

Al Barrette
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15 May 2017

RE: HB 105

Good day honorable Co-Chairs and members of the committee.

I would ask you not to support HB 105.

In retrospect of the passage of HB 211 mandatory guide requirement for all non-resident wishing to hunt north of the Yukon River for caribou, from the full House. It was clearly evident that HB 211 was to protect the "subsistence user and uses" and to avoid any conflict with non-subsistence users or uses.

This bill is asking for the exact opposite. It is asking to eliminate the "custom and traditional uses" of wolves for state subsistence users. Note: Federal Qualified Subsistence Users will still be allowed to trap on National Preserve Lands that surround the Park for wolves.

The Alaskan Constitution, and statutes give the highest priority to subsistence user and uses.

I don't see how you can support HB 211, to protect subsistence for caribou users and not protect subsistence trappers for wolves!

Amendments:

9. Page 1, lines 6-7:

- 10 Delete "Hunting and trapping of wolves is prohibited"**
- 11 Insert "a person may not take a wolf or use a cable snare with a diameter greater than**
- 12 3/32 of an inch or greater or a leg hold with a jaw spread greater than five inches"**

How I read this new amendment:

1. The prohibition of taking wolves is removed. (line 10)
2. Lines 11-12 as written would allow you to take wolves as long as you use a 3/32 or smaller snare cable or use a trap that has less than five inch jaw spread. Also you could use a body grip style trap since it not mention in the new language. (like a 330 body grip trap)

This is how I read it.

I also read the new language to state: you can use snares larger than 3/32" or a trap with a jaw spread larger than five inches, as long as you do not catch a wolf.

I would hope someone would ask Division of Substance how they feel about restricting substance opportunity for wolves and other furbearers, since the new language would eliminate a plethora of traps used to take other furbearers. Such as the most common traps used to take lynx, wolverine, coyote, and foxes. Such as: All No# 4 traps, No# 3v 4 coil Duke trap, Victor, and Blake and Lamb No# 3 jump traps, 13 and 14 jump traps, 48 and 14 New House traps, 21 ½ otter New House trap, No# 2 double coil trap, this not an exhaustive list but just the traps I have and use most common to Alaskan trappers. If passed this would put hardship on those substance users to use traps that are not really designed to take and hold lynx, wolverine, coyote, and foxes. Subsistence users would have an increase in "economy of effort". Ask Division of Subsistence to explain "economy effort", and how they apply AS 16.05 258 Subsistence Law to users.

Thank you for your time

Al Barrette

Hello:

Look at facts our wildlife numbers are going down and our human population is going up. Tourism in Alaska is already threatened because tourists can't find wildlife they came to see and with the nonstop killing of a very small group of serial killer hunting idiots it will only get harder to find wildlife. When I was young I saw wildlife all the time, but those days have been totally blown to pieces by over hunting and a Board of Game full of the absolute wrong people. If there is any chance in turning around a very bad situation for Alaska's wildlife I say we take it. Most of everything we get from AK BOG regarding wildlife is kill, kill and kill some more. HB 105 stands out as different, it sides with protecting wildlife and gives hope that one day a wolf can be seen by a tourist or survive the killing of the BOG, please vote yes for Alaska's wildlife vote yes for HB 105. As an Alaskan wildlife is the most important thing we have and tourists come here to see it alive, not hanging on Jerry Prevo's or some politician's wall.

**April Warwick
Anchorage, AK 99504**

Alaska Finance Committee:

I am in support of HB 105, regarding the Denali Wolf Management Area. I have been a tour guide in Alaska for over 30 years and have spent many years working and playing in Denali National Park. When visitors come to Alaska, they are able to see our beautiful scenery, but they are also hoping to see our amazing wildlife. Most visitors that travel into Alaska's interior visit Denali National Park. They hope to see moose and bears, which they have a good chance at seeing. But the visitors are also greatly hoping to see a wolf. Denali National Park is where the visitors have the best chance of viewing a wild wolf. To some guests, this would be the highlight of their Alaska vacation. It is an experience they will never forget. To see a wolf in the wild shows how incredible Alaska's wilderness is.

