



Kiss A Moose
611 East Tenth Avenue, Apartment 7
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-223-7269

February 3, 2017

Via electronic mail to dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

①

Re: Support for Proposal 142

Dear Board of Game:

As you know, you have a long history of representing the goals and values of trappers and hunters while ignoring everyone else who is only concerned with wildlife viewing. This comment is being submitted in **support of Proposal 142** to reinstate the buffer for the Wolf Townships along Denali National Park (DNP). Our company may be called Kiss A Moose, but we stand up for predators because they are vital to our ecosystem and healthy populations of ungulates. Predators also bring a lot of enjoyment to us because it is really interesting to observe pups play or watch the social interactions of adults.

The proposed buffer is needed to protect wolves. Since the buffer was removed in 2010, wolves have been in a steady decline. A few short years ago, a visitor would see wolves 45% of the time. Now, the likelihood of seeing a wolf is about 5% because several packs, including the famous East Fork pack, are now gone. You have allowed them all to be killed in a short-sighted and scientifically unfounded predator control scheme.

Our company is owned and operated by people who are part of the 85% of people who do not hunt and are not represented by the Board of Game. We have a vested interest in keeping wolves alive. We are professional photographers, and wolf pictures are one of our top sellers. We have no video of wolves because they are so hard to find. Our best-selling wolf picture is a picture of a captive wolf because we have not been able to capture an image of a wild one in recent years.

Wolves are a keystone species and they belong in and around DNP if it is to remain an intact ecosystem. The last wolf I saw was a two-second glimpse back in 2015 (and it was not in DNP). We can spend a week or two in DNP without seeing a wolf, and no one on our staff has seen a wolf in DNP in years. I recently read an article written by a woman who lives within hours of DNP, but flew to Yellowstone National Park specifically so she and her daughter could see wolves. It is a tragedy that I, too, will be financing a trip for someone from my company to travel outside of Alaska to take wolf pictures when we should have plenty of wolves right here.



Submitted By
Patricia Kinnunen
Submitted On
2/2/2017 11:19:08 AM
Affiliation
1939

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9075637766
Email
triciak@acsalaska.net

Address
1930 E. 56th Ave.
same as above
anchorage, Alaska 99507

Please support Proposal 142 for the animals.

Patricia



Submitted By
Nancy Kuhn
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:17:50 PM
Affiliation

Phone
4880329

Email
motherchukar@gmail.com

Address
2060 Amy Dyn Rd
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

I strongly support Proposal 142 which would finally establish a safe haven for wolves and bears along the Denali National Park and Preserve northeast boundary. The selfish behavior of trappers and hunters in regards to killing wolves and bears in the Wolf Townships is impacting visitors to the park who shoot with cameras and NOT with guns. It is time to stop the carnage and the BOG is asked to listen to the significant Alaskan and visitor population's desire to establish a safe haven from the 2 legged predators.

I am personally tired of supporting those who want special support for their chosen lifestyle. If someone wants to play Little House in the Far North, go for it. BUT don't expect there to be special rules to enable you to deny the thousands who want to see wolves and bears outside of a zoo. Non-consumptive behavior has a strong following.

BOG, I am asking you to consider representing the many, not just the few hunters and trappers which includes yourselves. I am an Alaskan of 28 years and my voice has the same value as any one of yours. Stop the egregious carnage,

How can you justify killing all the wolves in the Kenai area?

Nancy Kuhn
2060 Amy Dyan Rd
Fairbanks, AK

"Representing the many and not the select few"



Submitted By
Chris Kuhn
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:25:47 PM
Affiliation
--None--

Phone
7075410180
Email
j.kuhn1@comcast.net

Address
188 WEMBLEY CT
SANTA ROSA, California 95403-1734

I am writing to lend my support to Proposal 142 regarding the establishment of wolf no-take zones adjacent to Denali National Park. While I live in California I have traveled to Alaska, drawn specifically by the chance to see wildlife in the natural habitat. I am happy to say that I have seen wolves within the park boundary and I am sure that these no-take zones will increase the chance for others to see these magnificent animals--with no adverse effects.



Submitted By
Kevin laemmrich
Submitted On
1/29/2017 8:31:45 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9073614990

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Address
Po box 336
Girdwood, Alaska 99587

Stop killing the wolve, enough with trophy hunting.

- The predictable vulnerability of wolves that den and spend summers inside Denali Park when conducting forays onto state lands in winter and spring.
- The importance of wolf conservation in this region of the state of Alaska, where tourists from around the world come to see diverse animal groups.
- The economic importance of the conservation of wildlife in this region to the state of Alaska, bringing millions of dollars into the local economy yearly.
- The clear statutory authority of the Board of Game in providing for conservation of resources, and the appropriateness of making that type of decision for these particular lands.



Submitted By
David A Laughton
Submitted On
2/1/2017 10:03:07 AM
Affiliation

To whom it may concern on the BOG,

For 33 seasons I drove Wildlife Tours at Denali National Park. I raised my family near the park in the summer and in Anchorage in the winter. Over the thousands of trips that I took into Denali National Park I had the opportunity to share wolf sightings with thousands visitors. Given the connection between humans and canines, viewing a wolf in the wild is often a profound experience for park visitors.

The wolf packs of Denali are probably the most viewed wild wolves in the world. Over the years, many park wolves have been taken by either hunters and trappers, often very close to the Park boundary. Given the vast scale of Alaska, so much of which is open to wolf hunting and trapping, protecting critical wolf habitat adjacent to Denali National Park is a small sacrifice for state residents, but provides potentially huge benefits for park visitors.

Alaska is a state of tremendous vastness, most of which visitors never have a chance to see. If a trip along the Denali Park Road provides a visitor with an opportunity to view a wild wolf, we have afforded them a personal, genuine, wilderness experience they will remember for a lifetime.

I ask the BOG to please approve Proposal 142.

Most Sincerely,

David Laughton

907.947.7657



Submitted By
richard lautze
Submitted On
1/31/2017 8:00:18 PM
Affiliation
Mr.

Phone
4155939566

Email
rlautze@urbanschool.org

Address
870 45th Avenue
San Francisco, California 94121

I am writing to support increased protection of wolves through the measures identified in Proposal 142.

I recently visited Denali National Park for the first time and it was the trip of a lifetime. I am 63 years old and a teacher and an outdoor enthusiast. I teach ecology to middle school and high school students. Denali seems like it still contains the bio diversity that is rapidly disappearing in other parts of the country. The eco-system is still very much intact and wonderful to behold. While there, however, I did not see any wolves which was a disappointment. I was told that they are threatened by hunting in nearby areas. It seems important that the remaining wolves be protected. We need to do all we can to preserve and protect the species we have left. It is important that we maintain diverse animal populations. This is good for the natural ecology, but also a benefit to the State of Alaska because of the tourist revenues from tourism to Denali National Park. This importance will grow with time. Hunting the wolves is a deadend game, and very short sighted.

Please take action to protect the wolves by supporting Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Jeff Lebegue
Submitted On
1/29/2017 4:28:31 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-355-3259
Email
jeffbc@msn.com

Address
Box 324
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

The wolves of Denali Park and Preserve that foray onto state lands toward the northeast section of the Park need protection. If you believe in the value of science, and also believe in the value of tourism for this region and to the state of Alaska, then I would hope that you will prioritize these goals for the wolf population in the Denali area. Future generations of humans from all over the planet will thank you.



Submitted By
Judy lehman and kenn moon
Submitted On
1/31/2017 7:14:15 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-696-1715
Email
JI66036@aol.com
Address
Prob 772642
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

We strongly support proposal 142. Alaska wolves of Denali National Park need protection and buffer zones from hunters. The wolf population in DNP is dwindling and we feel the Alaska Board of Game must do their part to preserve our wildlife. Respectively, Judy Lehman and Kenn Moon



Submitted By
Karla Leithoff
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:24:21 PM
Affiliation

Support Proposal 142 to allow a buffer on State owned lands so Donali wolves can safely transverse without being subject to those who use this opportunity to hunt wolves. Wolves need to travel this corridor without the vulnerability of risking their lives - hunting for sport should be banned within a regulated buffer to insure their survivability.



Submitted By
Doug Lenier
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:52:13 PM
Affiliation

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8189010975
Email
dlpmusic@roadrunner.com

Address
5720 Costello Ave
Valley Glen, California 91401-4328

SUPPORT PROPSAL 142

As a member and supporter of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and Denali Citizens Council, I write in support of Proposal 142 to establish a NO HUNTING/TRAPPING buffer adjacent to Denali national Park.

There is much precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. In 2001-02 the Board acknowledged that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, and set aside areas closed to hunting. The park's wolf population (Spring 2002) was 97 wolves, far more than inhabit the park now.

The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.

Visitors to Denali (including my family) want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism, of which I, and my family are long time participants in. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area (including my dollars,) and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to the regional economy.

A mere 4 percent chance that a visitor will spot a wolf along the Park Road (as documented by the National Park Service in 2015) is an abysmally low number. Before the buffer was scrapped in 2010, nearly 50 percent saw a wolf.

I want the opportunity for my children and grandchildren to experience the incomparable Alaska wilderness, and for it to be preserved forever. Right now, the BOG can take this important step to help insure this outcome.

Thank you for considering my comments.



Submitted By

Caitlin Lenahan

Submitted On

1/31/2017 9:45:35 AM

Affiliation

Denali Wilderness Centers LTD

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Email

caitlinena@gmail.com

Address

106 W Bunnell Ave
Homer, Alaska 99603

I would like to voice my support for Proposal 142 to protect wolves along the northeast corner of Denali National Park. Wolves regularly cross borders unknown to them as they go on hunting forays outside the park. In fact animal populations are important to the overall health of the region, and including wolves as part of the ecosystem helps to keep other populations Alaskans rely on, like moose and caribou, healthy.

The East Fork wolf pack was the longest study of wolves to date, and as of last summer it was feared that, after finding the male dead, the pack was also dead with him, because the female and pups that remained would be unable to survive. It is a tragedy to lose that study especially as so much of interior Alaska is and will be going through major changes as the climate warms. What affect does the melting permafrost, increased temperatures and fires, and brushification of the arctic and sub arctic have on wolf populations? We may have a hard time gaining that knowledge with the passing of the East Fork pack.

I have the great privilege to work in Denali National Park each summer and share this, one of our planet's last wild gems, with guests from around the world. They come for respite from the "outside", to unplug and refresh, and to experience the wilderness. One of the long lasting symbols of that wilderness is the wolf. It seems to be every visitor's dream to glimpse one, and yet, I can say with absolute honesty that I have never seen one and the chances of observing a wolf in the wild are getting slimmer and slimmer. The wilderness, more and more, is driving the Alaskan economy as people flock here each summer. I ask you preserve this small piece of it, and protect wolves, as a symbol of Alaskan pride and the wilderness so many seek.

Thank you and please, VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL 142.

41



Submitted By
Sherry Lewis
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:14:10 AM
Affiliation

I have lived in Alaska over 40 years. Tourism is one of the largest moneymakers in Alaska. People come to Alaska to see wildlife, especially wolves and grizzly bears. Denali wolves are important to tourism. Please accept and pass Proposal 142 prohibiting the taking of wolves on lands in GMU 2 adjacent to Denali National Park. Wolves are part of a health ecosystem.



Submitted By
David Linn
Submitted On
2/3/2017 11:45:49 AM
Affiliation

Phone
3605895805

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dplinn@coastaccess.com

Address
918 Hassalo Ave SE
Ocean Shores, Washington 98569

I am writing in support of Proposal 142 to protect Denali wolves. I understand that this proposal will help prevent hunting and trapping of wolves in certain areas adjacent to the Denali National Park. I understand that the wolf population in the Park has been declining and I believe that efforts need to be made in order to maintain a healthy population. Wolves are a critical part of a healthy ecosystem and need your protection.



Submitted By
Jeff Love
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:15:56 PM
Affiliation
Seneca Park Zoo

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5857307583

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loveboxers29@hotmail.com

Address
129 Ledgewood circle
Rochester, New York 14615

- There is a precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. In 2001-02 the Board acknowledged that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, and set aside areas closed to hunting. The park's wolf population (Spring 2002) was 97 wolves, far more than inhabit the park now.
- The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.
- The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.
- Visitors to Denali want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to our economy. Wolves need to be part of our Eco-System, this is very important and must happen .



Submitted By
Charlie Loeb
Submitted On
2/3/2017 2:42:06 PM
Affiliation

Phone
541-393-2003
Email
cloeb63@yahoo.com

Address
5271 Miramar St.
Eugene, Oregon 97405

To the Members of the Alaska Board of Game,

I am writing to support Proposal 142 that will prohibit the take of wolves in areas adjacent to Denali National Park.

I am a long-time Alaska resident recently relocated out of state, but I retain my property off the Stampede Road west of Healy within the area contemplated for the restriction. My teenage daughter grew up traveling through Denali, and she thought wolves were the most common animal in the park because we saw them so regularly. We saw plenty of moose, caribou, and bear too, but those animals we commonly saw elsewhere in Alaska as well. The wolves were special to Denali.

No longer. It has been years since we have seen a wolf from the Denali park road. I recognize that there are many natural factors at work when it comes to wolf populations and the visibility of the animals in the park, but the targeted trapping along the park boundary undoubtedly has contributed the scarcity of visible wolves in Denali. The result has been a small reward to a handful individuals at the expense of literally hundreds of thousands of others. That represents utter craziness, particularly since opportunities to hunt and trap wolves are abundant everywhere in Alaska, while Denali is – or was – the one place people wanting to view wolves could go with a reasonable chance of seeing them. That includes people like my daughter who were born in Alaska and do not hunt or trap, but nonetheless greatly appreciate Alaska's wildlife.

What are you doing for her? Do you not represent her interests too?

Respectfully,

Charlie Loeb



Submitted By
Cheryl Lovegreen
Submitted On
1/28/2017 4:52:06 PM
Affiliation

I support Proposal 142 by the DCC and AWA prohibiting the taking of wolves in GMU 20. We need to preserve the ecosystem and give the wolves time and space to increase their population to a healthy number.



Submitted By
Brian Luenemann
Submitted On
1/28/2017 10:39:10 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9079472957

Email
luenemann@yahoo.com

Address
6120 Romania Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

i'm writing to express my support for the proposal concerning closing the two areas adjacent to denali national park to wolf hunting. i've been visiting denali national park since 2008 and have spent the equivalent of over 6 months of my life in the park. it is the only part of alaska i visit regularly. i go mainly to photograph wolves. from 2008 until 2012 i had moderate success in viewing and photographing wolves. on the days i did not see wolves, i at least saw many sets of tracks that at least gave me the assurance that they were still around. from 2013 to the present (when i have spent the bulk of those 6 months in the park), i have seen two wolves. tracks were also becoming more and more rare. i did not see a single set of tracks the last time i was in the park for four days in september 2016.

i promise you that the number of people who visit denali national park with the hope to see wolves is much, much higher than the few who benefit from the hunting and trapping of them. you already know that. it's time to manage alaska's lands and wildlife sensibly, and with greater benefit to the wildlife, not to the few who just want to kill them. history will judge the current alaska dept. of fish and game policies as short-sighted, foolish, unhealthy for the natural environment, and beneficial for only a small percentage of the population.



Submitted By
Terry Marron
Submitted On
2/1/2017 5:12:45 AM
Affiliation
05/21/1960

Phone
8028783953
Email
tgarron@comcast.net

Address
637 Christmas Lane
Williston, Vermont 05495

Dear Board Members,

I am writing you about the vulnerability of wolves to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land. I feel there is an international importance of Denali's wolves to tourism and science. The importance of intact, diverse animal populations to the regional and state economy is great. Of greater benefit to the State of Alaska are the revenues from tourism to Denali National Park than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands. It is your responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region.

I have been to visit Alaska on more than one occasion and was lucky enough to see with my own eyes this beautiful animal in the wild. It is an experience that I will never forget. Please give the wolves the proper protection they deserve.



Submitted By
Charles Lynch
Submitted On
2/2/2017 2:07:31 AM
Affiliation

Phone
207-234-2592

Email
lynchc@uninets.net

Address
47 Dahlia Farm Road
Newburgh, Maine 04444

I am offering my comments regarding my support for Proposal 142, regulating hunting and trapping of wolves in designated areas adjacent to Denali National Park. I have visited Alaska repeatedly over the last 40 years both as a fisherman and as a tourist with my family. We visited Denali Park a few years ago and we were privileged to observe wolves within the park during our visit. The opportunity to see wolves in the wild is a very important part of the attraction of Denali National Park to visitors. The wolves of Denali have declined in numbers and continuing to allow hunting and trapping of wolves in areas immediately adjacent to the Park will only further contribute to their continued decline. The wolves are particularly vulnerable as they emerge from their protection within the Park, and I fully support Proposal 142 which would provide some protection for the wolves in the designated areas immediately adjacent to the Park. Thank you for receiving and reading these comments.



Submitted By
Susan Olsen
Submitted On
2/1/2017 5:09:31 PM
Affiliation
interested citizen who cares for wildlife

Phone
907-277-9968
Email
soeh@alaska.net
Address
8601 Sultana Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

I urge your support of Proposal 142 which requests the BOG to restrict hunting and trapping of wolves on state lands adjacent to Denail NP & P. The reasons for support are many. First, the BOG has a responsibility to manage Alaska's wildlife for the benefit of the animals themselves as well as the public at large. And, the public is not just made up of hunters and trappers of wolves, but the vast majority do not hunt or trap and wish to have the opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat. Secondly, these wolves do not threaten subsistence resources so predator control is not involved. Thirdly, the economic benefit of wolf viewing in the Park far exceeds any economic benefit received by the very hunters and trappers who sell wolf pelts and I am not aware of any requirement in Alaska statutes which mandates BOG to preserve the hunting and trapping lifestyle at the cost of the wildlife itself. Fourthly, there is no question that wolves which den in the Park do wander onto the state lands in question; that the oldest studied pack has been decimated in the last few years and only by establishing a buffer zone on such state lands does the wolf population stand a chance to be revived.

Thank you for considering these comments.



Submitted By
Deborah Oestreicher
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:19:51 AM
Affiliation
Ms.

We fell in love with Alaska on a vacation in 2014. We stayed at the North Face Lodge in backcountry Denali and appreciated the unique opportunity to view wildlife in their natural environment. I am writing to support Proposal 142. We believe it makes sense to preclude hunting and trapping of wolves on distinct areas of state land adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve, game management units 20A and 20C.

Wolves—which are internationally important to tourism as well as science—are vulnerable to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land. Intact, diverse animal populations are important to the regional and state economy. Revenues from tourism to Denali National Park are of greater value to the State of Alaska than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands.

We understand that the responsibility of the Alaska Board of Game includes conservation of the wilderness and wildlife in this region and hope that you will recognize the importance of Proposal 142 to fulfilling that responsibility.

Thank you,
Deborah Oestreicher and Victor Magar



Submitted By
Ilene Orem
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:17:50 AM
Affiliation

Phone
856-340-0163

Email
rboimo@comcast.net

Address
3 Lamotte Court
Clementon, New Jersey 08021

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK! SAVE OUR WOLVES ! THEY DESERVE PROTECTION NOT DESTRUCTION!



Submitted By

Mark Olson

Submitted On

2/3/2017 6:26:21 AM

Affiliation

Phone

206-331-1600

Email

markolsonseattle@hotmail.com

Address

2615 W Galer

Seattle, Washington 98199

Support Proposal 142

Hello,

I urge you to protect the Denali wolves as, we are planning a trip to the area and would like the ability to see these incredible creatures. A no hunting/trapping buffer would help the wolf populations and increase the enjoyment of our trip (and future trips).

Thank you for your time.

Mark Olson



Submitted By
Caryl Pearson
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:39:56 PM
Affiliation

Phone
8319150427

Email
wolfcoyotedeere1k@yahoo.com

Address
1401 E. 3rd Ave. # 108
Durango, Colorado 81301

In support of Proposal 142, I ask you to please make the Stampede corridor and Nenana canyon safe for wolves. It isn't right to allow the destruction of any wolves based in Denali that make use of adjacent areas, and especially this particular pack, which as you know has been studied since 1939. Please do the right thing and give these wolves the protection they deserve, thereby giving park visitors a chance to see them. Thank you.

60



Submitted By
Sylvia & Marius Panzarella
Submitted On
2/3/2017 12:34:38 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-334-9291

Email
Chipscout@mac.com

Address
7022 Tanaina Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

. SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142

We strongly urge the Board of Game to establish a no hunting/trapping zone or buffer next to Denali Ntl. Park. If ethics do not inspire you to act then tourist dollars lost to poor planning by this Board should Many experienced and long respected biologists have led to these conclusions and have been mocked by some of the trappers you seem to be protecting. Remember the quotation " Pride goeth before a fall" Be that person who stands up to support Proposal 142. Don't let your pride or someone else's stop you Happy Trails,
Sylvia & Marius Panzarella



Submitted By
Robert L Pederson
Submitted On
2/1/2017 1:44:46 PM
Affiliation

Phone
5413880742
Email
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Address
18925 Pinehurst Rd
Bend, Oregon 97703

Numerous wildlife management decisions are based on providing opportunities for hunters, while the importance of wildlife viewing is frequently overlooked or underestimated. We both have graduate degrees in Wildlife Management and understand the pressures of trying to please people with vastly different viewpoints about wolves and other wild animals.

We have worked seasonally in Alaska for 31 years in the tourist industry. At one time we lived just outside of Denali National Park, and for a number of years had jobs within its boundaries. We currently work seasonally in Southeast Alaska. On the special occasions when we have seen a wolf, it has taken our breath away to watch such a magnificent symbol of wildness pass through our lives.

Most people on our planet will never see a wolf, but Alaska is one of the remaining locations where that is still a possibility. The state is highly dependent on tourist dollars. According to The Alaska Resource Development Council, direct visitor spending in Alaska is \$2.42 billion. Many of these visitors, as well as state residents, would love to see a wolf. We encourage you to do whatever you can to increase the chances for this opportunity. Supporting Proposal 142 at your Region III meeting later this month is a good step in that direction.

Sincerely,

Gretchen and Robert Pederson



Submitted By
Christopher Perry
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:00:21 AM
Affiliation

Phone
7143567992

Email
kcritz_99@yahoo.com

Address
2506 Blossom Ln #B
Redondo Beach, California 90278

i strongly support prop 142.. i am a frequent visitor to Denali National Park.i ssave money every year specifically to visit the park and take the chance to hopefully see and photograph the wolves there..with each year i have been less fortunate to see them and it really saddenes me. please do anything you can do to ensure the habitate in and around Denali for future generations to come..



Submitted By
David Plant
Submitted On
1/29/2017 9:50:13 AM
Affiliation

I fully agree with and encourage the Board of Game to adopt the DCC-AWA Proposal 142 regarding the closure of the Stampede Townships and Nenana Canyon. I regard the NPS Proposal 141 as too limited. Having visited Denali Park a number of times, driving al to Kantishna and back, I have seen first hand how the wolf population in the park has significantly diminished. The facts and evidence linked to the Stampede Townships and Nenana Canyon hunting/trapping and the decline of the wolf population in the park are credible, clear and convincing. I the Board of Game's past and current position on this matter is the primary cause for this decline. The Alaska Constitution applies to all of the residents of the state, not just the hunters, it is time the Board of Game recognizes that fact.



Submitted By
Cheri Pilant
Submitted On
2/2/2017 12:42:26 PM
Affiliation

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402-453-5348

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Address
10607 N 50 Ave
Omaha, Nebraska 68152

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK!

I don't care what state one is from, the majority of visitors come to see the beautiful wolves. They spend a lot of money for that opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. I think Alaska needs to realize the true value of this beautiful iconic animal.



Submitted By
Kristen Pope

Submitted On
1/12/2017 10:43:39 AM

Affiliation

For three summers, I worked in Denali National Park and witnessed the transformation that occurred when people saw their first wild wolf. People were thrilled to see these iconic animals in the wild and many had waited and saved their whole lives to travel to Alaska and witness these incredible animals in their native habitat.

I support proposal #142 to protect Denali's wolves and create a protective safe zone.

I worked in environmental education for years, and I know how important it is for people to have experiences with wild places and see magnificent animals in the wild. Time in nature is also proven to provide significant health benefits.

Many tourists travel to Alaska specifically to see wolves and other charismatic megafauna, and proposal #142 will help interior Alaska's tourism economy thrive. At a time when Alaska's economy is facing a downturn, this is especially important.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Susan Pope
Submitted On
1/31/2017 6:13:41 PM
Affiliation

I urge you to approve Proposal 142, the creation of areas of no hunting and trapping of wolves on distinct areas adjacent to Denali National Park. The economic benefits of preserving this unique population of wolves for conservation and tourism far outweigh the value to a few who hunt and trap these wolves for their own profit. Most tourists (and Alaskans such as me) visit Denali specifically to see wolves, along with the other mammals and birds in the park. The wolves do not recognize the park boundaries, and to continue to hunt and trap them so close to the park will only lead to their complete elimination. Please preserve these valuable resources for all of us.

Thank you.

Susan M. Pope



Submitted By
carola preuss
Submitted On
2/2/2017 2:16:57 PM
Affiliation

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Address
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oppose to Proposal 142

As two visitors of Camp Denali from far away (Germany) I am very much interested in the subject wolves to be seen further along in this region. And I do think it's important having an intact, diverse animal population to the regional and state economy. It is of greater benefit to the State of Alaska having the revenues from tourism to Denali National Park than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands.

And please remember as the State Board of Game it is your responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region not only for us but for the future generations as well.

Carola Preuss and Dr. Klaus Ruge, Biologist



Submitted By
Mallory Primm
Submitted On
1/31/2017 8:04:36 PM
Affiliation

I am writing to voice my support for Proposal 142 which protects both my livelihood as an Alaskan and my values. The economic, ecologic and spritual advantages of protecting wolves on GMU 20 are clear. Wolves do not adhear to park boundaries and as such, should be protected in lands that surround park boundaries as well. The economic importance of wolves - that is - the tourism dollars specifically tied to the possibility of wolf sightings in and around Denali National Park at significant, and support my livelihood as a guide specifically. Additionally, wolves are an integral part of a healthy, dynamic and intact ecosystem and thus their protections is essential. Lastly, the presence of wolves reminds us of what it means to be human, to be a part of this great and wild land we call Alaska. I trust the board will prioritize Alaska's economy, ecosystem and all Alaskans by protecting wolves in GMU 20 by pasing Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Hannah Ragland
Submitted On
2/3/2017 9:46:34 PM
Affiliation

I am a resident of the Denali Borough, and live outside of Healy on the Stampede Road. I am writing to encourage your discussion and approval of proposals 141 or 142, related to a closure of wolf hunting and/or trapping in the Stampede Townships. I also encourage you to oppose proposal 72, related to predator control throughout the region, specifically in Subunits 20A and 20C.

Tourism is a vital part of our local economy. Tourists from around Alaska, the nation, and around the world visit this area. A substantial part of this draw is to view wildlife. The income from bed taxes that the tourism economy provides our local government is the bedrock of our Borough's financial status, and a critical aspect of our local economy. Tourism income has a larger influence on our local economy than any other industry. This tourism is largely dependent on the protection of an intact ecosystem, which Proposals 141 and 142 seek to protect. Research by the National Park Service has directly addressed concerns that the Board of Game raised when the previous closure was eliminated. Will the Board of Game respond to this scientific research?

While I understand that there is reluctance by the Board of Game to even consider proposals to close or limit wolf hunting and/or trapping (as evidenced by previous actions), I also understand that it is wolf viewing opportunities, in an intact ecosystem, that supports our local economy and way of life. I encourage the Board of Game to step away from the political aspects of this issue, and consider the science and non-consumptive allocation issues that these proposals focus on.

I recognize that many in state management positions fear "giving" anything more to the federal government. However, I currently see the National Park Service attempting to protect local interests more aggressively than the state is. It is the federal government that provides funding for our local economy (based on tourism income, bed taxes, directly related to Denali National Park). It is also the federal government that provides a bulk of the scientific research that exists on local wolf populations. While the state does little to monitor wildlife populations in this area, the National Park Service provides extensive reporting on their research. This research shows that hunting and trapping of wolves near the boundary of the National Park, particularly during the breeding season, directly impacts the viewing of wolves and pack dispersal. This evidence is what the state asked for when the Board of Game refused to renew or reconsider a wolf trapping and hunting closure on Stampede when the last closure expired. This research from the National Park Service, more extensive than anything the state has produced, also makes clear that the fall wolf population density has been below what the state itself has set for wolf density in recent years (see the NPS research at <https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/upload/Denali-wolf-population-508-compliant.pdf>, in comparison to the state Wolf management report of survey-inventory activities, 1 July 2008–30 June 2011 at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=librarypublications.wildlifepublicationsdetails&pubidentifier=1145>, the latest summary of state management objectives).

The above reasons I have provided in support of resolutions 141 and 142 also support my reasons for opposing Proposal 72, related to expanded opportunities for predator harvest in this same area.

Will the Board of Game consider science and non-consumptive uses, or will you pass the buck once again and refuse to even discuss this issue? I hope the former.



Submitted By
Michael Raffaelli
Submitted On
1/28/2017 5:10:04 PM
Affiliation

Submittal of comments in support of Proposal 142

To The Alaska Board of Game,

I have only lived in the Denali area since 2008 but have come to recognize how important the Park and the wolves that spend time in the park are to not only the visitors that come from all over the world, but to the many seasonal and permanent employees of the area that make a living from the tourism industry. Wolves do not know the boundaries that we have established yet scientific data does show the likelihood of the presence of the most visible wolf packs to both Alaskans and visitors to our state. It follows, that there is an economic interest, indeed perhaps a greater interest to the state as a whole to set aside lands that are not open to hunting and trapping to provide this experience for both Outside and Alaskan tourists. In the past several years, hunting and trapping have had a profound impact on the viewability of wolves in Denali National Park, as these wolves have spent time outside the protected areas of the park in the winter and spring, when pregnant females especially are at risk of being taken. Though fears arise about extending protections, it should be noted that these protections existed previously, and worked for all parties- hunters, trappers, and park visitors. It is the responsibility of the Board of Game to not only provide hunting and trapping opportunities, but also conservation, especially of such well studied packs as those that spend time in the park. Thank you for considering my comments in your deliberation.



Submitted By
Raymond Ia
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:59:08 AM
Affiliation

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2082328625

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RayIaible@aol.com

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2646 Castle Peak Way
Pocatello , Idaho 83201

AS A WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK! I WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO ALASKA AND DENALI AND THE WOLVES ARE A BIG ATTRACTION AND DRAWING CARD.



Alaska Board of Game:

I am asking you to support Proposal 142 that would establish a no hunting or trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.

Thank you.

Diane Reynor

I could go on and on about the horror of legalized animal cruelty, but it is obvious that you don't care.



