primarily to increase resident brown bear harvest rates, with the assumption that in doing so, moose calf survival rates would increase:

“Since the early 1990s, brown bear hunting regulations have been incrementally liberalized in Unit 23 to increase hunting opportunity and reduce predation on declining numbers of moose.” *Emphasis added*¹

We would point out the assumption that increased hunting reduces predation has never been tested scientifically in these areas.

In 2006, the NPS opposed the reauthorization of tag fee exemptions for lands managed by the NPS in GMU’s 22, 23, and 26 noting that the tag fee exemption requests:

“... Use predator control as a basic justification and as such are not allowed on NPS lands”.²

In 2007, the NPS again goes on record opposing the reauthorization of brown bear tag fee exemptions for lands managed by the NPS stating:

“This proposal is effectively an extension of the state’s intensive management and predator control program and should not be authorized on NPS managed lands. Should the Board support this proposal, we request that NPS lands be specifically excluded.” *Emphasis added*³

In 2009, the NPS again goes on record stating:

“This proposal extends the state's intensive management control objectives and NPS opposes the extension of such measures on NPS lands.”⁴

And most recently, in 2011, the NPS commented in support of reinstating resident tag fees:

“This proposal would remove the tag fee revocation for all lands in Unit 13 and NPS managed lands in Units 11 and 16B. Consistent with the narrative in the proposal and based on several comments from past years, the NPS supports this proposal as it relates to all NPS lands.” *Emphasis added*⁵

A review of the ADF&G’s brown bear management reports questions the assumption that increased brown bear harvest is sustainable. In 2001, the ADFG amended the brown bear management objective for GMU 22 stating:

¹ 2007 Brown Bear Management Report: pg. 277

² NPS comments to Board dated March 9, 2006 (Proposal 32, 33)

³ NPS comments to Board dated February 16, 2007 (Proposal 72)

⁴ NPS comments to the Board dated March 29, 2009 (Proposal 202)

⁵ NPS comments to the Board dated February 18, 2011 (Proposal 109)



“Without census data since 1991 we have no means to compare the current densities and evaluate the management goal. To remedy this situation, in May 2002, staff developed a measurable management goal based on harvest parameters.”⁶

“Harvest data may be insensitive to changes in brown bear populations.”⁷

Peer reviewed scientific literature also highlights the limitations associated with attempting to manage brown bear harvest at high rates without population assessments based on solid science:

“The reliance by Alaskan managers on detecting trends in bear populations based on sex and age composition of bear harvests was an inappropriate substitute for well-designed and executed research and monitoring programs. No theoretical or empirical basis exists for interpreting trend based on these harvest composition data. Available studies show that sex and age composition of harvest reflected vulnerability to harvest of different cohorts. Correspondingly, trends that might exist in these data likely would reflect changes in seasons, bag limits, tag fees, and other factors that affect vulnerability rather than trend in population size. Geographically patchy distribution of harvest caused by differences in accessibility further complicated interpretation of harvest data. Declines in mean age of harvested bears, for example, resulted in completely opposite inferences about population trend. Dramatic changes in grizzly bear hunting regulations occurred in the Alaskan Liberal Hunt Area [*which includes all the GMU's found in this proposal*] during 1975–2010 so vulnerability to harvest also must have changed. This change in vulnerabilities would make it impossible to detect population trends based on any model that assumed temporal stability in vulnerability to harvest of different sex–age cohorts, except possibly in circumstances where most bears ultimately occur in the harvest.”⁸

NPCA requests that the Board honor the Master Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Alaska and the NPS to co-manage wildlife resources by acknowledging the multiple requests of the NPS to exempt NPS managed lands from resident brown bear tag fee revocation based on NPS management objectives to maintain a healthy and natural brown bear population that is managed conservatively and anchored in science.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

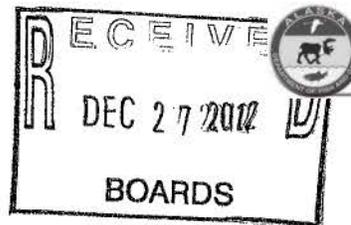
Jim Stratton
Regional Director

cc: Joel Hard, NPS

⁶ 2001 *Brown Bear Management Report*

⁷ 2007 *Brown Bear Management Report* pg 284

⁸ Miller, S., Schoen, J., Faro, J., Klein, D. “Trends in Intensive Management of Alaska’s Grizzly Bears, 1980–2010” / Page 1248 in *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 75(6):1243–1252; 2011; DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.186



Boards Support Section
Board of Game

As a 42-year resident of Alaska and as one who has hunted and hiked extensively, I am deeply concerned about the lack of a Denali Wolf Buffer Zone as well as the moratorium emplaced on discussion of that issue.

The Buffer Zone was created to ensure a very valuable resource, the wolves of Denali Park, were given a biologically-justified safety zone which acknowledged that wildlife does not behave in accordance to geo-political boundaries. It was in place for several years with no negative impacts and a very quantifiable, large positive impact for tourism. Its removal was nothing short of a petulant slap at the federal presence and a totally indefensible, intentional ignorance of the Alaskan public's will as demonstrated by a large petition submitted to the Board. The removal was not the act of a mature, science-based entity and it's absence remains a glaring demonstration of that fact.

