

Sirs,

The Homer fish and game advisory committee is in majority opposition to the reappointment of Ted Spraker to the Alaska board of game.

Although Mr. Spraker's dedication to the process is undeniable, he is no longer an effective representative of Alaska's wildlife users, management goals or modern wildlife management science.

During Mr. Spraker's tenure as chair, the board has become a reflection of Mr Spraker's personal agendas to the obvious exclusion of reasoned input from both the department and the public at large.

Case in point is the preponderance of "board generated proposals" and proposals put forth through the department "at the request of the board". This is NOT how our regulatory process is supposed to work, as is apparent from reading Fish & Game's own state webpage.

For nearly a decade the board, under Mr Spraker, has been consistently unable to resolve a long standing issue with the management and allocation of Dall sheep, despite a clear public mandate. Instead, we have been given "working groups" that don't work, at great expense to the state. There are myriad programs and projects to which those funds could have been applied, yet the board continues to spend money on meetings and studies while simply kicking the can down the road.

Another expensive hobby of Mr Spraker is predator control. Though predator control can and has been used effectively to build prey species populations it is not the first, best or only option. Despite undeniable evidence that poor browse in gmu 15a was and would continue to be the reason for the crash of moose numbers there, Mr Spraker pushed for a very expensive and completely pointless program of paid gunners and trappers, the end result of which was a few dead wolves that cost tens of thousands of dollars per wolf.

Mr Spraker has consistently showed an unwillingness to cooperate and share information with federal agencies, and we believe this is a serious problem given Alaska's intricate relationship with refuges, subsistence issues and game management.

We urge that Mr Spraker be recognized for his service on the board of game and be relieved of his seat at the table. It is time for a new perspective, new faces and new science. We can no longer afford the old.

Respectfully

Dave Lyon, chair, for the Homer advisory committee