



February 16, 2007

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

RECEIVED
FEB 16 2007
BOARDS

RE: Comment on Proposal 204, March 2007 BOG Meeting, Anchorage

Proposal 204 asks the Board of Game to use its authority to ask the legislature to establish a state wildlife refuge in Unit 13 between the general vicinity of Paxson to the Maclaren River and north of the Denali Highway. The exact boundaries of the proposed refuge are outlined in the proposal and the objective is to protect an area with high wildlife values from development and surface mining.

In the mid-1970s, I spent three summers studying nesting behavior of gyrfalcons in the much of the area defined by this proposal and I know there are excellent wildlife resources, especially for birds, as described in the proposal. Cliff-nesting raptors (including golden eagle and gyrfalcons), tree-nesting or ground nesting species (bald eagle and merlin) are numerous and widely distributed in the area. Game birds and waterfowl are abundant especially in the Tangle Lakes, Glacier Lake, and Landmark Gap Lake areas. And, there are exceptional populations of other bird species including a large colony of long-tailed jaegers nesting in the flatland between the Denali Highway and Landmark Gap, and high numbers of arctic warblers along the Denali Highway.

After learning first hand about the outstanding wildlife resources in the area, I returned periodically for the next 15-20 years to pick berries, hunt ptarmigan, caribou, moose, and fish and canoe in the Tangle Lakes area. Others do the same, and this area is a great place for people, residents or nonresidents, to have exceptional wildlife and recreational experiences.

I am also aware of several archeological sites within the proposed refuge. One was named for stone points that I reported in 1975. They should be protected.

Even 30 years ago, I could see the value of protecting the wildlife values in this area because of its high use for recreation, hunting, fishing and wildlife observation. I support the proposal and encourage the Board to take a proactive step to protect wildlife resources now and into the future. I dream of returning and it is my hope I do not have to look a surface mining developments that rob the area of its unique scenic and wildlife resources.

Please act and pass Proposal 204. Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Bente
PO Box 1611,
Nome, Alaska 99762

*Peter Bente
02-16-2007
Nome, Alaska*

COMMENT# 219