Submitted By
Elizabeth Richards
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:03:23 AM
Affiliation

In order to support a healthy ecosystem in Denali Park it is vital that you act to protect the wolves of the park by passing 142. Visitors from all over the world come to the park to witness the wildlife. It will be a great disappointment to visitors if the ecosystem is allowed to deteriorate due to lack of action by the state of Alaska.



Submitted By
Jerri Roberts
Submitted On
1/31/2017 1:31:47 AM
Affiliation
Interested Citizen

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Address
P. O. Box 158
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

For some reason, unknown to me, the presence of wolves in Denali National Park is highly unappreciated and undervalued by a very small group of hunters and trappers in the area.

A great part of the local economy is based on tourism and one of the reasons people visit Denali National Park is to see and appreciate these very renowned wolves that have been in the Park since its inception.

Unfortunately, animals know nothing of boundaries and when they stray across the border, it appears guns and traps are ready for them. Why is the annihilation of animals such a priority in the minds of a few people who hunt and trap. Alaska has the chance to avoid the history of the lower 48 where animal populations were literally extirpated and had to be eventually reintroduced.

Why not give the wolves in this International Biosphere and chance to be admired and appreciated. There are plenty of other places to hunt and trap. Locals need to open their eyes to the value of these animals for enjoyment, appreciation and realization that their welfare is dependent largely on tourism and wolves are a part of the big picture of the DNP region.

Wolves are part of the intact ecosystem for which DNP is famous. They keep balance in other animal populations and provide opportunity for internationally important research that is valuable to wildlife biologists around the world.

Fish and Game has a moral responsibility to stop the carnage of these animals that stray across the very convoluted border in the Healy area and give them a chance to live and propropagate. For hunters and trappers, I say find another area to shoot and trap. How about a little appreciation for wildlife. You do not have to hunt and trap every moving creature in the environment. They all have a place in a balanced ecosystem.

I urge you to support a safe haven for these very admired animals and take your guns and traps to other areas where tourism and scientific research are not a focus and let the Park be a safe haven for tourism and appreciation for this very rare ecosystem that is being destroyed by the wonton destruction of the wolf population.

Jerri Roberts



Submitted By
Lydia Rogers
Submitted On
1/31/2017 5:32:59 PM
Affiliation

Phone
978 371 2905

Email
lydiarogers@earthlink.net

Address
210 Old Pickard Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

We are writing in support of creating a no wolf-take zone in the portion of GMUD that is adjacent to Denali National Park. Our visit to Denali National Park about five years ago remains the trip we remember the most vividly and fondly. A significant part of that experience relates to being in a place where wolves can lead their lives successfully. A stable wolf population affords the public the chance in a life time to view wolves, the iconic symbol of wildness, in their natural habitat. Maintaining a healthy wolf population is also the key to sustaining the many people who directly and indirectly receive remuneration related to this kind of tourism. Please enthusiastically support this proposal. Sincerely, Burt Adelman and Lydia Rogers



Submitted By
Elizabeth Roderick
Submitted On
2/2/2017 12:42:27 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9072234487

Email
libbyroderick@gmail.com

Address
5316 E. 41st Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Please vote in favor of proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer next to Denali National Park. I have lots of family and friends who travel long distances to visit Alaska because of their interest in viewing wildlife. Wolves are an especial favorite, and Denali National Park used to be one of the most reliable places for them to see these creatures. Many tourists share the same interest. But in recent years, their likelihood of seeing wolves has decreased dramatically. The wolves that traverse the Corridor and Nenana areas are the same wolves which most often den and/or hunt near the Park Road - the wolves most easily seen by visitors. The percentage of visitors lucky enough to see a wolf plummeted from nearly half in 2010 to about 4 percent in 2015. Please reestablish this buffer zone to ensure that visitors to our state continue to be enthusiastic about us as a wildlife viewing destination. As oil revenues dry up, we need to actively support a robust tourism economy. Taking this step would be a big move in the right direction. Thank you.

The proposal was written and submitted jointly by AWA and the Denali Citizens Council.



Submitted By
Eileen Quinlan
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:30:42 PM
Affiliation

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9144780384

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eileenquinlan@optonline.net

Address
39 Hillside Ave
Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

To the Members of the Alaska Fish and Game Board :

Please be aware of importance of wildlife diversity including wolves ~!!!

There is a vulnerability of wolves to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land.

Please keep in mind the international importance of Denali's wolves to tourism and science. The greater benefit to the State of Alaska are the revenues from tourism to Denali National Park than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands.

Thank you for your time and attention !

Eileen Quinlan

-it is your ,Alaska Board of Game"s responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region.



Submitted By
Marianne Purdy
Submitted On
1/30/2017 6:30:02 AM
Affiliation
Camp Denali

To whom it may concern:

We need to protect the stampede corridor in order to protect Denali Park's wolves. These wolves are at risk from both hunting and trapping, when they take forays onto state lands at the northeast boundaries of the park. These wolves are internationally important for tourism and scientific study. It is the absolute responsibility and authority of the Alaska Board of Game to provide conservation on state lands in this region.

As a guide and bus driver in Denali Park I have the pleasure of observing the wildlife every summer. I can tell you that over the past 5 years I have seen very few wolves. Every guest on my bus asks the same question "do you think we will see wolves?" and every summer I have to explain why their populations have been going down with each passing year. People come from all over the world to see these animals. Please take this opportunity to protect our wolves.

Thanks you.

Marianne



Submitted By
Allison Ostrer
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:58:50 AM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
2062507359
Email
aostrer@hotmail.com

Address
15th Ave SW
Seattle, Washington 98106

Please support Proposal 142.

Wolves are an important part of the American landscape. A buffer area is needed to protect them.

I've visited Alaska and loved it, more than anything for its friendly people and its beautiful wildlife. I want to come back again, and a chance to see a wolf is a dream. Since the chances of seeing a wolf have fallen so far since 2010, this buffer is essential.



Submitted By
Gloria Oswald
Submitted On
2/1/2017 4:10:04 PM
Affiliation
none

I have been fortunate to travel the world and see many amazing sights. The one that stands out the most in my travels is a family of wolves in Denali National Park. The family's interaction with the pups, the sub adults and the alpha's was something I will never forget. These wildlife sightings bring such joy to the Park visitors, it is a shame that most visitors will not have the opportunity to view these wolf families.

Please support Proposal 142.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Gloria Oswald



Submitted By
Anastasia Roy
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:21:45 AM
Affiliation

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603-568-5746

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anastasia_roy@hotmail.com

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114 Franklin Street
Apt 2
Ellsworth, Maine 04605

I oppose Proposal 142. Wolves do not respect human-drawn boundaries, and are susceptible to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land.

As a former naturalist guide in Denali, I understand the international importance of the Delta pack to tourism as well as to science. The rare presence of intact, diverse animal populations is invaluable to the regional and state economy. Hunting and trapping licenses sold for the take of wolves on adjacent state lands do not bring in as much revenue as the entire eco-tourism industry of the area.

It is the responsibility and authority of this governing body to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region.

Thanks for your time.



Submitted By
Carl Rosenberg
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:30:22 PM
Affiliation

I have been a visitor to Denali Park since 1982. I have cherished the opportunity to back pack, hike, bicycle and travel through the park since that date. I grew up in Los Angeles, and thanks to my parents love of the wild outdoors, I had the good fortune to visit most of the major National Parks in the western US. Because of our visits to the wild lands of the west, I chose to move to Alaska, and lived there from 1976 through 1996 when I moved to New Mexico. My wife and I still visit the park, and our cabin adjacent to Camp Denali. I am very clear that one of the strong reasons people come from around the world to visit Denali is to experience nature and wild lands and wildlife unimpacted by the human species. Wild lands without it's total collection of wild life is no longer wild, and no longer special compared to the majority of the planet now suffering from human impact. I have seen first hand the impact of hunting adjacent to the park, and the significant reduction in wolf packs and size result in significantly less wolf sightings inside the park.

The wolf is an iconic species, for all too long vilified by our culture. Until we can accept all of nature's critters as co-inhabitants of this planet, and live with them in peace, can we be peaceful ourselves. For people to watch and understand the wolf, its habits and activities is to learn how to understand the world we live in and how we too can live in balance.

Proposal 142 is essential to support the health of the wolf populations inside Denali specifically and to reduce the impact of hunting and trapping adjacent to the park. There is now strong scientific data clearly stating the devastation impact hunting has adjacent to National Parks, both in Alaska and the lower 48.

The role of the Board of Game in my mind is to first and foremost maintain significant populations of all game in Alaska. The first guiding principal of the Board is to "Provide for the greatest long-term opportunities for people to use and enjoy Alaska's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources". It is clear to me and to scientific research that the largest number of people who use and enjoy Alaska's wolves are visitors to Alaska's national parks. Alaska without wolves, bears and whales is an Alaska many people will no longer value to visit.

In the words of a family visiting Denali National Park many years ago said to me "when I live in the city I only think about living in the city, when I am here I think about what it is like to live on a planet". This perspective has now become critical for humans if we are going to be able to maintain this planet as our home.

Carl Rosenberg



Submitted By
Nick Rusnak
Submitted On
1/30/2017 6:13:36 PM
Affiliation

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808-579-6052

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PO Box 462
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

As the Bus Dispatcher for many years at the Eielson Visitor Center in Denali National Park, I commuted almost daily 13 miles between the Toklat Road Camp and Eielson, most often by bicycle. During this time, the Grant Creek pack began denning about a mile from Toklat, in a heavily used wilderness corridor just below the Park Road. They were marvelous. If I didn't see something amazing, I heard about it from the guests coming into the Visitor Center. There were literally thousands of people witnessing stalking, chasing, hunting, feasting and howling on a daily basis. One young female pup in particular began learning to forage for her own food by digging up the overpopulation of ground squirrels who were (and still are) excavating the cinder block foundations around the Toklat Road Camp. On more than one occasion I'd come outside to get my bike, and she would be busy digging under a log trying to get her breakfast. I'd say, "Good morning," and ride away. She'd watch a second, then go back to getting breakfast. A co-worker once awoke to several wolves on the picnic table outside his front door, howling. We all fell in love with the little buggers. That female pup grew up to inherit the position of alpha-female of the Grant Creek pack.

One summer, then First Lady Laura Bush and her daughters came to visit Denali National Park. Camp Denali bought a fancy new van, and everyone was making a big fuss. While riding back to Toklat from Eielson one afternoon, the van passed me going in the same direction. Then it stopped to view wildlife and I passed it. This happened a couple times, and to be honest, it was really fun riding my dilapidated bicycle, waving back to the President's wife and kids each time. Then, at the Stoney Creek bridge, another group joined our caravan, just behind the First Lady's van, and just in front of me. It was the new alpha-female and her entire brood of baby Spring Pups! So there we all were, First Lady and her brood, the alpha-female and her brood, and me bringing up the rear of Denali's most popular wolf pack ever... waving and smiling.

A couple years later, the alpha-female was killed.

the alpha-female's hide had been destroyed by wolverines. Her hide was useless. She was killed for nothing.

to think that simply killing wolves is beneficial, as it allows for larger moose and caribou populations. Is that what we call modern Big Game Hunting? If the Cleveland Browns decided to simply murder players from all the other NFL teams, would they earn the Lombardi Trophy at last? By killing the competition, it is no longer Big Game Hunting in the Wilderness, it's ranching, it's farming, it's an English pheasant shoot. Might as well gun down dairy cows in a field.

The Grant Creek pack is gone. Wolf sightings in Denali are rarer than ever, the wolves avoid the road and people. Thousands of excited visitors are now noticeably less excited. And every year we hear about another local wolf being killed in what used to be a safe haven. Laura Bush's wolves are dead.



Submitted By
Diane Sachaanski
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:11:10 PM
Affiliation
Mrs.

Support Proposal 142.

Wolves are an intrinsic part of your eco-system and are what draw tourists to your area. From 97 in number back in 2002, they are down in number and in danger of disappearing entirely. This is horrible for those of us who love wildlife - and have visited Alaska because of this - but bad for you as more and more of us refuse to visit your state because of the actions you are taking. I will not support a state/region that mistreats its ecology, its people and animals. My family has already stopped visiting your state until the Board takes a more progressive attitude towards wolves and realizes that they are a necessary part in keeping your entire ecosystem in balance. Killing them will just jeopardize the nature balance with other species and create even more problems. When will people learn to leave nature take its course. Killing is not the answer! Leave the areas around the park alone and let wolves roam there freely.

Hunters have enough ground elsewhere to pursue their activities. Do not let them lead wolves, a beautiful animal, to extinction!

Sincerely,

Diane S.



Submitted By
Linda Saunders
Submitted On
2/3/2017 12:50:03 PM
Affiliation
Wolf Haven International

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3602644695
Email
lsaunders@wolfhaven.org
Address
3111 Offut Lake Rd SE
Tenino, Washington 98589

Wolf Haven International supports proposal 142 to establish a no hunting or trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park. The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research. We respectfully ask that you pass and implement proposal 142 which will continue to contribute to the important body of science relating to wolf pack family dynamics.



Submitted By
Daniel Schaffer
Submitted On
2/3/2017 3:09:18 PM
Affiliation

Phone
509-939-1205

Email
danandmarylou@comcast.net

Address
3319 W 23rd Ave
Spokane, Washington 99224

I support Proposal 142 for establishing protected habitat for wolves.



Submitted By
Arthur H Schaub
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:53:43 AM
Affiliation
1967

Phone
4352608685
Email
artsch42@yahoo.com
Address
3014 E 17th Street
Tucson, Arizona 85716

Dear Board,

I am writing to express my support for proposal 142 which allows for a buffer of wolf protection from hunting and trapping outside of Denali National Park. I am a hunter myself and generally support game and fur bearer management using hunting and trapping as management tools. However, I also a viewer and appreciator of wildlife and recognize Denali National Park as one of the few remaining areas in the world with an intact ecology, functioning with a complete composition of large mammalian predator and prey species. Wolves are absolutely vital to that functioning ecology.

Furthermore, the value of viewable wolf packs should not be underrated for both an economic incentive for visitors to come to Denali and for the sheer experiential quality of seeing a fully functioning pack of large carnivores. Personally, as a former naturalist / guide for Camp Denali, I can say that following the activities of a highly viewable pack of wolves throughout the season in Denali is at the top of my list of valued and inspiring experiences in nature. I'm sure many other visitors of the park could say the same. It is rare to be able to see wolves in the wild, even where they exist. Denali is arguable the best place to view wolves in North America. It's certainly the best place I've ever been to see them, including Yellow Stone National Park. These wolves are now few and are much more valuable, on every level, alive than their pelts would be after harvest. This should not be viewed as taking away the rights of hunters or trappers but as an opportunity to protect a national treasure.

I hope this helps to influence the crucial decision set before you. Please extend further protection for a very vulnerable population of wolves by adopting proposal 142. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Art Schaub



Submitted By
Eva
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:31:29 AM
Affiliation

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519.820.2200
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evaschorer@yahoo.com

Address
7204 Concession 1
Puslinch, Other N)B2J0

Reference - IN SUPPORT of proposal 142 - To establish a NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK. The Board has the responsibility and ability to manage the wildlife habitat to meet the goal of a healthy ecosystem which includes all wildlife including the top apex predator i.e) the wolf. The wolves that frequent the Corridor Nenana/ Park Road are some of the most famous longest running scientific studies of wolf families in the US. The continuous interference and decimation of these wolves is not only a loss to the US but also to world. People have travelled to Denali to view these wonderful wolves which now are so scarce that it no longer justifies eco tourism. There are many reasons to mainating a healthy wolf population and provide the required protection in establish the bugffer zones required. The huge scientific knowledge over so many years that is in jeopardy due to the continuous wolf killings, The ecotourism attraction that brings much money will also be affected. The enjoyment of so many people who take their holidays to places like Denali to see wolves, beacuse of the immense ejoy of this experinece that remains life long. These are things that money cannot buy. The sheer joy and pleasure that nature and wildlife bring to people is in measurable. I ask that you use your authority and compassion to protect these wolves for the whole world to enjoy , scinetists, photographers, tourists etc. These are priceless things that you are lucky enough to have at your doorstep and I think it is incumbent on you to ensure a healthy population is maintained and provided full protection as the wolves move out of the park to follow prey. Please provide the adequate and total establishment of the buffer zone. Regards. Eva Schorer



Submitted By
Jim Schorer
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:01:06 AM
Affiliation

Phone
416-333-9771

Email
jimschorer@hotmail.com

Address
471 Oxbow Cres
Collingwood, Other L9Y5B4

I support proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park. The board has the responsibility to manage wildlife conservation purposes. These wolves that frequent the Corridor/ Nenana/ Park Road are an extremely important scientific resource to some of the most famous and longest running studies of wolf packs in the country. These hunting activities will ultimately result in the loss of entire packs and prematurely end the decades of scientific research. Also, visitors to Denali want to see wolves and spend much of their income on the experience. This will result in losses for Alaskan tourism and present a poor look on Alaska's tourism industry. As documented by the National Parks Service in 2015 today only 4% of visitors will see a wolf alongside Park Road and before the buffer was scrapped in 2010 nearly 50% saw a wolf. Please consider these and many additional points to establish a no hunting and trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.

Regards,

Jim Schorer



Submitted By
Cynthia Scott
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:51:44 AM
Affiliation
Presidio Graduate School

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San Francisco, California 94117

My husband and I had the pleasure of taking a long awaited trip to Denali and stayed at the North Face Lodge, We will never forget our experience and tell many people to also go and visit. The wildlife is a vital part of making this experience memorable.

Seeing Wolves was one of our best memories. Please protect their habitat and make it possible for my grandchildren to see this precious wilderness with wolves. Cynthia Scott



Submitted By
Alan Seegert
Submitted On
2/3/2017 5:43:34 AM
Affiliation

Please approve proposal 142. The impact of a handfull of trappers and hunters along the NE border of Denali Park is unjustifiable.



Submitted By
Stan Senner
Submitted On
1/31/2017 6:19:47 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I am a former Alaska resident, having lived for 23 years in Fairbanks and Anchorage. Going back to my earliest days in Alaska in 1974, I have visited Denali National Park and Preserve many times, often with my family and often with out of state guests. Although there may be other parts of the state with higher wildlife populations, Denali is the premier destination where large numbers of people can see a wide variety of native wildlife, including many large mammals. Historically, there was at least a reasonable possibility of seeing wolves. The Denali experience—including wolves and other large mammals—is simply priceless and far exceeds in value that of any wolves taken by sport hunters or trappers. For average folks, Denali is one of the great places on the planet, and maintaining that experience is in the best interests of Alaska's economy.

Hence, I encourage your support for of measure 142 to establish a no-wolf-take zone in a small portion of GMU 20, subunits 20A and 20C, adjacent to Denali National Park. The proposed boundaries coincide approximately with the Denali National Park wolf population area, as delineated by telemetry locations.

This is a great opportunity to set aside state-federal conflicts over wildlife management and take simple action to help maintain one of the great, accessible wildlife spectacles in the world. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Brenda Sharp
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:17:38 AM
Affiliation
citizen and National Parks member

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brensharp@comcast.net
Address
320 Captains Circle
Lewes, Delaware 19958

Please reconsider the protection of the wolves of Denali and deny the hunting and trapping of these fiercely wild animals outside of the park. We pay good money to have a slim chance of seeing the wolves in the wild. You will find that by protecting them in the areas outside the park, you will make more money from tourism than from the licences for trapping and killing. Alaska is the supreme place of wildness and wilderness and needs your protection. Shouldn't there be a sanctuary for these superior animals to call their own? I would like my grandchildren to be able to see wild animals outside of a zoo. Please preserve your wonderful heritage and stop this procedure to allow hunting and trapping.



Submitted By
Paul Shearer
Submitted On
2/3/2017 11:49:33 PM
Affiliation
1955

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paul.gregory.shearer@gmail.com
Address
1532 Meadows Dr
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

February 3, 2017

Alaska Board of Game,

I recommend that the Alaska Board of Game adopt Proposal 142 for the reasons stated in the proposal and those reasons highlighted below:

The Board should consider the significant decrease in wolf population in Denali National Park from a reported total of 97 in spring 2002, decreased to 49 in spring 2015. A 50% decrease in only 13 years.

The Board should realize that this proposal is one of the easier fixes to maintain a localized wolf population in Alaska, because it utilizes the existing protections in large area of Denali National Park and Preserve and therefore only needs to add restrictions in a relatively small buffer zone on lands in GMU 20 to accomplish the needed preservation of the Park wolf population. This will be easier than protecting other Alaskan wolf populations that don't have the initial protections of a large national park.

As an employee driving bus and guiding in the park from 1977 to 1992, and as an owner of a residence in Healy and inholdings in Kantishna within Denali National Park and Preserve, I have been observing wolves in the Park since 1977. I can state that wolf sightings were rare in 1970s and 1980s (reported as 5%), but increased significantly in 1990s and 2000s as the wolf populations near the Park Road increased. However regrettably my personal sightings and the recorded sightings have significantly decreased in 2010s since the population has decreased due to pressure from hunting and trapping outside the Park boundary on lands in GMU 20.

I have also personally witnessed wolves that have traveled over 10 miles from denning sites each night to hunt in the summer, and single wolves that have traveled over 60 miles from denning sites to hunt alone all summer before returning to meet back with the pack for the fall. The Proposal 142 also cites wolf studies that document wolves traveling similar distances outside the Park to the north and east into lands in GMU 20 to hunt in the winter. These observations and reports support the fact that these wolf populations will travel significant distances from their Park denning sites to hunt and therefore need the extra protections in the proposed buffer zones to maintain these Park wolf populations.

I therefore strongly recommend that Alaska Board of Game adopt Proposal 142 as an effective and necessary measure to protect the current and future wolf populations in Denali National Park that are a significant tourist attraction and help support the local and state economy.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shearer



Submitted By
Bill Sherwonit
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:02:59 PM
Affiliation
self

Support Proposal 142

I ask the Alaska Board of Game's members to support Proposal 142, which would (re)establish a no-hunting/no-trapping buffer on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park in the Stampede Corridor and Nenana Canyon areas.

As members of the BOG are well aware, in 2010 the Board of Game placed a six-year moratorium on any Denali wolf-buffer proposals. With that moratorium now ended, it's time to reinstate a buffer. (Many of us Alaskans who support the buffer would argue it's long overdue.)

Again as you know, in winter and spring some wolves that primarily reside within Denali leave the protection of the park and travel through adjacent state lands in pursuit of prey. While on that state land they are (legally) targeted by hunters and trappers. Since the buffer was removed in 2010, several wolves have been killed in the areas named above, including some animals critical to the success of packs ("alpha" and breeding wolves, both male and female) that primarily reside within the national park. Though a number of factors contribute to the ups and downs of wolf numbers in Denali National Park (as elsewhere), there's little doubt that hunting and trapping on state lands adjacent to the national park have contributed to the recent declines of Denali's wolves, and also the disruption of packs that had been among the park's most visible. Whatever your personal beliefs about wolves (and the federal government), you must realize that many people—including substantial numbers of Alaskans—place great value on the wolves that inhabit Denali and would much prefer to have them alive than dead. For many years since the late 1980s, Denali has been among the best places for people to watch wild wolves. But that's no longer true, in large part because of key wolves killed on state lands adjacent to the park.

The Alaska BOG and Department of Fish and Game often like to say that wildlife conservation is the board's primary concern and objective. This is a place where the BOG can help to conserve wildlife—specifically wolves—that have great value to many people as wild, living beings. The proposed buffer area is one of the very few places managed by the state—McNeil River being another—where the protection of individual animals can make a huge difference and where the BOG can make a decision that benefits wildlife watchers and others—many of them Alaskans—who place great value on the ability to share wild landscapes with living animals, not to kill them. Thanks for considering my comments,

Bill Sherwonit, Anchorage



Submitted By
Roz Shirack
Submitted On
2/1/2017 12:13:45 PM
Affiliation
individual

Phone
5033998615
Email
rozshirack7@gmail.com
Address
1645 Church St. SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

When visiting Denali National Park last June I learned of the large decline in the Alaska wolf population, including packs in and near Denali National Park. I am asking you to ban hunting of wolves on state land near the Park boundaries. It is a shame that wolves that wander out of Park boundaries can be killed, especially when hunters specifically bait and draw the wolves out of the National Park, according to a recent program on PBS.

I love Alaska and visit to experience and learn about its wildlife, plant life, and geology. I would think that live wolves provide more value and benefit to the State, in terms of tourism dollars and other wildlife values, than does hunting.

I have seen and heard wolves in Yellowstone NP, but alas, that was not possible during a week spent in the interior of Denali NP.

Thank you for exercising your responsibility to protect Alaska's wildlife by banning wolf hunting on state lands.



Submitted By
Martha Siebe
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:42:13 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-346-3329

Email
pixie@alaska.net

Address
8700 Solar Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK! This includes the Stampede Corridor and Nenana Canyon areas. The wolves of this area are a special population in that they are the most likely to be seen by Denali National Park visitors. They have also been studied extensively. The value of these wolves to Alaska Tourism exceeds the value of a wolf pelt many thousands of times over. I understand that the chance of one wolf being seen in 2015 was 4% or less. I regularly follow the website YellowstoneReports.com. There have only been a handful of days this year when wolves (sometimes several packs) have not be available for Yellowstone Park visitors to view. If Alaska wants to boost the visitor dollars coming to the state, having more wolves to view in Denali is one way to do it.

Please protect this small area so that wolf packs can live and interact in a natural way within their ecosystem, and be observed by visitors who have never seen a wolf before, and studied by scientists who can learn the natural cycle of wolf packs. There are way more Alaskan observers, photographers, and non-consumptive users who will benefit from protecting this area, than local consumptive users. Just looking at the map, it is obvious that this area should be included in the no hunting/trapping regulations just as they are in the surrounding National Park.

Thank you for taking a larger/longer look at this issue.



Submitted By
Andra Silgailis
Submitted On
2/2/2017 2:35:02 PM
Affiliation

Please support proposal 142, establish a buffer zone for Denai wolves. It is very unfortunate that the right to view wolves has been diminished for Alaskans and visitors alike, due to the policies of the BOG. Wolves need a no trapping buffer, in order to allow the maximum amount of citizens to view these creatures. It makes economical sense.



Submitted By

Debbie Sis

Submitted On

1/28/2017 11:24:44 PM

Affiliation

I am writing in support of the proposal to halt the hunting of wolves on state lands that border Denali . Let's allow the wolf population to rebound.....no one is hunting these wolves for subsistence, they are hunting the wolves for sport. I support allowing the wolf population to return to a healthy population number.



Submitted By
JoeRay Skrha
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:55:03 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073981800

Email
joeray@alaska.net

Address
2455 Watergate Way
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Dear Members of the Board of Game... Please stop killing wolves... I live on the Kenai River and at one time was able to see wolves in the wild. No longer.. I've been to Denali National Park and have spent 48 days in the park over the last 5 years. Haven't seen a wolf. What is find most repulsive is that 85% of Alaskans do not want to see wolves exterminated just so big game hunters can kill more moose and caribou. You even authorize killing wolves in their dens. How proud are you to kill these pups before they stop feeding on their moms milk. Look, I was a professional fishing guide for 12 years on the Kenai River and I've been the biggest cheer leader for the State of Alaska during my 35 years of living and practicing law here on the Kenai but the one black eye Alaska has is the way the Board of Game treats wolves and lately bears. Please stop killing wolves especially those that migrate in and out of Denali National Park. Please allow my guests and kids to still see a wolf when they come up to Alaska and see our beautiful land.

Sincerely,

Attorney At Law

Joseph Raymond Skrha



Submitted By
Laura Sneddon
Submitted On
2/3/2017 5:17:18 PM
Affiliation

Support Proposal 142

I'm writing to voice my support of proposal 142 for the following reasons:

- Wolves don't know the Denali park border and need a buffer zone to safely exist when they pursue prey.
- Without this buffer, the # of wolves trapped and killed increases. This reduces the chances that the public and tourists' have of spotting a wolf in the park, which is often their primary reason for visiting it or nearby Park Road.
- Hurting the survival of wolves will reduce tourism to the Park and state as well as reverse the dollars and hard work spent to foster an environment for wolves: The wolves that most often visit the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. Hunting activities will end these wolves' lives and unnaturally end one of the longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Similarly, the majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.



Submitted By
Nancy K. Socha
Submitted On
2/1/2017 2:53:34 PM
Affiliation

To the Alaska Board of Game

Re: Proposal 142

I am writing to support Proposal 142 providing no-take areas adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. Hopefully, this will eventually increase the wolf population in the park. My husband and I spent 4 days and 4 nights in Denali in late July 2016 at the North Face Lodge. We hiked in the park every day. We saw every animal we hoped to see-except one-the wolf. I did find recent wolf scat on one hike (as confirmed by our naturalist guide) but no other evidence of these wonderful animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy K. Socha



Submitted By
Don Soileau
Submitted On
2/1/2017 1:50:13 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-440-2296
Email
donsoileau@hotmail.com
Address
645 G Street #530
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

I would like to submit my support for Proposal 142 - the establishment of a no-hunting/trapping zone on the northeast boundary of Denali National Park&Preserve. I have been working in Denali as a tour guide since 1982 and can attest to the appreciation that visitors and locals alike derive from being able to see wolves in their natural habitat. An intact ecosystem is also vital to scientific research. Wolf numbers have declined dramatically since the previous save zone was rescinded and Bridget Borg's research indicates there is a direct correlation between the two. Please remember the desires hundreds of thousands of people who come to visit this special place to see wildlife alive as opposed to the few who prefer killing and diminishing this precious resource.

Don Soileau



Submitted By
Ronald Soto, M.S.W.
Submitted On
2/1/2017 1:58:27 PM
Affiliation
City of San Jose

Phone
4085619751
Email
rsoto60@gmail.com

Address
21658 Almaden Road
San Jose, California 95120

On my last stay at Camp Denali and North Face Lodge, I have the first time experience of watching a lone wolf running in a large river bed. I watch it from one side to the end until it when out of vision. It was such a powerful sight, and stays with me to this day. Please don't allow hunter or other people to have the opportunity to further reduce our wild wolf population. In other areas of the US, they are beginning to understand the value to humankind of our wilflife and are protect them better, don't go in the opposite direction in Alaska, our one last wildemess frontier.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ron



Submitted By
Ben Spalding
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:55:43 PM
Affiliation

Phone
6107033652
Email
spalding@cissltd.com

Address
2901 Meadowbrook Circle South
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103

To Whom It May Concern at the AK Board of Game;

I visited Denali NP last year for the first time. I was really hoping to see a wolf - even if only from a distance - or the sound of howling at night would have been wonderful too. We stayed for a week, from Monday through Friday before moving on our next spot.

Much to my surprise when I got there - I had been told that the wolf population in the park had been cut by approx 2/3 from the previous year (from ~150 to ~50) because a buffer zone around the park had been removed and the wolves were shot or trapped that crossed the lines.

