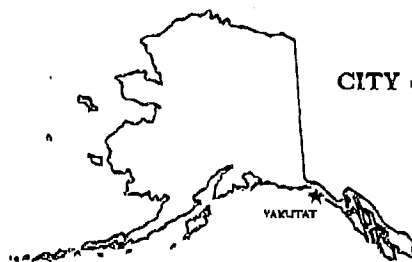


RC21



## CITY &amp; BOROUGH of YAKUTAT

P.O. Box 160  
Yakutat, Alaska 99689  
Phone (907) 784-3323  
Fax (907) 784-3281

September 21, 2010

State of Alaska  
Bard of Game

VIA FAX (907) 465 4094

Re: Proposal 47 Yakutat Trapping Closure

To whom It May Concern:

The Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee has submitted a proposal that would place certain restrictions on trapping activities within the Yakutat Borough. I have been directed by the Assembly for the City and Borough of Yakutat to write this letter expressing their support for that proposal.

For the last twenty years or so the Yakutat Borough has worked successfully with federal and state agencies to improve recreational opportunities for residents living within the relatively small, isolated area defining the most heavily populated part of the Borough. Within that area, the abandoned right-of-way of the Yakutat and Southern Railroad has been converted into a trail used continuously by the general public and school district for individual and group exercise and sporting events. The Cannon Beach recreation area has been improved and is now used frequently by community groups, organizations and families.

The restrictions on lethal traps (wolf snares and .330 conibears) within these high use recreation areas as suggested by the Yakutat fish and Game Advisory Committee are necessary to insure safety of the highest and best use of these specific areas. The Assembly for the City and Borough of Yakutat therefore requests favorable consideration of the Committee's proposed regulation.

Sincerely,

Frank L. "Skip" Ryman, Borough Manager

# Outfitter/Guide Year End Meeting

October 14, 2010 (7-9pm ADT)  
Forest Service Conference Room

RC 22

## 2010 ANAN Season Reviews:

- **Bear Monitoring:**-Recorded Individuals: Black Bears = 61  
Brown Bears = 8
  - Averaged (Recorded Weekly): 37 Black Bear Individuals  
3 Brown Bear Individuals
  - Scan Averages: -@75% of the time had 1 or more bears in view (8.9/12)
    - 9 Black bears & 1 Brown Bear Individuals were seen per  
2 hr. scan (12 - 10min intervals)
    - Averaged about 3 bears in view at any 1 time throughout  
season
    - {Averaged 10 people on deck during scan (highly variable)}
  
- **PAOT Trends:**
  - 79% (44 or 56) of the staffed season days had "Over 20 PAOT" for more than 30 min. Little higher than average since passes were instituted (73%).
  - 27% of Peak Hours (10am-5pm) were taken up by "Over 20 PAOT" which in-line with previous years averages.
  
- **Bear Incidents:**
  - 17 Bear Incidents where Visitors had to modify their behavior in response to a bear's presence.
  - 94% were Brown bear incidents (16 of 17) and 69% (11 of 16) were with Georgie.
  - Georgie was "Sprayed" on July 17<sup>th</sup> and only had 3 more incidents after that point. Thank you!
  - Most took place in 2 places: 1) Brown Bear Cove (6 of 17) and 2) Between the spit of land and observatory (4 of 17).
  - Rest took place at various points along the trail other than what was previously mentioned.

## Future Monitoring Ideas?

## SAFETY:

- **Trail Injuries:** We do not usually record injuries but we would like to know the trouble spots on the trail to identify areas of improvement for the future.
  
- **Emergency Protocols:** Anan techs have a "Standard Method of Response" (*see w/s*)
  - Crossings -Medical Supply- nearby (Deer Islands) could aid in addressing life threatening situations



KETCHIKAN

# Alaska Bear Adventure



### Free Certificate

Each participant receives a personalized Alaska Bush Plane Certificate, signed by the pilot—perfect for framing!



### Notes:

Wear comfortable hiking footwear and waterproof outerwear. Wildlife sightings are frequent, however they cannot be guaranteed.



