

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary [<mailto:maryofalaska@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:42 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: House Bill 40

Representative Josephson,

Thank you for sponsoring HB40. As a lifelong Alaskan who enjoys public trails, I am very concerned for the safety of myself and my family. A 200 foot buffer is a reasonable compromise that allows all Alaskans to enjoy our public trails safely. Thank you, Mary Short

Sent from my iPad

From: Marilyn [<mailto:lostinspace@matnet.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 11:24 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 40

Dear Representative Josephson,

I support HB 40 which would require a 200 foot setback on the placement of traps and snares from publicly maintained trails and public facilities such as trailheads and associated parking lots, rest stops and scenic areas, and campsites. In addition, it would require a Department of Fish and Game issued ID tag on each trap.

Such requirements for traps and snares should not in any way be controversial, it is simply common sense. More and more people are out recreating on our public lands in winter – whether it's skiing, snowmachining, mushing, snowshoeing, biking – and a trap set on or near a trail or at a parking area presents a significant and unnecessary hazard for people, including little people, and pets.

I've lived in Alaska almost 40 years and have been fortunate to spend a significant amount of time in the outdoors. I have encountered a leg hold trap while snowshoeing with my leashed dogs on a public trail next to a campground. The trap was baited with scent and it was all I could do to restrain my dogs from investigating the trap. Had the dogs been off leash, which would have been legal in that area, the encounter would have ended much differently. I have found the skinned remains of animals at rest areas where it appeared the animals had been trapped. A friend had two dogs injured by traps next to a very popular trail on the Kenai Peninsula. An acquaintance had a dog killed in trap next to a trail; another's dog was injured by a trap that was set ON a publicly used snowmachine trail.

Our public trails and public facilities are for everyone and it is only prudent that the measures outlined in HB 40 be adopted as law.

I am hopeful HB 40 will quickly move out of committee and to the House floor for full consideration.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Houser

2411 Ingra Street

Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Miner_Mark [mailto:Miner_Mark@asdk12.org]

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 12:31 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 40

To the Members of the House Natural Resources Committee:

Friends of Chugach State Park is a grassroots organization representing recreational users of the park whose interests are low-impact and non-motorized. We are volunteers dedicated to the park's natural and wilderness qualities since the 1980's.

Much of Chugach State Park is currently closed by State regulation to the placing of large traps and snares which pose a danger to dogs and children. However, legal trapping on and near some trails and trail head parking areas continues to pose a problem. In particular, we are concerned about dogs under voice control being caught and killed in traps and snares set near the trails leading into the Park from the Indian Creek trailhead, from Bird Creek trail heads, and from Peters Creek trail heads.

We support HB 40, and the concept that large traps and snares should not be placed within 200 feet of trails, trail head parking lots, and developed campsites. As regards Chugach State Park, we suggest an amendment which would designate the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, or the Commissioner's designee which would be the Director of Chugach State Park, to prepare a list of trail head parking areas, campsites, and trails. Preparation of the list should be in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Very truly yours,

Mark Miner
President

From: Marianna Keil

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:45 PM

To: House Resources <lhsres@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>

Subject: Written Testimony of Heidi Sinclair

Honorable Members of the Resources Committee;

My name is Heidi Sinclair, owner and sole operator of Seward Dog Lodge. We specialize in back country trail hikes in the Kenai Peninsula Borough area. We allow our dogs to be "off leash." My concern is how close to recreational areas that I've noticed traps set up. I have had two incidents this winter where two of my clients were injured. On another incident we noticed the bait before any of the dogs got close enough. These traps were set very close to where people, kids, dogs, snow machines, ski, or just enjoy recreational activities. I support HB 40 for the safety of my client's dogs.