Very disappointing. Needless to say I saw and heard nothing.....and the guides we were gave us close to 0% odds in seeing them. Almost impossible for me to share glowing reviews of my trip on tripadvisor, or any other social media, because of the disappointment in AK in not protecting such a wonderful resource. Upsetting natures balance in Denali to satisfy a few hunters/trappers seems to me to be a study in making a few locals happy and discouraging a world full of tourists from visiting AK to see and experience what they cannot see at home.

AK is a huge state - leave a buffer around the park and let the local wolves thrive as best they can in the little space they are allocated proportionatelyhunters/guides can set up in the yukon or somewhere else for their trophy wolf. Isn't it the responsibility of the AK Board of Game and your authority alone to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region? What are you thinking?

Regards,

- Ben Spalding

2901 Meadowbrook Circle South

Allentown, PA 18103-5425

610-703-3652 spalding@cissltd.com



Submitted By
Rob St Andre
Submitted On
1/31/2017 8:12:37 PM
Affiliation

Phone
(425) 922-7815
Email
standre@ieee.org

Address
610 MT OLYMPUS DR SW
Issaquah, Washington 98027

Hi,

Having visited Denali National Park several times with my family, I would like to voice my support for increased protection of wolves through the measures identified in Proposal 142.

To this day, we remember seeing a wolf eating a rabbit on our first trip to the park. They are a critical element of the animal population.

Thank you,

Rob St Andre



Submitted By
Sondra Starway
Submitted On
2/3/2017 12:11:24 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 364 2536

Email
spstarway@yahoo.com

Address
2935 Simpson Ave
Juneau, Alaska 99801

To Members of the Board of Game:

I am writing in support of a Denali Wildlife Conservation area on the NE boundary of the park to protect Alaska's wildlife. Here are my reasons:

1. Animals should not be hunted or trapped near the park. One of the most important goals tourists have on visits to Alaska is for wildlife viewing opportunities.
2. The economic benefits of tourism to the state are high and should be considered.
3. To restore and enhance the valuable wildlife viewing resource of Denali, a durable solution is needed. A Wildlife Conservation area will help with these goals.

Thank you,

Sondra Starway

Juneau, Alaska



Submitted By
Florence Stasch
Submitted On
2/1/2017 10:43:15 PM
Affiliation

Phone
949 759-9957

Email
magicflo1@aol.com

Address
1952 Vista Caudal
Newport Beach, Colorado 92660

Please set aside a buffer zone to protect wolves access to hunting areas. They deserve your attention. My husband and I have visited Denali 4 times to view wolves. We have met many tourists who were there for the same reason. Of course, we would not travel that far if the wolves were being killed for human recreation. Wolves are synonymoun with freedom and wildness. Including a buffer zone next to Denali would ensure their safety. Thank you



Submitted By
Sarah Stehn
Submitted On
1/31/2017 8:00:42 AM
Affiliation

I am a lifelong Alaskan who has been living in the Denali area for 8 years. I would like to see the state lands around Denali National Park, as outlined in Proposal 142, protected from hunting and trapping.

I believe these wolves hold particular international importance for tourism and unparalleled scientific study and their loss would reflect shamefully on the state of Alaska. I believe visitors to Denali who get a chance to see a wolf are changed beings and should not have to give up this chance to just a few individuals who wish to partake in hunting and trapping activities in these particular areas. Additionally, I believe it is the absolute responsibility and authority of the Alaska Board of Game to provide conservation on state lands in this region.

Thank you for your time and I hope you consider passing proposal 142 to protect the Denali area wolves.



Submitted By
Elizabeth W Stems
Submitted On
1/31/2017 3:53:45 PM
Affiliation
Tourist

Phone
5105472152
Email
lizstems@yahoo.com

Address
1087 Hubert Road
OAKLAND, California 94610

When I visited Denali National park for the second time w few years ago, our group was lucky enough to see a white wolf, identified to us as the female head of a Park pack, trotting along a river and then crossing it on the bridge we were waiting to cross. It was thrilling, and probably the most memorable thing we saw, among so many wonders. We heard later that "our" wolf was killed just outside the park in an area that allowed hunting. There are so few wolves. Is there any good reason they should be allowed to be hunted? Please provide what additional protection you can for them. Then I'll come back to see how they are doing! Thank you so much for your consideration. Elizabeth Stems



Submitted By
Benjamin Still
Submitted On
2/3/2017 8:03:00 AM
Affiliation

Please consider the following:

- There is a precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. In 2001-02 the Board acknowledged that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, and set aside areas closed to hunting. The park's wolf population (Spring 2002) was 97 wolves, far more than inhabit the park now.
- The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.
- The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.
- Visitors to Denali want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to our economy.
- A mere 4 percent chance that a visitor will spot a wolf along the Park Road (as documented by the National Park Service in 2015) is an abysmally low number. Before the buffer was scrapped in 2010, nearly 50 percent saw a wolf.



Submitted By
John Strassenburgh
Submitted On
2/3/2017 12:30:33 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-733-6874
Email
jsandr@matnet.com
Address
PO Box 766
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

To whom it may concern:

I write to express my strong support for Proposal 142, which would reestablish the no-wolf-take buffers adjacent to Denali National Park in the Stampede Road area and east of the Park north and south of the Park Entrance.

I live in Talkeetna, and I have visited Denali National Park many times over the last 45 years, starting in the mid 1970's when driving into the Park in private vehicles was allowed without a permit in September, all the way to Wonder Lake. I have taken friends and relatives visiting from the lower 48.

Afterward, they usually can't stop talking about it. The scenic vistas are impressive, but it is the opportunity to see wolves and bears and many other animals in the wild that makes a lasting impression and an experience most will never forget.

In 2010, the protective buffers for the wolves were removed. I have a great interest in, and derive much enjoyment from, observing and photographing wildlife. I am not seeing wolves now like in the past. The last two visits, I saw no wolves. There certainly is a correlation between the removal of the no-take buffers and the decline in wolf sightings in the Park. Correlation does not necessarily reflect causation, but research has shown that hunting and trapping outside the Park have a marked effect on the population of wolves within the Park.

Denali National Park attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year from Alaska, Lower 48, and from all over the world. The vast majority of these people come to see the wildlife, and of course, an opportunity to see a wolf, even one wolf, is an exciting, memorable experience.

It is incredible to me that the BOG saw fit to remove the protective buffers in the first place, and even more misguided to not have reinstated them long before this. I just don't see the justification of diminishing the Denali Park visitor experience for so many, in favor of the handful of hunters or trappers.

I urge you to adopt Proposal 142.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
betty suh-burgmann
Submitted On
1/31/2017 7:36:41 PM
Affiliation

Phone
5109657177

Email
bsuhburgmann@yahoo.com

Address
5 forest lane
berkeley, California 94708

I am writing to urge you to support Proposal 142.

I visited Denali National Park, staying at Camp Denali, 4 years ago with my husband and 2 young boys. Bar none, it was the most enjoyable and inspiring vacation we have ever taken, and we are world travelers, having travelled throughout Europe, South Africa, and Central America with our kids.

What made Denali so special is its absolute unspoiled and vast nature, including the wildlife within it. Looking in any direction 300 miles across the Alaskan plane—if that is not good for the soul I don't know what is. We watched a bear and a wolf sparr over a moose carcass, we watched eagles soar overhead...These are the experiences that made it real. Since then I have sent many friends to visit Alaska as tourists based on my glowing reviews of the experience. We spent nearly 15K on our trip to Alaska and felt that it was well spent tourist dollars. I urge you not to underestimate not only the tourist impact of preserving wild spaces and wildlife, but also the fact that this is a resource that has the potential to NEVER "run out," unlike oil and gas reserves.

I know it is difficult for those in government to look past short term agendas, goals and political gains. But I urge you to make no mistake about what your greatest resource is in your great state—not oil, not gas, but the unspoiled and unique nature of the wild areas of your state.

Thank you,

Betty Suh-Burgmann



Submitted By
Kelly Sullivan
Submitted On
1/29/2017 5:03:16 AM
Affiliation

Phone
773 758 0064

Email
Kelsully74@gmail.com

Address
10560 S Sawyer
Chicago, Illinois 60655

While I am sure you wonder how a science teacher from Chicago cares enough to send a note, I do think the note and my thoughts are worth considering. I am made aware of the wolves hunting regulations via a friend who is now an Alaska resident. He is passionate about Alaska. He loves the land, the animals, the snow, the photography and the people. He brought this to his whole network, not to say hunting is wrong, but to say hunting wolves for sport, instead of the feed a family, and hunting wolves in such a way that the population sizes are not healthy needs to be addressed. you cannot maintain any healthy population without appropriate predator numbers, so please be very mindful of the populations in Denali when you regulate the season.



Submitted By
Douglass Swanson
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:24:06 AM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
2527282939
Email
wildagin@earthlink.net

Address
115 Intracoastal Dr
Beaufort, North Carolina 28516-7541

I fully support proposal 142. I have been a long time supporter of restoring buffer zones around Yellowstone National Park to protect wolf numbers during hunting season. and absolutely support this move around Denali. Wolves must have a rightful place in the ecosystem, and they are a huge driving force for ecotourism. An ecosystem is kept in balance by the presence of the apex predators, and we must do all that we can to look at the big picture. Fragmenting a wolf pack by killing any of its members is a cruel act and we must base management on science based information. Thank you for doing the right and humane thing!

Douglass Swanson



Submitted By
Kneeland Taylor
Submitted On
2/3/2017 1:16:20 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9072766219
Email
kneelandtaylor@ak.net

Address
425 G St
Ste 610
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Proposal 142. Support

I support Proposal 142. If adopted, it would establish a controlled use area on the north and east sides of the old Denali National Park boundaries. As drafted, Proposal 142 would prohibit the taking of wolves in the controlled use area.

I support amendment of Proposal 142, so that not only would the taking of wolves be prohibited, but, within the controlled use area, there would also be prohibited the baiting of bears, and the taking of lynx, wolverine, river otters, fox, and marten.

I was a member of a BOG subcommittee which was directed to attempt to reach consensus on this issue. That was in 2000-2001, as best I recall. I mention this to make the point that it has been 17 years now that I have closely followed this issue.

I won't discuss in this letter the decline in sightings of wolves along the Park road, or the decline in the population of wolves in the Park. But I do want to talk about the impact this issue has had on me. Some of you know me, and know that I have been a moderate, informed advocate for conservation and non-consumptive uses.

Let me summarize the impact of this issue on me:

For 17 years, the taking of wolves right along the north boundary of the Park, about 6-10 miles from the Park road, has been the #1 issue that has demonstrated to me that Alaska's wildlife management is fundamentally flawed; and that the decision-makers, both on the BOG and within the Department, are biased.

For 17 years, I have listened to, read, and considered most of the arguments given as to why 1-3 trappers and hunters should rob hundreds of thousands of people of the opportunity to view wolves. Those arguments are mere excuses. No person can honestly say that the value of trapping and hunting wolves by 1 - 3 people outweighs the value of viewing opportunity for 100,000 - 200,000 people riding Park buses, and otherwise visiting the Park.

I have concluded that Department's data is unreliable; that it has been organized for advocacy purposes; and the purpose is not to inform. My view is that the BOG and the Department have grievously injured themselves. This issue is Exhibit #1; the "Poster Child" for bias.

I still think that reform of the BOG process and of the Department is possible. But the outright bias needs to stop. There are many thousands of Alaskans who don't hunt and trap, and who treasure wildlife viewing. I urge you to adopt this proposal, and demonstrate by action that all Alaskans, and our visitors, are valued.

Very truly yours,
Kneeland Taylor



Submitted By
Jim Thiele
Submitted On
1/29/2017 6:18:28 PM
Affiliation

RE: Denali wolves.

It is absurd to me that a population of animals that are so important to the multitude of visitors to the State are not already protected from the exploitation by a few individuals. These animals have no concept of an arbitrary boundry. Trappers can move at will to anohter area. This nonsense has been going on way too long!



Submitted By
Heidi + Manfred Thiesen
Submitted On
2/1/2017 8:40:13 AM
Affiliation

Phone
+49 911 6327613
Email
Manfred.Thiesen@t-online.de

Address
Am Holzacker 33
Schwabach, Germany, Other D-91126

Dear members of the board,

we are very happy having visited Denali National Park and the North Face Lodge in the past. It was a wonderful experience to see the unique harmony between wildlife habitat and a soft tourism that we have not experienced anywhere else. It is still one of our major wishes to repeat this extraordinary tour one day.

During our visit we had the lucky chance to view a grizzly with cubs, doll sheeps, caribous, a moose, beavers, a red fox, all the birds and... wolves!

We are disturbed that the population of the wolves is declining in this unique refuge allowing people like us to have the opportunity to observe all these animals in real wildlife.

Therefore we fully support the increased protection of wolves through the measures identified in Proposal 142.

We entreat you insistenty to vote for a stable wolf population in Denali National Park.

Sincerely,

Heidi + Manfred Thiesen



Submitted By
Jan Tomsen
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:06:54 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9075292660

Email
jantomsen@gmail.com

Address
PO BOX 98
Denali National Park, Alaska 99755-0041

Dear Board of Game,

I am writing, as an Alaskan who has lived and worked in the Denali area for 15 years, to voice my comments in support of a wolf buffer zone in the wolf townships area. I recall when wolves were often seen by visitors in Denali National Park, such as the summer of 2006, but in the past three years I have only seen one wolf each year. Wolves are vulnerable to hunting and trapping, and the boundaries between lands open to trapping and hunting and protected National Park lands are unknown to them. They follow the caribou or moose, which often travel into the former buffer zone.

In addition, I mush dogteams in winter, often in the Stampede area. In the past several years since the buffer was opened to trapping, I have had to avoid the area with the dogs for long stretches of time, and even now will not take young dogs in the area, and absolutely cannot allow a dog to run loose, due to the prevalence of traps, which have even been set right on the main trail. These actions foster no kindness for multiple use of the area between traditional Alaskan activities.

Please, consider re-instating the buffer zone. Listen to Alaskans. Listen to the Grandmothers from Ohio who long to see a wolf in the wild. Don't let the interests of one or two individuals win over the collective betterment of the locals, visitors, larger economy, and wilderness of Alaska.

Jan Tomsen

Denali, Alaska

BS Wildlife Biology, UAF



Submitted By
Jessica Toubman
Submitted On
1/31/2017 10:18:28 AM
Affiliation
Ms.

Dear Board of Game,

I'm writing to ask you to support Proposal 142 at the upcoming meeting in February.

I have lived and worked in and around Denali National Park seasonally since 2003 and year-round since 2008, mainly in the tourism industry which drives our seasonal economy.

Through talking with visitors, it seems people come from all over the world to this area for two primary reasons - see Denali (the mountain) and see wildlife in its natural habitat. Wolves are a big draw, and I have often heard they are the highlight of many visitors trip when they are lucky enough to see them while out on the Park Road.

It is well documented that the wolves seen from the Denali Park Road travel outside the park boundaries into the Stampede area, especially during the winter and breeding season. By closing this small area to trapping, it would inconvenience a few trappers but the benefits would be to the 100's of thousands of visitors to the National Park each year. Again, this buffer was in place from 2000 - 2010 and the trappers still found a way to make a living and the 2016 Bridget Borg study showed it had a positive impact on wolf viewability.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Kathleen Toubman
Submitted On
2/2/2017 3:48:25 PM
Affiliation

Phone
207 441-4058
Email
katoubman@msn.com

Address
P.O. Box 262
Rockland, Maine 04841

To Alaskan Board of Game,

I am asking The Board to support Proposal 142 and prohibit the taking of wolves on lands bounded by Denali Park. I have visited Denali Park and other regions of your beautiful state many times (7 visits). Denali is a special place and the wolves are an amazing resource, which is diminishing. Supporting the Denali wolves also supports a healthy ecosystem and the Alaskan tourist visitor market. Thank you for your consideration,

Kathleen Toubman, Rockland Maine



Submitted By
Bruce
Submitted On
2/2/2017 11:43:05 AM
Affiliation

To the Alaska Board of Game:

I am writing to support Proposal 142.

After my first spectacular trip to Alaska in 1996, I convinced others to travel with me to Alaska. My family and I have travelled to Alaska several times in order to see and explore Alaska's treasured wilderness, including its wild animals. We have hiked, fished, canoed, and enjoyed guided tours. I have stayed inside Denali National Park twice and travelled to many other parts of the state. During our various trips, our family group has totaled over 100 visitor days in Alaska. During one stay inside Denali NP, we saw lots of wildlife with the most memorable being the sighting of a wolf running through the brush as we rode the bus taking us back to town.

The Denali wolves are highly vulnerable to being hunted or trapped when they cross the park boundary. The boundaries are meaningless to them as they try to eke out their existence in a world which threatens their very existence. The proposed buffer zone will certainly lessen one of the known human-caused factors in their population decline.

The Denali wolves are important to international tourism and to science. The state of Alaska gets far more tourism dollars from a robust wolf population as part of an intact and diverse wild animal population than it could possibly get from hunting licenses.

It is your responsibility to conserve the wilderness and wildlife of Alaska. I urge you to use your authority to do so by approving Proposal 142.

Sincerely,

Bruce L. Tow



Submitted By
LOIS TOW
Submitted On
2/1/2017 12:15:19 PM
Affiliation

Phone
617-553-0972

Email
loistow@ix.netcom.com

Address
50 Lila Rd
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130

I am writing to support Proposal 142.

My family has travelled to Alaska several times in order to see and explore Alaska's spectacular wilderness, including its wild animals. We have hiked, fished, canoed, and enjoyed guided tours. We have stayed inside Denali National Park and elsewhere in the state. During our various trips, our family group has totaled over 100 visitor days in Alaska. During one stay inside Denali NP, we saw lots of wildlife with the most memorable being the sighting of a wolf running through the brush as we rode the bus taking us back to town. It created a lasting memory capping that fantastic trip.

The Denali wolves are highly vulnerable to being hunted or trapped when they cross the park boundary. The boundaries are meaningless to them as they try to eke out their existence in a world which threatens their very existence. The proposed buffer zone will certainly lessen one of the known human-caused factors in their population decline.

The Denali wolves are important to international tourism and to science. The state of Alaska gets far more tourism dollars from a robust wolf population as part of an intact and diverse wild animal population than it could possibly get from hunting licenses.

It is your responsibility to conserve the wilderness and wildlife of Alaska. I urge you to use your authority to do so by approving Proposal 142.

Sincerely,

Lois M. Tow



Submitted By
Eric Townsend
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:58:06 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9787013904

Email
mrmadchemist@gmail.com

Address
6 Parker Street
Rochdale, Massachusetts 01542

Hello,

I would like to voice my support for proposal 142 pertaining to the wolf population in Denali. My wife and I spent our honeymoon at the foothills of the great one and saw an enormous amount of wildlife however we did not see any wolves. Protection for this weakening population is important to conserve their presence for future lovers of the outdoors. I one day hope to bring my children to Denali and would love to cross a wolf sighting off my list!

Thank you, Eric



Submitted By
Susan Valenti
Submitted On
2/2/2017 2:08:40 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

Phone
9075754444
Email
akarcticwren@gmail.com
Address
7010 E. 140th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

Dear Board of Game:

Please pass proposal 142 and re-instate the no hunting/no trapping buffer zone in Denali National Park.

It is well past the time for measures taken to preserve the wolf population in this area for research and wildlife observing purposes.

I know you will do the right thing.

Thank you.

Susan Valenti



Submitted By
Vic Van Ballenberghe
Submitted On
2/1/2017 10:01:26 AM
Affiliation

Regarding PROPOSAL 142: I strongly SUPPORT this proposal and urge the Board to adopt it.

After the Board of Game rescinded the buffers (in 2010) that offered critical protection for Denali National Park wolves that ventured outside the park during winter, wolves were trapped and shot in these areas. This resulted in greatly reduced wolf viewing opportunities for park visitors. Denali is one of the few areas in North America where people can potentially see or hear wild wolves. I support the concept that preserving this opportunity is important to Alaska. The best way to accomplish this is to adopt Proposal 142 and thereby reduce the risk that wolves in the park will be killed.

The background information and data presented in Proposal 142 is accurate, thorough and complete and I need not reiterate it here. I think it presents a compelling case explaining why this proposal should be adopted.

Please carefully consider the numerous comments from those who support this proposal. I hope you will agree that now is the time to ensure that the park's wolves are adequately protected so that we can once again offer park visitors a reasonable opportunity to interact with this iconic Alaskan animal.





Submitted By
Danielle Varney
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:24:50 AM
Affiliation

SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142

To the Board of Game:

The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.

The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.

Visitors to Denali want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to our economy.

A mere 4 percent chance that a visitor will spot a wolf along the Park Road (as documented by the National Park Service in 2015) is an abysmally low number. Before the buffer was scrapped in 2010, nearly 50 percent saw a wolf.



Submitted By
Rebecca Vitale Mandich
Submitted On
2/3/2017 4:19:06 PM
Affiliation

Phone
6503257003

Email
rvmandich@yahoo.com

Address
1527 Waverley St.
Palo Alto, California 94301

Please Protect the Denali wolves they have been hunted terribly and without regard for their families or numbers .. I'm very concerned you are disregarding their welfare

I've been wanting to visit Alaska forever and I will next year .. one of your great tourist attractions is your wildlife please do all you can to protect and allow it to thrive for the people who do not wish to kill it .. but to leave them as we found them... alive !

Thank you



Submitted By
Susan Vogt
Submitted On
2/2/2017 3:57:16 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9073888671

Email
bias@alaska.net

Address
269 Bias Dr. #B
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

I support proposal 142!

Reinstate the buffer! I am an Alaskan that does not hunt or trap but spend alot of money on wildlife viewing around the state. I am tired of the BOG ignoring, dismissing, ridiculing Alaskans who don't agree with your kill everything policy. We far outnumber hunters and trappers in this state and we should be carry the appropriate weight when it comes to decisions. The history of this board proves the opposite!
REINSTATE THE BUFFER FOR WOLVES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Submitted By
Linda Wagner
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:35:27 PM
Affiliation

Phone
615-833-5196
Email
lswagnre@comcast.net

Address
141 Neese Dr, V452
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

Support Proposal 142

I support proposal 142 that establishes a no trapping/-hunting zone next to Denali National Park. Wolves often leave the park during winter and spring to enter the Stampede Corridor to cross the Parks Highway-Nenana River Canyon area to chase prey for food. This makes the wolves a target for now allowed hunting and trapping. In 2001-2002 the BOG established a protected zone for wolves because they were so popular with tourists who came to view them. Tourism, just to see the wolves, is a very significant economic source for the state. Also, these wolves have been scientifically observed and researched continuously and should remain thriving for ongoing future study. The many tourists who will visit this area will admire your visionary actions to look out for the wolve. Thank you.



Submitted By
Robert and Karen
Submitted On
1/29/2017 8:23:38 AM
Affiliation

Phone
574-656-8719

Email
bob@bobwatsonphotography.com

Address
25945 New Rd
North Liberty, Indiana 46554

Hi Folks,

We live in Indiana, but have visited Alaska 35 times since 1981 and hope to return again this summer. We travel all over, but cumulatively, we've spent well over a year in just Denali National Park. Why do we keep coming back? Because, we love Alaska. We love the wilderness and wildlife that's there. We've loved viewing the wolves of Denali National Park.

We've seen the wolf packs ebb and flow over the years, but we've also seen an overall steady decline in their population. I don't believe the Toklat pack even exists anymore. I hope you folks know how many people from around the world come to Alaska for the wilderness and wildlife.

I know you folks are responsible for the conservation interests on state land and many of you see your primary responsibility to the hunters and fishers of Alaska. However, I ask you to know and realize that what you do also reflects greatly on the conservation of all land and the interests of the entire world. You have an awesome responsibility. I ask you to look at it broadly, because it effects so much and so many people.

We ask you to please support Proposal 142 at your Region III meeting on February 17-25, 2017. Please do the right thing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob and Karen Watson

Sincerely

Bill Watkins

PO. Box 147,

Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Watkinsnp@hotmail.com

3





When these two wolves were killed, it fundamentally changed the dynamics (see above disruptions) within this family group taking t away from the park road corridor which dramatically reduced visitor viewing of Denali's longest lived and primary family group.....for years. In fact, visitor viewing of this specific family group never recovered after 2005 prior to these deaths and believed disintegration of this family group in the summer of 2016.

This is not the only example as the Headquarters group which was finally trapped out east of the park in 1995 (their territory included the paved section of the park road) resulted in significant declines in visitor viewing along the pavement section for years. Other examples where trapping/hunting caused deaths disruption/disintegration to eastern family groups would be Mt. Margaret, Sanctuary, and other family groups.

As long as Denali's wolves have to survive the gauntlet of traps, snares and hunters within the Wolf Townships and adjacent to the park, I believe based on the evidence that family group continuity will be disrupted and visitor viewing will remain low and almost non-existent as it currently is.

NPS also has a proposal <https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/upload/Wolf-Buffer-Proposal-2017.pdf> before the BOG which I believe will do nothing to resolve this issue as it is deeply flawed.

Their proposal which only protects wolves in the eastern portion of the Wolf Townships and only for a limited time from February 1st to August 1st from hunting and from February 1st to November 1st from trapping allows for the killing of these critical high ranking and all wolves prior to the breeding season.

In other words, the NPS proposal allows for the killing and disruption of Denali's wolf family groups prior to the breeding season throwing them into chaos; where they may stay together although, seriously disrupted or they may disintegrate completely.

Furthermore, NPS chronically ignores the critical importance of high ranking (breeding pair) wolves to each specific family group that makes up the park wolf population, especially these eastern family groups that form the foundation of visitor viewing.

Until NPS and the BOG (State) recognize the critical importance of these high ranking wolves to potential family group continuity and the consequent establishment of territory, denning, hunting, pup rearing and travel habits which bring them in close proximity to the park road, and consider this as being essential to wolf conservation within Denali, then there is I believe, a serious and fundamental flaw in their management and a serious void in information that is not being considered.

NPS's and the State's present and historical practices which manages for overall numbers seems to imply that individuals and family groups are expendable as long as the population can be recolonized from outside the park.

This type of management whether by NPS or the State is ludicrous as it ignores the individuals and family groups that actually make up the population. You cannot have a population without individuals and family groups, it is this fact that both NPS and the State need to acknowledge and take into consideration with wolf management within Denali and also on adjacent State lands.

I would encourage the State and NPS to take into equal consideration the holistic and comprehensive approach of managing wolf populations as individuals and family groups that actually make up the overall population. And that these individuals and family groups are not only valuable from a healthy, functioning ecosystem standpoint but from a visitor viewing standpoint as well.

The Alaska Board of Game's responsibilities are not solely limited to promoting the interests of hunters and trappers but to equally consider the needs of non-consumptive users. In previous years, the BOG through their actions has chosen to sacrifice the viewing and visitor experience of over 500,000 visitors who visit Denali in favor of only a handful of trappers/hunters.

How is it, that a handful of trappers/hunters in the Wolf Townships and areas adjacent to the park is given more consideration and validation than up to 500,000+ Denali visitors, including Alaska residents? How is it that these trappers/hunters are considered more valuable than the millions of dollars that Denali tourists pump into the state's economy each and every year?

How is it that the Tourism Industry, Alaska's third largest industry who employs thousands of Alaskan and non-Alaskans alike and who wishes to offer a high quality experience to park visitors, must accept a subverted visitor experience to placate a handful of trappers/hunters within the Wolf Townships and areas adjacent to the park?

How is it that that the BOG doesn't recognize the overwhelming economic value of living Denali wolves to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, versus the minimal and one time economic value of dead wolves to a handful of trappers/hunters?

During a time when the state of Alaska is facing a 3-4 billion dollar budget deficit, when the state is believed to be in recession for the next three years (see <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2017/01/20/economists-say-recession-will-last-three-more-years-followed-by-a-smaller-poorer-alaska/>) and when it is believed that there will be a net loss of 30,000 Alaskans over the next decade, it would seem only prudent and practical to maximize the economic possibilities of the tourism industry by protecting the Wolf Townships and areas adjacent to Denali National Park for the park wolves.

For the above reasons, I ask the Alaska Board of Game to support the Denali Citizens Council/Alaska Wildlife Alliance Proposal 142

and.....reject NPS Proposal 141.



Submitted By
Bill Watkins
Submitted On
2/3/2017 8:28:16 AM
Affiliation

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Email
watkinsnp@hotmail.com
Address
P.O. Box 147
Denali Park , Alaska 99755



February 3, 2017

Slightly revised comments from previous comments already submitted on Feb 1, 2017. Revised portion asks the BOG to reject NPS Proposal 141.

Alaska Board of Game

Proposal 142 Authored by both the Denali Citizens Council and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance

I am writing you to urge you to support Proposal 142 that creates a protected buffer zone for Denali's wolves that prohibits both the hunting and trapping of wolves within the Wolf Townships and adjacent areas to the east of Denali National Park.

I have been working in the tourism industry within Denali for the past 30 years, taking up to 52 visitors into the park on a daily basis. I can attest to their excitement upon seeing wolves especially from 2003-2011 when Grant Creek was denning within a quarter mile of the park road.

I can also attest to their disappointment, anger, and lack of understanding when they learn that their viewing experience to Denali has been subverted by the actions of the both the BOG and trappers and hunters who target and kill Denali wolves who enter the Wolf Townships and areas east of the park.

The actions of the BOG in removing the previous protective buffer zone in the Wolf Townships in 2010 has directly lead to the deaths of high ranking members of both Grant Creek and East Fork and other family groups with the resulting consequential decline in visitor viewing from a high of 44% in 2010 to 4-6% over the past four years.

This has lead to cascading disruptions within these family groups that have caused den site shifting, changes in territorial use, changes in hunting habits and changes in their use of the park road corridor and has contributed to a reduction of wolves within the Denali eco-system born out by spring count (baseline) census over the past four years within Denali ranging from 52 wolves in 2013 to 49 wolves in 2016. See <https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/upload/Denali-wolf-population-508-compliant.pdf>

The 2016 spring census was taken prior to the hunter caused death of the East Fork alpha male and the possible death or dispersal of the last member of East Fork: the pregnant alpha female bringing the park wolf population down to 47 wolves.

Historically and currently, both NPS and the State have only considered the overall wolf population and not the individuals and family groups that make up these populations. High ranking individuals are critical to family cohesiveness, pass down necessary hunting, denning, territorial, pup rearing and travel information to younger wolves and are the primary decision makers within these family groups.

Both Drs. Tom Meier and Gordon Haber (both deceased) agreed that it was these high ranking wolves that were more susceptible to trapping/hunting caused losses in the Wolf Townships as opposed to other areas where younger, less experienced wolves are generally more vulnerable.

Due to this vulnerability to high ranking wolves, when they are killed it creates maximum disruption within these family groups within Denali.

Furthermore, current NPS biologist Bridget Borg has concluded that in 25% of the cases where one or the other or both breeding wolves (alpha males/females) are killed it leads to the disintegration of the entire family group.