## Taquan Air

EST. 1977

### Alaska

Taquan Air operates under a special use permit from the US Forest Service. This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

## Alaska Flightseeing & Bear Adventure

- Enjoy a Fully Guided Wildlife Experience!
- Experience wildlife viewing and flight seeing in one great tour!
- Explore the Tongass National Forest your naturalist bear guide who will educate you on the local surroundings and wildlife spotted!
- Become a part of a small number of visitors allowed by US Forest Service permit to this remote location!
- Listen to a full tour narration through a digital noise canceling stereo headset!
- A guaranteed window seat and Bush Plane Certificate will compliment your truly Alaskan experience!
- Tour length is 3 hours and 15 minutes!
- Ketchikan's only FAA certified Medallion Shield carrier!





Experience the thrill of taking off from the Ketchikan waterfront by floatplane with a veteran Alaska bush pilot, on this unique wildlife expedition only available to a small number of visitors. Your pilot will guide you to a remote site in the Tongass National Forest noted for its salmon rich streams and abundant wildlife. A 20-minute flight takes you by historic homesteads and over the sparkling waters of Alaska's fabled Inside Passage. View an unfolding landscape of forested mountains and pristine lakes on your way to our choice remote viewing location.



Few forest locations in North America offer the wildlife viewing opportunities found here! Upon landing you will be met by an Alaskan naturalist, and driven approximately one mile by van, along a forest road, to a trailhead. A pleasant and short hike along an improved trail leads to a viewing platform overlooking a beautiful salmon spawning stream. Along the way, your guide will identify the variety of vegetation that flourishes in this rich rain-forest environment.

From the viewing platform, you will look down on stunning rapids as the fast flowing creek cascades towards the sea and the large numbers of salmon in the stream congregate to complete their spawning journey. This is

where black bear gather to feed on runs of pink, Coho, and Chum salmon, as they head upstream to spawn. Bald eagles perch in the surrounding trees waiting for fish scraps left by the bears. In addition, a variety of birds, Sitka black-tailed deer, mink and marten frequent the area.

Ample time is allowed to observe the wildlife activity in this forest ecosystem before the hike back to the van and the short drive to your awaiting aircraft. Interpretation by your pilot and guide will enhance this truly intimate natural experience, perfect for the nature lover and photographer.





## Spectacular Misty Fjords Floatplane Adventure

- Alaska's Most Spectacular Flight Seeing Trip!
- View a 3,000-foot, sheer granite rock wall plunging into the ocean!
- See cascading waterfalls and jewel-like lakes!
- Watch for abundant wildlife!
- Experience a water landing on a remote bay or alpine lake!
- Listen to a full tour narration through digital noise canceling stereo headsets!
- Guaranteed window seats!
- A Flight Guide and Bush Plane Certificate will compliment your truly Alaskan experience!
- The tour length is 2 hours!
- Ketchikan's only FAA certified Medallion Shield carrier!

**Free Certificate**  
Each participant receives a personalized Alaska Bush Plane Certificate, signed by the pilot—perfect for framing!



**Taquan Air**  
Alaska

EST. 1977

**f** Taquan Air operates under a special use permit from the US Forest Service. This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

