

PROPOSALS 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153**Establish trapping setbacks along trails, trailheads and pullouts in Units 7 and 15.**

Unfortunately, due to poor road and weather conditions, I will not be able to make the drive down to Soldotna.

I would like to re-emphasize my opposition to the above set back proposals. Time and time again we see the regulatory process used as the first available tool to address conflict, when in fact it should be used as the absolute last resort. Trappers have made a great deal of effort to address the issue of negative dog/ trap interactions through advisory signage programs, sharing trails presentations, new trapper educational programs, reminders to be a responsible public land user in the monthly publication, literature at trap retailers, and through other public outreach opportunities when available. We, as trappers, have acknowledged our role in the conflict and have taken proactive steps to help mitigate it on a voluntary basis, unfortunately it does not appear that other user groups are willing to do the same. This is a two sided issue and will only be resolved when both sides put in the work, not by a one sided regulatory "solution". There are many "dog safe" sets, such as elevated, submerged, under ice and enclosed, that can be used in all of the proposed setback areas that would be completely shut down should these proposals be enacted. Further, these proposals would raise the bar of entry for young or disabled trappers that may need the use of an established trail in order to participate in this historical pursuit. Another hindrance to these proposals would be enforcement. Where is the trail boundary? Does the trail route change in the winter compared to the summer? Do these trail routes change year to year? If someone breaks trail around a fallen tree, does that constitute the new trail boundary? Are these trails clearly marked, identified and defined in the field? I believe all these questions need solid answers before regulation can even be considered.

As the authors of proposal 146 noted, there are many alternatives to new regulation that can be effective and have yet to be fully utilized. I urge the Board to strike down these proposals on the basis of regulation being the last resort. My genuine hope is that the Board will urge all user groups to exhaust all other available methods and resources to address this issue before resorting to the regulatory process and to encourage user groups to work together to achieve a resolution.