The moratorium itself is at best illegal for removing from public discussion at the whim of the Board a very significant topic affecting not only Alaskans but national and even international tourism in the area. Already substantial revenue from a national wolf viewing group has been lost as a result of the decreased viewing the lack of a buffer zone created. Further, the trapping incident this past spring in which a Grant Creek female wolf was taken (and allowed to die in the trap with subsequent loss of any pelt, thus a total waste) highlighted not only how poorly thought out was the decision to remove the buffer zone but how quickly negative results came about.

Much attention has been paid to this incident in particular and the decision in general in the statewide press as well as newspapers outside of Alaska, Internet venues, and radio programs. The result is a great deal of negative "press" for Alaska's wildlife management methods. This is wholly due to the decision to remove the Buffer Zone.

I would very strongly urge the Board reconsider their moratorium as well as their removal of the buffer zone as soon as possible and reverse both actions. To do otherwise is only to invite more bad press and possible federal action.

Additionally, I wish to express my support for proposals 18, 19, 104, 173, and 174. The very idea of snaring bears is reprehensible. It seems anymore the Board of Game is in the business of killing off wildlife in the most brutish ways possible and this is certainly one. It wipes out two generations at once. It is in no way discriminating. It creates a danger to others using the forest.

Sincerely,
Art Greenwalt
1620 Washington Dr., Apt.79
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709



SUPPORT 18, 19 and 20

RESCIND THE MORATORIUM

I have followed Alaska's wildlife policies in regards to bears and wolves for many years now. Unfortunately, the policies of the BOG have been heavily skewed towards the desires of the hunters with little regard for the needs and values of the wildlife. You now have an opportunity to help turn some of that around by approving Proposals 18, 19, and 20. In addition, I ask that the Board of Game RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

In regards to Proposals 18 and 19, bear snaring is not only an indiscriminate method of killing and therefore unscientific, it is also inhumane as the bear is caught in the trap until the hunter returns to shoot it. Bear snaring has the potential for taking two generations at once. Because bears have a low reproduction rate, it is not sound management to kill two generations at once.

As for Proposal 20, it is unethical and inhumane to allow the killing of wolves while the pups remain dependent upon the pack. Two generations could easily be wiped out at once. This is unscientific and a very poor way to manage Southeast's wolf population. Wolves serve a vital role in Alaska's ecosystem and should be managed with these values in mind. I am opposed to the taking of wolves on public lands which belong to me as well as any other citizen. They are not Alaska's wolves for the taking. Our voices must be heard and considered.

Finally, in regards to the **Moratorium**, the BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

While I do not live in Alaska, I would love to come to Alaska to be able to see bears and wolves in the wild. If Proposals 18, 19 and /or 20 fail, then Alaska will lose the support and economic boon of tourists like myself who will only support a wildlife friendly state.

Please support these proposals, and eliminate the moratorium and allow consideration of proposals to re-establish a buffer zone.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Joan Beldin



THE ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

"LETTING NATURE RUN WILD"

December 28, 2012

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

Hand-delivered to Anchorage ADF&G

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2012

BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

To Members of the Alaska Board of Game:

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance (AWA) herewith submits its written comments on the issue of the **Denali buffer zone moratorium**, to be discussed at the special meeting on January 10, 2013 in Sitka.

AWA's Mission Statement

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to the conservation and protection of Alaska's wildlife. We promote the integrity, beauty, and stability of Alaska's ecosystems, support true subsistence hunting, and recognize the intrinsic value of wildlife. The AWA works to achieve and maintain balanced ecosystems in Alaska managed with the use of sound science to preserve wildlife for present and future generations.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Yours truly,

Connie Brandel
Office Manager



Alaska Wildlife Alliance's comments for discussion of the Denali buffer zone moratorium

Board of Game special meeting, Jan. 10, 2013

The Board of Game should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer zone proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.

The Board of Game has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

When the Board of Game refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.



Eliminate the moratorium on Denali buffer zone proposals.

Please support the restoration of Denali's buffer zone designed to protect the Park's wolves from surrounding human destruction.

Given the wide range that wolves travel, a buffer zone that extends protection outside the Park's boundaries is necessary. Without this buffer, the protection that the Park provides is effectively much smaller than its boundaries because of the overlap of Park wolf range extending out into the "buffer zone".

If wolves that inhabit the Park are vulnerable as soon as they cross the Park boundary line, the Denali National Park is effectively shrunken by the size of these buffer animals' range. I would much rather see the Park's protection of these animals expanded to include a reasonable buffer zone, than diminished to provide additional trapping and hunting opportunity for people outside the park.

Thank you for your efforts to protect our state's game animals while providing for appropriate human enjoyment.

Sincerely,

Chris Fredell
POB 33803
Juneau, Alaska 99803





Proposals 18, 19 20

Moratorium

Please vote "Yes" to Stop Bear Snaring and Year-round Wolf Hunting, and to **Eliminate Its Moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone Proposals.**

Besides the BOG being totally lopsided with hunters and trappers and the always inhumane method allowed to kill predators, the BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.