ALASKA

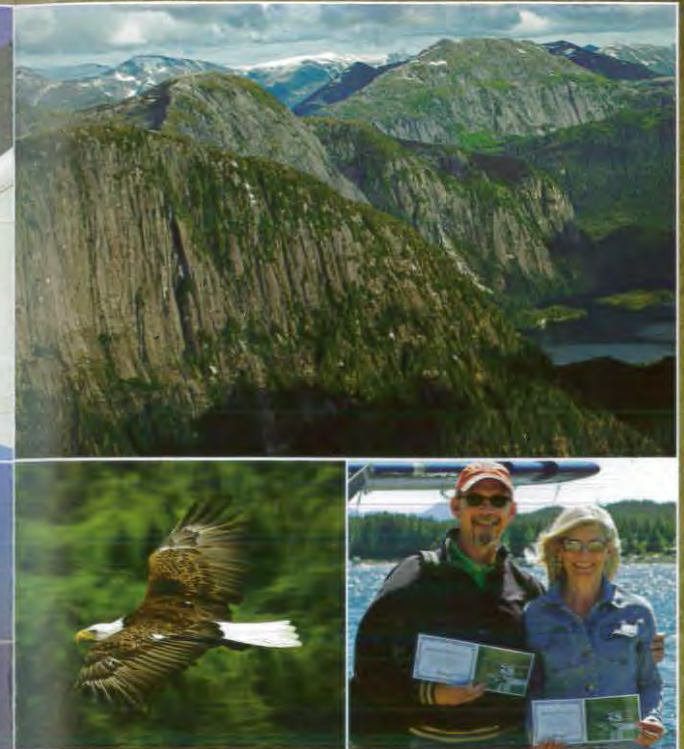
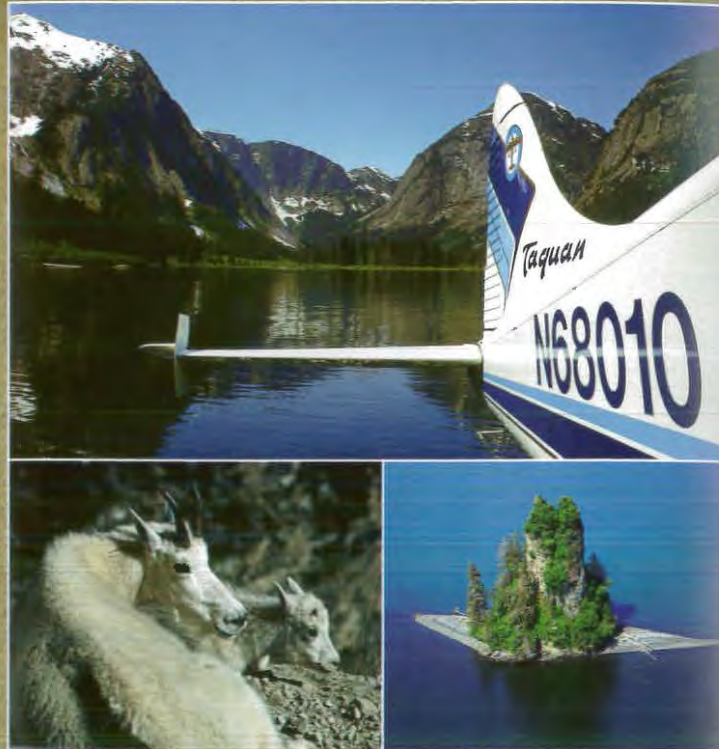
#1

Classic  
Misty Fjords  
Flightseeing





Exploring Misty Fjords National Monument by seaplane is an experience you'll never forget! Enjoy an exciting takeoff from the bustling Ketchikan waterfront as you embark on a scenic flight through the Tongass National Forest and some of Alaska's most magnificent scenery. You will glide over majestic fjords, cascading waterfalls, jewel-like lakes, and abundant wildlife.



Best accessed by air, this vast untouched wilderness was first identified in the journals of early explorer, Captain George Vancouver, when exploring Alaska in 1793. At the entrance of spectacular Rudyerd Bay, your introduction to the monument is New Eddystone Rock, a striking remnant of early geological activity. Your pilot will continue to fly you over the glacier carved fjords, beautiful river valleys, and pristine mountain lakes, identifying the scenic wonders during this once in a lifetime adventure.

From the air, you can fully appreciate the dramatic beauty of the land slowly crafted by the hands of nature over tens of thousands of years. Massive glacial action carved the ice-rimmed wilderness of the Misty Fjords. Marvel at sheer walls of granite rising over 3,000 feet, and huge stands of lush spruce, hemlock and cedar clinging to snowcapped peaks in this land

of incredible natural beauty and rugged grandeur. The monument is one of America's greatest treasures, and at 2.3 million acres, is nearly four times the size of Rhode Island.

The dramatic Misty Fjords wilderness is home to a multitude of wildlife. Watch for brown and black bear, Sitka black tailed deer, wolves, moose and bald eagles as your expert bush pilot guides you safely over this paradise. Visible only by air, see the spectacular 1,000-foot waterfall flowing from Big Goat Lake, named for the region's high concentration of mountain goat, that are often spotted from the air. A highlight of your tour will be a gentle landing on a pristine alpine lake or remote fjord. Your pilot will invite you to step out onto the pontoon to enjoy the fresh mountain air and the breathtaking scenery that surrounds you.