I would like to add that when family groups do stay together after losing both the alpha male and female (example: East Fork in the February/spring of 2005) that disruptions occur that can continue for years which impact the visitor viewing of Denali's wolves. This is another fact that NPS and the State refuses to acknowledge and take into consideration for wolf management within Denali National Park and adjacent areas to the park.



Submitted By
Erica Watson
Submitted On
1/29/2017 6:32:24 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I'm writing to ask you to support Proposal 142 at the upcoming meeting in February. This proposal offers reasonable, science-based management of the ecosystem surrounding Denali National Park.

I have lived and worked in and around Denali National Park seasonally since 2004 and year-round since 2009, often in some facet of the tourism industry, which drives our economy. For those who visit Denali from the lower 48 or around the world, the opportunity to see a wolf is certainly a draw, and increasingly unique to this area. It is irresponsible and absurd to destroy the very facets of our environment that people pay good money to come here to experience.

But we are all loathe to concede to the desires of tourists over our own, so let's focus on science, and food. Denali National Park's wolf population is among the longest-term studied in the world, and from this and other studies, we have learned of the utmost importance predators play in maintaining healthy ecosystems, including prey populations. I'm not a hunter, but I like to eat moose and caribou, and I benefit from the efforts of those who are willing to share with me. They benefit from a hunt that offers an animal big and healthy enough to have some to share. Wolves keep those populations healthy and balanced. It is your job to maintain those populations within the limits of what the ecosystem can actually support longterm.

So, specifically, Proposal 142: This would inconvenience a few trappers who have found ways to profit from the known migration of Denali's wolves, which has resulted in an unnaturally low wolf population in recent years. The area in question is miniscule in relation to the state lands where hunting and trapping are still allowed, but would have a benefit to the park's wolf population, and thus our local economy and scientific legacy.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erica Watson

80



Submitted By
Kate Weber
Submitted On
1/29/2017 6:14:07 AM
Affiliation

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8143236804

Email
weberkate@hotmail.com

Address
PO 597
Healy, Alaska 99743

i am a resident of Alaska since 08 in Healy . I had lived in the canyon for 3 yrs of truly pristine beauty in the 70 s. So I'm 71 now. I've only seen one wolf since 08 and oddly enough that was last year when I was cross country skiing in the Denali National Park. Long ago a wonderful silver wolf crossed my path while skiing. I guess we have to ask ourselves what we want for ourselves and our kids and their kids. A good friend who loves Denali hiking is now in Mongolia. National Geographic has shown us the enormous hunting possibilities of the many many many wolves there and the ritual of hunters on horses hunting wolves. But National Geographic also published this one huge wolf with this one fierce looking man who traps wolves in the Stampede area. Please leave some of the wolf families to be. I cannot see why the very few left would be hunting opportunity? This is a major tourist area and almost impossible to get not a few jobs a day like the Eastern Europeans kids do. It's a rich community. So I don't see the sense in hunting a wolf in people's back yards and right next to Denali where these wolf families have been studied.



Submitted By
Melanie Weberg
Submitted On
2/2/2017 4:24:23 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9528544718

Email
shearessencealpacas@me.com

Address
1860 Swede Lake Drive
Osceola, Wisconsin 54020

Support Proposal 142

As an outdoor enthusiast, supporter of wildlands and wildlife, I encourage you to pass this proposal. The main reason for me to visit Denali as a newly retired teacher is to see Denali's wolves. That is no longer a possibility as the odds of seeing them has been drastically reduced due to hunting and trapping. I will not spend my retirement to travel to Denali if wolves are not protected. Furthermore, so much research has been conducted on Denali's wolves and that has been lost due to the loss of protected areas for wolves. Please support proposal 142.



Submitted By
Pamela Williams
Submitted On
2/3/2017 12:02:51 PM
Affiliation

Please adopt the provisions of Proposal 142. Wildlife watchers far exceed hunters and trappers, and capitalizing on wildlife tourism promises much greater benefits to the Alaskan economy than killing for fur. The furs obtained largely end up accessorizing the growing Chinese and Russian affluent classes, which hardly seems beneficial to the Alaskan and American citizenry. Further, the arbitrary boundaries over which traveling wolves find themselves in severe peril represent the antithesis of fair chase principles. I value wild places and intact ecosystems. Wolves are an essential component. Please throw those of us who care about wild places and wildlife a bread crumb by adopting the provisions of Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Sandy Williams
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:49:41 AM

Affiliation
interest of wolves in Denali

I support the proposal 142, save the wolves in Denali and no trapping in the corridor. I have been in the Denali park several times and have not ever seen a wolf. Please put this back so they are saved. sandy



Submitted By
mary f. willson
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:48:11 PM
Affiliation

I strongly support full protection for the wolves and other predators on the borders of Denali. Alaska gets more economic value from tourism than from hunting and trapping; people come from all over the world to view our wildlife. Thousands of people benefit from viewing; only a very few derive any benefit from the killing of these animals. Viewing opportunities have declined dramatically, because of trapping and hunting on the park borders. These predators are also valuable for scientific study. Their value for tourism and for science greatly outweighs their value to a few trappers/hunters.

The BOG really needs to take a more ecological perspective, considering the interactions within the whole ecosystem. It has responsibility for maintaining the biodiversity in this (and other) areas, and should not be serving the demands of a few persons whose killings damage the system at a cost to the rest of us, many of whom take pride in being a citizen of this state where wildlife still could flourish. In short, the BOG should serve all of us, not just a few.



Submitted By
Maggie Howell
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:12:06 AM
Affiliation
Executive Director

Phone
9147632373
Email
maggie@nywolf.org
Address
PO Box 421
South Salem, New York 10590

The Wolf Conservation Center Supports Proposal 142

The Wolf Conservation Center is a nonprofit organization that promotes wolf education and conservation, and it is currently supported by more than 3 million people across North America and beyond. In addition to many other educational experiences, we promote educational tourism opportunities throughout the USA and Canada, which enable participants to observe and learn about wolves in their natural habitat. Encouraged by growing interest, we explored trips to Denali National Park for the sole purpose of planning educational wolf watching adventures. Despite difficult economic times, we remain eager to support Alaska's tourism industry.

It is our understanding that from 2000 until 2010, the State of Alaska prohibited wolf hunting and trapping in two areas bordering the park, the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas, in order to protect two of the park's three most-commonly viewed wolf packs. At the spring 2010 meeting of the Alaska Board of Game, the National Park Service submitted a proposal to extend the eastern boundary of the Stampede Closed Area. Instead, the Board of Game decided to eliminate both closed areas and allow hunting and trapping wolves in all areas bordering the park.

In 2010, Denali National Park and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, with the cooperation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, began a study of wolf movements, wolf survival, and wolf viewing opportunities along the Denali Park Road. During the course of the study in 2012, the death of a breeding female from a pack that lived along the Denali Park Road was followed by a drop in wolf sightings. This was one of several instances where the death of an individual wolf, from legal trapping or hunting, sparked widespread media attention and concern in recent years.

Unfortunately, the national reputation of the State of Alaska in terms of its commitment to wildlife tourism was damaged when the Alaska Board of Game rejected a petition urging the Board to enact a wolf buffer (no-trapping/no-hunting) zone on a small parcel of state land along the eastern boundary of Denali National Park in 2012. Sadly, wolf densities for the past three years have been the lowest in Denali since 1987. The number of wolves in Denali has declined from 147 in fall 2007 to only 49 now, and the number of wolf family groups ("packs") declined from 20 in 2008 to only nine now. Visitor wolf-viewing success has declined from 45 percent in 2010, when the buffer was eliminated by the state, to only 5 percent last year.

More than 530,000 visitors come to Denali each year, about 50,000 of whom are Alaskans. Many cite the opportunity to see wolves as one of their primary objectives for visiting the park. A journey to Alaska requires a substantial financial investment on the part of those visitors. It would be unethical for us to ask our supporters to spend their hard-earned dollars on such an experience when, in all probability, they may not see the very wildlife they expected to see during a "wolf-watching" adventure.

Beyond eco-tourism, it is important to note that a healthy wolf population is more than x-number of wolves inhabiting y-square miles of territory. The notion that we can "harvest" a fixed percentage of an existing wolf population that corresponds to natural mortality rates and still maintain a viable population misses the point. It's not how many wolves you kill, it's about which wolves you kill. Natural losses typically take younger wolves, whereas hunting and trapping take the older, experienced, wolves that are essential to the pack's sustainability. They know the territory, prey movements, hunting techniques, denning sites, pup rearing and teaching. When a breeding wolf is killed by humans, it sets off a chain of events that leaves the rest of the pack at serious risk of survival.

Denali is one of Alaska's top tourism attractions, and is responsible for more than \$500 million in economic activity each year in Alaska. Wolf viewing rates are an economic indicator in a tourism economy where many of our supporters say the prospects of seeing a wolf is the reason they want to visit Alaska. The state should realize the obvious ecological and economic benefits of restoring and sustaining the wildlife of Denali but has yet to hear the voices of countless wildlife educators and conservationists.

In addition, such practices as wolf bounties and wolf trapping send a clear signal to potential visitors that the locals do not respect the wolf's place as valuable native wildlife. If, however, the proposed buffer zone were enacted, we believe we could reasonably assure our supporters that all was being done to encourage a positive and rewarding eco-education and tourism experience.

It is clear that the Alaska Board of Game needs to reassess their intent and ask what part of the public their decisions serve. What narrow special interests are pushing for no buffers? Do the majority of Alaskans really go out to hunt and trap wolves? When all the facts are weighed, we believe the perceived need to kill wolves will appropriately dissipate.

Thus, we support the Alaskan people in their recent petition to Alaska's Governor Walker which asks for three significant adjustments to

the current predator control/Intensive Management (IM) practices which would dramatically reduce the unnecessary killing of Alaska's 166
wolves and bears. Not only will our organization be able to fulfill its educational mission, but the resulting positive ecological and economic
impacts will benefit Alaska's wild ecosystems, its citizens and its tourism industry.



Wolf Conservation Center Executive Director, Maggie Howell



Submitted By
Ron Yarnell
Submitted On
1/28/2017 9:46:41 PM
Affiliation
All About Adventure

Phone
907-452-8148
Email
adventure@alaska.net
Address
1231 Sundance Loop
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Board of Game,

My name is Ron Yarnell. I own a wilderness guiding business. I have been leading trips in Alaska's wilderness areas since 1971. Our clients come from all over the world to see the world class wilderness & wildlife found in Alaska.

For the last ten years or so Denali National Park has had a lot of bad press, because of the loss of the popular wolf pack in the Toklat River area. This is a real shame. For visitors, seeing a wolf is one of the greatest experiences of their visit to Alaska.

The unique situation along the Stampede Road has made it difficult to control the hunting & trapping of wolves that stray out of the park. A buffer zone solves this problem.

It is way past time to once again reinstitute this buffer zone.

I urge the Board of Game to approve Proposal #142. It is the right thing to do. This situation has gone on far too long.

Sincerely, Ron Yarnell



Submitted By
Jed Zimmerman
Submitted On
2/2/2017 4:03:37 PM
Affiliation
Mr.

Support Proposal 142

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK!



Submitted By
karen
Submitted On
2/3/2017 2:29:32 PM
Affiliation
self

I am writing in support of Proposal 142.

Time and again Alaskans have shown their support of wolves and the conservation of their populations. To wit, the many times we have voted against aerial hunts.

The Board has an opportunity to create a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon and should do so. We know that wolves travel beyond the borders of Denali National Park, so to not give them a natural buffer means the packs that are protected within the Park are actually at great risk.

Though wolves have an inherent value within a healthy ecosystem we also know that they are of high value to Park visitors, an important economic contributor to the state.

The Board has the authority and, I believe, responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. We know that without this buffer we will lose even more Denali wolves.

Please do your part to ensure the desire of a majority of Alaskans, which is the creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area, is upheld.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.



Submitted By
Linda
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:19:08 PM
Affiliation

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7037340671

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lseigm2@gnu.edu

Address
1312 Rockland Terrace
McLean, Virginia 22101

To Whom It May Concern, I urge you to support Proposal 142 for the following reasons: There is much we do not understand about wolves still and like so many other species, they form part of complex ecological webs. In addition, the wolf populations of Denali are a major draw for tourists and therefore catalyze significant revenues to the state. In their occupation and migration across territory, wolves are unable to discern the boundaries and borders that humans draw and this makes them extremely vulnerable to predation from humans. Finally, I think it is the responsibility of all human beings to concern and protect the extraordinary wilderness and wildlife that makes Denali what it is. My time there over several weeks was wondrous and I promised myself when I left that I would return again. Thank you for considering my comments when you make your decision.



Submitted By
nancy
Submitted On
1/30/2017 3:20:42 PM
Affiliation

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Girdwood, Alaska 99587

As a concerned citizen and property owner in the Village View Subdivision, located 8 miles south of the Denali Park Road, I support Proposal 142.

I strongly urge the Alaska Board of Game to exercise its authority and responsibility to support conservation of the remaining wolves in Denali Park. The diminishment in numbers of the Park's wolf population will continue if trapping near the Park is allowed. It goes without saying that wolves, smart as they are, still can't recognize the line drawn on a map that signifies the Park boundary. It is the Board of Game's duty to conserve the remaining wolves by protecting their home territory, and the most easily achieved option is to stop humans from trapping/killing Park wolves.

I sewed furs for many years in the 80's and 90's, back when I lived in Nome, Denali and Fairbanks, spending a lot of time in the cold with my dog team. Plenty of my fur mittens, ruffs, and hats kept a lot of other Alaskans warm. I bought a lot of wolf pelts, along with beaver, fox, marten, etc. I mention this only because I am not anti-trapping – rather, I am pro responsible trapping.

But the Denali Park wolves need to be conserved – they not only are a tourist attraction, but also offer opportunities for scientific study in a reasonably reachable and known environment. Once their very limited number has declined to a non-sustainable pack, we could very well lose their precious presence for a very long time, and perhaps forever.



Submitted By
Pari
Submitted On
2/3/2017 7:03:36 AM
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**I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER
ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK!**

- There is a precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. In 2001-02 the Board acknowledged that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, and set aside areas closed to hunting. The park's wolf population (Spring 2002) was 97 wolves, far more than inhabit the park now.
- The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.
- The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.
- Visitors to Denali want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to our economy.
- A mere 4 percent chance that a visitor will spot a wolf along the Park Road (as documented by the National Park Service in 2015) is an abysmally low number. Before the buffer was scrapped in 2010, nearly 50 percent saw a wolf.



Submitted By
SHEILA CROTEAU
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:20:28 PM
Affiliation
Ms

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Address
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W SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts 01089

Please give the wolves your protection.



Submitted By
Roger Hewitt
Submitted On
2/3/2017 11:14:23 AM
Affiliation

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Wolves need protection from hunters, trappers, and others. They are important to balanced wildlife ecology, to healthy wilderness as a keystone species. They are also more important to your economy than hunters and trappers, as a tourism draw and the image of your state. Hunters and trappers only harm the wildlife ecology by their remunerative and recreational killing, and by the additive nature of their depredations. It is not the wolves that kill too many ungulates, it is the hunting.



Submitted By

kate johnston

Submitted On

1/29/2017 4:39:52 PM

Affiliation

Please set restrictions on wolf hunting in your beautiful State. I am a former resident. Thank you. Kate Johnston



Submitted By
Dennis Stogsdill
Submitted On
1/31/2017 8:48:58 PM
Affiliation

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Millwood, New York 10546

Are you crazy to allow further hurting of wolves? Your #1 resource is your natural resources...don't go screwing it up like the other 49 states!



Submitted By
Patty Trammell
Submitted On
1/12/2017 8:34:44 PM
Affiliation

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Please don't kill the wolves for trying to survive. They are innocent and are only doing what's been done for generations. You could try relocation of wolves and of their prey. If you kill our wildlife there may not be any left someday and it will be too late to save them. Hunters just want a trophy for their living rooms. Thank you, for your time.



2



The general public is under the impression that DNP is a magnificent park where animals are completely wild and their numbers are unmanipulated by man. People are horrified when they find out that the Denali wolves are slaughtered as soon as they leave the park. They are even more horrified when they find out about the State's practice of collaring wolves to kill off entire packs or allowing people to kill pups in their dens or kill wolves when their pelts are worthless. These inhumane and unethical hunting practices—airial gunning, denning, killing over bait—are an embarrassment. The least you can do is protect the few wolves who live along DNP and reinstate the buffer rule.

Please do the right thing for Alaska by protecting these wolves. The Board knows that 85% of residents don't hunt. The Board knows that DNP is visited by hundreds of thousands of people each year. The Board knows that these visitors bring millions of dollars into the State each year. The Board knows that the wolf population has been decimated since the buffer zone was eliminated in 2010. **Therefore, the Board must know that the buffer zone is a necessity for our economy, natural diversity, and for public enjoyment of DNP.** The rest of Alaskans (and the millions who come here from all around the world) want to see the wolves alive. Stop catering to the handful of Trapper Creek trappers and hunters and listen to everyone else who wants to see these animals flourish in their natural habitat.

Kiss A Moose supports Proposal 142 and supports wolves having an opportunity to live in their natural habitat without interference and inhumane hunting and trapping methods.

Thank you,

Jeanette Frost
Director of Business Development



Submitted By
james e kowalsky
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:51:50 PM
Affiliation
self

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9074882434

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pobox 10640
820 amanita rd
fairbanks, Alaska 99710

I am supporting proposal 142 and I am urging the Board of Game to pass this proposal. This is central to the future of wolves that are a central attraction to visitors to Denali National Park. The visitor industry is a major component of the Alaskan economy. Wildlife viewing is paramount and must be considered as such in deliberations and decisions of the Board of Game. The attraction of Alaskan wildlife experiences including viewing has become a major use of Alaskan wildlife. The decimation of Denali wolves due to trapping and hunting has a negative impact upon visitor viewing of Denali wolves and has been documented in peer reviewed published reserach. This situation cannot be ignored in management decisons by the board. I make this earnest and personal plea to not choose half measures and to pass 142 as a major component of an overall economic reality of our state. Such support for wildlife viewing experiences is central to the good stewardship necessary to continued building of a major sustainable feature of our Alaskan economy and cannot in good conscience and good management be cast aside and ignored. Please do your shatre with passage of this proposal. Thank you.

James Kowalsy Fairbanks



Submitted By
Catherine Kershner
Submitted On
1/29/2017 5:12:49 PM
Affiliation

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907 474-2022

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Please adopt some measure of added protection for the wolves in the Stampede Trail / Nenana Canyon. The financial gain of a few in the area who squander this unique resource for their personal betterment is irresponsible and short-sighted. Scientific studies conducted recently directly relate the wolf populations and pack integrity to the taking of alpha females, an act that has directly impacted park packs in recent years and a practice that needs to be avoided at all costs if the parks populations are to recover. The financial value of these wolves is far greater if they are seen in the park alive rather than on a hangar on a showroom floor or displayed privately in some wealthy trophy-hunter's wall. It is suspected that borders are where they are in the first place - it is an arrangement that was never fair to the wildlife in the area, and continuing this system is unconscionable. I hope you will give the wolves - and those who value them for more than the price of the hunt or their pelt - a chance to experience this vital part of Alaska as it was meant to be.

Catherine Kershner

Fairbanks

2220 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709



PC175
2 of 2

2



Submitted By
Mary Lou Johnson
Submitted On
1/31/2017 7:48:17 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

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Spokane, Washington 99224

I am writing in support of increasing protection for wolves as contemplated in Proposal 142. I've had the privilege of hearing a pack of wolves one night while doing volunteer trail work near the Snake River and I will never forget it. I was a second time visitor to Denali National Park this summer along with thousands of other tourists. I came to see the wildlife primarily but unfortunately I neither saw nor heard any wolves. I know that they are very vulnerable to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land. It is critically important that we have intact, diverse animal populations in the Denali region. Of greater benefit to the State of Alaska are the revenues from tourism to Denali National Park than the hunting and trapping licenses sold for the taking of wolves on adjacent state lands. Please exercise your authority to fulfill your responsibility to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region for the generations that follow ours. "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." Native American Proverb.



Submitted By
Frank Keim
Submitted On
1/31/2017 8:54:14 PM
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individual

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2220 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

ADFG BOARD OF GAME



To Whom It May Concern:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on saving the wolves of Denali National Park.

I'm a 56-year resident of Alaska and an owner of land on the Teklanika River immediately adjacent to the National Park. I would like to add my voice to those who wish to save the remaining 49 wolves in the Park by asking you to reinstate the protective Buffer Zone that you dismantled in 2010.

I have read Proposal 142 written and submitted by the Denali Citizens Council to the Board of Game for your consideration on Feb. 18, 2017, and I agree with both the letter and spirit of their proposal and the boundaries they recommend for the Buffer Zone.

Here are my reasons why I believe Denali wolves should be protected:

These wolves are important for the maintenance of the integrity of the ecosystem of the Park and the surrounding area. Since 2010, the wolves have suffered drastic declines in their numbers as a direct result of hunting and trapping on the N.E. borders of the Park.

The value of these wolves for continued scientific study is extremely important.

The importance of these wolves cannot be overestimated in terms of their monetary value to tourism. Viewing statistics by tourists (including myself) of these wolves are at an all-time low. This could have negative consequences for the local and state tourism economy.

It is the legal responsibility of the State of Alaska to protect these wolves as an integral part of the ecosystem of the area so that all Alaskan citizens may benefit equally from them whether for non-consumptive or consumptive uses.

Please respect these words and vote to restore the Buffer Zone.

Thanks.

Frank Keim



Submitted By
Gordon Isakson
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:12:18 AM
Affiliation

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Sacramento, California 95818

I am a California resident who has visited Alaska a number of times and strongly urge the Board to support Proposal 142 to protect Denali Park's wild wolf population. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By

Mollie Isaacs

Submitted On

2/1/2017 10:39:13 AM

Affiliation

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418 W. Palmetto St.

Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina 27948

Dear Board Members,

I am writing in support of Proposal 142, which would prohibit the take of wolves on lands adjacent to Denali National Park. I travel to the park every year, and bring photography groups from all over the country to the North Face Lodge. Each group expresses the most interest in seeing wolves, but we rarely see them. In the last 6 times I have visited the park, I have seen only 2 wolves. By comparison, each year we routinely see brown bear, caribou, moose, and more.

The number of wolves in the park is already very low, and is down by half from what it had been in the 2002 count. If the numbers continue to diminish, soon the packs will be unable to reproduce in adequate numbers to sustain themselves. If things remain unchanged, given that the wolf population is half of what it was 15 years ago, the chances are good that there will no wolves left in the area at all in another 15 years. That would be a very sad day for Denali National Park, for its visitors, for Alaska, and of course for the wolves.

A big reason photographers travel with me to Denali National Park is to experience our country's Last Frontier. They also are eager to see a variety of species in the wild. And for so many people the wolf represents, more than almost any other animal, what wilderness and wildness are all about.

My understanding is that the wolves routinely cross boundaries from the protection of the National Park onto unprotected state land, and back again, as their needs require. The moment they leave the protection of the Park boundary, they are vulnerable to hunting and trapping. This would be minimized with the adoption of this proposal.

While money should not be the primary reason for any conservation efforts, the fact is that finances do have to be considered. It seems clear that revenues from tourism in the state of Alaska and Denali National Park are far in excess of any revenue that comes from issuing hunting and trapping licenses. The regional and state economies would benefit from the preservation of the Denali wolf population.

Wolves have always had great appeal. We revere their strength, their cunning, their group cooperation, their family values, and their beauty. Now is the time to protect their numbers, and preserve their presence in Denali National Park for the long-term future. It is the duty and responsibility of the Alaska Board of Game to assure the conservation and protection of the wildlife and the wilderness of this region. You have the mandated authority to take this action, and I hope that you will see fit to enact Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Becky Irish
Submitted On
1/28/2017 7:08:46 PM
Affiliation

I fully support Proposal 142 – prohibiting the take of wolves on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park.

I am Becky Irish and I have lived in McKinley Village for 19 years; I own my home in what I believe is the most beautiful place on the planet. I am a military veteran having retired from Clear AFS after serving 20 years in the Air Force. I am also a wilderness tour guide in Denali National Park and Preserve and have driven the Denali Park Road for the past 16 years. I interact with thousands of tourists throughout the summer who ride my tour bus into the park. Their primary reason for visiting DENALI is to see wildlife in their natural environment. Visitors feel disappointed on days with low wildlife sightings; they feel cheated when I tell them wolf numbers are at such low levels that they probably will never see one. Visitors walk away with a feeling of a wasted trip to Alaska, they may feel as though the tourist brochures portraying bears and wolves gave them false hope of experiencing a wild place. For many of my visitors - the Denali Park Road is the "wildest" place they may ever experience in their lives. If you were to talk to the old timers around here who have driven buses into the park for 30 or 40 years, they will tell you wildlife sightings now a days are fewer and farer between. The Denali Park Road really is one of the last places left on the planet where a visitor can ride on a bus for a day and have the opportunity to view sub-arctic wildlife.

Please prohibit the take of wolves on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park.



Submitted By

Teresa Hunt

Submitted On

2/2/2017 7:31:24 AM

Affiliation

I support proposal 142 mainly on moral grounds. I think it is wrong to establish a wolf population only to kill it off - what is the point? My husband and I have been hunters in the past, but we killed only for food. The hunters that target wolves are killing for sport. Trapping wolves for fur may have been necessary in the past, but those days are long gone. I can sympathize with ranchers who have to protect their herds - the presence of wolves adds another layer of difficulty, and the ranchers did not choose to have wolves reintroduced. The need to dispatch a wolf that can not be discouraged from targeting livestock may be necessary from time to time, but to kill a wolf for "fun", or as in the case of trapping, for money, is just wrong. Although it is unrealistic to think we can stop sport hunting, we can at least give the Denali wolves a little more of a chance for survival with this proposal. I am a wildlife biologist, and have been to Denali, though it was many years ago, and I saw no wolves. I've hunted elk in the area surrounding the park, as well. It is a stunning area, and wolves complete the picture there. I hope to someday see a Denali wolf, and this proposal would certainly help make that possible. But it's not about me. It's about a population of wolves that has been allowed to thrive only to be culled. Adults foraging for food are killed as they enter hunting zones, negatively affecting their pup's chances of surviving. It is only fair to give these spectacular animals a chance for a healthy, happy life - we share the earth with them, and they deserve as special a life as we seek for ourselves.



Submitted By

Jean Hulbert

Submitted On

2/1/2017 11:32:43 AM

Affiliation

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Please support the protection of wolves from hunting on State lands adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve with Proposal 142. Park wolf populations are vulnerble to hunting and trapping when they cross Park boundaries onto State land. Visitors come from around the world to see the diverse wildlife in Denali National Park, and wolves are an important an special part of that diversity. It doesn't make sense to protect them in the Park only to have them hunted if they cross into State land.



Submitted By
Mark Huckel
Submitted On
2/3/2017 5:33:34 AM
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142 should be set in place and enforced



Submitted By
Arthur Howle
Submitted On
2/3/2017 10:03:49 AM
Affiliation

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8045196035

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615 Westham Woods drive
[Richmond, Virginia 23229](#)

I support the proposal for the establishment of a wolf sanctuary buffer zone adjacent to the Denali National Park.



the current predator control/intensive Management (IM) practices which would dramatically reduce the unnecessary killing of Alaska

wolves and bears. Not only will our organization be able to fulfill its educational mission, but the resulting positive ecological and economic impacts will benefit Alaska's wild ecosystems, its citizens and its tourism industry.

Wolf Conservation Center Executive Director, Maggie Howell

2



Submitted By
Marilyn Houser
Submitted On
2/3/2017 12:02:50 PM
Affiliation
Long time Alaskan

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9072782122

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Address
2411 Ingra Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

I support proposal 142. The proposed buffer (defined in the proposal) outside Denali National Park needs to be restored as an area closed to hunting and trapping of wolves. Removal of the buffer area has led to a reduction in the number of wolves and stable wolf packs in the park and significantly reduced the opportunities for Alaskans and visitors to our state to view wolves. I have lived in Alaska almost 40 years and despite numerous visits to DNP in the last +10 years I have not seen or heard a single wolf. There was a time when I frequently would catch a distant howl or a brief glimpse. PLEASE APPROVE PROPOSAL 142.



Submitted By
Maggie Howell
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:12:06 AM
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Executive Director

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South Salem, New York 10590



The Wolf Conservation Center Supports Proposal 142

The Wolf Conservation Center is a nonprofit organization that promotes wolf education and conservation, and it is currently supported by more than 3 million people across North America and beyond. In addition to many other educational experiences, we promote educational tourism opportunities throughout the USA and Canada, which enable participants to observe and learn about wolves in their natural habitat. Encouraged by growing interest, we explored trips to Denali National Park for the sole purpose of planning educational wolf watching adventures. Despite difficult economic times, we remain eager to support Alaska's tourism industry.

It is our understanding that from 2000 until 2010, the State of Alaska prohibited wolf hunting and trapping in two areas bordering the park, the Stampede and Nenana Canyon Closed Areas, in order to protect two of the park's three most-commonly viewed wolf packs. At the spring 2010 meeting of the Alaska Board of Game, the National Park Service submitted a proposal to extend the eastern boundary of the Stampede Closed Area. Instead, the Board of Game decided to eliminate both closed areas and allow hunting and trapping wolves in all areas bordering the park.

In 2010, Denali National Park and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, with the cooperation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, began a study of wolf movements, wolf survival, and wolf viewing opportunities along the Denali Park Road. During the course of the study in 2012, the death of a breeding female from a pack that lived along the Denali Park Road was followed by a drop in wolf sightings. This was one of several instances where the death of an individual wolf, from legal trapping or hunting, sparked widespread media attention and concern in recent years.

Unfortunately, the national reputation of the State of Alaska in terms of its commitment to wildlife tourism was damaged when the Alaska Board of Game rejected a petition urging the Board to enact a wolf buffer (no-trapping/no-hunting) zone on a small parcel of state land along the eastern boundary of Denali National Park in 2012. Sadly, wolf densities for the past three years have been the lowest in Denali since 1987. The number of wolves in Denali has declined from 147 in fall 2007 to only 49 now, and the number of wolf family groups ("packs") declined from 20 in 2008 to only nine now. Visitor wolf-viewing success has declined from 45 percent in 2010, when the buffer was eliminated by the state, to only 5 percent last year.

More than 530,000 visitors come to Denali each year, about 50,000 of whom are Alaskans. Many cite the opportunity to see wolves as one of their primary objectives for visiting the park. A journey to Alaska requires a substantial financial investment on the part of those visitors. It would be unethical for us to ask our supporters to spend their hard-earned dollars on such an experience when, in all probability, they may not see the very wildlife they expected to see during a "wolf-watching" adventure.