Heidi Sinclair

PO Box 2852

Seward, AK 99664

Seward Legislative Information Office

PO Box 1769

Seward, AK 99664

907-224-5066

224-5067 fax

855-824-5066 (toll free)

Marianna.Keil@akleg.gov

Seward.LIO@akleg.gov

From: Kaylene Johnson-Sullivan [<mailto:kaylene.johnson@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3:35 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Supporting HB40!

Dear Mr. Josephson,

Thank you for introducing HB40 to restrict trapping in urban areas and along publicly maintained trails. The use of traps is an epidemic in and around highly populated areas like Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak and Peters Creek. I personally know several people who either brag about their urban traplines or have had pets ensnared in them.

I am not necessarily opposed to trapping but feel strongly that it should NOT put pets and children at risk.

Trapping has always been a rural, wilderness endeavor. If trappers cannot police themselves, then we need laws to enforce common sense. Trapping should not be allowed near trails or urban areas.

Thank you kindly for your service to our community and to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kaylene Johnson-Sullivan

PO Box 771054

Eagle River, AK 99577

[907-360-0480](tel:907-360-0480)

From: Laurie Hueffer [<mailto:l.hueffer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 40 (Traps Near Trails)

Dear Rep. Josephson,

I am writing in support of your bill and to let you know that I appreciate and support your efforts for some common sense measures to increase trapping safety.

I would be interested in learning when the next opportunity to testify would be or to whom it would be best to reach out via email or phone call.

Thank you,

Laurie Hueffer

--

Laurie Hueffer
l.hueffer@gmail.com

From: footloosealaskans-request@lists.riseup.net [<mailto:footloosealaskans-request@lists.riseup.net>]

On Behalf Of Josh Klauder

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 10:18 PM

To: FootLoose Alaskans <footloosealaskans@lists.riseup.net>

Subject: [footloosealaskans] My letter re HB40

Thanks for the addresses, ~~Pat~~ Polly!

Dear House Resource Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB40 and and least minimal 200 foot setbacks for trapping along trails created and maintained with public funds, along with identification of traps.

In case you have not already done so, please visit <https://alaskasafetrails.org/> and read a few of the MANY stories , and consider that this is the tip of the iceberg. This is only the number of stories from a few areas, collected in a short time, and limited to those who are willing to *tell* their story. This problem is far larger and more common than anyone seems willing to recognize, least of all the trapping community.

The official response to the problem from ADF&G is that all other users should leave the area if someone decides to trap on a public trail. That's right, their suggestion is "go home, the outdoors belongs to trappers."

The trapping community's response is "leash law." This is utterly disingenuous. There is no statewide leash law. It also ignores that fact that traps are currently perfectly legal within inches of the trail - or even right in the middle of the trail!

I have heard some express the sentiment that this should be left to local governments. I disagree. Not all publicly funded trails fall within the boundaries of a local government. And this will lead to a confusing inconsistency from one place to another.

Frankly, I cannot imagine why anyone in their right mind wants to set traps on public recreational trails.
But - they do. And that is unacceptable.

Please support this common sense bill.

Thank you,

Josh Klauder

Talkeetna

From: akhouse@belfast.servershost.net [<mailto:akhouse@belfast.servershost.net>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:22 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Traps

From: Anna Goemer <aendecott@gci.net>
Subject: Traps

Message Body:

Thank you. Anchorage Democratic Rep. Andy Josephson sponsored House Bill 40 amid a rise in reports of dogs maimed or killed by traps and snares set not on far-flung traplines but near trails, yards or well-used roads and campgrounds in places like Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and the Kenai Peninsula.

Bear baiters have restrictions and so should trappers. Bear baiters have to post signs, take courses, and be certain distances from houses, public trails, roads, etc...

I have seen moose die in wolf snares set in willows on flats. I have snow machined on a public trail when my skis caught in a snare forcing my snowmachine to spin the tree to which the snare is attached. I have seen traps near the railroad tracks in Portage, an area which doesn't require your dog to be on leashes. I have seen traps taken off dog tongues in public parks owned by places that don't have leash laws or trapping restrictions. Putting ownership tags on traps will cause the trapper to be responsible and be liable for negligence outside of criminal courts. ADFG are not doing enough to make trappers apply common sense and judges have ruled in favor of people removing traps in negligent places.