A delightful eight-mile coastal drive takes you to an exclusive 40-acre private reserve bordering the magnificent Tongass National Forest at rustic Herring Cove. This pristine natural environment is home to bald eagles, black bear, seals, a variety of birds and other species attracted by the major salmon runs in the abundant marine estuary. In addition to wildlife viewing opportunities, this tour enables you to see and photograph live eagles up close, interact with reindeer, observe a master native totem pole carver at work, and visit an historic sawmill.

You will be greeted by your naturalist and guided along

an improved trail through the heart of the dense forest, amongst tall stands of hemlock, spruce and Alaska cedar. The forest floor is covered with mosses, wild flowers and a variety of berries. Stops will be made at strategically located viewing areas. Your guide will lead you to a protected open estuary, where you follow Eagle Creek along an elevated wooden boardwalk overlooking grassy wetlands. Major runs of salmon return to spawn here. Watch and listen to the symphony of bird activity in this spectacular setting.

During the spawning season bears and seals feed on salmon in Eagle Creek and the likelihood of viewing these fascinating animals is good. Bald eagles and other birds wait for scraps in the estuary. Sitka black tail deer, mink, marten and wolf also frequent the area. Seasonal ecosystem changes result in varying levels of wildlife activity. If you like nature, you will love this tour!



At the conclusion of the half-mile trail hike you will have an opportunity to interact with and feed Alaskan reindeer, and see bald eagles up close at the Alaska Wildlife Foundation center as a raptor specialist explains the heritage and habitat of America's national symbol. Following these great photographic opportunities, you will be guided through the historic Herring Bay Lumber Company sawmill, established by legendary pioneer Ben Fleenor. Observe a master native totem pole carver at work.

Explore the interpretive displays and enjoy complimentary refreshments while browsing in the General Store. Enjoy complimentary admission to the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center, located in downtown Ketchikan, by presenting your tour voucher at the entrance.






## Alaska's Exciting & Unique Rainforest Adventure!

- Be guided by an experienced naturalist!
- Enjoy a walk through the lush rainforest!
- Bears & eagles – best wildlife viewing accessed by motorcoach!
- Interact with and feed Alaskan Reindeer!
- Watch a Native totem pole carver at work!
- Explore a historic sawmill!
- Sample Alaska smoked salmon, cookies, coffee & hot chocolate!
- Discover unique items in the General Store!
- Tour length is 2 hours and 45 minutes!
- Receive complimentary admission to the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center!