Beyond eco-tourism, it is important to note that a healthy wolf population is more than x-number of wolves inhabiting y-square miles of territory. The notion that we can "harvest" a fixed percentage of an existing wolf population that corresponds to natural mortality rates and still maintain a viable population misses the point. It's not how many wolves you kill, it's about which wolves you kill. Natural losses typically take younger wolves, whereas hunting and trapping take the older, experienced, wolves that are essential to the pack's sustainability. They know the territory, prey movements, hunting techniques, denning sites, pup rearing and teaching. When a breeding wolf is killed by humans, it sets off a chain of events that leaves the rest of the pack at serious risk of survival.

Denali is one of Alaska's top tourism attractions, and is responsible for more than \$500 million in economic activity each year in Alaska. Wolf viewing rates are an economic indicator in a tourism economy where many of our supporters say the prospects of seeing a wolf is the reason they want to visit Alaska. The state should realize the obvious ecological and economic benefits of restoring and sustaining the wildlife of Denali but has yet to hear the voices of countless wildlife educators and conservationists.

In addition, such practices as wolf bounties and wolf trapping send a clear signal to potential visitors that the locals do not respect the wolf's place as valuable native wildlife. If, however, the proposed buffer zone were enacted, we believe we could reasonably assure our supporters that all was being done to encourage a positive and rewarding eco-education and tourism experience.

It is clear that the Alaska Board of Game needs to reassess their intent and ask what part of the public their decisions serve. What narrow special interests are pushing for no buffers? Do the majority of Alaskans really go out to hunt and trap wolves? When all the facts are weighed, we believe the perceived need to kill wolves will appropriately dissipate.

Thus, we support the Alaskan people in their recent petition to Alaska's Governor Walker which asks for three significant adjustments to



Submitted By
Dan Hestad
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:02:52 AM
Affiliation

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It is clearly in the best interests of Alaska, visitors to Denali, and all Americans that these wolves should be protected. Science has continuously shown that ecosystems thrive when wolves are part of it. Further, wolves are not generally a threat to humans or human activity. Finally, there is a significant financial benefit to protecting wolves in and around the National Park. As a wildlife photographer, I know the attraction people have to wolves. Some wait a lifetime for the chance to see one. Many pay significant money to take pictures of them. They are a national treasure.



Submitted By
Thom Hogan
Submitted On
2/1/2017 5:28:34 AM
Affiliation

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This comment is in reference to Proposal 142, establishing a buffer area for wolves adjacent to Denali National Park.

As a professional wildlife photographer who's worked in Denali National Park and the bounding areas many times over the last 25 years, and as someone who's contributed large sums to research within the park itself, I support the establishment of a buffer zone where wolves are not hunted. I believe that it's needed. I've watched critical habitats worldwide where edge boundary conditions have led to animal endangerment. In Denali, the proposed areas to be closed are particularly important: one is essentially an arbitrary reach into the protected areas and bounded on three sides by them, the other is the area where humans congregate and have a tendency to tempt wild animals through things like improper waste disposal and even something as simple as smell.

Let it be known that I'm not someone who believes in getting rid of hunting, only that we manage where and how we hunt in ways that are not producing highly negative results to animal populations in healthy ecosystems. I've contributed to animal research all around the world, and the one thing that comes up again and again is the dangers to animal populations when ill-considered human incursion (and hunting) take place at arbitrary boundaries the animals aren't likely to understand or respect. I've witnessed wolves in the areas where the hunting ban is proposed, and for good reason: one of the packs at the time was crossing that land as part of its overall territory. As you well know, the Denali wolves have fairly large territories; I think we're putting boundaries in that don't jive with their daily habits. Packs established outside the park boundaries and not protected from hunting are a different story, but they also don't tend to use the area in question. What's trying to be done with this proposal is make sure that the wolf packs native to Denali NP have a secure territory where they won't be hunted.

One of the reasons I return to Denali, often bringing a large group of workshop students, is because of the wolves. Not necessarily just the wolves per se, but the broad and interesting diversity of the animal populations contained within the park, and yes, the drama of animals living with and hunting other animals, as the wolves do. Denali is one of the few places in the US where we still have close to a fully functioning ecosystem. Damaging that in any way would start to remove the incentive for me and others to travel the long way to see it in action. If pack size gets reduced too much through hunting adjacent to the park, you may not have hunters coming to Alaska any more, too. The risk involved with not making this small protection is far too high.

Personally, I'm happy that you're even considering Proposal 142. There are places in the world that are not listening to constituencies and not living up to the responsibility of their job. Please consider the proposal carefully. I believe that closing those areas to hunting will help Alaska conserve the wildlife of the region and continue to make it attraction to ecotourism.



Submitted By
Dianne Herman
Submitted On
1/29/2017 8:37:58 PM
Affiliation

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Although I get my mail in Cantwell, I live in the McKinley Village area. Since I first moved here, in 2005, I have seen fewer and fewer wolves on the trails in our area. (I mush dogs.) I am concerned about the wolves who wander out of the Denali Natl Park boundaries, and are thus prone to being killed by sport hunters and trappers. (Let's face it: who eats wolf meat???) My fellow neighbors like to see wolves. Thousands of tourists who visit Denali in the summer like to see wolves. Many of the wolf packs are being decimated because important members of their packs wander over the borders and get killed. There are plenty of caribou around, enough for humans to eat and wolves to eat. Let's permanently reinstate the buffer zone on the Stampede end of the Park!



Submitted By
Melissa Head
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:09:26 PM
Affiliation

I am submitting this comment in support of Proposal 142. Wolves in Denali National Park and Denali State Park are important to Alaska's economy and provide an important role in the population dynamics of the parks. As an apex predator, wolves require a large home range and it has been documented that these wolves traverse the park boundaries. Wolves predictably den and spend their summers within the National Park and then travel onto State lands in the winter and spring. These are the same wolves that draw tourists from all over the world and bring in millions of tourism dollars. Because of the lack of protection on State lands, the wolf population has seen a steady decline. The Board of Game has statutory authority to conserve its resources and supporting the larger no-take zone as described in Proposal 142 will help conserve this important state resource.



Submitted By
Melanie Heacox
Submitted On
1/30/2017 12:27:25 PM
Affiliation

~~Dear Alaska Board of Game,
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Proposal 142, scheduled for discussion at the Region III meetings Feb. 17-25, 2017.

Please prohibit the take of wolves on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park.
The Alaska Board of Game has acted in the past to create no wolf take zones to enhance their numbers for the viewing public. And that was at a time when the Denali population was double, what it is now. This idea makes economic sense and fulfills ADF&G management goals for wolves. It's time to do it again.
Here are the key points:

- These wolves face a specific risk from both hunting and trapping, when they take forays onto state lands at the northeast boundaries of the park.
- These wolves are of international importance for both tourism and scientific study.
- There is a biological and economic value in preserving a diverse animal population.
- The Board of Game has both the responsibility and authority to provide conservation on state lands in this region.

Unquestionably, Denali National Park's iconic wolves are high on visitors' lists of animals they hope to see. Those visitors spend money that has an enormous impact on the local Denali economy. A recent NPS report showed that the more than 530,000 visitors who came to the park in 2014 spent **\$5.24 million dollars in nearby communities.**

Therefore, I request that the Board of Game establish "no-wolf-take zones" in GMU 20, adjacent to Denali National Park as stated in Proposal 142. This reallocation of use from hunting/trapping - to viewing wolves will enhance the economic benefit of this area to all Alaskans. The local and state tourism economies will benefit when visitors have an improved chance of seeing wolves. And it will benefit the almost thirty years of collaborative scientific study of wolf ecology in the Denali region.

Thank you.



Submitted By

Elizabeth Hatton

Submitted On

1/29/2017 12:07:26 PM

Affiliation

Phone

907 277 9968

Email

libbyh@alaska.net

Address

8601 Sultana Drive

Anchorage, Alaska 99516

I am writing in support of Proposal 142 which would establish some closed areas next to and surrounded by Denali National Park for the protection of iconic wolf families that often den in or near the east end of Denali National Park. These wolves are of special interest to tourists and Alaskans alike and serve as educational representatives of their species. Hunting and trapping are contributing to their decreased numbers.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Patricia OBrien
Submitted On
2/3/2017 4:09:54 PM
Affiliation

Phone
(907) 789-9405

Email
patriciaobrien@gci.net

Address
PO Box 35451
Juneau, Alaska 99803

~~Please support Proposal 142

Numerous studies demonstrate that wildlife watchers far outnumber hunters and trappers and bring in many times more revenue than hunting and trapping. Especially in this time of economic hardship for Alaska, it only makes sense to support a buffer area for Denali. As an Alaskan for almost 50 years I've been fortunate to visit Denali and see wildlife including wolves and bears several times. But for tourists, photographers, and videographers, seeing wildlife, especially the larger ungulates and carnivores is a big deal. Our wildlife ranks as one of Alaska's biggest draws, perhaps the biggest.

With bear baiting now allowed, the number of carnivores that can be viewed from the road in Denali, especially wolves, has dropped. It is humiliating for Alaskan's when a trapper brags to a National Geographic photographer that he spoiled wildlife viewing for thousands of tourists. Many of us count on tourism for a living. Do the right thing and pass this or the previous proposal for a Denali buffer zone. Wildlife watchers, including those who wish to view and photograph carnivores, should have the chance of their lifetime to view these marvelous creatures.

Thank you for considering my comments.



Submitted By
John Nordstrom
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:22:22 PM
Affiliation

Phone
978-546-2039

Email
john_nordstrom@hotmail.com

Address
13 Pleasant Street
Rockport, Massachusetts 01966

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to urge you to reinstate protection of wolf populations in the Stampede Road area and to the east of the Park entrance. I visit Alaska and Denali National Park every few years and feel strongly that the presence of wolves in the park is not only vital for the balance of nature, but that seeing a wolf in the wild, is also a source of great pleasure to the park visitors. It is a shame that a handful of hunters and trappers are allowed to kill the Denali wolves when they stray outside of the park thereby depriving so many of the chance to see one in the park. I hope you will decide in favor of the many who come so far to witness the beauty of Alaska and its wildlife. I am sure you realize that these visitors also spend a lot of money and create a lot of jobs in your state.

Best Regards,

John Nordstrom



Submitted By
Francis H. Noedel
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:53:46 AM
Affiliation
Visitor

A few years ago I had to opportunity to spend several days in Denali Park. Because of the wildlife I saw it remains the trip of my lifetime, and I'm nearly 80. Among the Parks many wonders are the wolves. Since they don't appreciate boundries we might draw on a map, they are bound to sometimes stray outside the protection of the park. So, I strongly urge you to adopt proposal 142 and protect the wolves from human predation in the areas designated.

Thank you.

Francis H Noedel

Bainbridge Island, WA



Submitted By
William Nichols
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:40:08 AM
Affiliation

Phone
(603) 444-2257
Email
labradortea@yahoo.com

Address
63 East St.
Littleton, New Hampshire 03561

My first siting of a wild wolf was on a trip to Camp Denali not far from the Illeson Visitors Center. It was a most memorable experience for me and as I tell others of this event creating a desire for others to visit this wonderfully wild place. Excited reports to the population back home = more tourists = tourists bring money to AK = tourism is a clean industry.

Another concern of mine is the wildlife crossing from protected Park land into state land where trapping & hunting jepordises their well being.

I trust that my feelings for the support of Proposal 142 to the Region III hearing will become part of the record.

Respectfully, William Nichols, 2/1/17



Submitted By
Iris Neary
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:07:49 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-321-9090

Email
jump4chickens@yahoo.com

Address
17735 Pt. Stephens
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I write in full support of proposal 142. I work as a naturalist and hiking guide in Denali National Park, and have been a lifelong Alaskan. I see wolves as the epitome of a wild and healthy ecosystem. The guests I guide are always asking to see a wolf in Denali, and to them wolves symbolize a breathtakingly natural environment. Even if the data as of today does not claim that hunting and trapping wolves outside the park boundaries impacts the visitor experience inside the park, I still want to help the Alaskan wolf population thrive for the awe inspired in people, and the presence of a thriving natural habitat.



Submitted By
Donald Neptune
Submitted On
2/2/2017 3:50:22 PM
Affiliation

Phone
530 365 4861
Email
djnep1@charter.net
Address
21353 Oak Park Ln
Anderson, California 96007

Wolves around Denali Park, Proposal 142

I fully support the proposal to prohibit the killing of wolves who populate Denali Park and its surrounding lands. I understand this proposal is similar to a previous ban which seemed to contribute to an improvement of the wolf population and survival of the Denali Wolf packs, and that support should be renewed.

I have been to Denali on four different occasions with 3-generations of family, a father, a brother, my wife, some Alaska canoe partners, and most recently my grandson. We have stayed for several days inside the park on 3 different occasions, and just outside the park on three of those trips, including one bus trip to Wonder Lake.

The Park is a wilderness that needs to be protected, with the wildlife to remain as an attraction. The Wolves and Bears, and Caribou, and Moose, and Sheep and the rest of the wildlife there all create exciting memories, and all should be part of a natural balance of nature. Allowing human interference with a detrimental impact should be discouraged. Action which supports a dwindling population should be encouraged. Denali Wolves should be protected from hunting and remain a viable part of the park and its future qualities.

When wolves leave the Park for such reasons as following Caribou migrations they become vulnerable to human depredation. It is most appropriate to leave the wolves free and allow them to remain a part of the wilderness environment that the Denali Park represents.



Submitted By
Dana
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:16:40 AM
Affiliation
tourist

I visited Denali Park as a tourist recently, and it is one of the highlights of my life. I had the privilege of seeing a wolf in the wild. The wolf was walking down the main road during the day, and it was an extraordinary stroke of luck to see him. The leader pair of the last remaining wolf pack in Denali National Park had been killed when they were roaming out of the park, and the pack had broken up. The chance of the wolves surviving without their leaders to pass down their considerable knowledge was quite slim. The wolves are a main attraction to tourists, and their loss could impact tourism in the park. Please do all you can to preserve this precious resource that is so quickly disappearing. Thank you, Dana Nearburg

5



Seeing the Wolves is one of the main reasons we took a tour of Denali park. We were fortunate six years ago to see one.

- Ms. Sue Habecker
Lebanon, PA

As a fifty-year resident of this wonderful State, I thank you for your consideration.

- Ms. Dianna Ligus
Anchorage

This desire to see wolves in their native surroundings is #1 on my "Bucket List." That & the uniqueness of your incredible State.

- Linda Gooding
Cadiz, Ohio

Thank you for considering the viewpoint of NPCA members from across Alaska and across the country.

Sincerely,

Joan Frankevich, Program Manager
on behalf of NPCA members and supporters

Alaska Regional Office



4

"The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

- Mr. Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA

Continuing the current policy of allowing hunting and trapping of wolves outside Denali National Park has significantly impacted the wolf population. As a result the chance of being able to see wolves in their natural habitat has also decreased. With the current challenges to Alaska's economy, tourism dollars are increasingly vital to the health of our economy.

- Sandra Ryan
Anchorage

Spent a whole summer in Alaska in 1976. Not once did I see a wolf. My second visit was with my daughter when she was about 6 years old. No wolf sightings and we were camping out, not staying in a hotel. Then when she married she and her husband went to Alaska for their honeymoon. They went to Denali again, no wolf sighting. Trust me, people go to Alaska to see wildlife and the beautiful environment.

Now my daughter has a little girl. I wonder how things will be for her generation. Please do current and future generations a service and support proposal #142. ,

- Joan Estes
Canyon, Texas

There is much more area available for hunting and trapping if that is what someone desires. Let the estimated half million visitors at least have the hope of seeing a wolf in the wild...the symbol of wilderness.

- Ms. N J Gates
Denali Park

I went to Denali two years ago for the purpose of seeing wolves and did not see one.

- Ms. Diane Weinstein
Issaquah, WA

I have personally been to Denali National Park twice already and have seen wolves from a distance both times. I am hoping sometime in the future to be able to repeat that experience.

- Mrs. Linda Sutherland
Ballwin, MO

Alaska Regional Office

3



When reflecting on this issue, please weigh the value of tourism dollars to the Alaskan economy. This sustainable income source is largely driven by the icon image of the wolf and the possibility of seeing these majestic creatures.

- Miss Melissa Sanderson
Casper, WY

As an Alaskan I would hope you would represent the interests of all citizens in the State.

- Ms. Linda Shaw
Juneau

Wolves are an essential part of a healthy eco-system by maintaining the genetic health of the prey species as well as helping to preserve a biologically-sustainable prey population level. Multiple studies within the National Park System and outside of it have well-documented the constructive role of this iconic predator.

Besides the wildlife scientific aspect, one of the primary reasons people like me choose to visit national parks is to see wildlife in its native habitat. My family greatly enjoyed our visit to Yellowstone for that reason alone, which included wolf and grizzly sightings.

I urge you to support proposal #142 to protect Denali's wolves and the opportunity for Americans from across the country to see them in the wild as well as maintaining a healthy Denali eco-system.

- Mr. Don Robinson
Chester Springs, PA

My wife and I have spent some time in Denali and truly think of this as one of America's crown jewels. All wildlife is valuable and the wolves need our protection.

- Mr. Mark Bloch
Anchorage

I intend to go to Alaska and I would hope to see wolves.

- Ms. Sheila Swigert
Staten Island, NY

Alaska Regional Office



2

Excerpts from some of the 1,280 personal comments added to the above letter:

On a visit to Denali National Park, I had the good fortune of seeing three wolves near a creek. I was able to watch them, from a safe distance, for a while. On the same day, I saw a grizzly sow with her cub. As of that time, I had spent most of my life living in Indiana. Perhaps you will understand when I tell you that this was a special day in my life; a day I shall always cherish.

- Ms. Janet Parsanko
Billings, MT

Most importantly, I value the Alaskan experience. As a 23-year Alaskan hunter, fisherman, outdoor writer, and wildlife biologist, and one who saw an entire wolf pack with all my bus mates one trip out into the Park, I recognize the value of protecting a few populations so that others can see the wonders of the wild lands of Alaska.

- Mr. Jeff Fair
Palmer, AK

Wolves also are an important component to the Denali ecosystem. Witness what the introduction of wolves did for Yellowstone Park. Yellowstone had been transformed to a healthy ecosystem. Damage that had occurred due to the imbalance was corrected.

- Ms. Kristine Hutchin
Eagle River, AK

I was blessed with the opportunity to live and work in Yellowstone National Park this summer. It was an amazing experience to see wolves for the first time in my life. It was very interesting to see the thousands of people who came just to watch and photograph these wolves.

- Ms. Lydia Kennedy
Vero Beach, FL

Denali is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen, and its wild creatures are essential to its charm.

- Dr. Marguerite Shuster
Sierra Madre, CA

Alaska Regional Office



February 3, 2017

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Submitted via email to: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

NPCA member comments in support of Proposal #142

Dear members of the Board of Game,

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and preserving America's national parks. Recently we sent a message to our members asking for their support of Proposal #142. Our members care deeply about national parks and wildlife and we received an especially large response to this message: 16,267 took action and sent the message below. Additionally, 1,280 of those who responded also added their own personal thoughts and comments. For your convenience, we have summarized the results here.

Over 16,000 NPCA members responded and sent the following letter:

Subject: Denali Wolves Should Be Seen, Not Hunted. Support proposal #142.

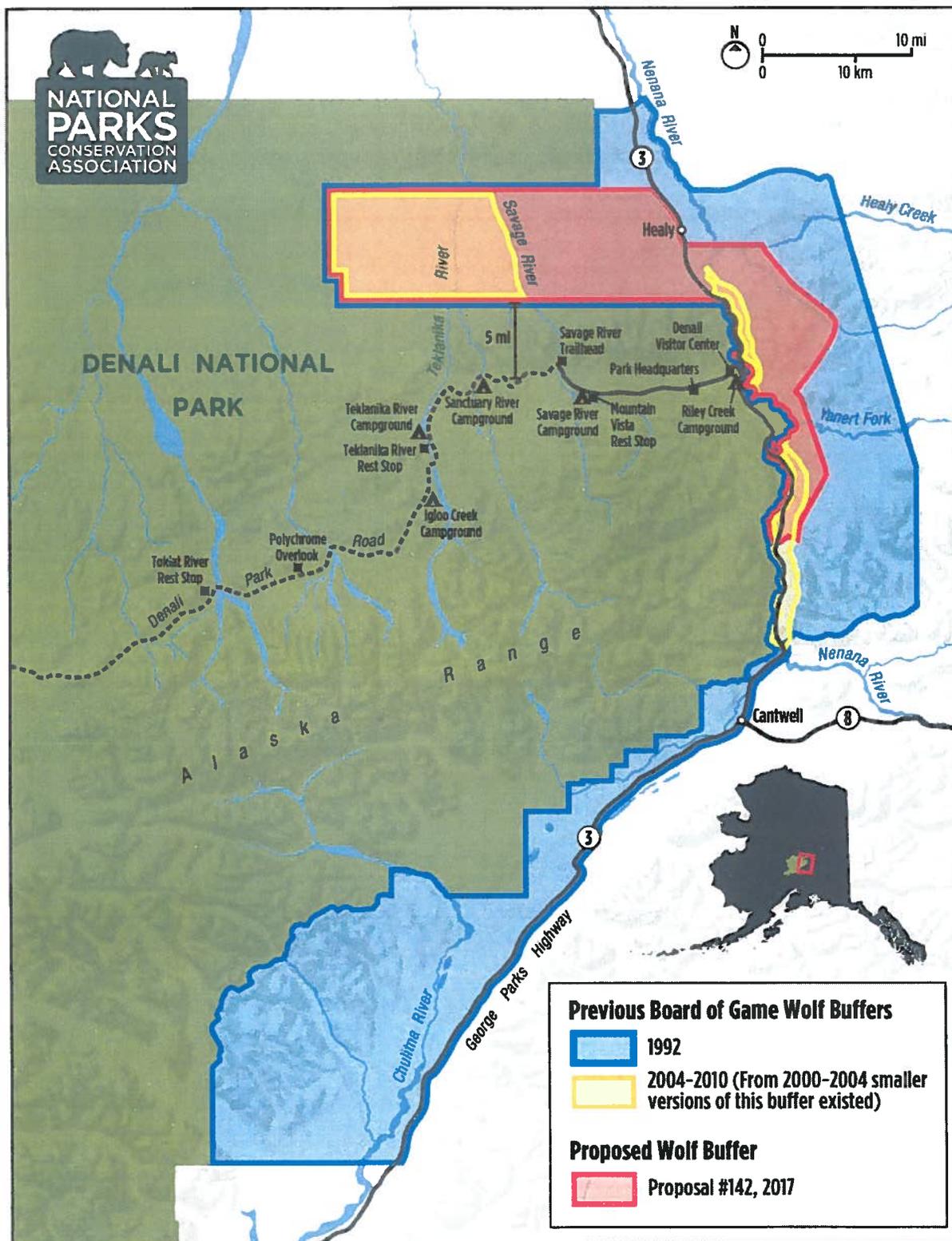
Dear Alaska Board of Game,

I value national parks and appreciate the ability to see wildlife in our nation's exceptional natural places like Denali National Park & Preserve. It's a rare opportunity to see a wolf in the wild, and Alaska's national parks are some of the best places to do so. I support proposal #142 so that future generations can continue to see wolves in Denali.

One of the primary reasons people like me choose to visit national parks is to see wildlife in its native habitat. I ask that you please support proposal #142 to protect Denali's wolves and the opportunity for Americans from across the country to see them in the wild.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alaska Regional Office



Alaska Regional Office

750 W., 2nd Ave, Suite 205 | Anchorage, AK 99501 | P 907.277.6722 | F 907-277-6723 | npca.org

3



wildlife is one of the top reasons visitors say they choose Alaska, and these visitors support a vibrant tourism economy that employs many Alaskans and supports local businesses. In 2015, 560,000 Denali visitors contributed over \$500 million dollars to the local gateway economy.

Just as the state protects the bears of McNeil River, protecting some of the most viewed and photographed wolves in the world at Denali is of benefit to the state of Alaska.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joan Frankevich
Program Manager

Alaska Regional Office



2

Concerns with impacts to park wolves due to hunting and trapping in this region has similarly been a concern for decades:

Specific concerns for the wolf townships are that the Savage wolf pack populations have dropped drastically in recent years ... Adding the wolf townships to the park would complete the habitat and range protection of the Toklat and Savage wolf packs and the wintering caribou herd.

- 1986 Denali General Management Plan, pgs. 98-99

Since the National Park Service began monitoring wolves in the 1980s, records show that hunting and trapping on adjacent state land has severely reduced or completely eliminated numerous Denali wolf packs. Unlike mortality from natural causes, hunting and trapping tends to take the alpha individuals. Loss of pack leaders frequently causes disruption and dispersal of entire family groups and results in a steep decline in wolf numbers, reproduction, and opportunities for viewing them. Recent examples of this include the Grant Creek family group in 2012, and the East Fork group in 2015 and 2016. When the most recent buffer was eliminated in 2010, visitors had a 45 percent chance of seeing a wolf along the Denali Park Road, but in 2015 and again in 2016, the odds had dropped to just 5 percent.

The Board of Game has a history of protecting Denali wolves

In 1992, the Board of Game formally recognized the value of Denali wolves to the people of Alaska and created a buffer over 800 square miles – far larger than any recently proposed buffer (please see the attached map).

The wolves that inhabit Denali National Park are a valued resource of the people of Alaska and the United States. ... The creation of Zone 2 lands in the lower Yanert River and Healy Creek drainages ... will adequately protect these wolves from hunting, trapping and control.

- Findings of the Board of Game, No. 92-64-BOG, paragraph #8

The 1992 buffer was eliminated shortly after it was created for political reasons and then numerous buffers followed from 2000-2010. These buffers were helpful, but not large enough and losses of park wolves continued. NPCA supports proposal #142 because it is a reasonable size (mid-way between previous BOG buffers) and will provide sufficient protection. We appreciate the Park Service's effort to address this issue, but believe proposal #141 is too small to fully address the issue and doesn't protect Denali wolves during the winter months.

Protecting Denali wolves is in the best interest of the state

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game manages wildlife for a diverse set of purposes including both consumptive and non-consumptive uses. The department's wolf management report lists human uses for wolves in Interior Alaska to include "hunting, trapping, photography, viewing, listening, and scientific and education purposes." There are few places in the world where wolves can easily be seen in the wild and Denali National Park is one of those unique places. Alaskans and visitors alike place a high value on watching wildlife, particularly wolves. Seeing

Alaska Regional Office



①

February 3, 2017

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Submitted via email to: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Proposal #142 - Support

Dear members of the Board of Game,

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the February 2017 Board of Game proposals. Since our founding in 1919, NPCA has been an independent, nonpartisan voice working to strengthen and protect our nation's natural, historical, and cultural heritage. Together with our one million members and supporters, of which over 2,000 reside in Alaska, the National Parks Conservation Association speaks for America's favorite places.

Thank you for your previous and current efforts to find a solution to the long-standing concerns regarding protection of Denali wolves when they travel onto adjacent state land. **NPCA supports Proposal #142** because it is of value to the state to enhance wolf-viewing opportunities and this proposal is of modest, yet sufficient size.

State protection enhances wolf-viewing opportunity

For decades, the state land that extends into the northeast corner of Denali (often called the "wolf townships") has been identified as critical winter range for caribou, wolves and other park wildlife. When the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act (ANILCA) passed in 1980, the Senate report that accompanied the bill stated:

In the northeast portion of the area, near the existing headquarters, there are some 3 townships of state lands which are critical for sheep, caribou, and wolf habitat and should eventually become a part of the park.

- 1980, ANILCA Senate report 96-413, page 167

Alaska Regional Office



Submitted By
Kathryn Napier
Submitted On
1/30/2017 6:05:54 AM
Affiliation

Phone
804-379-8625

Email
katnapr@gmail.com

Address
11905 Reeds Bluff lane
Midlothian, Virginia 23113

I support closed areas around the national park to protect the wolves.



Submitted By
Rick Myers
Submitted On
2/1/2017 6:18:03 AM
Affiliation

Phone
804-690-9202
Email
rick.myers@dcr.virginia.gov

Address
10388 Deer Oak Lane
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116

My name is Rick Myers. I work in Virginia for a state natural resources agency, the Department of Conservation and Recreation. I am a hunter, fisher, forester, fire ecologist, and father of teenage twins. My family visited Alaska in summer 2015 over a two week period. We were there to see and experience the last great wild place left in the United States. We visited Denali National Park, and hoped to see a wolf. We did not, but hope to return one day and have another chance.

You may appreciate that we spent \$25,000 on our 2015 two-week trip to Alaska. The intact ecosystems of Alaska, which retain apex predators including wolves, provide a strong incentive for people like me and my family to come to your state to visit and spend a lot of money to experience wildness. Wolves are the pinnacle symbol of wildness. Without them, or with few of them, your state and our country is diminished. Their value as a draw - both now and even more in the future - for eco-tourism cannot be overstated. Their value as an animal to be taken for recreational hunting or trapping is tiny, by comparison. Especially at this time when wolf populations are at historic lows and continuing to decline, the concept of legal take of wolves as a recreational pursuit is both economically destructive and indefensible from a resource management perspective. Legal take for the purpose of protecting lives and property is one thing and that should continue. Recreational take is, I believe, both fiscally and morally corrupt; and, irresponsible and indefensible.

Folks like me that live outside Alaska and that understand the significance of functional ecosystems hope that you will see how vulnerable wolves are to hunting and trapping, and what folly it is to allow these pursuits in the vicinity of tourism destinations such as Denali National Park. Denali's wolves are so much more important economically for tourism and your state's economy than they are for recreational take; the difference must be orders of magnitude.

Please conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region of Alaska. I want to come back to Denali with my kids someday, and see and/or hear wolves. Please consider and support Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Jo-Ann Murphy
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:34:27 PM
Affiliation
Mrs.

Support Proposal 142

- There is a precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. In 2001-02 the Board acknowledged that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, and set aside areas closed to hunting. The park's wolf population (Spring 2002) was 97 wolves, far more than inhabit the park now.
- The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.
- The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.
- We need to preserve our biological diversity and we need to preserve these species.

Thank you for your time and consideration



Submitted By
Jan O. Murie
Submitted On
1/31/2017 7:09:04 PM
Affiliation
University of Alberta

Phone
780-434-4525

Email
jan.murie@ualberta.ca

Address
#105, 11120-68 Ave. NW
Edmonton, Other T6H 2C2 Canada

I write to support Proposal 142 to limit killing wolves in areas adjacent to Denali National Park. As wolves within the Park often stray outside its borders, the viability of the Park wolf population depends on some protection outside the boundaries.

I now live in Canada, where we also have issues related to protecting wolf populations from over-exploitation, but remain a citizen of the USA (as well as Canada) and spent 4.5 years of my early life in Denali NP and have visited several times since. As a wildlife biologist I am well aware of the underlying reasons for enhancing protection of wolves in Denali.

Thanks for your attention,

Jan Murie



Submitted By
Lenora Morford
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:31:01 PM
Affiliation

2/2/17

RE Proposal 142

Dear Board of Game members:

I am a 35 year resident of Alaska and have worked with the tourists in Denali for four years. I urge the board to protect the valuable economic resource that wolves have become for the tourist industry.