Bow hunters need special classes to bow hunt. Trappers should be made to take special classes also.

In addition, trapping licenses don't even cost a fraction of hunting licenses and disabled veterans don't even get a free trapping license. Trapping licenses should cost as much as hunting licenses and Disabled Veterans should get free trapping licenses. If the fee for trapper licenses equaled hunting licenses, fewer trappers would trap and more money would be available to educate trappers and enforce trapping regulations.

I trapped as a kid and I hunt today. If I would have caught a dog in a trap in youth, my parents would have whipped my behind and suspended me from trapping until they knew I was more responsible. A person who traps so close to trails to endanger any dog is just too lazy to earn that pelt, lacks common sense, and is a poor example of a trapper.

I will never understand how a good trapper could risk a dog's life for a pelt, valued far less than the dog or vet bill and why there are no consequences for such actions. I don't understand why a trapper has more right than a person who is bird hunting with their dog in areas where there are no leash laws and in a sport where a leash makes no sense.

Furthermore, trappers hunt on native land and private land without permission. If you want to trap on private land, you should have to permission and respect the owner's wishes. The trapper should be responsible for learning if the land is private or public and not knowing the land is not private should not be an excuse or affirmative defensive.

There was a case in Palmer/Wasilla in the last years, where the law owner had to sue the trapper who littered his land with carcasses. A person should be allowed to have his dog unleashed on his land, but according to state law, if you own 50 acres, and your dog gets caught in a trap that doesn't have permission to be on your land, the troopers may say, you don't have your land posted properly. You need to tell the trapper he is trespassing before he is breaking the law. You have to tell the trapper to remove

carcasses which are attracting dangerous animals on your property. If you spring or take those traps on your property, you may be convicted of tampering with a trapper's right to hunt.

Recently, a dog was killed in a trap set in Anchorage near earthquake park. This trap was in the city. What are trappers thinking?

The state, feds, and city can make laws regarding trapping and require trappers to comply with these laws. All bear bait stations have to be registered with ADFG, so should trap lines. Trap lines and bear bait stations sometimes have the same bait. Why do trappers have fewer restrictions when traps and trappers cause more deaths to pets and other issues.

So, please keep working on this issue. ADFG is just as negligent as the trappers who are causing these violations. In addition, ADFG's failure to act is causing paperwork and costing time for the FWP troopers.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Representative ANDY JOSEPHSON
(http://akhouse.org/rep_josephson)

From: akhouse@belfast.servershost.net [<mailto:akhouse@belfast.servershost.net>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 10:29 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Trapping

From: DENNIS MOORE <DMOORE_33@HOTMAIL.COM>
Subject: Trapping

Message Body:

Thank you for introducing the trapping restrictions legislation. It is much needed and common sense to keep pets and traps away from each other.
Thank you for your effort.

Dennis Moore

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Representative ANDY JOSEPHSON
(http://akhouse.org/rep_josephson)

From: Ryan Yelle [<mailto:ryan.yelle05@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 12:14 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 40

Good Morning Representative Josephson,

I just wanted to convey my support for House Bill 40. I walk my dog off leash on public trails all throughout South-Central Alaska on an almost daily basis. To date, I have been fortunate enough to not have any close calls with misplaced traps, but I am worried that day may come. Your proposed legislation, I believe is a common sense measure that will mitigate risk to hikers, dog walkers, berry-pickers, and those who wish to explore off-trail.

Thank you for proactively addressing the concerns of the community on this matter.

Respectfully,

Ryan Yelle
Anchorage, AK

Representative Birch:

I've had dogs as part of my family all my adult life. I've experienced the horror of having to euthanize an emaciated, gangrenous, dehydrated young dog when found with a trap above its paw. The trapper set on a popular public trail.