### Notes:

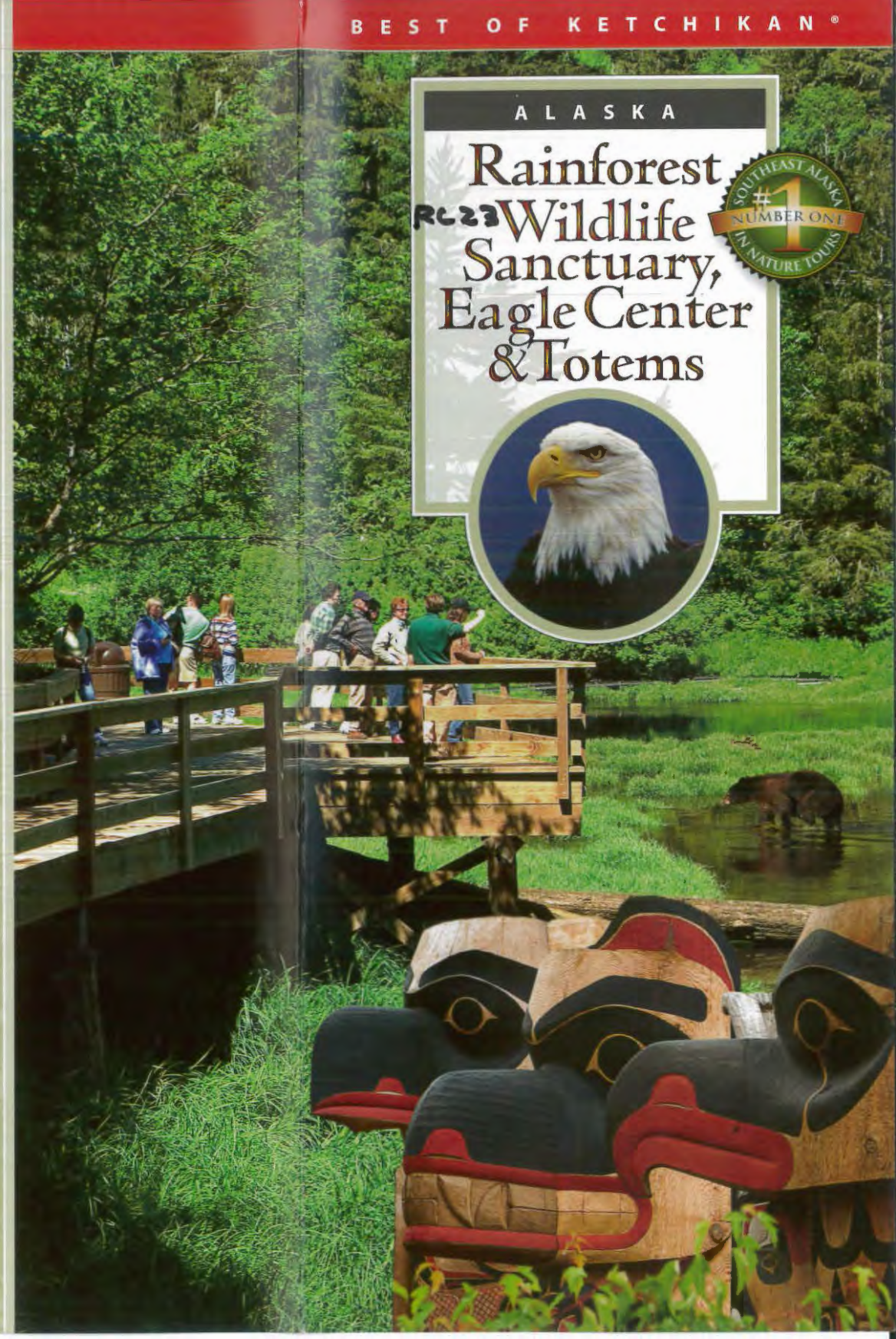
Wildlife sightings not guaranteed.  
Wear comfortable walking shoes and warm clothing.  
This tour operates in all weather conditions.  
Rain ponchos provided if needed.



 Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary operates under a special use permit from the US Forest Service. This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

ALASKA

# Rainforest Wildlife Sanctuary, Eagle Center & Totems





ALASKA

RC23 Bear  
Country  
Wildlife  
Expedition



## BEAR COUNTRY & WILDLIFE EXPEDITION - KETCHIKAN



Ketchikan's finest bear viewing accessible by road! Visit Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary for this unique opportunity to see black bear in their native habitat. Your tour begins with a narrated city tour and eight mile coastal drive to the sanctuary. Your naturalist/guide will bring the rich forest to life as you meander along an improved trail, leading to a series of elevated tree platforms and suspension bridges amongst the magnificent stands of spruce, hemlock and cedar. Watch for bears from the safety of above ground platforms and bridges which maximize your viewing and provide protection.

Leaving the private elevated wildlife viewing system, the rainforest trail transforms to a boardwalk perched over grassy wetlands alongside Eagle Creek, home to a rich run of spawning salmon. Here bears and seals come to fish for Alaska's abundant salmon. Bald eagles and other birds wait for scraps in the estuary. After taking in the sights at more choice wildlife viewing locations, your guide will lead you to feed Alaskan reindeer. See a bald eagle and a Great Northern owl up close in the raptor center, where a wildlife specialist explains the habitat and heritage of America's national symbol. Be guided through the historic Herring Bay Lumber Company Sawmill before you observe a master native carver crafting a large totem pole.

To limit resource impacts, only a limited number of small groups have access to this exclusive bear viewing area. The focus of your tour will be to view black bears in their natural habitat. Your guide may change the order of the tour or time spent in any one spot to give you the best chance to view bears. The half-mile long trail is upon relatively flat terrain. Although the chances for seeing bear are excellent, wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed. Visit our General Store and enjoy a complimentary smoked salmon snack, coffee, tea, or hot chocolate at the conclusion of the tour.