Tourists spend a lot of money to come to Alaska and to Denali in particular to see wildlife. They are quite disappointed if they cannot see bears and wolves. They are shocked and amazed to learn that the animals they came to see are killed by trappers right on the edge of the Park.

These animals are of more value alive, not dead.

Please protect the few remaining wolves and SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142.

Thank you,

Lenora Morford

Chugiak, Alaska 99567



Submitted By
Kevin Morford
Submitted On
2/3/2017 1:26:11 PM
Affiliation
Alaskan

As an Alaska resident since 1982, I have been into Denali National Park on many occasions over the last three and a half decades. One of the biggest thrills that I have had over those years was the pleasure of seeing wild Alaska wolves up close in their natural habitat. I have been a hunter in Alaska, and I support hunting as an activity when it is carried out in a legal and responsible manner. It is not responsible to allow the taking of wolves that spend most of their lives in a protected national park, but who occasionally foray outside of the park boundaries. Experience to date shows that the attrition from the take of these wolves on State lands is having a devastating negative effect on the numbers of wolves along the road to Wonder Lake. I urge you to support and vote in favor of Proposal 142, so that Alaskans and visitors alike will have a reasonable opportunity to share in the excitement of seeing these magnificent animals.



Submitted By
KArL Monetti
Submitted On
1/29/2017 5:48:21 PM
Affiliation
45 yr resident of Alaska

Phone
907-322-0242
Email
karlmonetti@gmail.com
Address
box 56303
north pole, Alaska 99705

I am writing in support of Proposal 142.

I am a life-long hunter and although I do not trap I respect the desire of those who do. However, when it comes to relative importance of activities in Alaska, I would much rather see the dreams of many thousands of visitors (to see a wolf in the wild) fulfilled than the desires of a handful of trappers and hunters looking for a livelihood or simply a trophy on the wall.

There are millions of acres surrounding the Denali Park area open to trapping and it makes no sense to me to keep this narrow corridor, which is completely surrounded, west, south and east by the park, kept open for the benefit of a few versus the enjoyment of the many.

Thank you

Karl Monetti

54



Submitted By
James M Mittl
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:20:20 AM
Affiliation

Phone
3035820364
Email
jmittl@earthlink.net

Address
142 Nero Rd
Black Hawk, Colorado 80422

I am writing to implore the BOG to support Proposal 142 and close the taking of wolves within the boundaries defined in said proposal.

When I was a younger man, it was a dream of mine to visit, and perhaps someday live, in Alaska. The BOG's neverending reduction of protections for indigenous wolf populations, however, has made the dream a non-starter. As long as you continue to allow the slaughter of wolves to continue, using various barbaric means, I will NEVER step foot in your state nor will I purchase any Alaskan-made products. Many I know share this sentiment.

Please stop the assault on this magnificent and familial species NOW!



Submitted By
Carol Melamed
Submitted On
1/31/2017 5:35:57 PM
Affiliation

Phone
202-674-1983
Email
cmelamed@comcast.net
Address
455 Forest Ave
Unit C
Palo Alto, California 94301

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have been to Alaska about a dozen times in the last 20 years, and each time I visit, I appreciate the natural beauty and richness of your wonderful state.

I have seen many landscapes and animals over the years, but my most treasured experiences are the times that I have seen wolves in Denali National Park. I fervently hope that you will consider any and all measures to expand protection of these amazing creatures in and near the Park.

The Park boundary of course means nothing to the animals, and it is crucial to protect them on state land as well.

I am sure that I am not alone in my feelings about the wolves. Many of us who visit from the lower 48 are influenced to do so by their presence, and the impact on the state and regional economies from such visits is a positive one.

It seems to me that it is in Alaska's best interests to preserve and maximize the wolf population – which is one of its unique resources that distinguish it from many other wild places.

Please do the right thing and conserve the wildlife that you are so blessed to have.

Very truly yours,

Carol Mealmed



Submitted By
Mark Miller
Submitted On
1/29/2017 1:01:11 PM
Affiliation

I've read accounts of wolf management programs in Yellow Stone National Park that conclude wolf populations will stabilize with little or no human interference. These stable wolf populations are reported to level off with abundant, stable, and healthy prey populations. Those populations create abundant balanced and sustainable plant forage. It makes sense that the area returns to the natural state from before modern technology destroyed the natural balance in the area.

I'm concerned that Alaska's wolf management policies around Denali National Park seem to work for opposite results. Alaska's wolf management program seem to be very expensive, reduces wolf viewing for tourists and interferes with stabilizing prey populations.

I'm not a scientist or a wolf expert so I don't pretend to know the solution for wolf management around Denali National Park. I am concerned that much of the area management seems to be dictated by others who are not experts either. Wolf management needs to be done with sound and time tested science and not favor hunters or any other groups. I am a deer hunter in the Jueau area. I expect the same scientific management for area I hunt in. I know this means that some years will offer better deer hunting than others. I don't expect game management to create hunting preserves for me. I also don't accept anti hunting groups interfering with sustainable deer harvests. It comes back to leaving game management to real science and not politics or emotional interference.

Thanks, Mark Miller



Submitted By
Charles W McMillion
Submitted On
2/1/2017 10:17:55 AM
Affiliation
Denali tourist

Phone
2022579802

Email
cwmcmillion@gmail.com

Address
223 F Street, NE
Washington, District of Columbia 20002

My wife, three friends and I spent 16 glorious days in Alaska in July 2015. While our wonderful vacation included Fairbanks, Anchorage, Whittier and the Kenai/Seward area, our trip was entirely motivated by a week-long stay at the remarkable North Face Lodge in Denali. As did everyone else we met, we loved Denali and the Lodge. On our ride out of the park, we even saw a wolf near us on the road; this was one of the highlights of our trip and, we understand, an increasingly rare sighting.

Denali is such a unique and fabulous experience anywhere in the world that the five of us are expecting to return, perhaps adding more friends, in the near future. While it seems petty to even mention the Denali experience together with dollars and cents, I do hope the tremendous, varied and stable economic development benefits it brings to all of Alaska from visitors like me are fully appreciated by all. And that everything possible can be done to preserve and enhance that experience.

Sincerely,

Charles McMillion



Submitted By
Tom Meacham
Submitted On
2/3/2017 8:04:09 PM
Affiliation
none

Phone
907-346-1077
Email
tmeacham@gci.net

Address
9500 Prospect Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

As a former Board of Game member, I urge the Board to adopt Proposal 142 to re-estbalish a no-wolf-take buffer along the easterly edge of Denali National Park. The economic benefits of this proposal for the Alaska tourism indutsry and for the hundreds of thousands of Denali visitors each year (who include thousands of Alaskans) far outweigh the value of 10 or 15 wolf pelts to the few trappers who trap this area. The "greatest good for the greatest number," and the renewable-resourcse nature of a live wolf seen by visitors over and over again throughout its lifetime, require tht this Buffer be ree-established. Thank you.



Submitted By
Douglas McIntosh
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:32:58 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907 479-6827

Email
fdjm@alaska.net

Address
2208 Nottingham Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

I support proposal 142. I have lived in Fairbanks since 1976. I like proposal 142 because it establishes a no hunting/trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park.



Submitted By
Sierra McLane
Submitted On
2/1/2017 1:41:40 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

This is my first day home by myself with a three-week old and a two-year old. Poop and tears are flowing, but this is important, so I'll keep it short. Please support proposal 142. The wolves that move between Denali National Park and the proposed buffer are worth far more alive than dead. Very few people benefit from hunting/trapping them compared to their value to science and society as part of a natural system in which they are icons of the wild. This is true symbolically, but also economically - "wildness" is at the root of what the half-million people who visit Denali each year come to experience, and seeing a wolf evokes a sense of wildness better than almost anything else.

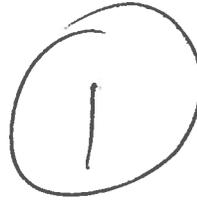
Thank you for supporting this important proposal,

Sierra McLane

McKinley Village, AK, year-round resident since 2011



Submitted By
Margaret McGinnis
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:29:09 PM
Affiliation
Support Proposal 142



- There is a precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. In 2001-02 the Board acknowledged that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, and set aside areas closed to hunting. The park's wolf population (Spring 2002) was 97 wolves, far more than inhabit the park now.
- The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.
- The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.
- Visitors to Denali want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to our economy.
- A mere 4 percent chance that a visitor will spot a wolf along the Park Road (as documented by the National Park Service in 2015) is an abysmally low number. Before the buffer was scrapped in 2010, nearly 50 percent saw a wolf.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance

P.O. Box 202022

Anchorage, AK 99520

info@akwildlife.org

<http://www.akwildlife.org>



Submitted By
Cissy (Diane) McDonald
Submitted On
1/29/2017 10:22:08 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-350-6203

Email
cissy-fuss@live.com

Address
po Box 462
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

As a resident of Talkeetna, Alaska and having lived and worked in Denali National Park for the last 17 years, I have some concerns about the management of wolves in the Denali Park area. **There are many places in Alaska where hunting and trapping wolves is allowed, why can't there be a place where it is not. Especially, when the place in question borders one of the most iconic Wilderness areas in the world? Rather than catering to the few hunters and trappers just outside the Park, I hope you will consider the interests of the many of us who live, work and play in and around Denali and the many thousands of visitors who visit our Park annually.** Having been a shuttle bus driver for 14 years in the Park, I can tell you first-hand the joy and excitement seeing wolves in the wild brings to Alaska's visitors. I have been with thousands of visitors when they saw their first wolf in the wild (in Denali). The experience was meaningful to every person who had it, bringing some to tears. **If things keep going the way they are, it will have also been the only and last wolf they may ever see.** I have personally witnessed the demise of the Toklat wolf-pack over the years. The decline coincides dramatically with the change in the wolf-buffer along the Park's boundaries, as many of the collared wolves have been killed just outside the Park since the protective wolf-buffer was taken away. The Toklat wolf pack, a highly visible pack that brought so much happiness to the Park's many visitor's has been decimated in just a few years. **It is my impression that the Department of Fish and Game has a duty to insure that there is balance in our ecosystems. Predators are essential to healthy ecosystems. Just sitting back passively allowing hunting and trapping to continue just outside the Park's boundaries knowing that the Park's wolf packs are being slaughtered does not seem like the right thing to do.** As a resident of Alaska, as an employee of the Park, as an avid user of the Park's wilderness, as someone who has spent literally thousands of hours with visitors to Denali, I implore you to reconsider the protective buffer around the Park so that the wolf population may rebound. If Denali National Park is going to continue to be a "crown jewel" of the National Park system, attracting millions of visitors to our state for generations to come, it needs to maintain its character and wildness. This cannot be done without your help. It is my sincere hope that those of you who have the power to reinstate the buffer to help protect Denali's remaining wolves will do so. Please, please, reinstate the protective wolf-buffer around the Park's boundaries to give **these** wolves a chance. The future of Denali's wolves rests in your hands. It will be your legacy that either preserves the wolves for future generations, for the future millions of visitors to our great state and the countless residents who enjoy Denali's pristine wilderness, which includes iconic wildlife. Thank You very much for your time and consideration on this very important decision, Sincerely,
Cissy (Diane) McDonald



The Alaska Wildlife Alliance is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our tax identification number is 92-0073877. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

2



Submitted By
Rosemary McGlynn
Submitted On
1/30/2017 2:22:35 PM
Affiliation
AK visitor,former Camp Denali staff

Phone
814-255-5734
Email
denali@atlanticbb.net

Address
1 Denali Lane
Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15905

Members of the Board of Game,

My family & I first came to AK 27 years ago. Three nights in Denali was all it took to fall in love with its wild beauty. Since then we have returned as visitors and summer staff at Camp Denali. I cannot count the number of people over the years who have recounted their day's experiences in the park observing wildlife & their excitement when they had the chance to see wolves out doing what they do. Do you remember the first time you saw that lope that can go for miles? It would be a good thing if more people had the chance to know what that feels like. It is that unique way of connecting to wild country and wild things that draws so many visitors to Denali and keeps them returning. Of course, the number of visitors results in no small economic benefit in maintaining a healthy wolf population within the park and surrounding area. It seems clear that the wolves require certain protections if they are to remain a viable part of the Denali experience. So I ask that for the wolves and for the humans that you support Proposition 142. Please give it a chance.

Sincerely, Rosemary McGlynn



Submitted By
Fran Mauer
Submitted On
2/1/2017 8:40:20 PM
Affiliation
Alaskans FOR Wildlife

Alaskans FOR Wildlife strongly supports Proposal 142, which would establish a no-kill buffer zone for wolves on State lands within the so-called Wolf Townships along the Stampede trail, and certain lands east of the Nenana River where some wolves associated with Denali National Park are known to use. Since a no-kill wolf buffer zone was abolished by the BOG in 2010, significant numbers of wolves that den in Denali Park have been killed, and the wolf population there is at the lowest level since data has been systematically collected. In particular, the renowned East Fork wolves have been essentially extirpated. This has had a profound effect on the opportunity for visitors to Denali of seeing wolves. The percent of visitors seeing wolves during their trip to the Park has declined from about 45% before the buffer was abolished to about 5% currently.

Wildlife viewing is a major interest for visitors to the Park, and seeing wolves and grizzlies are at the top of people's list. Last year there were some 650,000 visits to Denali, however due to low wolf numbers near the road, an estimated 250,000 people were denied a chance to see any wolves, largely due to the impacts of hunting and trapping within the former buffer zone. This situation is becoming well known around the country and the consequences may have significant impact on Alaska's economy during this period of fiscal problems.

It is time to help restore the decimated wolf populations of Denali and help safeguard our economy. We urge the Alaska Board of Game to pass proposal 142.



Submitted By
Steven McCoy
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:49:17 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 317 1610

Email
rodmccoy123@gmail.com

Address
7749 Old Harbor Ave
Anchorage , Alaska 99504

I worked in the tourist industry related to tourism of Denali Park. A prize for all tourists is to include a wolf sighting to their visit.

Opportunities for wolf sightings has gone down from over 40% to less than 10% coinciding with changes in state enforcement of the buffer zone.

There is no greater tourism ad than a tourist going south excited about their visit

We need the jobs and the boost to the economy much more than we need 15 more wolf pelts

Sincerely,
George Matz





Submitted By
George Matz
Submitted On
2/3/2017 10:55:22 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9072359344
Email
geomatz@alaska.net

Address
PO Box 15182
Fritz Creek, Alaska 99603

Alaska Board of Game

ADF&G Boards Support

PO Box 115526

Juneau, AK, 99811-5526

Feb. 3, 2017

Dear Members of the BOG:

I write to support Proposals 141 and 142, similar proposals that close a portion of GMU 20C to the taking of wolves. The proposals were submitted by Denali National Park and Preserve and the Denali Citizens Council/Alaska Wildlife Alliance. My support is based on the conviction that state and federal wildlife managers have a legal and professional obligation to manage for key wildlife viewing opportunities as well as the sustainable harvest of game animals. Viewing wolves in Denali is one of the most valued wildlife viewing opportunities in the State of Alaska and it has been measurably diminished by hunting and trapping on the border of Denali. Hunting and trapping here was not legal since 2001, but has been for the past few years because of regulation changes approved by the BOG in 2010.

I was particularly impressed with the Denali National Park and Preserve proposal. It was comprehensive, science-based, and fairly considered the effects on relevant stakeholders. The proposal should be considered a model for others. It limited closure to only those parts of the Stampede corridor that serve the purpose of protecting from hunting and trapping, wolves that are of interest to wildlife viewers who visit Denali.

Some argue that wolf populations in the Denali region are healthy and there is no need to restrict their hunting or trapping, even in certain viewing areas. However, micromanaging the consumptive as well as nonconsumptive use of portions of a wildlife population in key areas accessible to the public is often necessary to provide good viewing opportunities. Accordingly, micromanaging should not be considered an unorthodox practice. In fact, it is the basis why Alaska's anadromous fisheries have been sustainably managed for decades. Fisheries biologists recognize that some rivers/streams need more specific regulation than others, even though overall, Alaska's salmon populations remains healthy. Wildlife managers need to follow their example.

I served on the BOG in May, 2001 when the BOG first approved closing part of the Stampede corridor to the hunting and trapping of wolves. The BOG at the time recognized that micromanagement was needed and considered special regulations (mostly a buffer zone) for wolves that inhabit this area. They carefully considered where these wolves spend time within the park and where they might likely be found when wondering beyond park boundaries. The intent was to not overreach by imposing buffer zone regulations on hunting or trapping of wolves that were not likely to be seen by Denali visitors. And it worked. As the Denali Park proposal says, "the presence of the trapping and hunting buffer zone during 2000-2010 was associated with increased wolf sightings in Denali compared to 2011-2013 and 1997-2000... It should also be noted that the presence of the buffer did not decrease the average annual number of wolves harvested in UCUs overlapping the Stampede corridor."

However, as you know, in 2010 the BOG at the time opposed the buffer zone and repealed its regulations. As the record shows, the viewing of wolves in Denali has since suffered. I not only think that the BOG's decision then was biased and a mistake, but that it violated the spirit of Article VIII, Section 4 Sustained Yield of the State of Alaska Constitution, particularly the part that says, "subject to preferences among beneficial uses." Furthermore, the decision goes against the spirit of Section 2 of Article VIII which says, "conservation of all natural resources ...for the maximum benefit of its people." This is similar to a statement in 1905 by the great conservationist Gifford Pinchot who said, "Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." There can be no doubt that viewing wolves in Denali has substantial monetary and intrinsic value that has been sacrificed and that the greatest good is not now being served.

Fortunately, since wildlife can be a renewable resource and wolves have not been extirpated from the area, recovery of Denali's wolf viewing opportunities is possible. But that would take change by the BOG, which Proposal 141 or 142 should accomplish. I strongly encourage you adopt either of these proposals.



Submitted By
Laura Maschal
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:09:27 AM
Affiliation

Phone
6094941133

Email
ljmaschal@gmail.com

Address
4603 Long Beach Blvd
Brant Beach, New Jersey 08008

Hello, I write to strongly urge you to support proposal 142. Wolves are critical to the health of our wild places, creating a trophic cascade! Tourists want to see wolves. Ten years ago, we saw so many - a privilege I will never ever forget. This past year, none. It is discouraging that the hunters know the easiest "pickings" are right outside the borders of Denali. We have so few wild places left and there is a new war on wildlife happening within the current administration. 2016 Saw the decimation of the Druid wolf pack. This is not ok!! Please do your part to protect for generations to come, the legacy of wolves in Alaska. This is one small step, but could mean life and death for this species. If you don't work to protect these animals, the who?

Thank you for doing the right thing on proposal 142!



Submitted By
Milli Martin
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:50:13 AM
Affiliation

Please support Prop. 142, that would once again establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park, and allow the Park to once again host more wolves. This park sees thousands of visitors from around the world -- the two animals they want most to see are wolves and bears. I was at the Park last year -- and greatly disappointed that my guests did not see a wolf. In years past we did see them, but no longer. Please help get them back into the Park. Please support Prop. 142.

Thank you.



Submitted By
Philip S Marshall
Submitted On
1/31/2017 9:03:30 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 457 3895

Email
pmarshall@acetekk.com

Address
1300 Skyline Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

I ask you to support Proposal 142 to reestablish the wolf buffer on the NE corner of Denali National Park & Preserve. I am a 36-year resident of the Interior and have fished and hunted all during this time. But conservation, a fully-intact ecosystem and management for all State residents should be more thoroughly considered in your deliberations. I reiterate my testimony from last spring before you in Fairbanks: "Bring back the wolf buffer zone."



Submitted By
Ryan Marsh
Submitted On
1/30/2017 10:36:09 AM
Affiliation

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

My name is Ryan Marsh and I am writing to express my concern over wildlife on the northeast boundary of Denali National Park and Preserve. I am a conservation biologist and work as a Naturalist Guide for Camp Denali and North Face Lodge. Denali National Park and Preserve was created to protect wildlife, and wildlife is the primary draw for the vast majority of the 650,000 visitors to the park just last year. Studies have shown that wildlife viewing is worth millions to Alaska's economy and creates thousands of jobs. Despite Alaska's remoteness, Denali NPP is regarded as one of the best places to view wolves and as a place to study intact ecosystems. Unfortunately, less than 5% of visitors to Denali last year were able to see wolves as opposed to over 40% in 2010 when a buffer zone was in place. Packs have been decimated by a few unfortunate (but legal) trappings in the northeast region, risking trophic effects such as mesopredator release as well as risking the reputation of Denali of as a premier wildlife viewing area. Maybe visitors from the Lower 48 should go to Yellowstone instead?

It is the responsibility of this Board to manage wildlife in the state. A buffer zone in this region makes ecological and economic sense. I urge the Board to vote in favor of proposal 142 to recreate a small buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve.

Sincerely,

Ryan Marsh



Submitted By
Jane Handy
Submitted On
2/3/2017 9:13:41 AM
Affiliation

To the Board of Fish and Game,

I'm writing to show support for a no-take buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park to protect the park's wolves, if they wander across the boundary. The loss of a pack leader is devastating to the pack's cohesion and hard to recover from.

The pack is a big draw to tourism.

thank you for your consideration for protecting this one pack that we need to protect as a unit in Alaska.

Jane Handy



Submitted By
Jenna Hamm
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:32:40 AM
Affiliation
Camp Denali

Phone
9075050534
Email
jennamariehamm@gmail.com
Address
Mile 228 Parks Hwy
PO Box 67
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Dear Board Members,

During your upcoming Interior Region meetings you will take up Proposal 142, authored by Denali Citizens Council and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. This proposal brings back to the Board the idea of precluding hunting and trapping of wolves on distinct areas of state land adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve, in game management units 20A and 20C.

The Board previously approved no-take areas for wolves in these same locations in 2001 and 2002 when the Park wolf population was much higher than the record-low numbers that have persisted in recent years. While research has shown that hunting and trapping do have a real affect on the park's wolf population, it is, of course, one of many factors that contribute to changes in population size. A buffer zone, however, will ease one of the known human-caused factors for wolves' recent population decline in Denali National Park. We fully support the language of Proposal 142.

We know first-hand how powerful and meaningful for park visitors is the experience of viewing wolves in the wild. My family owns and operates Camp Denali and North Face Lodge, two wilderness lodges in the Kantishna, the heart of Denali National Park. About 2000 park visitors come through our doors each summer. We've been in business for 65 years. The ability to view wildlife in the wild—wolves, bears, caribou, moose, mountain sheep, and birds from all seven continents—is one of the primary reasons our guests choose to visit Denali National Park.

This is an opportunity that ought to be in the best interest of all Alaskans. The revenue generated by park visitors does not just go into the pockets of the cruise tour industry. The vast majority of our guests choose other small, Alaskan-owned lodges, bed and breakfasts, small boat companies, tour operators and restaurants to round out their Alaska vacations. Money spent is being kept in our communities.

Furthermore, as park visitors bring home with them memories made with the wilderness and wildlife of Alaska, they are more apt to seek out and protect the same at home. Direct experiences with wildlife in the wild help build advocates for wildlife and wilderness.

Establishing a buffer zone with stricter hunting and trapping regulation around Denali National Park also forwards to the public a much more positive, collaborative relationship between the National Park Service and the State of Alaska. There currently is such glaring disparity state versus federal management of fish and wildlife across Alaska. This disparity is embarrassing and awkward to convey to park visitors. While on the public side of the park boundary wolves are perceived as an integral part of a full-functioning ecosystem, on the state side they are viewed as competition in a system that requires human intervention. Full-functioning ecosystems are healthy ones for predator and prey alike.

I urge you to re-create a no-take zone of wolves in game units 20A and 20C, to respond to the recent population decline of Park wolves, to put forth to the public a more collaborative relationship between federal and state wildlife managers, and to honor the long-held desire by many park visitors to see wolves in the wild.

Sincerely,

Jenna and Simon Hamm

Owners, Camp Denali and North Face Lodge

Denali National Park, Alaska



Submitted By
Dawn Groth
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:33:43 PM
Affiliation

Support Proposal 142

Please do not allow wolf kills or hunts. I have been a visitor in that area a number of times prior to 2010 and used to see wolves semi-regularly. Now, and recently, I hardly ever see a wolf. Please Stop the hunt or help reduce hunter wolf kills as much as you can.

Thank you, Dawn Groth



Submitted By
Janet Annabelle Hamm
Submitted On
2/2/2017 4:11:10 PM
Affiliation

Phone
607-539-7713
Email
Annabellehamm@yahoo.com
Address
730 Level Green Road
Berkshire, New York 13736

I have been coming to Denali Borough once a year for the last dozen years to spend winter, and sometimes summer, with my family there. I have gone into the park as far as Camp Denali on almost each visit. I have seen most of the wild species that live in and near the park, but one encounter stands out.

I was walking along the bluff above the Nenana, around milepost 229, when I saw something move backwards. Unknowingly, I was on a perpendicular path to that of a wolf. We spotted each other at about the same time. We both stood perfectly still and stared into each other's eyes. And then it continued on its path, and I watched as it stopped several times to look back at me as it made its way down the bluff. When I could no longer see it, I moved on, too. But, I shall never forget those eyes. I shall never forget that it found me not to be a threat. I shall never forget my lack of fear. I shall never forget that wolf.

I can live without taking such an animal, but that animal cannot live without my protection and the protection of the proposed regulation.



Submitted By
susan gregg
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:58:46 PM
Affiliation

Phone
7038610047
Email
sbgregg@aol.com
Address
418 East Street, NE
Vienna, Virginia 22180

As a visitor to and a lover of Alaska I ask you to consider the vulnerability of wolves to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land. As you know the Denali wolves have been decimated when they cross out of the park.

The presence of the wolves is essential to tourism and science and help preserve the diversity of the animal populations I would expect that the tourism revenue is greater than the hunting and trapping license fees.

thank you for your attention.

Susan Gregg

Remind the Alaska Board of Game that it is their responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in this region.



Submitted By
John H Gray
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:38:37 AM
Affiliation
none

Hello, Board of Game. I am writing in support of Proposal 142 to preclude hunting and trapping of wolves on state land adjacent to Denali National Park. I visited Alaska for 3 weeks in 2015, in large part because of the state's wildlife, and I was not disappointed!

I spent 3 great nights at the North Face Lodge in Denali National Park. I did not see a wolf, but a large part of Alaska's allure to a traveler like me was knowing diverse animals, including wolves, were in the vicinity and that a sighting was possible.

Thank you for exercising your responsibility and authority to protect wolves, an important cog in the region's web of life. Please adopt Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Maya Gillett
Submitted On
2/1/2017 4:10:06 AM
Affiliation

Phone
(206) 679-1838

Email
mayagillett@gmail.com

Address
6223 23rd Ave NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

It is of utmost importance that the Board fully and forcefully support Proposal 142. This proposal would be a step in the right direction towards protecting wildlife, especially wolves, who are vulnerable and whose populations are dwindling. The wolves in this area are an incredibly important part of the ecosystem, but they are also a magical aspect of the landscape of Denali. I remember visiting Denali when I was 17 and seeing a wolf in the park - it was one of the most beautiful and moving things I have ever seen. Not only is protecting the wolves the responsibility and duty of the board, but it will also ensure that future generations have a reason to come to Alaska and to learn about their environment. Please do everything in your power to act responsibly to protect this species. Support Proposal 142.



Submitted By
Jane golub
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:04:22 PM
Affiliation

Phone
6312714346
Email
Janelo82@yahoo.com

Address
7 beach dr
Huntington, New York 11743

To Whom it May Concern:

My husband and I have traveled to Denali twice and plan to again. I write to communicate our support for proposal 142. Wolves bring in more tourist dollars to the state than do hunting and trapping licenses. Furthermore, these activities have a negative impact on the wolves declining population in this important area. It's our feeling that the role of this department is to protect wildlife. We are asking you to do just that.

Thank you

Sincerely

Jane and Barry Golub



Submitted By
Keri Gardner
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:50:28 PM
Affiliation

Phone
310-903-2079

Email
kerik@ucla.edu

Address
196 Low Road
Malone, New York 12953

The loss of the Denali wolves due to the lack of a buffer zone is a loss to the entire nation and a disgrace to Alaskans. Every citizen pays taxes to preserve the national park and its contents and letting a few individuals kill and maim them is stealing from every US citizen who wants to preserve the packs & ecosystem. You are letting those trappers/hunters negatively impact Alaskan income because visitors now spend 8 hours riding a rickety schoolbus without ever seeing a wolf—who is going to return for that?

I maintain my Alasa residence and residency despite being temporarily stationed out of state.



Submitted By
Michael Gawel
Submitted On
1/28/2017 9:27:24 PM
Affiliation
Wolf Township Land Owner

Phone
671-688-9873
Email
MGAWEL@GUAM.NET

Address
120 Bengbing St
Y-Paopao Estates
Dededo, Guam, Other 96929

Board Members and Others:

As a long time land owner in Wolf Township I am strongly in support of closing the areas to wolf hunting. My undeveloped wilderness property is near the Savage River just north of the old Denali Park boundary. I believe it is used as habitat for the wolves that mainly range within the national park. These play an important ecological role within the park and are the basis of valuable long term research carried out by my Denali scientist friends Ade Murie and Gordy Haber (both deceased) and their successors. I fear that hunters and trappers have even hunted and trapped while trespassing on my property. I want to do as much as possible to prevent that and to protect the Denali wolves which remain a most valuable resource of the national park and an economic tourism attraction to the State of Alaska.

Thank you for consideration, Michael Gawel



Submitted By
John Gaguine
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:51:47 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9077892986

Email
jgaguine@aol.com

Address
2551 Vista Drive D101
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Please support Proposal 142. It seems as though it is very important to tourism in Denali, which is of course very important to the state's economy.



Submitted By
Stanley Gage
Submitted On
2/1/2017 3:48:53 PM
Affiliation

Phone
650-851-1924
Email
stan@ostassoc.com

Address
455 Old Spanish Trail
Portola Valley, California 94028

Please replace my earilier comments with the following correction.

Regarding Proposal 142

Apparently Alaska wants to continue the trapping and hunting of the wolf population in and around Denali and Proposal 142 is set forth to limit such activities in areas near Denali National Park. I visited Denali in 2013. I had no expectation of viewing wolves at that time as the population is quite low. The only time I have seen wolves anywhere in the world is, surprisingly, in 1995 in Colorado near an interstate highway.

At wildlife preserves in Africa involving millions of acres of area one is virtually immersed in huge herds of wildlife and associated predator species that exist largely in reasonable balance within the various species as well as with the human population. We could do much better throughtout America. Working diligently to restore a natural balance of wildlife throughout our country should be a goal that supplants the urge of some to kill wild life. Our hunting goals should be beautiful photos of wild life in nature and learning to coexist with wildlife. Somehow a stuffed head of a moose or bear on a wall is coming to represent an obscene arrogance, not something to be proud of.