HB 40 will make a huge difference for pet owners and will not significantly inconvenience trappers. Please pass HB40 out of committee.

With respect,

Mark Luttrell
Seward

Dear Rep. Birch:

I'm your neighbor, on Homestead Trail; we've met walking our dogs across the street at Hillside park. I'm writing today to ask you, as a member of the House Resources Committee, to amend HB 40 and vote for its passage.

We need a bill like this, simply for reasons of public safety. For our dogs, for our kids, walking trails in state parks, or any public lands, we need to feel they're safe, and not feel like we're walking on military lands where a step off the trail could mean tripping unexploded ordnance. These lands aren't military bases; they are public lands.

I'm appealing to you because I know you care about your two labs the way I care about my two husky-labs, and the way my friends in Healy and Palmer care about their dogs. But my friends have lost dogs to traps. And if you or I were to walk our dogs at, say, Fall's Creek, we, too, could lose ours to a trap laid right by the trail.

So, I do hope you support the concept of this bill.

However, it needs amending. In its current form, it's simply not adequate to fixing the problem. 200 feet is nothing to a dog. I'm sure you know yours could cover that distance in seconds. A child could, too. So, it needs to be amended to at least 2000 feet. Just add a zero. Then the problem really would be fixed, and this issue won't have to be revisited by the Legislature. You can get on to other pressing matters.

And, it's not too much to ask a trapper to walk that distance; I do it all the time on my snowshoes, and it doesn't take much time. This will reduce user conflicts on our trails. This is about sharing public lands among all State citizens.

Thanks for fixing this once and for all. And I'll look forward to seeing you and your dogs this summer -

Marybeth

--

Marybeth Holleman

Anchorage AK

www.marybethholleman.com

<http://artandnatureand.blogspot.com/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Douglas McIntosh [<mailto:ffdjm@alaska.net>]

Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2017 4:10 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB105 and HB40

Hello Andy -

I tried to give testimony on Wednesday but ran out of time.

I am in favor of HB40 'Trapping near Public Trails' but it needs to be changed to accomodate the needs of trappers far away from built up areas.

I am very much in favor of HB105 the 'Denali Wolf Special Management Area'.
The park wolves so beloved of visitors deserve a better fate then being trapped by a handful of trappers.

Sincerely

Douglas McIntosh

2208 Nottingham Drive
Fairbanks, AK
99709

From: akhouse@belfast.servershost.net [<mailto:akhouse@belfast.servershost.net>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:22 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Traps

From: Anna Goemer <aendecott@gci.net>
Subject: Traps

Message Body:

Thank you. Anchorage Democratic Rep. Andy Josephson sponsored House Bill 40 amid a rise in reports of dogs maimed or killed by traps and snares set not on far-flung traplines but near trails, yards or well-used roads and campgrounds in places like Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and the Kenai Peninsula.

Bear baiters have restrictions and so should trappers. Bear baiters have to post signs, take courses, and be certain distances from houses, public trails, roads, etc...

I have seen moose die in wolf snares set in willows on flats. I have snow machined on a public trail when my skis caught in a snare forcing my snowmachine to spin the tree to which the snare is attached. I have seen traps near the railroad tracks in Portage, an area which doesn't require your dog to be on leashes. I have seen traps taken off dog tongues in public parks owned by places that don't have leash laws or trapping restrictions. Putting ownership tags on traps will cause the trapper to be responsible and be liable for negligence outside of criminal courts. ADFG are not doing enough to make trappers apply common sense and judges have ruled in favor of people removing traps in negligent places.

Bow hunters need special classes to bow hunt. Trappers should be made to take special classes also.

In addition, trapping licenses don't even cost a fraction of hunting licenses and disabled veterans don't even get a free trapping license. Trapping licenses should cost as much as hunting licenses and Disabled Veterans should get free trapping licenses. If the fee for trapper licenses equaled hunting licenses, fewer trappers would trap and more money would be available to educate trappers and enforce trapping regulations.