- Only drive up bear viewing in SE Alaska!
- Tour Length 3.25 hours
- Brand New for 2010!
- 8 mile narrated coastal drive!
- Small, intimate groups!
- Amazing wildlife/photographic opportunities!
- Experienced naturalist/guides!
- Series of elevated bridges, boardwalks and decks for viewing!



**Notes:** Wildlife viewing time is approximately 60 minutes. Minimum age is 12 years old and minors must be accompanied by an adult. No food or drink is allowed on the trail. Rain ponchos provided if necessary.

Good morning/afternoon:

My name is Tory Korn and I am the General Manager of Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary & Alaska Canopy Adventures located in Herring Cove. I am speaking with you today asking for your consideration and support of proposal #3 to enlarge a no hunting area around Herring Cove to a one mile radius of Whitman Hatchery from the current ¼ mile rule from South Tongass.

ARS is a privately operated preserve offering guided rainforest trail experiences for both residents and visitors. Wildlife viewing is our major draw. We are lucky to have our property about the Tongass National Rainforest boundary, have an active salmon spawning stream run through our property and be located across Eagle Creek from the Whitman Hatchery operated by SSRAA. It is our locale next to the hatchery that brings large populations of spawning salmon to the area and is the draw for bears and a variety of other wildlife that we try to share with our guests.

Guided bear viewing has become very popular in SE Alaska in the last few years and while our visitor numbers in Ketchikan have been declining the last two years we were able to host over 16,000 guests on our nature based and wildlife viewing tours, most of whom come with the hopes of seeing a black bear in its native habitat. This demand has allowed us to continue to make improvements to our property and seek ways to grow our business.

A growing challenge to our operation though has been a reduction in bear sightings. Our guides have reported diminished bear activity over the last few seasons which, while we know can be caused by a variety of reasons, we believe has been caused by a declining bear population. Although our property is posted "Private", "No Trespassing", and "No Hunting", with a year round on-site watchperson, we know that hunters have accessed the area behind our property though the trail system we have in place. While hunting is not currently allowed within ¼ mile of South Tongass we do feel that bears hunted in the area adjacent to the sanctuary are likely habituated to humans, drawn in by the large masses of spawning salmon and make for easy targets here. Bears harvested in the area reduce the likelihood of our guests viewing bears.

The past summer we employed as many as 115 people at our facility during the peak of the season between our zipline and walking tour operations many of whom are from the local area. The nature based and wildlife tours alone accounted for about 35 employees. Our tours generated over \$3 Million in taxable income for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. This coupled with our employees payroll taxes and spending in town makes our business an important part of Ketchikan's economic engine.

We feel Herring Cove offers the best bear viewing on the Ketchikan road system. This is an enjoyable area for bear viewing for visitors and residents alike. A healthy population of black bear is essential to our continued success and vitality in this industry during tough economic times. We are not asking for a ban on bear hunting as we understand its importance to many and the positive economic impacts it brings in as well. We are only asking for a larger buffer zone in this fragile area only that will allow for both user groups to coexist successfully.

Thanks for your time and good luck in your efforts. I am happy to answer any questions if anyone has any.

KETCHIKAN ALASKA ZIPLINE

A L A S K A

# Rainforest Canopy & Zipline Expedition



Alaska

## RAINFOREST CANOPY & ZIPLINE EXPEDITION • KETCHIKAN



Enter the Eagle Creek fly-zone—the ultimate nature experience! Imagine the thrill of gliding through the top of a rich rainforest canopy along a series of eight dual cable zip lines and navigating three aerial bridges suspended between tall spruce, hemlock and cedar trees, bordering the magnificent Tongass National Forest. This major rainforest reserve embraces one of Alaska's richest salmon spawning streams and a pristine inter-tidal estuary. Abundant wildlife habitat includes a high concentration of bald eagles, black bear, and a variety of other species.


Your adventure begins with a ride up the steep hillside in a custom 4x4 Unimog to the outfitting chalet. Here your professionally trained guides outfit you with state of the art safety equipment and provide a detailed orientation prior to zipping from the first platform. Your guides will progressively ease you into the forest canopy along cables ranging from a short 100 feet to the 850 foot pulse pounding "Ben's Revenge".

