

To the Alaska Board of Game:

I am a former Alaska resident and natural resource scientist with an academic background in wildlife biology who has specialized in sustainable wolf management and I am writing to voice my **support for Proposal 86**, which would re-establish a no-trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park.

Wolf populations have drastically declined in Denali National Park over the past decade. Aggressive hunting and trapping of wolves is ecologically unsustainable and inhumane. Wolf populations (and therefore viewing opportunities) have declined significantly in the Park due in part to trapping along the east and south Park boundary. The most recent official survey (Spring 2012) found a total of only 70 wolves in nine packs in the six million acre park - one of the lowest populations in decades. The loss of a single wolf, if it is an alpha, can result in no litters for up to a year or more and disintegration of a pack.

Finally, the presence of wolves is a vital tourist attraction to Denali, and one that is unfortunately losing its appeal due to low accounts of wolves. I myself did not see any wolves my last time in Denali a few years back and heard from locals that they have diminished significantly in recent years.

Wolves do not pose threats to moose populations as often touted for justifying their kills, as was attested to by the scientifically rigorous study by the National Academies of Sciences on this very topic.

Again, I urge you to pass **Proposal 86** and re-establish a no-trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Kiesel

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Laura Kiesel, M.Sc. Natural Resources