The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

I live in Alaska too and my voice should be heard!

Sincerely,
Susan and Pete Vogt
269 Bias Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99712



MORATORIUM

Please rescind the moratorium on accepting proposals for a no trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park. Tourists come to Alaska to see wild animals that they cannot see in the lower 48.

Virginia De Vries and Christopher Jones
4260 Blackhawk Drive
Willits, CA 95490



I travel to Alaska for long vacations because of the wildlife viewing available in Alaska. When I travel, I ensure I spend my money with locally owned establishments and artists and I spend a lot of money (average of \$10 – 15k per trip). But, as Alaska implements more and more policies that allow the killing of wolves, I am quickly re-thinking my travel plans and will, instead, go to a place where they like and support the wolves!

I ask that the Board of Game **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

For years, the Grant Creek pack had offered hundreds of thousands of Park visitors the best, most frequent opportunities to view wild wolves. But, thanks to your getting rid of the buffer zone around this area of the park, the pack has dispersed!!!

Last spring a trapper using a dead horse as bait and caught and killed the breeding female of the Grant Creek pack near the Park boundary, in an area which would have been included in a no-trapping buffer zone. The pack produced no pups last year, and subsequently dispersed.

The BOG must eliminate its moratorium and allow consideration of proposals to re-establish a buffer zone.

The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle opinions it does not agree with.

The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

The buffer zone needs to be reestablished for the sake of the wolves and also to improve tourism in the area, as many tourists (like me) just won't come if they can't have the opportunity to see wolves!

Terry Traveland
Traveland Law
P.O. Box 865057
Plano, Texas 75086



PROPOSALS 18 19, 20

MORATORIUM

PLEASE BOG MEMBERS VOTE YES TO STOP BEAR SNARING AND
YEAR ROUND WOLF HUNTING AND TO ELIMINATE IT'S
MORATORIUM ON DENALI BUFFER ZONE PROPOSALS....

THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH... ANDIE WOLFINSOHN



Yes on proposals 18, 19 and 20

Rescind the moratorium

Please ban bear snaring and restrict wolf hunting and trapping in Southeast Alaska, and stop the BOG's moratorium on accepting and considering Denali buffer zone proposals.

Brian Armer



Hello,

I am writing to demand that the Board of Game Vote "Yes" to Stop Bear Snaring and Year-round Wolf Hunting, and to **Eliminate Its Moratorium** on Denali Buffer Zone Proposals! I SUPPORT Proposals 18,19,20.

Thank you,

Carla David
4550 Little Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530



Support 18, 19 20

Rescind moratorium

Please Tell the Board of Game to Vote "Yes" to Stop Bear Snaring and Year-round Wolf Hunting, and to Eliminate Its Moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone Proposals!

Bear snaring and year-round wolf hunting would have a long term devastating effect on these animal groups that would have a domino effect into all other living creatures that is difficult if not impossible to recover from.

Rescind the moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone. The Board of Game needs to make these decisions very carefully so future generations don't have to work on ways to reintroduce bears and wolves back into these areas. Please keep Alaska wild.

**Maggie Wilkinson
3021 Concord Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99502**



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board of Game!

I ask that the Board of Game **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

The damage already done due to the lack of buffer zones is big enough! Does the trapping license of one man, using a dead horse as bait to lure wolves out of the National Park, really make up for the loss of hundreds or thousands of tourists not being able to watch the Grant Creek Pack anymore and therefore staying away? As ethical or environmental arguments do not seem to count, maybe you are able to think in economical terms!

It might have slipped your attention that hunting and trapping, in other words KILLING, is not the only possibility to do business regarding wildlife. In fact, there are better, as sustainable business models. You only can kill an animal once - but you could take thousands of photos of that same animal, with thousands of tourists paying for that chance.

Of course, hunting and trapping associations and outfitters would - and will - contradict. And of course those are the same people who would - and will - urge you to keep listening only to them, not to a bunch of tree-huggers and other romantic lunatics trying to preserve natural environments and their inhabitants for future generations. Who, after all, cares about what kind of a world we leave to somebody's grandchildren?

The United States of America like to present themselves to the world as shining example of freedom and democracy. But when it comes to environmental issues, obviously "freedom" only means the freedom of a relatively small group of people to destroy natural environments and to wipe out wildlife for their personal pleasure or to satisfy their personal greed. And as far as "democracy" is concerned, that term would mean that the majority has a say in decisions to be made. But the environmental decisions seem to be made exclusively by special interests groups and their paid stooges!

This definitely is not the kind of "freedom and democracy" I would want to have for my country.

The fact that even Europeans are concerned about the way various "Boards of Games" or "Fish and Wildlife Departments" are handling questions of preservation, conservation and wild animal welfare should make you start thinking about the way you tend to manage things.

Wildlife does not belong to hunters, trappers and their outfitters - and neither does it belong to any boards or departments.



If there is a case of "being the property of", then it would be the public as a whole that nature and wildlife "belong to".

You really should start listening to that public.