I don't see tourist viewing of wolves as the most important issue here. It certainly would be an added tourist attraction. More important is extracting humans from the equation of a balance of wildlife populations. Humans bring extraordinary capabilities into this balance and have proven time and again that human participation in this balance leads to the imbalance in other wildlife populations and often to the extinction of the tartget species.

Seriously! Is the killiig of a few wolves each year for no real significant commercial purpose worth risking the extermination of an entire pack of this species? This activity is no more acceptable than the slaughter of elephants in Africa or Tigers in India to satisfy the needs of a few people for trinkits or useless tonics that serve nothing more than humans desires to demonstrate our prowess in the ability to kill other animals.

Alaska as a state should practice some introspection and ask as a population "why - really why - do we need to sanction this behavior".

Stanley R. Gage



Submitted By
Dee Frankfourth
Submitted On
2/3/2017 8:09:27 PM
Affiliation

I write in support of Proposal 142, to provide greater protection for the "wolf townships" adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve.

As a 3rd generation Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage, I have been to the Park many times, the first time nearly 60 years ago.

Since my first job out of college with ADF&G, I have been a student of the biology of McKinley/Denali, and keen to enhance its protection. It was a rare opportunity to be involved in the inception of the Denali Citizens Council in the mid-70s and to go on to work for over four years in Alaska and Washington, D.C. on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

These townships have always been of concern to wildlife biologists and I now urge your affirmative action to adopt Proposal 142.

Thank you for your consideration, Dee Frankfourth



Submitted By
Mamie Gaede
Submitted On
2/2/2017 12:31:24 PM
Affiliation

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8189520108

Email
chacopress@earthlink.net

Address
5218 Donna Maria Lane
La Canada, California 91011

Support Proposal 142

Visitors to Denali want to see wolves, and they spend a lot of money for the opportunity. No wolves - or news that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area - are black eyes for Alaska tourism. The millions of dollars tourism brings to the Denali area and the entire state are now, more than ever, crucial to our economy.

The Board has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.

The wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource. They are the subjects of some of the most-famous, longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Hunting activities which ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end decades of research.

Thanks,

Mamie Gaede



Submitted By
William A Forsberg
Submitted On
1/30/2017 9:06:33 AM
Affiliation

I am writing to urge the BOG to adopt Proposal 142 and establish a predator trapping buffer zone in the Wolf Townships and along the eastern boundary of Denali National Park. I believe that the protection of predators in that area will enhance economic development in the area around Healy and Denali National Park. I live on Stampede Road and own property in several other locations in the Wolf Townships. During my winter travels between my properties in the Wolf Townships it has become very rare to see evidence of wolves and other predators. These animals are an economic asset for the adjacent Denali National Park and should now receive additional protection. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Dawn Foster
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:10:24 PM
Affiliation

I visited Denali in August 2012 and experienced numerous "once-in-a lifetime" events (at least for me from NM, although I hope they are not really "once-in-a-lifetime").....a female moose serenely eating in Wonder Lake (with a crystal clear Denali as a backdrop), sighting of a young inquisitive caribu encircling our hiking group, and the dancing Northern Lights! But some others in our group got a chance to see a wolf! How I wished I was with them when they saw it! Please don't take that opportunity away from me or other future visitors!

I still hope to one day re-visit Denali National Park, in hopes of seeing a wolf and much more. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.



Submitted By
Simon B Fitzwilliam
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:37:40 PM
Affiliation

To Whom It May Concern,

This upcoming summer will be my fifth season working as a naturalist guide for a family owned tourism business based inside Denali National Park. Each summer (four days of every week, averaging 450 hours per summer, almost 2000 hours to date) I travel the park by road and foot with tourists who have traveled from far and wide to enjoy the natural landscape of the Denali region. Many, if not all, of these park visitors are harboring long held hopes of catching a glimpse of a wolf, that iconic animal of wilderness. Throughout the summers of 2013-2016, amongst all the hiking in the backcountry and the all day drives back and forth along the entire stretch of the park road, I have Never had a wolf sighting while with park visitors, not once. I'm certain that every member of the Board is fully aware of the vulnerability of these wolves to human predation after leaving the Denali Park boundaries (especially when crossing the Stampede Trail corridor); of the unprecedented integrity and duration of the scientific study of wolves that breed within Denali park boundaries; of the large sums of money tourists spend in Alaska pursuing their dreams of seeing a wolf in the wilds of Denali; and of the stated objective of the Board to "conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources." Wolves may be abundant enough to warrant legal harvest in much of Alaska, but they are not abundant in Denali National Park. I send this comment in support of Proposal 142 in an effort to protect the wolves of Denali from further harvest. Thank you for your time in considering this comment.

Sincerely,

Simon B. Fitzwilliam



Submitted By
Sharon G Fisher
Submitted On
2/1/2017 6:23:16 AM
Affiliation

Phone
5406310205

Email
sfisher@humtech.com

Address
1447 Stoney Bottom Rd
Front Royal, Virginia 22630

I am asking the Board of Game to establish a no-wolf-take zone in a small portion of GMU 20, subunits 20A and 20C, adjacent to Denali National Park. As a wildlife photographer, being able to visit wolves within Denali is critical. The wolf population within the park and adjacent lands will be at significant risk for continued declines in numbers and viewability if the Board fails to protect them.

Reallocation of use from hunting/trapping to viewing wolves will enhance the economic benefit of this area to all Alaskans. The local and state tourism economies will benefit when visitors have an improved chance of seeing wolves. Almost thirty years of collaborative scientific study of wolf ecology in the Denali region will benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Virginia Ferguson
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:54:06 AM
Affiliation
Visitor

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Email
budgingv@gmail.com

Address
3582 Liggett Dr
San Diego, California 92106

It is extremely important to me that Proposal 142 be enacted. Wolves are an extremely important predator for the health of Denali and wild lands in North America in general. We have limited the ability of predators to manage wild lands and it is to our detriment. Many plants have disappeared along with intermediate species. This will give the wolves a chance to be outside the part without being hunted. Unfortunately, no one has yet been able to come up with a less than lethal set of instructions to tell predators where the boundaries are. Please give them a chance to make our earth a much richer place to be. Alaska is one of my favorite states and I love being a tourist there and at Denali and seeing the wonderful animals.



Submitted By
Amanda Ferguson
Submitted On
2/1/2017 2:32:25 PM
Affiliation

Please support Proposal 142.

Wolves unfortunately are unable to read boundary signs and stay within areas of protection. Allowing for trapping and hunting again on state lands should not be allowed. These wolf populations are vulnerable. Existence in the Denali area is tough as it is for most wildlife. Contributing to the vulnerability of this apex predator does not bode well for maintaining a healthy, diverse ecosystem. One which tourists come to see and at a good expense.

I had the wonderful opportunity to stay in Denali National Park this past summer for four days. I was blown away by the natural beauty and the diversity of wildlife we were able to see. It surpassed my expectations, and I was touched by how unique and special this part of Alaska is. I've been to no other national park like it.

Do your part in protecting these wolves so that their populations may continue to improve and thrive and contribute to healthy, beautiful ecosystems that people will travel a very long way to visit. Denali and its gifts shouldn't end at a border.



Submitted By
Kelleen Farrell
Submitted On
2/3/2017 3:30:23 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

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Address
1280 Roxie Ct.
Placerville, California 95667

Regarding Proposal 142, I support increased protection for the wolves of Denali National Park with a park buffer zone. Wolves certainly do not know there are boundary lines around a park and will wander in search of food, etc. Keeping healthy wolf populations is important for a number of reasons. They are necessary for the maintenance of a health ecosystem by controlling prey populations. The keep prey population healthier by culling the weak and sick. Studies in Yellowstone have shown wolves have increased the health of the wetlands and afflicted positively the flow of rivers and streams, thereby benefitting other species. Through all of this, ecotourism flourishes. Ecotourism brings in \$5 for each \$1 of hunter money, thereby improving the economy of the region. It is good for the environment and for the people who live in these wild areas. I encourage you to maintain these buffer zones and expand them.



Submitted By
Gary Feest
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:58:58 AM
Affiliation
Friend of the Earth

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608-852-2508
Email
gfeest@sbcglobal.net

Address
530 Miller Ave.
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Support Proposal 142

Visitors to the park would love to hear the howl of these majestic creatures. They don't want to hear the sound of gunfire, knowing that another sentient living being is having it's life extinguished by a human. Let nature take care of itself.



Submitted By
Patrick Endres

Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:38:14 PM

Affiliation

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9077504065

Email
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Address
2923 Moose Mountain Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-6072

Greetings from Fairbanks, Alaska

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I appreciate and respect that liberty. I'm a 37 year Alaska resident and have worked as a professional photographer for the past 24 years. I've been a visitor to Denali Park regularly since 1981, and photographed annually in the Park under a professional permit since 1995. I make my living from nature photography and have guided hundreds of visitors to Alaska since 1997. They come to see, to photograph and to enjoy this epic landscape. The economic benefit of wildlife viewing in this state is immense. Hundreds of thousands of people come to Denali Park to see wilderness in its raw form. Not all come specifically to see a wolf, but take a random survey and I bet every one on a Denali Park bus would love the opportunity. I strongly support doing what we can to perpetuate the experience of wildlife viewing. Those who come and see go and tell their friends and family of their experience, which is likely to bring more people to Alaska. Our state is under dire fiscal circumstances. It behooves all of us in responsible positions to make decisions that benefit the sustainability of our land and economy. Please back proposal 142.

Respectfully,

Patrick Endres



Submitted By
Jeff Fair
Submitted On
2/2/2017 12:44:47 PM
Affiliation
Alaska hunting and fishing
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Address
P.O. Box 2947
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Game,

I write you as a 23-year Alaskan hunter, fisherman, outdoor writer, and wildlife biologist. I currently possess a permanent hunt/fish/trapping license. I am not a trapper, but I appreciate the tradition.

I'm writing in support of your reinstatement of a buffer zone to protect the Denali wolves using the habitats just north of the east end of the McKinley Park Road and extending southward along that section of the park.

The former buffer was a good idea; during those years I observed wolves—once an entire pack—from the park road on two of three visits to the park. Many Alaskans and many visitors and tourists saw what may be the only wild wolves they'd see in their lives along that stretch, from tour buses or their own vehicles. Seeing those wolves heightened the greater public good and enforced our Alaskan Constitution's requirement that "resources" (I have come to detest that word) be "developed" for the greatest good for ALL Alaskans. And some of that good is the income from tourism, the maintenance of a local pack for the Alaskan spirit and essence, and the protection of respect for Alaskan trappers and trapping. I've no truck with the trappers who benefited from the Board's removal of the old buffer, but I disagree with benefiting a few at the cost of many, including many Alaskans and Alaska's reputation. Let's put it back.

Like the trappers there, I am one among thousands who have benefited in a nonconsumptive way from the wolves who once wandered there—and I hope will again. As an outdoor writer, one of my trips into the park afforded me a view of all 11 wolves in the Grant Creek Wolf Pack back in 2007 or 2008, for a story published in Audubon magazine and which I opened with the wolf sighting. So I know first-hand the bounty—and thrill—of seeing them.

As a wildlife biologist, I've worked in Yellowstone the past four summers on a species of waterbird, work that takes me back into the Yellowstone backcountry. On one visit a few years ago, while I was behind camo trying to capture a member of the species under study, I saw a white wolf and a gray wolf come out of the timber and down to the water near me. Later, Yellowstone biologist Doug Smith would tell me they were the alpha pair of the Canyon Pack. I'd worked in Yellowstone 40 years ago, when there were no wolves about, so I know the thrill of celebrating the wolves' return.

The real issue is this: Conservationists have to band together in this modern world in order to protect the things we love. If we give a little here and there, we keep our traditions alive and protect the land and life that we know we need. The wolf—and especially the Alaskan wolf—is a symbol to most Alaskans, many Americans, and even visitors from afar, of the wild and natural world that still remains here. Let's give us all—hunters, fishermen, trappers, bird-watchers, flower and butterfly people, all of us—a good chance to see the wolves of Denali. Let's let them all know that Alaska is the place to see this and share the view.

Please reinstate a buffer in this one place,

Jeff Fair, Lazy Mountain, Alaska



Submitted By
JEFF EASTMEAD
Submitted On
2/1/2017 7:32:21 AM
Affiliation
NONE

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Address
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APT 417
DALLAS, Texas 75218

I am writing you on proposal 142 to create a buffer zone around Denali National Park where wolves cannot be hunted. I have been to Denali National Park and preserve 10 times and the being able to view and observe wild animals in their natural habitat is the reason me and my family visit frequently. Wolves are the number one animal we come to see - after wolves it would be Bears, Moose, Carribou and Dall Sheep. Last year was the first time we saw no wolves on our Fall visit to Denali. 2 years ago at the same time we saw 6 wolves all the way up to mile 19. We also saw a Pack on a ridge close to the Tokalat River. It is critical for the future of Alaska and Denali National Park that there is balance between hunting and protecting wildlife for all Alaska visitors. Please pass proposal 142 to encourage wolf protection in Denali National Park. I have many friends that come to Alaska to both observe wildlife and fish and and hunt (hunting for food not trophies mostly Moose) All agree with me that we must protect the Wildlife in Denali National Park for future generations.

Thank you for letting me voice my opinion.

Regards

Jeff Eastmead



Submitted By
IVAN DUNN

Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:01:12 PM

Affiliation

I strongly support Proposal 142. The experience in Yellowstone supports that. Having periodic kill periods to control the population makes absolutely no sense and is contrary to the entire philosophy behind Denali. I was there in August and the thing that stood out the most was the pristine, leave-mother nature-alone message that is everpresent. It's well known that leaving the population of wolves to maintain itself through natural means actually helps strengthen the other animals that serves a prey. Keeping the buffer zone in effect will help avoid human interaction with the wolves.

Please consider my comments in your deliberations.



Submitted By
Lynn Driessen
Submitted On
2/3/2017 2:58:13 PM
Affiliation
Ms.

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Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Support Proposal 142

I strongly support Proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. There is precedent for such an area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. It is my understanding that the Board acknowledged in 2001-02 that the park wolves are a valuable resource for visitors such as myself, and therefore set aside areas closed to hunting. At that time the park's wolf population was 97 wolves, which is far greater than the current population.

A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this critically important area. The Board has the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes.

In addition, the wolves that frequent the Corridor/Nenana/Park Road area are an important scientific resource, as they are the subjects of the longest-running scientific studies of wolf packs in the country. Unfortunately, hunting activities that ultimately result in the loss of entire packs abruptly and prematurely end those decades of research.

Visitors to Denali such as myself are drawn there to see wolves and are willing to spend a significant amount for that opportunity. Alaska tourism is not well served in the absence of wolves, especially when it is reported that the state routinely allows wolves to be killed adjacent to the park for lack of a very limited buffer area. Millions of tourism dollars are spent in the Denali area, and the entire state for that matter, providing a boost to the Alaska economy.

The statistics speak for themselves - before the buffer was scrapped in 2010, nearly 50 percent of visitors saw a wolf. In 2015, the National Park Service documented that there is only a 4 percent chance of spotting a wolf along the Park Road.

I urge the Board to re-establish protection for the Denali wolves with a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.



Submitted By
Wendy Driver
Submitted On
2/1/2017 2:05:57 AM
Affiliation

I support proposal 142 as I am worried about the vulnerability of wolves crossing the park boundary into state land. They are important both from an economic (tourism) and a scientific point of view. Tourism makes much higher revenues than hunting and trapping and it is important to keep diverse animal populations intact.

The Alaska Board of Game must take their responsibility to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in the region very seriously.



Submitted By
kay dorie
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:01:05 PM
Affiliation

I have been to Alaska as a visitor and the highlight of my trip was to see a wild wolf loping across the frozen Tanana River. I am hoping to return, and seeing another wolf is at the very top of my wish list. I hope you will not allow short-sighted special interests to destroy the animals that thousands of us in the Lower 48 come to see. I also would be reluctant to contribute my tourist dollars to a state government that will not protect at-risk wildlife and their necessary habitats in this day and age.



Submitted By
Sue Deyoe
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:35:59 PM
Affiliation
none

I write you support of proposal 142, the wolf buffer by Denali Park. I have lived in Alaska for 25 years. For 15 of those years I lived near Healy. I worked inside Denali National Park for many years and saw the ebb and flow of wolf sightings. I also saw how important it was for visitors to see just one live wolf. Many people come to Alaska just to see a bear, others just want to see Denali. But there are many that hope to see a wolf, just one. And most times the only place that will happen is in Denali. Most visitors don't get off the road system, so Denali is it.

For years ADF&G was just about the hunters and trappers and the science of game management. As our state goes broke, it will be more and more about tourism. Millions flock to Alaska to fish, to hunt, to sightsee. The price of a live wolf is much higher than a dead one. I know others are covering the issue of diversity of species and importance of preservation. I really think there is a tipping point. We are close to it. I think the numbers show the importance of 'no take' of wolves for awhile. Please support proposal 142.



Submitted By
Chas Dense

Submitted On
2/1/2017 10:36:21 PM

Affiliation

I SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142 TO ESTABLISH A NO HUNTING/TRAPPING BUFFER ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK. Animals do not recognize human political/managment boundaries. It makes little sense to allow the high economic value of wolves in Denali National Park to be essentially exterminated as soon as they cross the park boundary by just three or four trappers. I would personally contribute to a fund to pay the trappers fair market value for the number of wolves they have historically trapped if the Board of Game would establish a no hunting/trapping buffer in the Denali wolves' normal range outside the park boundary. A majority of Alaskans support creation of such a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area.

I also agree with the many other reasons people have expressed in support of this buffer. The wolves are much more valuable to the Alaska economy alive than dead.

Please support Proposal 142. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Nancy Deschu
Submitted On
2/3/2017 8:18:46 AM
Affiliation
Alaska Resident

PROPOSAL 142 : Support to establish hunting and trapping adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve.

There are very few places in the world where people can travel to and see wolves in the wild. This is a critical aspect to visitors to Alaska and Denali in particular - the Chance to see a wolf in the wild. It may be difficult to put a dollar-value to the tourism that this adds to Alaska, however, I would be quite certain that the wolves that are trapped or hunted in the buffer area in question would bring in dollar-value to the state (and hence, ultimately the Alaska public). On a strictly monetary value, the establishment of a buffer area is the correct fiscal choice.

There are other places in Alaska besides a piece of land that is adjacent one of the US public's most respected national parks/preserves - and that respect and interest and support comes mainly from the variety of wildlife that can no be seen anywhere else in a national park in the US. Yes, some trappers and hunters will be inconvenienced if this buffer is established, but can the weight of a small group of people outweigh the the people across the nation who value this park, and would chose to see the Denali wolves protected.

Wolves of Denali have been studied for decades. There is a long history and scientific tradition of understanding wolves by studying the Denali wolves. The lack of a buffer affects the most natural size and behavior of the wolf pack in question. This in turn affects the scientific research and can make the valuable data difficult to compare over decades as wolves are taken by hunting and trapping.

I imagine there are many other reasons to establish this buffer, but these two concerns alone - the dollar-value return to the state of Alaska, and the scientific value of this pack having a buffer - are very strong reasons to establish this buffer under this proposal 142..



Submitted By
Nancy Bale
Submitted On
2/3/2017 4:54:28 PM
Affiliation
Denali Citizens Council

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Address
PO Box 78
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposals for the upcoming Region III Board of Game meeting. The Denali Citizens Council, headquartered near Denali National Park, submits the following comments.

Proposal 142 – Area closed to wolf hunting and trapping adjacent to Denali National Park – Support

We urge the Board of Game to pass this proposal as a way to acknowledge the significance of wolf populations that den inside Denali Park and venture predictably onto state lands nearby. These wolves' movements have been studied since the 1980s, and a pattern of in and out migration is well known. Radiolocation maps over the past many years place the bulk of these movements within the wolf or stampede townships, a cut out of state land on the northeast boundary. Radiolocations also show that wolves spill over into the valley of the Nenana River Canyon specifically and predictably.

Because we have spoken before the board of game in the past, and have heard members of the board and public express certain concerns about protecting wolves who den in the park when on state lands nearby, we'd like to address the concerns in the points below.

1. Concern: Protecting Denali wolves is not the job of the Board of Game. The national park is already big enough.

Conservation of wolves is not only a core value of the national park, it is one of the state's many management goals for this species in Alaska. The Department of Fish and Game, in its 2011 management document on wolves, stated that "Management may include both the manipulation of wolf population size and total protection of wolves from human influence." The job of the board of game is broad under AS 16.05.255, and includes conservation of any species. Finally, the Board of Game has already exercised this authority, within the past two decades, by previously establishing no take areas for wolves adjacent to Denali National Park.

2. Concern: Protecting wolves in Units 20A and 20C violates intensive management stipulations.

Neither of the areas included in Proposal 142 have been identified by the state or board as authorized for intensive management activities at this time.

3. Concern: Wolf populations are not endangered in Units 20C and 20A next to the park.

It is not necessary to have a finding of "endangerment" to protect wolves in these areas, if the Board of Game finds that their viability is important for Alaska tourism and scientific study. It is true, however, that wolf numbers have been quite low throughout Unit 20C, and a census conducted in 2012 by the Department found a density of 10.7/1000mi², below the department's management floor of 11/1000mi². Despite this finding, however, the Board of Game increased the hunting bag limit for wolves from 5-10 at its 2014 Interior Region meeting.

4. Concern: Wolves die from other causes; mortality from hunting and trapping is a small portion of this loss

The department has stated that, according to its best estimate, approximately 4-6 wolves are taken in this general area per year through hunting and trapping. The population of wolves in Unit 20C has been low for several years, and there are no doubt multiple sources of mortality. There is little data from the department on fall to spring census numbers, but data from the National Park Service indicate a loss, from 2012-2015, of approximately 10 wolves per winter, on average (based on the difference between fall and spring census). This means that hunting/trapping take could be significant, up to 50% of the take. In addition, take after early February, by either trapping or hunting, can have a greater effect on wolf packs through the death of breeders. The disruption of packs that den in the eastern portions of the national park, where forays onto state lands are more documented, has been greater, as evidenced by the demise of the East Fork Pack.

5. Concern: The Board of Game took care of hunting pressure in 2016 by shortening the wolf hunting season in a portion of Unit 20C, to end on April 15th.

Although this change will certainly prevent the hunting of wolves when bear bait stations are active, it will not ultimately be enough to promote conservation of wolves in this area. We have questioned the regional biologist for this area, and he says that by far trapping is the method by which most wolves are taken in the area. Because of the relatively low population of wolves and the proportionately large take that data suggest is coming from hunting and trapping, we argue that more robust closures are needed.

Ultimately, a closure of state lands adjacent to Denali National Park, for purposes of reducing risks on a population of wolves that dens in the park and ventures predictably outside the park, will not be made from the standpoint of the species endangerment of these wolves. Instead, it will be made by a Board of Game that recognizes three things:

- The opinion of many Alaskans in support of this closure.
- The importance of reducing risks to this discreet population, in order to protect an economically and scientifically valuable Alaskan resource.
- The absolute authority and responsibility held by the Board of Game, and exercised in the past, to act on this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Brad De Noble
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:13:55 AM
Affiliation

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9076944338

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32323 Mt. Korohusk Cir.
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Please support Propoasl 142! It is unconscionable to allow a few Alaskans to trap and kill wolves that so many Alaskans, Americans, and others want to see. Now, more than ever, we need tourist dollars and tourists pay to see wolves. Your removal of the buffer has caused visitors seeing wolves in DNP from 50% in 2010 to just 4% now. That, plus news that you allow DNP wolves to be trapped and killed, will only decrease the number of tourists and the income to this state further. And for what – so a few people can kill wolves. That is complete BS. These wolves are also very important to science as they are some of the must studied in the world and continuance thereof is critical to better understand wolves. Plus, the vast majority of Alaskans support the buffer. Do your job for who you are supposed to – all Alaskans, not just a few select Alaskans. Support Proposal 142 and re-establsih the buffer!!!!



Submitted By
Lin Davis
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:11:27 PM
Affiliation
AK resident 24 years

I support Proposal 142 to establish a No Hunting/Trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.

The economic rewards of insuring there are wolves in Denali for tourists to see has been well documented. The majority of Alaskans support a buffer zone. As a committee entirely of trappers and hunters, you have a democratic responsibility to represent the majority viewpoint. There is wise precedent for a no hunting/no trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. And the 2001-02 BOG acknowledged Denali wolves as an important resource and worth conserving. Setting up the buffer is a small and democratic gesture. The Denali wolf population has greatly declined. Denali visitors now have a 4% chance of seeing a wolf. Because you are governor-appointed and charged with representing Alaskans who prefer non consumptive wildlife uses, thank you for passing this Proposal 142



Submitted By
Michelle Dalpes
Submitted On
1/19/2017 8:46:25 AM
Affiliation

Please re-instate the Denali National Park "Buffer Zone."

Please consider the statistics and benefit to American's. In 2010 45% of visitors to Denali National Park had the opportunity to see a wolf. Now visitors have a 5% chance. How many people benefit from a wolf killed in the buffer zone? What is the economic benefit of that one wolf? The death of a wolf especially an Alpha wolf can destroy the pack vs. the benefit to one person, is it worth it?

Please listen to the majority of Alaskan's who would rather see these wolves alive than dead. It is your job to consider the science, statistics, and the wishes of ALL Alaskan's.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michelle Dalpes



Submitted By
Stewart Cubley
Submitted On
1/29/2017 2:32:26 PM
Affiliation
Landowner

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PO Box 309
Fairfax, California 94978

In support of Proposal 142:

I have been a landowner in the Wolf Townships 30 miles west of Healy since 1976. My property borders Denali National Park and I have witnessed the rise and fall of the wolf population along the northern boundary for over 40 years. The absence of wolf activity over the last decade has been dramatic and alarming. In past decades, consistent sightings of individuals and families were commonplace, along with their auditory presence in the valley. Now and for the last number of years there's greatly reduced signs of activity.

The loss of this resource leaves an empty rung in the natural habitat of the area and impacts the experience of anyone who visits. This imbalance in diversity ripples out to the rest of the ecosystem with effects that are beyond our complete understanding but far-reaching in scope. And the impact on the local economy that depends on tourist's sightings of wolves in the wild (that can be found in a few other parts of the country) is a loss to anyone who travels to Alaska to experience Denali National Park.

The Denali wolves don't know when they cross that invisible northeastern boundary and leave their safe sanctuary. They don't know that they may never return to their families or to the interior of the park where they have made their home. The Alaska Board of Game has the authority to rectify this situation and restore a more balanced management plan governing this area. I sincerely hope this issue is taken seriously and that the necessary steps are taken to protect our wild wolf population before it's too late.

Signed, Stewart Cubley



Submitted By
Terry Cummings
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:23:01 AM
Affiliation

SUPPORT PROPOSAL 142

Wolves must be protected from trapping and hunting in this area around Denali Park. Visitors and residents of Alaska want this protection so they can view wolves in the wild. This is important for our economy and is very important for a healthy ecosystem. Wolf numbers have greatly decreased and packs have been wiped out by a few trappers, who knowingly trap this area as they know the habits of the wolves in Denali. Alaskans overwhelmingly want this area protected. Please pass this proposal for all of us and the ecosystem. Lets get out of the dark ages and protect this keystone species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Janice Crow
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:52:58 AM
Affiliation

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471 oxbow crescent
Collingwood, Other L9Y5B4

I support proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park. The board has the responsibility to manage wildlife conservation purposes. These wolves that frequent the Corridor/ Nenana/ Park Road are an extremely important scientific resource to some of the most famous and longest running studies of wolf packs in the country. These hunting activities will ultimately result in the loss of entire packs and prematurely end the decades of scientific research. Also, visitors to Denali want to see wolves and spend much of their income on the experience. This will result in losses for Alaskan tourism and present a poor look on Alaska's tourism industry. As documented by the National Parks Service in 2015 today only 4% of visitors will see a wolf alongside Park Road and before the buffer was scrapped in 2010 nearly 50% saw a wolf. Please consider these and many additional points to establish a no hunting and trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park.



Submitted By
Kenneth Crowell
Submitted On
2/1/2017 1:36:15 PM
Affiliation

Phone
908-626-0235
Email
kencrowell@comcast.net
Address
40 Mitchell Road
Gillette, New Jersey 07933

I write in support of Proposal 142 which would establish a no-wolf-take zone in a small portion of GMU 20, subunits 20A and 20C, adjacent to Denali National Park.

While I am not an Alaskan resident, I have visited Alaska 11 times in the past, have spent substantial time and money in Alaska on guided and also unguided fishing and backpacking trips in the state and intend to visit Alaska multiple times in the future. I have visited Denali National Park four times and have stayed at Camp Denali and have also backpacked and day hiked on my own in the park. I have seen wolves in the park on three occasions and have heard wolves calling in the park while backpacking. These experiences were among the highlights of those particular trips and I can assure you that the experience of seeing and hearing wolves in the park is significant and meaningful to visitors and also is a contributing motivation for return and repeat trips. It certainly has been for me, for my wife and for my brother (who have accompanied me on some of these trips).

I believe that Alaska would be well served by providing protection to wolves on state lands adjoining the Park. Wolves of course do not know about Park boundaries and are particularly vulnerable when they cross over out of the Park since they are used to humans not being a threat (in the Park). While I admittedly have no data, it seems highly likely to me that the economic benefit of added tourism and spending in the state accruing due to protection of wolves in the limited area adjoining Denali would far outweigh any economic benefit of wolf take in GMU 20. In my case, on every trip I have taken to Alaska I spent in the region of \$5,000 to \$15,000 in Alaska. Considering the large number of visitors to Denali, and the fact that most of those visitors also visit and spend money in other regions of Alaska before or after they visit Denali, the economic case for Proposal 142 seems self-evident since clearly the value of the presence of wolves in the Park is on the order of many millions, perhaps tens of millions of dollars of tourism revenue to the state. There is of course also the fact that the Board of Game has the responsibility and duty to conserve the wilderness and wildlife in GMU 20.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

Ken Crowell



Submitted By
Jim Costigan
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:25:39 AM
Affiliation

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5419108306

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jcostigan53@gmail.com

Address
1806 1st St
La Grande, Oregon 97850

As we find ourselves in pivotal and often uncertain times in landscapes both figurative and literal, we look to Alaska as a bastion of the wildness, freedom and purity we vigorously seek yet so often struggle to find. For those of us that truly value these qualities as part of a life fulfilled, the wolf is truly an epitome. My own yearning for an experience so impactful as simply observing a wolf in its habitat is only outweighed by that of its preservation for generations to come. This is why I wholeheartedly support Proposal 142 - what we do at this moment will resound for years to come with those who need it most and otherwise couldn't.



