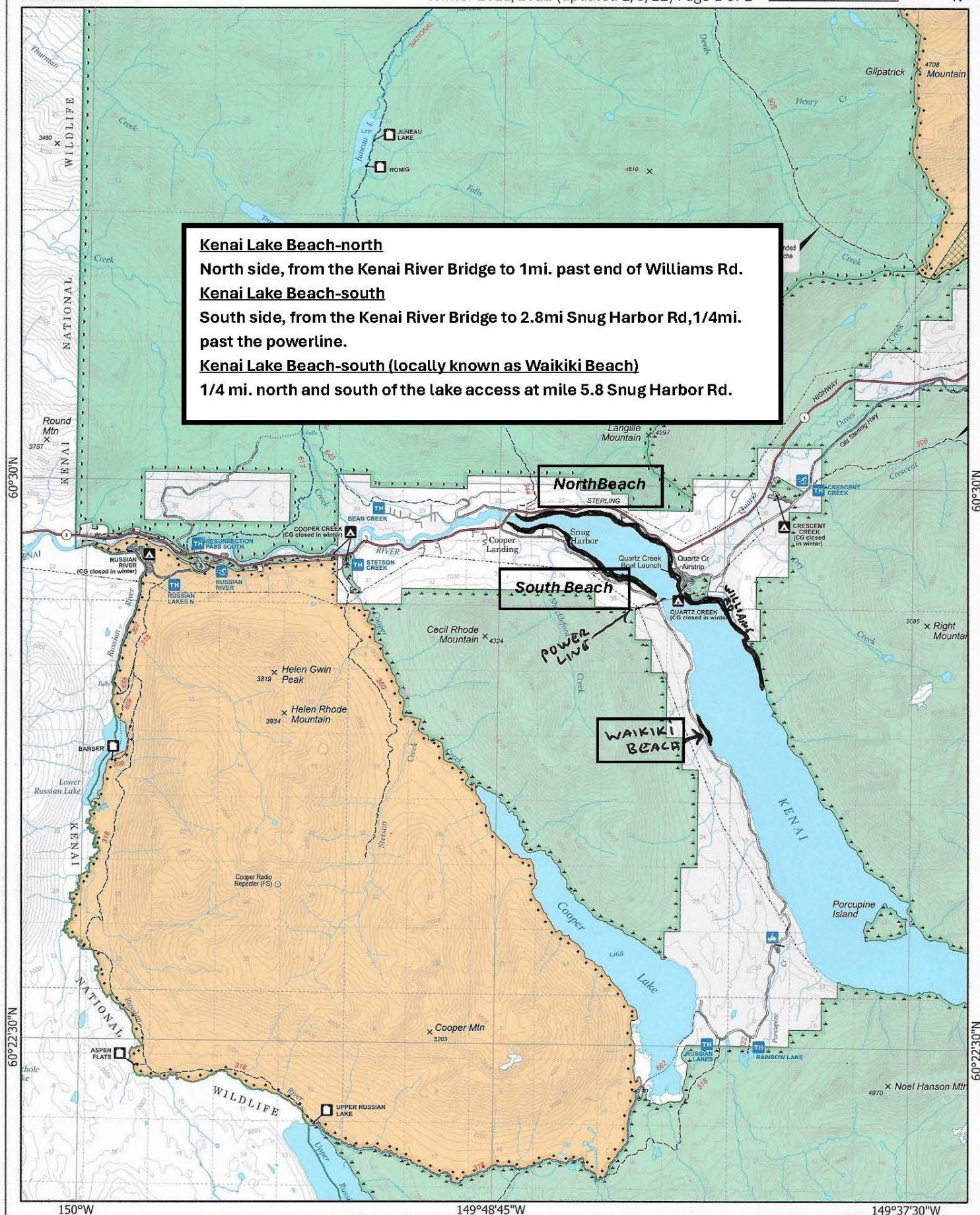




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File Code: 1500; 2630

Date: April 29, 2025

Alaska Board of Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

The United States Forest Service-Chugach National Forest would like to submit the following comments in support of Proposals submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee to establish trapping setbacks from heavily used recreation areas and to require signs be posted at all active trapping access points in Unit 7.

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. As the amount of winter recreation has increased over the past 20 years, so has the number of encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. Many of these areas occur on Forest Service lands.

The proposals include 100-yard setbacks from the most popular and heavily used multi-use trails, campgrounds, roads, pullouts, and beaches that are in the Cooper Landing area as well as areas of the Summit Lake Recreation Area. Trapping setbacks would establish safe zones for user groups accessing these areas for: cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, ice fishing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, bird hunting, cabin rentals, and more.

The Forest Service strives to fairly manage the land for all uses balancing commercial, recreational, personal, and subsistence uses across our public lands. Our National Forest is multi-use and balancing those uses at times becomes difficult with opposing views and this issue is one of those that all parties have the right to continue using the Forest for their needs. The goal of these proposals is to establish safe corridors for recreation users with their families and pets, while still allowing trapping beyond a modest buffer.



For the reasons mentioned above, Chugach NF supports establishing effective regulatory measures including trapping setbacks and signs posted at all access points of active trapping along high use trails and recreation areas in Unit 7.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Chugach NF comments on this proposal. If there are questions, please contact me at 907-288-7730 or by e-mail at ruth.damico@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

RUTH L. D'AMICO
District Ranger