With regards

Johanna Duffek-Kowal
Austria



PLEASE RESCIND THE MORATORIUM ON PROPOSALS RELATED TO A DENALI BUFFER ZONE:

I ask that the Board of Game **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.

The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

Sincerely,

Rebecka Tobler
Oregon City, OR 97045



Dear Alaska BOG:

Please rescind the moratorium regarding proposals to establish a no-trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park.

I ask that the Board of Game **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

The BOG must eliminate its moratorium and allow consideration of proposals to re-establish a buffer zone.

The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with. The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

Debbie Brush



Rescind the moratorium

Please Vote "Yes" to Eliminate the Moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone Proposals.

Sincerely

Karen Hackey

Las Cruces, NM



With regard to the moratorium on proposals for buffer zones: I strongly urge that the Board of Game **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones for the following reasons:

- ◆ The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.
- ◆ The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.
- ◆ When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Marie Louise Morandi Long Zwicker
P.O. Box 230
Sullivan, ME 04664





**SUPPORT 18, 19, 20
END THE MORATORIUM**

Vote "Yes" to stop bear snaring and year-round wolf hunting, and please eliminate your moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone Proposals.

The reasons seem obvious, but bear snaring is cruel. Year-round wolf hunting means wolf pups could lose their mothers, and the buffer zone is needed to protect wolves who wander outside of their boundaries.

Thank you.

Curtis and Jane Hoffman
6747 Lupton Dr
Dallas TX



SUPPORT 18, 19, 20

OPPOSE FEASIBILITY STUDIES 1A AND 3

✓ELIMINATE THE MORATORIUM

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

As an Alaskan Native person with roots in Southcentral Alaska, I know of and love dearly the natural beauty of the state.

I am writing to ask that you continue to defend and preserve it, by ending inhumane and unsporting bear snaring, and year round wolf hunting.

It is important that game policies be sustainable and fair.

I also request that you eliminate your moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone Proposals.

Alaska's greatest treasures are natural ones, including its wildlife. Careless and thoughtless policies threaten extinction and destruction of these resources for future generations.

Finally I request that you reject the plan to kill Alaska's Alexander Archipelago Wolves in two areas.

It is vital that you not take actions that destroy the tremendous natural gifts of Alaska. No one constituency should be able to make unilateral decisions which destroy nature for all.

I thank you for continuing to be good stewards of the land, and carrying on a tradition of generations.

Sincerely,

Storme Webber



We ask that the Board of Game **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM ON DENALI NATIONAL PARK NO-TRAPPING BUFFER ZONES:**

We are appalled that the world renowned Denali wolves have been decimated by trappers adjacent to the Park. This is an inexcusable degradation of a national treasure that has resulted in the direct loss of tens of thousands of tourism dollars to Alaska when a company that specialized in wolf viewing canceled its trips this year due to a lack of wolves in the Park. As world travelers we are mystified by the comparable inability of Alaska to leverage its wildlife resources as a tourism draw and asset to economically benefit the State.

Denali National Park clearly needs a no-trapping buffer zone, and we ask that the moratorium be rescinded.

Sincerely,

Robert and Linda Shaw
9684 Moraine Way
Juneau, AK 99801



RESCIND THE MORATORIUM ON DENALI BUFFER ZONE PROPOSALS

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

National Wolfwatcher Coalition is a nonprofit organization that promotes wolf education and conservation, and it is currently supported by more than 250,000 members. We promote educational tourism opportunities throughout the USA and Canada, which enable participants to observe and learn about wolves in their natural habitat.

Encouraged by growing interest, we contacted several eco-tourism operators in Alaska to arrange for trips to Denali National Park for the sole purpose of planning educational wolf watching adventures. Despite difficult economic times, we remain eager to support Alaska's tourism industry both in the near future and in years to come.

Unfortunately, we were disappointed when the Alaska Board of Game rejected a petition urging it to enact a wolf buffer (no-trapping/no-hunting) zone on a small parcel of state land along the eastern boundary of Denali National Park. Although the most recent wolf survey results estimate a total population of approximately 50 animals in the park — one of the lowest counts in the past 20 years — this buffer zone would protect the twenty to thirty animals that comprise the three most viewed wolf packs in Denali National Park.

One of the most viewed packs in the park — the Grant Creek pack — was seriously impacted from a trapping loss this past April. The pack failed to reproduce and dispersed. The success of viewing wolves in Denali has declined dramatically since the buffer was removed in 2010.

A journey to Alaska requires a substantial financial investment on the part of visitors. It would be unethical for us to ask our supporters to spend approximately \$8,500 for this trip when, in all probability, they may not see the very wildlife they expected to see on a "wolf-watching" adventure. If, however, the proposed buffer zone were enacted, we believe we could reasonably assure our supporters that all was being done to encourage a successful experience.

Thus, we hope that the Alaska Board of Game rescinds its moratorium on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones. Not only will our organization be able to fulfill its educational mission, but the resulting positive economic impact will benefit Alaska's citizens and its tourism industry.

Best regards,

Diane Bentivegna, Ed.M.
Director, Education and Resources
National Wolfwatcher Coalition



RESCIND THE MORATORIUM

Greetings!