Submitted By
Mark Crouter
Submitted On
2/1/2017 5:49:38 AM
Affiliation

Phone
3012578788

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mhcrouter@gmail.com

Address
3804 Montrose Dr
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

I am writing in support of Proposal 142. As a visitor to Denali NP, I personally experienced the presence of the wolf population and can attest to the value of that experience in helping me and other visitors understand the interrelationship of species in the Denali ecosystem. I urge the Alaska Board of Game to exercise its responsibility and authority to conserve the wilderness and wildlife to preclude hunting and trapping of wolves on state land adjacent to Denali NP and Preserve. This action is key to reducing the vulnerability of wolves to hunting and trapping when they cross the park boundary onto state land, providing protection in the larger Denali ecosystem, and recognizing the critical importance of intact, diverse animal populations to the regional and state economy. The long term interests of the state and its human population are inextricably tied to the health of our natural environment and all its diversity. Thank you.



Submitted By

Janna Collins

Submitted On

2/2/2017 5:50:43 AM

Affiliation

US citizen, visitor to Alaska

Prop 142. Please support the protection area for wolves. Their social structure depends on a dominant leader of the pack and that loss leads to the death of many. They are vital to the ecology and balance of this endangered environment. There are great financial benefits to the state from tourism as well as what I would call a moral responsibility to conservative this portion of the earth.



Submitted By
Cathy Cooper
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:05:25 AM
Affiliation

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49 Talbot Road
Twickenham, UK, Other TW2 6SJ

~~Dear Board Members

Last June I came to Alaska for the first time with a journalist. I had wanted to visit for a very long time but one thing that worried me was my pre-conceived notion that all locals loved to kill anything on four legs and that I would be regarded as a 'tree hugger' which seems to be the normal label for anyone that isn't into hunting. Instead I met local people who love and want to protect wildlife and keep the ecology chain moving.

I am from the UK where the tragedy still rings in people's minds that the last wolf was shot in Scotland a long time ago. People like me come to places like Alaska in the hope that we will spot a wolf in the wild. Getting to your state is easy now via Iceland. They in turn are expanding their airport to create one of the biggest hubs from Europe to North America. Tourism is on the up. People want to see expansive landscapes, mountains and most of all wildlife. You have it.

I was very lucky to stay in several of your National Parks including Denali. I couldn't have wished for a better experience. The mountain herself appeared in all her glory, the bears and moose were enjoying the sunshine and everything was perfect. One of our guides gave a talk about the dwindling wolf population and how hunters wait outside the Park boundary to shoot any wolf that strays over. This was very upsetting and left a stain on an otherwise perfect holiday.

I am therefore pleading as a tourist and believer that the welfare of natural predators maintains the balance in nature that you consider stopping the issue of hunting licences for the areas adjacent to the Park.

Wolves may disappear totally if hunting is allowed in this area. Please consider how this will affect tourism.

Alaska is a beautiful natural land. Please keep it that way.

Thank You



Submitted By

Jerryne Cole

Submitted On

1/31/2017 12:44:05 PM

Affiliation

Denali resident/business owner

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9074402302

Email

jerryne@campdenali.com

Address

PO Box 67

Denali National Park, Alaska 99755

I would like to submit comment concerning proposal 142. Having been a business owner who has transported park visitors over the Denali Park road to our lodges in the center of the park for nearly forty years, I know first-hand that observing a wolf in the wild is one of visitors' three greatest aspirations.

Wolves that den inside Denali National Park near its northeast boundary risk hunting and trapping when moving onto state land. The Alaska Board of Game has responsibility for and authority to provide for conservation of state land outside the park boundary. Indeed, acknowledging that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, in 2001 and 2002 the Board of Game approved no-take closed areas (Stampede and Nenana Canyon) adjacent to the park when the wolf population was double the current number. This idea made economic sense then as it does now and it fulfills ADF& G's management goals. I support added protection for wolves as outlined in proposal 142 on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park.

Jerryne Cole



Submitted By
Scott Chesney

Submitted On
2/3/2017 2:11:58 PM

Affiliation

Support proposal 142

There is a precedent for a no hunting/trapping area in the Stampede Corridor/Nenana Canyon. The buffer zone needs to be reinstated. The BOG has both the authority and the responsibility to manage wildlife for conservation purposes. A majority of Alaskans support creation of a buffer to protect wolves in this small but critically important area. Park boundaries are a fictional line drawn around an area of land; wildlife neither know about or respects an arbitrary line. The old buffer zone more closely resembled natural boundaries and should be reinstated.

The state of Alaska's wildlife management should cease the war on predators, particularly the aspects in place at the behest of a tiny minority of the state's population.



Submitted By
Catherine C. Cave
Submitted On
1/31/2017 6:42:47 PM
Affiliation

Phone
7819292094
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Address
PO Box 89
West Stockbridge, Massachusetts 01266

Hello,

Two summers ago my husband and I made our first trip to the stunning state of Alaska. The highlight of our trip was a 3-night stay at Camp Denali, where on one excursion we witnessed a pack of wolves with cubs. The guide was quite excited and said how unusual it was to see a full pack, that the wolf population had diminished greatly in recent years, and earlier in the season one of the few adult females of breeding age was trapped and killed very near, but outside, the boundaries of the protected area of the park. The death of this female endangered her offspring, who likely did not survive. I thought at the time how tragic and senseless this slaying was.

I sincerely urge you to support Proposal 142 to secure the future wolf population and help ensure this tragic end doesn't befall another breeding female - or any wolf who ventures beyond the territory of the Park.

My husband and I look forward to a return visit to Camp Denali and next time we will bring our entire family. But, we will look to this vote to see if the Alaska Board of Game takes the necessary steps to preserve the wildlife in the region. Though the scenery in your grand state is breathtaking, it is the wildlife that inspires us to cross the country to visit and spend our tourist dollars in Alaska, instead of elsewhere in the country or in Canada.

Please protect the wolves in Denali and support Proposal 142.

Catherine C. Cave

West Stockbridge, MA



Submitted By
Larry Casey
Submitted On
2/2/2017 10:58:58 AM
Affiliation
1952

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9076942286
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icsteelhead@gmail.com

Address
12428 Winter Park Circle
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

I support proposal 142 to help protect wolves.

I have little hope that the board will act in a responsible manner as apparently slaughtering predators is a mandate.

This life long hunter and 30+ year Alaska residents finds the Board of Game seriously out of touch in managing game.

Thank You



Submitted By
Joan Campbell
Submitted On
2/1/2017 9:49:59 AM
Affiliation

I address these comments to the matter of Proposal 142 and strongly add my support for a ban on hunting and trapping of wolves in game management units 20A and 20C.

Alaska's wildlife constitutes one of its greatest touristic assets and is of huge importance in attracting tourist and their dollars to the state - far more dollars than wolf-hunting licenses. To this fact is joined the fact of a recently diminished population of wolves in the Denali area, probably for a variety of reasons. It's only logical to use a conservative approach to their management, extending to them protection that goes beyond the (invisible, to them) boundaries of the National Park.

It is the Board's responsibility - and privilege - to nurture a vibrant, bio-diverse ecosystem in the Denali area, for both its intrinsic, moral value and its economic benefit to the state. For those of us in the Lower 48, the possibility of seeing a wolf during a visit to Denali is a tremendous lure, and actually seeing one (as I was lucky enough to do so a couple of years ago) a thrill that draws us back time and again.

Thank you for taking your obligation to the state and its wildlife seriously, and giving this matter careful consideration.



Submitted By
Sean Cahoon
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:56:18 PM
Affiliation

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my support for Proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. The BOG has historical precedent for such a buffer and has acknowledged that it considers DNPP wolves a valuable resource. As do frequent park visitors like myself. The BOG has a responsibility to wildlife viewers, who should have opportunities similar to hunters and trappers. Furthermore, the wolves of DNPP are valuable scientific subjects, which have been studied for eight decades and multiple generations - almost unprecedented in scientific circles. Wolves serve as a keystone species, acting to directly control herbivore populations, but also the myriad cascading effects on ecosystem structure and function. It is the pristine nature of Denali that attracts thousands of visitors each year - generating precious local and state revenue - that should be heavily weighted in the BOG's decision. Do the board members want to see that revenue decline if visitors decide Denali isn't worth it because the chances of spotting an iconic wolf have vanished? Please protect these wolves, their ecosystem and the sustainable source of revenue for the next generation of Alaskans and visitors from around the world.

Sean



Submitted By
Joanna Cahoon
Submitted On
2/2/2017 2:27:47 PM
Affiliation

Please Support Proposal 142!

As a hunter, lover of Denali Park, and an Alaskan worried about Alaska's fiscal future, I implore the BOG to please support Proposal 142. Alaska's wildlife should be managed so that our tourism industry is bolstered. That means we have to conserve those animals that bring people to our state. Hunting wolves that stray from our most cherished park - Denali - is a bad experiment. It should be ended immediately.

Denali wolves bring visitors to our state. Those tourist dollars have never been more important. Alaska has an experience to offer folks in the lower 48. We cannot allow needless hunting of the animals that draw people to Denali.

Keep Alaska's fiscal future in mind and please support prop 142!

Thank you,

Joanna



Submitted By
Matt Cahill
Submitted On
1/31/2017 4:04:15 PM
Affiliation

Phone
603-325-2662

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Address
3164 N. Watts St.
Portland, Oregon 97217

I am writing to voice my support of the proposal to prohibit the taking of wolves in the Stampede Corridor / Wolf Townships on the northeast corner of Denali National Park. I worked in Denali National Park as an interpretive guide for five summers between 2009-2014 and spent many hours watching the Grant Creek Pack. I witnessed myself the dramatic declines in wolf encounters that followed the opening of trapping along the Stampede Corridor. As a guide, I was keenly aware of the excitement visitors had to see wolves in such a wild landscape, as well as their disappointment when viewing wolves became an almost-never-happens event. The causal link between wolf takes and reduced visitor encounters in the Park appears robust and supported. I sincerely hope the protections are reinstated.



Submitted By
Donna Brookins
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:02:11 AM
Affiliation

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Chicago, Illinois 60610

I visited beautiful Alaska last summer and want to return often. I support increased protection for wolves through Proposal 142. These magnificent creatures are important for the environment and tourism. Please help the wolves.



Submitted By
Coby Brock
Submitted On
2/3/2017 11:51:56 AM
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As a professional photographer I am strongly in favor of extending the no-hunting buffer zone around Denali National Park. I have spent over 100 days in Denali National Park. Since the buffer zone was lifted 6 years ago I have noticed significantly less wolves on my photography expeditions. People come from all over the world to Denali National Park to see nature as it should be but I feel that they are getting ripped off by hunting too close to the park. They spend millions of dollars in hotels, bus trips and park fees and they should be able to see wolves in their natural habitat. I also feel that the Judas collar program that the state uses is sick and disgusting unethical and shameful. I am so angry every time that I see a collared animal in the park. As a pro photographer, collars cost me money. It is impossible to sell a photo of a moose, caribou or wolf that has a tracking collar. With fur prices at a near all time low I can assure you that more money is being lost by allowing hunting of wolves close to the park that will ever be gained. I would guess that over my career collars and trapping near the park have cost me over 5,000 in sales. When I was camping there this summer I was speaking around the campfire with pro photographer from Switzerland and even they knew about the buffer zone issues and they were furious about it they claimed that they had driven all over the state and barely found any wildlife to photograph along the Denali Highway due to hunting. People around the world are taking notice. Denali National Park brings in millions of dollars of years. Wolves are easily my top-5 best selling pictures because tourists are not seeing them in the wild. I haven't seen a wolf in Denali in years. The buffer zone will keep tourists coming back, and provide everyone an opportunity (including the 85% of Alaskans who don't hunt) to see wolves. Right now, the State is only benefiting the few hunters and trappers who live right outside the park.



Submitted By
Tamara Braithwaite
Submitted On
2/2/2017 1:53:42 PM
Affiliation

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901-451-7380

Email
camtam1@yahoo.com

Address
2659 Cuba Millington Rd
Millington, Tennessee 38053

I am writing in the hopes that this board will do its duty to the wildlife in its care by eliminating the hunting and trapping of wolves in land adjacent to Denali National Park, management areas 20A and 20 C. Although there are many factors that affect wolf populations, trapping and hunting by humans also has a definite impact. With wolf numbers lower than in years past, it is essential that help is given to them.

I have visited your beautiful state twice and I am always in amazement at the beauty I see. It is so breathtaking and wondrous. My travels to Denali National Park were taken for many reasons but one of the main ones was to see a wolf. I only came as close as a footprint but even that left me thankful. Please do your part to ensure that visitors to your state can up their chances of seeing one of the most magnificent of creatures. Thank you for your time.



Submitted By
George Brady
Submitted On
1/29/2017 8:52:45 PM
Affiliation
Camp Denali and North Face Lodge

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Brotherofsister@gmail.com

Address
341 Miller Hill
Fairbanks , Alaska 99709

We have entered a new age where the worth of our resources goes well beyond their face value. A wolf is a perfect example of this. As one of the few naturalist guides in denali national park, I meet people from all over the world, and even from within our state, that bring incredible amounts of revenue and wonder to Alaska. Many of these people come with the sole purpose of wanting to see wolves in the wild. In 2008 visitors spent over \$150 million on their visits to Denali, and tourism is what drives the entire Denali Borough economy (https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/upload/EconomicImpacts_2012.pdf).

Since there are only select areas where most people have any chance of seeing a wild wolf, it is crucial for us to do what is in our power to protect packs and their habitats in these accessible areas. Yes, historically we have been able to hunt in these areas, but we must be willing to change and consider the needs and desires of those who will be here after our lifetimes. Can you imagine an interior, or anywhere for that matter, where it's IMPOSSIBLE to see wolves? Don't you want your kid's kids to have that experience?

George Duke Brady



Submitted By
Michael J Boyce
Submitted On
1/31/2017 7:38:56 PM
Affiliation

Greetings,

I am writing to you to express my support for Proposal 142, which would provide protection for Denali area wolves.

Though I now call Seward home, I was a Healy and Denali Park resident for many years, starting in the early 1990's. I worked as a guide in the Park and was fortunate enough show wolves to literally thousands of people over many years. I assure you that for many Alaska visitors, seeing a wolf in the wild— a wild wolf! – was both the highlight of their visit and a dream come true. Their interest and appreciation always grew as I explained that the first ever biological studies of wolves happened in Denali, and that they had been studied continuously since 1939, providing unique and valuable scientific data unparalleled in the world. They were awed that they were seeing the descendants of the very wolves first studied by the legendary wildlife biologist, Adolph Murie.

It's well known that in recent years, Denali wolves have suffered greatly as a result of hunting and trapping along the Park boundary, and their numbers have plummeted almost certainly due to this activity. As a longtime Alaskan, I support hunting and see it as one of the most basic ingredients of an enjoyable life in the Alaska. However, I also believe in balance, and in the name of balance and fairness, there is a clear choice to be made here.

When a wolf is killed in the area under consideration, one person benefits, and thousands of people are deprived – not only our visitors who come here hoping just to see a wolf, but also the scientific community who understand the value of a continuously- studied population of wolves. Not to mention future generations who benefit from this knowledge.

I ask the Board to exercise it's clear authority over this area, and to exercise it's responsibility to protect wildlife in need of protection. Approve Proposal 142. Remember, when a Denali wolf dies, 1 man benefits, and thousands are deprived. Please vote for balance.

Sincerely,

Michael J Boyce



Submitted By

Juliette Boselli

Submitted On

1/29/2017 7:38:12 PM

Affiliation

Phone

9076870176

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Address

Po box 106

Denali, Alaska 99755

I am writing in support of protection for Denali wolves on state land outside the boundary of Denali National park. Too many wolves who have wandered outside the boundaries of the park have been killed in traps and by hunters on adjacent state Lands. Packs have been decimated and populations reduced. These wolves are a world class attraction and an important resource. The intact ecosystem of Denali is also compromised by the killing of these wolves otherwise protected within the boundaries of the park. I urge the board of game to further protect these wolves on state lands, it is the only right and just thing to do.



Submitted By
Gary Borenstein
Submitted On
2/2/2017 7:18:46 PM
Affiliation

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907-570-2974

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Address
P.O. Box 51
Denali Park, Alaska 99755

I would like to lend my support to proposal 142. I have worked in the Denali area for 38 years, and have lived there year round for the last 19 years. More importantly I have been a bus driver in Denali for the past 22 summers, driving over 1000 hours per summer, and know the dynamic of the park as well as anyone. There is no doubt that I have witnessed a precipitous decline in wolf viewings for the last four years. As in one or two sightings per summer recently. It is obvious to me that the wolves need to have protected status adjoining the National Park on state lands back to where it used to be not so long ago.

I urge you to do the right thing and pass proposal 142. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely...Gary Borenstein



During my first visit to Yellowstone I had the pleasure of watching the Lamar Valley wolf pack wake up one morning from my car parked by NPS employee on a ridge overlooking the valley. That morning will remain with me the rest of my life.

I am sure all of you know the story of how Yellowstone became a "cow pasture" (my definition) when wolves were eliminated. Once returned they kept the elk and bison from living on the stream banks and willow trees and other vegetation were able to return followed quickly by other wildlife (beaver, mink, fish, etc) that had disappeared due to no stream bank vegetation.

I am reading where I will no longer have a realistic chance to see a Denali wolf. I hope you will make every effort to keep Denali National Park from becoming a "cow pasture" and support a healthy Denali which means a healthy wolf population.

Sam Booher



Submitted By
Harry Blair
Submitted On
2/2/2017 12:07:08 PM
Affiliation
Alaska Tours, Anchorage

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The Alaska Board of Game PLEASE support Proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park >> <http://bit.ly/1ljiDGi> Gone forever. World-famous wolf family of Denali National Park taken for trophy to satisfy a few. Wolf populations have been in decline at Denali for the last six years, but restoring wildlife conservation easement in one key region can help these majestic animals rebound.

URGENT: Deadline to take action is TODAY: Ask The Alaska Board of Game to support Proposal 142 to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park >> <http://bit.ly/1ljiDGi>



Submitted By
Daniel Bissinger
Submitted On
2/2/2017 12:23:26 AM
Affiliation

Phone
3023835876

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Address
1548 Summit View Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Alaska BOG:

Thank you for considering my comment on this important subject.

Studies conducted by eminent biologists (Murie, Haber, Mech, Ripple and countless others, I'm sure) have shown that wolves have inhabited Denali National Park and interior Alaska for at least a thousand years. The work of a handful of hunters, trappers and predator control programs have dismantled the right for wolves to live, and park visitors to view them in their natural habitat, in a matter of decades. In doing so, we as a people have demonstrated our ability to dominate the wilderness instead of live in it.

Not only have we surrendered our synergy with wilderness, but we have also surrendered the "Wilderness Idea" as Wallace Stegner put it. This is the idea that human beings can live with other creatures without destroying them, that we can assign value to wilderness beyond their economic uses, that we as people benefit from wilderness even if for ten years we never set foot in it, simply because it is there, for the sanity it brings and knowledge that there is still perhaps something left untamed on Earth. We need wilderness as much as wilderness needs us, and we cannot have wilderness in parts. It exists only in whole with minimal human disturbance. When one species is eradicated, the entire ecosystem is imbalanced.

Trophic cascade is highly pertinent to ecosystems inhabited by wolves; the studies conducted in Yellowstone over the past 15 years have demonstrated this. They show us that animals are best managed by themselves, devoid of human involvement and most especially devoid of archaic predator control programs that were invalidated as effective strategies several decades ago. There is no scientific basis for contemporary wolf control programs. Studies have shown, for example, ("The Case Against Wolf and Bear Control In Alaska" Haber, 2006) that wolves have negligible effects on moose, caribou, and sheep populations in Alaska and most often prey on the weakest animals – half the time not hunting but scavenging on carcasses from animals aged, diseased, or weakened by harsh winters. There are high biological, scientific, and ethical costs of killing wolves (Ibid.). By establishing a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park where wolves often travel and den, wolves can better serve the ecosystems they are entitled to inhabit, park visitors can enjoy them, and the 'Wilderness Idea' may be upheld. Alaskans can do better.

We can live with wolves, enjoy them, and respect ourselves and appreciate life more fully. We can do this simply because of the knowledge that wolves exist and that we had a choice to exterminate them, and didn't.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.



Submitted By
Davyd Betchkal
Submitted On
1/30/2017 2:32:03 PM
Affiliation

Hello Board of Game officials,

I live within the no-wolf-take zone described as part of Proposal 142 and I am in favor of enacting it. This proposal makes a lot of economic sense for us. You wouldn't believe the number of times I've heard people say "*oh, I'm headed to Denali,*" and I ask them, what do you want to do there? In the winter, they're coming here to see the northern lights. But in the summer, it's almost always, "*I want to see wildlife,*" and usually they're most excited to see wolves and bears. This Borough thrives on tourism dollars and I want to see a decision made by the Board of Game that benefits our local economy.

The experience of witnessing a wolf in the wild is a life-changing experience - I don't think I'll ever shed the memory of huge orange eyes looking right back into mine. But it's something I have done only once, despite spending more than 75 nights out in the backcountry areas around McKinley Village, the Yanert, and within the park over the last eight years. It is apparent from the research summarized in the proposal that about 11% of the wolves in eastern Denali packs were harvested in the Wolf Townships in 2015. At such a rate, I wonder how long they'll last. Therefore, I agree that if GMU 20A and 20C are within natural wintering ranges of these animals, they should be taken seriously for further protection. Encouraging take in this area seems far too impactful. I really don't want people to lose the chance to experience an amazing aspect of the place I live. And, selfishly, I want a second chance, myself.

Thanks for your time and public service. I recognize that these decisions are complex and take a considerable amount of effort to decide on. Please consider my local voice in your deliberations.

Davyd Betchkal



Submitted By
Julia Bevins
Submitted On
2/2/2017 5:18:17 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-223-3483

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Address
3303 Checkmate Dr
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

To the Alaska Board of Game,

I support proposal 142 that establishes a no hunting and trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park. One of my peak experiences with wildlife was a day in the park with a whole group of family and friends when a wild wolf trotted by, and experience that was priceless. Wolves belong in the park and because of their large home ranges and migratory routes, packs can be decimated by hunting and trapping close to the park borders.

Thank you,

Julia Bevins



Submitted By
Hannah Berry
Submitted On
1/31/2017 6:52:26 PM
Affiliation

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907-209-2488

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akberry80@hotmail.com

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341 Miller Hill Rd
Fairbanks , Alaska 99709

I am deeply disturbed by how often the rights of our natural world are neglected, and have great fear as we move forward into the future. We, as people, hold a tremendous responsibility to protect the wild and all the creatures in it. Not for the mere sake of our own enjoyment, but for the respect and rights of all life. We hold the responsibility to assist the wolves of Denali in their survival. This means the support of all possible laws which aim to protect the wild animals of Alaska, and this nation. Alaska, above all, is a state indebted to its natural beauty, and should uphold these considerations. I was born in this beautiful state, and as someone representing the younger generation, I want say we must protect our home, and the homes of all creatures in Alaska. I support proposal 142, and I strongly urge you to do the same. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Maria Berger
Submitted On
1/31/2017 9:14:36 PM
Affiliation
Wildlife Biologist

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Address
P.O. Box 81985
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

To members of the Board of Game,

I urge you to support Proposal 142 to protect wolves in the former buffer zone known as the Stampede corridor (also called the wolf townships), adjacent to Denali National Park (DNP).

About half a million tourists visit DNP each year; wolves rank among the top wildlife species they hope to view. Not all of these tourists are "come-from-aways"; approximately 50,000 are Alaska residents.

Recognizing the importance of wolves to the ecosystem and tourists, the board of game (BOG) created the **no-take buffer zone in 2002**, helping conserve wolves that den in the park during summer and follow migrating prey beyond the park boundary in winter.

The **buffer zone was allowed by BOG to sunset in 2010**. Since then, numbers of tourists viewing wolves in DNP has declined from 45% to around 5%. One trapper in particular touts his ability to destroy viewing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of tourists (see National Geographic Magazine, February 2016 "How Can 6 Million Acres at Denali Still Not Be Enough?").

In a state with declining oil revenues, it seems unconscionable to support this situation. Governor Bill Walker spoke on "Alaska Live" on radio today (January 31, 2017) soliciting ideas for diversifying our economy and boosting tourism in the face of our recent economic woes. By providing opportunities to view predators in their natural habitat, we can help the tourism sector of our economy remain healthy in this most visited National Park in Alaska.

The alternative is for tourists to get the message that if they want to see wildlife in all its complexities - predator and prey alike, they should visit Yellowstone National Park because such experiences are lacking in Alaska's "Crown Jewel of the North".

Sincerely,

Maria Berger

Wildlife Biologist

Naturalist Guide in Denali National Park, 1994-2013

Sent from my iPad



Submitted By
Barbara Benisch
Submitted On
2/2/2017 9:08:29 AM
Affiliation

I am writing to urge your support of Proposal 142 to preclude hunting and trapping of wolves on distinct areas of state land adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve, game management units 20A and 20C. As a visitor to Denali National Park I have had the awe-inspiring privilege to see a wolf. Nothing stirs the heart and soul more than seeing this regal, beautiful wild animal at home in the wilderness, untouched by human interference. With record low numbers of wolf populations, it was amazing that I was able to have that experience. We should do everything we can to ensure that the wolves can multiply so that more people can have the powerful and meaningful experience of seeing and hearing them. More importantly, we have a responsibility to keep Alaska as wild as possible so that there is at least one place in America where the animals are more important than people. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Robert Bedenkop
Submitted On
2/1/2017 4:08:27 AM
Affiliation

Phone
6175415800

Email
rb.federal@verizon.net

Address
34 Garden Road
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02481

Our Family of four, traveled to Denali National Park this past summer from Boston,MA because of the intact, diverse animal populations we could find here and nowhere else. The importance of Denali's wolves to tourism can not be overstated. In addition to the revenue this adds to your states economy, please consider the importance of keeping what makes Alaska different from the rest of our country, a place where people can come and find intact natural ecosystems. Please remember Denali National Park is your states treasure.



Submitted By
Emilio Barrientos
Submitted On
2/2/2017 6:18:50 AM
Affiliation

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing today in support of Proposal 142. I believe this proposal is vital to protecting the already vulnerable population of wolves in Denali National Park. It is important to maintain diverse animal populations in the park and for the regional and state economy. Please support Proposal 142.

Sincerely,

Emilio Barrientos



Submitted By
Susan Ballard
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:50:48 PM
Affiliation
Ms

Phone
6082468505

Email
susaninwis@hotmail.com

Address
1101 Northport Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

I support Proposal 142 to ensure a trapping/hunting free zone adjacent to Denali National Park. Please ensure that this safety zone is provided. I am particularly concerned about wolves and their safety in and near Denali.



To Whom It May Concern:

I am appalled and devastated to learn that the Alaska Wolf -East Fork Pack will inevitably vanish or has vanished due to legal hunting allowed by your board. How can you give these hunters the right to destroy these defenseless creatures who you know very well remain endangered? Can you not see that our children's children will never have the opportunity to see these majestic creatures alive again! It is not, as a human being your moral and ethical right to decide who or what to keep alive, it is not your right. I know the bottom line to all of this is money and those invisible strings being pulled that we the public may never see or know. Whatever your intentions please think what you have done to this species and many others not just now, but since the beginning of time. Do you understand the void and destruction you will cause not just for Alaska but for the world. What will your legacy be? Please stop this killing for the future of our children and our planet.

Thank you,
Evelynn Bajana



Submitted By
Thomas Avrutik
Submitted On
2/3/2017 9:46:02 AM
Affiliation

Please support Proposal 142

As a potential visitor to Denali, one of the main draws is the possibility to see wolves in their natural habitat. Establishing a no-hunting buffer around the park will help safeguard the wolves and maintain their natural habitat. We can draw on a map, but the wolves go where they will. We should make sure they are protected, not just for visitors like me, but for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By

David L Arnold

Submitted On

1/13/2017 12:24:12 PM

Affiliation

Phone

9076871767

Email

drdavidlamold@gmail.com

Address

P.O. Box 331

Denali Park, Alaska 99755

I support a ban on wolf hunting along the Denali National Park and Preserve boundary, and for the establishment of a buffer zone to protect those packs that reside within or migrate into the Park. I support the ban and buffer because our local tourism revenue, upon which this community depends, is directly tied to quality of experience for visitors. The fact that wolf sightings are down significantly over the past several years, I feel we should do our best to ensure survival of these packs in and immediately adjacent to the Park. There is plenty of land in Alaska to hunt wolves; we don't need to do so in a way where the wishes of the few far out-weight the needs of many, many others.
David L. Arnold



Submitted By
Arctic Audubon Society
Submitted On
2/2/2017 8:22:21 AM
Affiliation

Arctic Audubon believes wolves should be protected in GMU 2 adjacent to Denali National Park. Please pass Proposal 142. Thanks you.



Submitted By
Carol Allison
Submitted On
2/2/2017 2:33:35 PM
Affiliation

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Address
94 hwy. 69
Hillside, Colorado 81232

My daughter saw Denali wolves several years ago. I would go to Alaska to see them also, but I would not travel so far for any other reason. Colorado has its own beauty, but was not intelligent enough to protect its wolves and, sadly, has none. I hope Alaska will protect its wolves for all the people in the States who would love to get to see them. Carol Allison.



Submitted By
Mary Able
Submitted On
2/1/2017 3:09:54 PM
Affiliation
Mrs.

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530-524-5755
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535-000 Little Valley Road
McArthur, California 96056-7633

Hello:

I wish to comment re Proposal 142 to create a buffer zone around Denali Park to protect wolves from hunting and trapping. This is an excellent idea and one that deserves to be implemented and enforced fully. In light of the fact that the wolf population in Denali has been depressed for some time, a buffer zone would protect the individuals that the Park has from being killed or maimed when they wander across Park boundaries....which they inevitably do. The Board should be aware of the ecological value of a healthy wolf population: 1) wolves serve a valuable service in regulating the populations of ungulates. Ungulates, if overpopulated, will overgraze and/or overbrowse vegetation. 2) Wolves provide an incredible draw for tourism, which bring in major sums of money both to the Park, the State of Alaska, concessionaires in the areas of the Park. This includes both national and international tourism. My husband and I spent three weeks in AK a few years ago, and Denali and its wolves were a major reason for our visit. We go to Yellowstone NP at least once per year to see the wolves. It is very rare for anyone to be able to see wolves in a completely wild situation, and it bears no resemblance to viewing an animal in a zoo. Many more people are realizing this, and they want to experience seeing these animals in their natural habitat. 3) Addressing tourism a bit further, I would suggest that the Board review the revenues coming in from hunting and trapping fees versus the revenues generated by international and national tourism. 4) The Board should seek input from wolf and wildlife biologists to determine the scientific evidence confirming the importance of wildlife pathways in securing healthy populations of ALL wildlife, not only that of the wolves. Extending the protections afforded to wolves by the rules of Denali Park into a buffer zone would be a further help to preserving this species. I believe that it is the duty of the Board to conserve, and Proposal 142 would fall into that category.