I trapped as a kid and I hunt today. If I would have caught a dog in a trap in youth, my parents would have whipped my behind and suspended me from trapping until they knew I was more responsible. A person who traps so close to trails to endanger any dog is just too lazy to earn that pelt, lacks common sense, and is a poor example of a trapper.

I will never understand how a good trapper could risk a dog's life for a pelt, valued far less than the dog or vet bill and why there are no consequences for such actions. I don't understand why a trapper has more right than a person who is bird hunting with their dog in areas where there are no leash laws and in a sport where a leash makes no sense.

Furthermore, trappers hunt on native land and private land without permission. If you want to trap on private land, you should have to permission and respect the owner's wishes. The trapper should be responsible for learning if the land is private or public and not knowing the land is not private should not be an excuse or affirmative defensive.

There was a case in Palmer/Wasilla in the last years, where the law owner had to sue the trapper who littered his land with carcasses. A person should be allowed to have his dog unleashed on his land, but according to state law, if you own 50 acres, and your dog gets caught in a trap that doesn't have permission to be on your land, the troopers may say, you don't have your land posted properly. You need to tell the trapper he is trespassing before he is breaking the law. You have to tell the trapper to remove

carcasses which are attracting dangerous animals on your property. If you spring or take those traps on your property, you may be convicted of tampering with a trapper's right to hunt.

Recently, a dog was killed in a trap set in Anchorage near earthquake park. This trap was in the city. What are trappers thinking?

The state, feds, and city can make laws regarding trapping and require trappers to comply with these laws. All bear bait stations have to be registered with ADFG, so should trap lines. Trap lines and bear bait stations sometimes have the same bait. Why do trappers have fewer restrictions when traps and trappers cause more deaths to pets and other issues.

So, please keep working on this issue. ADFG is just as negligent as the trappers who are causing these violations. In addition, ADFG's failure to act is causing paperwork and costing time for the FWP troopers.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Representative ANDY JOSEPHSON
(http://akhouse.org/rep_josephson)

From: Sharon Falconer [<mailto:sharon.a.falconer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:54 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you!!! SB 40

I read the article in today's paper and learned you are sponsoring HB 40 which bans trapping to 200 feet. THANK YOU! We use the trails here in Anchorage with our two dogs, and the trapping situation is a growing and constant fear. Since the trappers are a small minority in the State, it is hard to understand why they hold such power and continually defy public efforts to make the trails safer for people and animals. I am not a political person and have not previously spoken out/emailed legislators regarding issues, but this is so important, I want to do everything possible to assure the bill is successful. Towards that effort, I would be happy to volunteer my time to do whatever is necessary – signs, clerical, phone calls, etc. Again, thank you so much for sponsoring this bill!

Sharon Falconer 360-2150

From: Frank Bergstrom [<mailto:frank.b@gci.net>]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2017 12:12 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Bill 40 comments

Representative Josephson:

Please accept the following comments regarding HB40.

On February 11m, 2017 I almost lost my \$2,000 French Brittany spaniel grouse dog to a 330 (or larger) conibear trap set at the edge of the Yankee Basin public trail on Forest Service land near Juneau, Alaska. My dog's strong neck combined with shear muscle power were barely capable of extracting him prior to death. I received a trigger wire through the finger and he got the scare of his life. Only the future will tell the extent of any brain damage from lack of oxygen. He has a tremor in his haunch and is having difficulty jumping. \$1000 in medical bills have been incurred between us – so far. Who is at fault and what are my remedies?

After reviewing the trapping regulations and conferring with ADF&G staff plus the Wildlife Troopers, it is apparent that I have no remedy and I am essentially at fault. I stand informed that the trapping methods were legal – if rather unethical; i.e., too close to a public use trail – albeit one not on the no-trapping list.