My wife & I spend a lot of money in Alaska and I had the honor to be selected for McNeil River bear viewing last year. Alaska is a very special place to us and I find some things going on now very disturbing, to say the least.

We ask that the Board of Game RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

Thanks for your attention involving these activities as we do wish to keep coming and spending money in your beautiful state.

Respectively yours,

Bruce Faanes



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

Dear Board of Game Members:

I urge the Board of Game to **rescind its moratorium** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones. It is outrageous to use a moratorium to stifle public discussion and dissent. Your statutory mandate demands that you consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management; it is in your best interest to avail yourselves of the best available information about wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

Respectfully yours,

Judith Fairly
450 Stoneridge Trail
Weatherford, TX 76087



Alaska Board of Game,

Please **support proposals 18, 19 and 20** and **rescind the moratorium** on proposals related to a Denali Buffer zone.

Thank you,

Regina Case



I am asking that the Board of Game **rescind its moratorium** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

Reasons: The public has a right to give their voice and opinion, and should be allowed to give proposals on this, or any other issue. The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating wildlife management, and a buffer zone for the Denali Wolves is such a proposal. Please take this into consideration.

Savannah Ford



PLEASE RESCIND THE MORATORIUM ON DENALI BUFFER ZONE PROPOSALS

- ◆ The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.

- ◆ The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

- ◆ When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

A proposal for a new Denali buffer zone has been submitted to the BOG to and is on the agenda for its February meeting. Whether or not it is brought up for consideration most likely depends on whether the BOG votes to rescind its moratorium on such issues

Dena Selby



Dear Members of the Alaskan Board of Game,

Citizens of the lower 48 do care deeply about Alaska's wildlife.

Thus I write to urge you to **rescind the moratorium** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

I also urge you not to kill wolves in the Alexander Archipelago as a predator control action just so humans can possibly have more black tailed deer to hunt. Alaska still has large ecosystems that do best when the humans interfere the least.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Thiermann
3909 Rugen Road
Glenview, IL 60025



Please support and approve proposals 18, 19, 20

✓ Please rescind the moratorium on the buffer zones.

Patricia Tallman, PhD



Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Please rescind the Denali buffer proposal moratorium.

I and my family have made multiple trips to Alaska, always for game viewing. We are not hunters, but watch with binoculars.

On every trip, we spend lots of money on air fare, trains, car rental, and hotels for these activities. We are thrilled to see wild wolves and bears. We strongly support your organization rescinding its moratorium on the efforts to establish a buffer zone around Denali. After all, the wild game is vitally important to helping the Alaskan economy.

The fewer animals we see, the fewer trips we will make.

Elizabeth DeNiro
16226 N. Sands Road
Mead, WA 99021



I support the elimination of the moratorium on Denali proposals.

Denali Park absolutely needs a buffer zone for any animals who wander/are baited out of park boundaries. I'm a resident of Arizona but have vowed not to spend a dime in Montana or Wisconsin with their archaic, barbaric policies on wolves even though I have relatives/loved ones in both states.

Larissa Madrigal
4385 E Winter Drive
Flagstaff, AZ 86004



I ask that the Board of Game **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

- ◆ The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.
- ◆ The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.
- ◆ When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

Lewis Ratliff



Please vote to Eliminate the Moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone Proposals

Heidi Zodorozny



SUPPORT PROPOSALS 18, 19, 20

RESCIND THE MORATORIUM ON THE DENALI BUFFER ZONE

Alaska Board and Game,

I'm writing from Minnesota for the wildlife in Alaska. I'm asking that the bear snaring be stopped and that year round wolf hunting be ended. My personal preference would be to see an end to all trophy hunting anywhere in the country as it's immoral. Additionally please create the buffer zone around Denali National Park.

My wife and I plan on visiting Alaska to visit Denali for the wildlife and natural areas. I understand that there are probably pressures to hunt and harvest more and more wildlife from the local people in Alaska but the tourism industry should be taken into account too. Additionally we should all consider that wild animals have very few people that take the time to understand them or stand up to defend them.

Please do the right thing and help protect this area for wildlife!

Regards from Minnesota,

Matt and Nikki Johnson



RESCIND THE MORATORIUM ON DENALI BUFFER ZONE PROPOSALS

Denali wolves don't recognize park boundaries. A buffer zone around Denali National Park makes sense from an economic standpoint alone to keep the Denali wolf population healthy and free of Human disruption---it's tough enough being a wolf without having family members constantly being killed.

The few dollars from a few wolf pelts do not equate with the large numbers of people who come to Alaska to see Denali wolves. Not to mention those of us in Alaska.

Thanks for your consideration - Rudy Wittshirk



Patricia Cue
11903 Town Park Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577

Board of Game Comments
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

December 26, 2012

I am writing in support of proposals 18, 19 and 20 and requesting that you **rescind the Moratorium.**

I support prohibiting the heinous act of bear snaring. It is cruel and a poor management tool. It offends even the most ardent hunters in that it does not allow fair chase, has significant public safety issues, law enforcement issues. It is absolutely inhumane. Bear snaring damages the reputation of all Alaskans.

