PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 92.080.(7)(H). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow the use of cameras or sensory devices to monitor trap locations for trapping as follows:

Any camera or sensory device that can send messages through wireless **communications unless the device is specifically used on trap locations for the taking of furbearers which are actively in a trap.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modern technology of wireless cameras which are commercially produced can aid in prevention of trap and fur theft. As the Alaska Court System and state District Attorney has proven, fur and trap thieves are not prosecuted. I was a victim of the theft of two Manning #9 wolf traps and one wolf by a non-trapper in Unit 2. The suspect was observed on a traditional trail camera which allowed the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to file theft charges against the person. Just by chance the suspect had never seen the camera. If he had seen the camera, he surely would have prevented the images from being used against him. The wolf was recovered and the suspect pled guilty to the crimes. After a long period of time and a few hundred dollars in boat fuel, I was never able to locate the stolen traps in the various locations the suspect said he had put them. I lost the use of the traps for the remainder of the open wolf season only to have the suspect produce the traps prior to being sentenced for the crimes. His case was then dismissed because he returned all stolen items. A modern cellular trail camera would have alerted me at the time of the trap and fur theft. Instant notification would have allowed for a fast response and possibly recovered the traps in a much quicker time period. Cellular cameras will also allow a trapper quick response to dispatch an animal in a foothold trap. At the same time, cellular trail cameras should not be allowed to aid in taking an animal unless that animal is legally a trapped furbearer.

PROPOSED BY: John Ryan (EG-F20-175)

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