This gets to the issue – I was unaware of the specifics of the trapping regulations, and the devil is always in the details. In any other multipurpose land and resource management regime everyone makes a little room for everyone else. If I want to go grouse hunting, I go well off the main trail so I don't shoot someone, or make too much noise. But the trapper need make no allowance for me as a hunter. Those are the rules. And the duty is on me – the uninformed hunter – to make allowances for the trapper. Since it is the case that the responsibility is incumbent on me as a hunter to ensure I am not impacted by the trapper, wouldn't it be logical to require a class on how to avoid trappers when we get our hunting license? Given the responsibility placed on the hunter, this is must-know information no less important than the ability to determine caribou sex or count the brow tines on a moose.

If access to good grouse country via a public trail on public land is precluded, is it not my responsibility to know the warning signs and act accordingly? I believe it is. But should I bypass the traps off-trail? It is

apparent that trappers with poor practices place trap adjacent to trails and that trappers with 'good' practices place traps off-trail by some distance. Therefore, am I to walk on-trail assuming no poor practices? That did not work in my case. Or, should I walk off trail and risk tripping properly set traps? This is a catch 22; i.e., we can't walk on the trail and can't walk off the trail because my dog's safety is my responsibility.

And it is my responsibility to have my dog on leash *at all times* while hunting. This is a moratorium on bird hunting with a pointing dog, because it is not possible to work a bird dog on a six to 15 foot lead in the woods of Southeast Alaska. Therefore, a leash is not a viable alternative to leaving the area. The latter being the only reliable means of protecting the dog.

Thus, the result is an effective withdrawal of all lands otherwise open to hunting for all game animals in season (e.g. sooty grouse) if the access trail to the targeted habitat is being used for trapping. The grouse are in their habitat at higher elevation, which cannot be accessed by trail because of the requirement to leave any area being trapped. Given that trapping has precedence in all cases where trapping is allowed, it is incumbent on the hunter to know the rules and defer to the trapping land use. I was uninformed in this regard, much to the detriment of my beloved \$2,000 bird dog, which I purchased and trained specifically to hunt grouse in season, but prior to hooting in the spring. As remedy for this regulatory difficulty I would propose the following.

1. Trapping Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be prepared for trapping, which would be grounds for sanction against offenders.
2. Some recourse should be available to impacted persons when trapping practices outside the BMPs are demonstrable.
3. Better education would be required for all hunters intent on using dogs regarding how to open traps and snares (this assumes the dog survives being caught). This would be a requirement of obtaining a license.
4. Clear signage would be posted on trails with sets, describing the types of traps and their extent. As an example, "#330 conibear body hold traps set along next 5 miles of trail". With this information, the hunter could chart a safe off-trail route to the happy hunting grounds when possible. Trapper identity is not important in this regard, but 'what' and 'where' are critical.

Information is empowerment. In my case the trapper had hung surveyor tape along the trail, apparently with the intent to mark his/her traps. Add this to the innumerable list of uses for surveyor tape. The occasions upon which one encounters surveyor tape in the woods in beyond count. Am I to abandon the woods whenever I see surveyor tape because it might mark a trap? Perhaps trapping BMPs could be established to provide more definitive information to the hunter and his hunting companion.

We all want to work together to enjoy the bounty of Alaskan wildlife. But hunters need to be better informed of the hierarchy of users; that is, trapping has precedence over all other wildlife users and it is the responsibility of the hunter to be informed in order to act accordingly. It would be simple enough to prepare BMPs to better normalize trapping practices and sanction poor behavior. That, in combination with mandatory education of hunters on these trapping issues and canine safety around traps could go a long way in protecting \$2,000 bird dogs from an ignominious end. HB40 is an excellent measure to ensure all user groups give a little for everyone else.

Regards,

Frank Bergstrom

PO Box 22909

Juneau, AK 99802

frank.b@gci.net

907-523-1995