The Board of Game should absolutely rescind the moratorium on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

I support the buffer zone and so do thousands of Alaskans. Visitors from around the world come to Denali to view the wildlife. It is ridiculous that the BOG refuses to hear proposals for a new buffer zone. OUR VOICES MUST BE HEARD!!!!

I urge you to support all of these proposals.

Patricia Cue



I ask that the Board of Game **rescind its moratorium** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones. Proposals and arguments for re-establishing the buffer zone must be considered.

◆ The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. Moratoriums on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a political tool.

◆ The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.

◆ When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it refuses to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

Thank You,

Ken Green
POBox 776
Cooper Landing 99572



To Members of the Board of Game,

I request that the Board of Game **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones. The Board made a mistake in 2010, eliminating the buffer zone around Denali NP and imposing another six-year moratorium on consideration of any new buffer zone proposals. This needs to be addressed ASAP.

Beverly Minn
500 Lincoln St B9
Sitka AK 99835



SUPPORT PROPOSALS 18, 19, 20

ELIMINATE THE MORATORIUM

To whom it may concern,

I urge you to vote yes to stop Bear Snaring and year round wolf hunting and to eliminate its moratorium on Denali buffer zone proposals. I agree with all these proposals and ask that you consider them seriously before making any decision.

Although I do not live in Alaska I was born there a full-blooded native and stockholder in Cook Inlet Region, Inc. I do not speak on there behalf, but I do for all the wildlife that lives in the state.

Someday I would like to see Alaska and all its glorious wildlife, it is after all the Last Frontier, but I fear that by the time I make it there, there will be no wildlife to see.

A bear caught in a snare is not hunting at all it is cruel and inhumane, the free dictionary online defines hunting as the activity or sport of pursuing game. So bear snaring is not hunting, neither is pursuing wolves in airplanes hunting. Hunting wolves by airplane is just plain laziness and the fact you have to find them with airplanes probably means they are far enough away they aren't bothering anyone anyways, not to mention the thousands of TAXpayers money you could be spending on something else.

We as humans have the moral obligation to protect all wildlife so please don't think along the same lines as Montana, Utah, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Washington, and Arizona - all these states have declared war on wolves. We as humans do not have the right to make any animal species Extinct.

So please I implore you to make the right decision, proposals 18,19, 20 are very good proposals and I urge you to vote yes for them and always remember extinction is forever.

Thank You for your time,

Thomas St. Laurent



Re the moratorium on proposals related to the Denali buffer zone: I strongly **oppose this moratorium** and ask the BOG not to impose it. Such moratoria are means of stifling public input, which is unfair and undemocratic. They prevent the incorporation of new knowledge into management strategies. It is part of BOG's job to consider management proposals, and moratoria just duck this responsibility.

I also note that lots of people enjoy observing wolves in the Denali area, bringing in tourist money to the area; a stable wolf population there increases the opportunities for seeing wolves and tends to increase the numbers of folks who come to see our wildlife.

M. F. Willson, Juneau



Denali Buffer Zone - RESCIND THE MORATORIUM

We ask that the BOG to RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM on accepting proposals related to Denali national park no-trapping zones. The BOG has NO RIGHT to limit the public process.

The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer Zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.

When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management. This would allow the management of wildlife with the best sound knowledge and information available.

The BOG should strongly consider reinstating the buffer zone around the boundaries of Denali Park to ensure that all its wildlife is protected especially when apex predators leave the confines of the park.

Regards

Eva Schorer
Puslinch, Ontario Canada



I would like to express my opinion regarding your discussion of the current Moratorium On Proposals Related To A Denali Buffer Zone.

RESCIND THE MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTING PROPOSALS RELATED TO DENALI BUFFER ZONE: In your discussion of this matter, you are urged to rescind this moratorium. We live in a democracy, and as important a subject matter as the destruction of wildlife and resources mandates input from all concerned citizens often.

Public proposals from scientists, wildlife enthusiasts, conservation groups and all others foster a healthy and informative dialogue which can yield positive initiatives in Alaska's wildlife management, as opposed to its suppression.

Alaska has the largest percentage of this country's wilderness areas (the National Wildlife Refuge System; the National Parks); its wildlife is an attraction worldwide for people who cherish the aesthetic experience of viewing wildlife aside from all consumptive values we may place on it-- to see a wolf as only a wolf and its rightful place along side us in nature. This "tourist" revenue potentially far surpasses the state's revenue from hunting and trapping.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kramer



From:

Gerald R. Brookman
715 Muir Avenue
Kenai, Alaska 99611-8816

To: Alaska Board of Game

Subject: Items for Consideration at BOG Meeting

Dear Sirs:

I support Proposals 18 and 19, and urge the board to approve them. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance lists several reasons in support of these proposals, all of which I consider valid. Snaring bears is not fair chase and I believe that it should be prohibited in all of our state.

I support proposal 20, and urge the Board to approve it. Again, I believe that all of the reasons for supporting this proposal stated by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance are valid, and make eminently good sense to me. I hope that you will agree.