In the past, visitors to Denali had a reasonable chance to see a wolf. But since the Board of Game removed the buffer zone northeast of the park, the Denali wolf population has dropped dramatically and the chance to see a wolf has also decreased immensely. Guests are disappointed when they don't see a wolf. For most people, this was their only chance in their lifetime to see a wild wolf and Alaska let them down.

Unfortunately, the Denali wolves don't know when they have crossed outside of the park boundary. The few wolf trappers in the Stampede Corridor are having a tremendous impact on thousands and thousands of tourists and Alaskans who will no longer have the great opportunity to view a wild wolf. And regulations also need to be addressed so wolves are not drawn into the bait stations for other animals.

In the past, I have been lucky enough to view and hike with wolves in Denali National Park. I will never forget looking into the eyes of those incredible animals. I hope other people will also be able to experience this. Please help protect Denali's wolves by establishing a no hunting or trapping zone in honor of Gordon Haber who did so much for Denali's wolves.

Karen Walker

Anchorage, AK 99501

Members of the Alaska House Finances Committee:

Please support HB 105. I am a resident of Healy and cabin/land owner in the Wolf Townships. Having lived in this area for the last thirty years, I assure you that such a designation will be welcomed by many in our community. This includes those who rely on tourism for their livelihood and those who are put off by the incessant arrogance of a few guides to deprive millions of visitors the opportunity to see wolves. Many of us enjoy living in a place where there are wild wolves, sadly it is rare to see a wolf in the area anymore.

I have worked in Denali for many years, and for the last six years, I have worked in one of the front country visitor centers. I see the sense of disappointment amongst visitors when they have not seen wolves on their trip into the park, especially when they expected to. The disappointment expressed is especially profound when folks learn why viewing has declined. Most folks except the fact that natural factors can limit a population but are disparaged to realize that the decline is caused by hunting and trapping right on the boundary, only a few miles away. To hear a local guide boast about killing wolves directly on the park boundary flies in the face of sensibility and ethics. population but are disparaged to realize that the decline is caused by hunting and trapping right on the boundary, only a few miles away. To hear a local guide boast about killing wolves directly on the park boundary flies in the face of sensibility and ethics. population but are disparaged to realize that the decline is caused by hunting and trapping right on the boundary, only a few miles away. To hear a local guide boast about killing wolves directly on the park boundary flies in the face of sensibility and ethics.

This past season, I heard many tourists complain that they wished they had gone to Yellowstone instead of Denali. As lawmakers, you can protect Denali's reputation as a place to watch wolves interact and know their history. This is valuable to watch and the importance to the ecosystem.

There is no dispute that killing wolves along the park boundary has caused a dramatic decline in the park wolf population. This is well backed up by the science that clearly shows a connection between park wolf decline and the loss of certain members of their groups. The complicated dynamics have been studied for a long time. We know that wolves require large territories to survive in this rugged environment. Congress, Alaska Railroad and land managers have long known that wolves need be protected in the Wolf Townships. One just needs to look at the map.

Scientific Research has had a profound impact on the way we look at wolves and their importance, not just to healthy prey populations, but the entire web of life. (#Trophic Cascades)

Please support HB 105. It makes sense.

Thank you,

Barbara Brease

Healy, Alaska 99743

Please pass this bill.

Kora Isakson

Ms. Pierson,

Please pass along my enthusiastic support for the Denali Wolf Buffer on the northeastern boundary of Denali National Park to the members of the Finance Committee. This effort will not add a dime to the ADF&G budget, while protecting the valuable resource of wildlife viewing. Alaska tourism generates \$2.7 billion and visitor spending in Denali is estimated at \$570 million annually, much of which is returned to local economies. Wildlife viewing continues to be the primary attraction to Denali (and indeed much of Alaska's wilderness), which is a resource that requires protection to enhance this trend. Protection of wolves is vital to all Alaskans, whereas the hunting and trapping of this species benefits only a few individuals. The Alaska Board of Game is comprised of self-serving hunters and trappers, with no representation from non-consumptive users. I urge the legislature to take immediate action to protect wolves for their economic benefit and the ecological services they provide for decades to come.

Sincerely,

Sean Cahoon