I understand that while it is not on the formal Agenda for this meeting, the Board's current moratorium on accepting proposals relating to a no-trapping buffer zone around Denali National Park may be discussed informally at this meeting. I would like to **urge the board to rescind this moratorium**, and entertain proposals on the matter at the earliest possible time.

Thank you for considering my comments.



I strongly urge the Board of Game to **rescind its moratorium** on accepting proposals regarding Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones. The BOG should not limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals should not be utilized as a means of stifling the input of those it does not agree with. The BOG should not ignore its statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public regarding wildlife management, such as a buffer zone proposal for the Denali wolves.

In refusing to accept such proposals, the BOG loses the opportunity to consider new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This deprives the BOG of the best available information for the management of Alaska's wildlife.

I urge the BOG to rescind its moratorium so that it may consider the proposal for a new Denali buffer zone that is on the agenda for the its February meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynn Driessen



Please rescind the moratorium on Denali buffer zone proposals

BOG policies harm other aspects of the Alaskan economy. Many people have come to visit Denali Park in order to view wildlife. The buffer zone outside the park should be reinstated so there is never again the horrifying and inhumane killing of a breeding female wolf which has caused the Granite Creek pack to disperse. Once again the BOG needs to pay attention to other points of view as to how our Alaskan wildlife and land are managed.

I had the unfortunate experience of hearing an NPR program which featured wildlife guides from outside Alaska who have cancelled their plans to lead groups to view our wildlife, specifically due to the killing of the lead female of the Granite Creek pack. The loss of these activities will put an unneeded dent in our economy and cause our state to be viewed in a negative light due to the BOG's extreme, one sided and inhumane wildlife policies.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Valenti



RESCIND THE MORATORIUM

You should eliminate your moratorium and allow a consideration of proposals to re-establish the Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zone. You don't have the right to limit the public process by using a moratorium to delay buffer proposals that you do not agree with. You have a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposals that the public has said about wildlife management, and the buffer zone for Denali's wolves is one such proposal. When you refuse to accept any new proposal on wildlife management, you lose learning about relevant and new wildlife management conditions and needs and therefore prevent you with the chance to manage Alaskan wildlife with the best information.

Sincerely,

Quinn Santos



Eliminate the Moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone Proposals

Don't go against wildlife. PLEASE!

Sam Davis



Rescind the moratorium

Please rescind the moratorium on Denali Buffer Zone proposals. I
SUPPORT a buffer zone around Denali NP.

Julianne Baker
Gardiner Montana



Regarding the buffer zone around Denali:

It is good to have a healthy population of wolves in Denali for people to see. Wolf watching is a tourist industry around Yellowstone N.P. But we need to protect wolves wandering outside the border of Denali N.P. from trapping and hunting.

Therefore I ask that the board **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTING PROPOSALS RELATED TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK BUFFER ZONE.**

Sincerely,

Douglas McIntosh

2208 Nottingham Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709



MORATORIUM ON PROPOSALS RELATED TO A DENALI BUFFER ZONE: I
deeply ask that the Board of Game **RESCIND THIS MORATORIUM** on
accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones,
and allow consideration of proposals to re-establish a buffer zone.

Diana McCleery
3115 39th Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55406



I ask Alaska's Board of Game to **RESCIND ITS MORATORIUM** on accepting proposals related to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones.

The devastation to our Wolf populations from irrational, mismanagement of States must be stopped. The science behind wolves proves lethal means and human intervention are not necessary for their management. History is proving to repeat itself for profiteering on hunting licenses at an EXTREMELY high cost to its National Citizens. It is our National tax dollars that paid for their reintroduction - to sustain the health of its natural habitat. Why is it now individual States threaten this work for "sport" and illegal fur trade?

I work in fashion and see what is available now, that was not before. Some things are not right scientifically or in nature. The slaughter of our wildlife when their #'s have never been more threatened is NOT RIGHT. When the negative effects are evident in air, land and water it will be too late.

I urge you to make a decision based on the intrinsic value of nature and the preservation of the wild and not sell out for short term profits from killing.

Sincerely,

Deborah M. Henriksen, LEED AP BD+C



I am asking the BOG to rescind its moratorium:

- ◆ The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.
- ◆ The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.
- ◆ When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

.Regards

Dr Shelley Ruth Wyndham
Philadelphia PA



PLEASE ELIMINATE THE MORATORIUM ON DENALI BUFFER ZONE PROPOSALS

- ◆ The BOG should not have the right to limit the public process. A moratorium on Denali buffer proposals - or on proposals related to any other issue - should not be used as a way to stifle those it does not agree with.
- ◆ The BOG has a statutory mandate to consider any reasonable proposal from the public relating to wildlife management. A buffer zone for the Denali wolves is such a proposal.
- ◆ When the BOG refuses to accept proposals on any given wildlife management situation, it loses the opportunity to hear new and relevant information about wildlife management conditions and needs. This prevents it from managing Alaska's wildlife with the use of the best available information.

Thank you for your attention,

Stacey L. Lumley



***Alaska Trappers Association
PO Box 82177
Fairbanks, AK 99708***

**Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811
ATTN: BOG COMMENTS**

December 28, 2012

Dear Chairman & Members of the Board:

Over the past decade, the so-called "Denali buffer zone" has been a major issue for persons interested in wildlife management in Alaska. The Board of Game has dealt with numerous proposals to alter the size of the zone, or delete it entirely.

A few years ago, the Board voted to implement a moratorium on changes to the status of the effected area. This moratorium was implemented in order to: (a) allow time for changes to be evaluated and (b) provide the Board with time to deal with other proposals.

We hear rumors that the Board may be asked to rescind the moratorium. We oppose this change. We believe that the reasons for implementing the moratorium are still valid. We encourage the Board to reject any request to rescind the moratorium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Letarte".

Joe Letarte, president



December 27, 2012

Dear Board of Game Members:

Below are my comments for the 2013 Southeast Alaska Board of Game meeting in Sitka.

RESCIND THE MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTING PROPOSALS ON THE DENALI BUFFER ZONE

Several points and their consequences, some of which are listed below, should have been considered when the decision was being made to remove the Denali National Park wolf buffer zone; with the moratorium on buffer zone proposals in place, these things cannot now be formally considered at all.

1) The rights of a very few, perhaps no more than two, who trap in the former buffer zone area;

2) The critical location of the most viewed wolf pack in the park. Since wildlife does not recognize borders between protected and non-protected areas, there was a significant risk - with little, if any, upside - involved in eliminating the buffer zone;

3) The rights and well-being of the hundreds of other Alaskans who depend upon Denali National Park tourism, including wolf viewing and photography, for their livelihoods.

Here are just some of the results of the current implementation of the Board of Game's strategy in eliminating the Denali National Park wolf buffer zone:

1) One trapper was able to legally trap the last remaining breeding female of the Grant Creek wolf pack, which was at that time the most viewable pack in the park. The trapper, in total disregard for the animal, left the wolf in the trap where it painfully struggled for about a week. Finally, a wolverine attacked the wolf, making the hide worthless.

2) The death of this wolf resulted in the disbursement of the pack. The chance of seeing wolves in Denali National Park declined to 14% - a 63% decline since 2007.

3) As a result, individuals as well as organizations such as Wolf Watcher, a group that had been planning to come to Denali National Park in large numbers in 2013 to see wolves, have already decided not to come because the chances of seeing wolves are now so low. Instead, they will go



elsewhere where their tourism dollars will result in better wolf viewing opportunities. This series of events has already resulted in a drop in Alaska's wildlife tourism income of approximately \$2,125,000. That number can actually be measured right now, and I am sure that the actual number is and will be a lot higher since we do not know everyone who changed their plans to come to Alaska because of this wolf viewing issue.

This loss affects not only the park area, but many other areas of the state. For example, about 35% of the out-of-state visitors to Denali National Park also visit Southeast Alaska as a part of their Alaskan vacation. I own a very small one-person company that primarily does whale watching in the Juneau area; already, I have lost over \$2,000 in cancellations as a direct result of the elimination of the Denali wolf buffer zone. Losses such as these have irreversibly damaged Alaska's 2013 tourism season before it has even begun.

The reinstatement of the buffer zone may help us get some of those lost tourism dollars back, while simultaneously bringing in additional, much needed sales tax revenue for many towns in 2014 and onward. If, however, the moratorium on accepting proposals on the Denali National Park buffer zone continues, the Board of Game, while blocking the established process for public input, will continue to block itself from hearing relevant new information such as this with which to make intelligent decisions on wildlife management policies.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

Greg Brown
19400 Beardsley Way
Juneau, AK 99801
907-209-4221



Good day,

I write in support of your approval of the following:

- **PROPOSALS 18 and 19**
- **PROPOSAL 20**

Further, I request that the Board of Game rescind its moratorium regarding proposals to establish a no-trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park. Please allow consideration of proposals to re-establish a buffer zone.

I live in New York City, but am a frequent visitor to our wilderness areas. I would like to see more responsible, ethical, and humane management, preservation, and respectful treatment of our wildlife, in particular bears and wolves.

Kind regards,

Marina Salazar
1773 First Avenue
Apartment #14
New York, New York 10128



Samuel Davis, D.C.
185 Lake Drive
Lake Peekskill, NY 10537

December 28, 2012

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

Dear Board of Game Members:

I would appreciate your support to ban bear snaring and restrict wolf hunting and trapping in Southeast Alaska. Also, please rescind the moratorium on accepting and considering Denali buffer zone proposals.

I support Proposal 18 and 19, and would ask your support. Unscientific wildlife management policies must end, as well as unhumane methods of killing. Public safety also need to be considered. Bear snaring is unpopular, unsafe, indiscriminate, unscientific, and cruel.

I support Proposal 20, prohibiting hunting and trapping of wolves in all areas of Southeast Alaska from March 1 until November 1, when females may be pregnant or have dependent pups. It is not sound science or ecology to allow it.

And please rescind your moratorium on accepting proposals to Denali National Park no-trapping buffer zones. Please consider proposals to re-establish a buffer zone. Allow public process.

Sincerely,

Sam Davis, D.C.