Guests often see eagles and bears from the tree platforms. Discover Eagle Creek Falls, and cross three hanging sky bridges; all offering breathtaking views of the virgin forest below. You will be up to 135 feet above the forest floor. Throughout this award-winning adventure you will be surrounded by the sights and sounds of the rainforest wildlife reserve. Although wildlife sightings are frequent, they cannot be guaranteed. The Eagle Creek course is for those who have already experienced ziplining or are seeking new challenges.

The final zipline emerges from the rainforest and transports you over lush grassy wetlands to a viewing tower, 55 feet above ground. Descend stairs and gear-down at the base camp, where you will be presented with a custom cast Alaska Canopy Adventures medal in recognition of your achievement. Upon completion of this once in a lifetime experience, enjoy a complimentary snack and hot beverage, view your photograph and shop in the General Store. A narration is provided on the scenic 16 mile round-trip coastal drive to the reserve.

### Rainforest Canopy & Zipline

- The Ultimate Eco-Adventure!
- 8 dual cable ziplines through the rainforest!
- Traverse Three Treetop Skybridges!
- Wildlife Search from the Treetops!
- Tour length is 3 hours and 30 minutes!
- Hillside Ascent on a Unimog all-terrain Vehicle!
- Experienced Guides & State-of-the-Art Equipment!

 **Notes:** Weight limitation 90-250 lbs. Minimum height 60 inches. Full use of limbs required. Pregnant women,



**Chairman Spraker and fellow members of the Board,**

Thank you for your service to us all and the opportunity to speak here today. I would like to speak about Proposals 36, 37, 4 and 5 and have prepared Written Comments PC 82

I was born and raised on the Oregon Coast and was very lucky to have a father who taught me how to hunt and fish and also nurtured my love for the outdoors. Our ability to hunt to hunt and fish was a way of putting food on the table. I knew at an early age that my love for the outdoors would lead me to Alaska. I studied Forest Engineering at Oregon State University and came to Ketchikan to work in the timber industry. I first arrived here in Ketchikan in the spring of 1982 and worked seasonally for the Forest Service and other private contractors as a logging road surveyor. After completing my degree I made Ketchikan my permanent residence and worked for the Klukwan Native Corporation until 1992 when the timber industry started to get soft. I decided that that it was perfect time for a career change. I had been taking people hunting and fishing my entire life and it was my dream to become a guide. It was Doug Larson, working as the Ketchikan Area Biologist who recommended me to Dan Montgomery as guide to study under. Dan was an excellent mentor for this profession and I continued to work for him during the sheep season for 12 years. I became a Registered Guide in 1997 and have been in the Ketchikan area under a Special Use permit since that time.

First of all I would like to say that I support Proposal #37. As a Registered Guide and a member of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association, I am thankful for the support of Mr. Fithian and other APHA members. I am aware of the heavy hunting pressure taking place in other parts of Southeast Alaska and have often mentioned how fortunate I am to be operating in a small piece of the Tongass National Forest that does not get much traffic. I believe that Proposal # 37 will offer a solution to many of the black bear hunting issues that are currently on the table. Conversely, Proposal # 36 could be damaging to me and many of the other guides who depend on a stable allocation of black bear hunts to conduct their business. A drawing permit for (all) non-residents as suggested in Proposal #36 could potentially result in lack of available tags for our clients.

With a freeze on Guided Black Bear Hunts, issued by the Forest Supervisor in 2008 and increased pressure from the Forest Service through Needs Assessments and ongoing restructuring of the Permit Allocation system, an inability to conduct hunts at or near our current allocations could be very damaging to many of our guide operations. Although black bear guides in other GMU are looking at potential reduction in allocation, I personally can not afford to lose any of my (two) allocated black bear hunts. Again I am fortunate to hunt and guide in an area that receives relatively little non-resident hunting pressure. I do not anticipate a large shift, due the difficulties in access in the Misty Fiords portion of GMU1A.

It seems clear that the growing tourist industry and high demand for places to view bears is something that will likely increase in the future. As a guide, I would like to thank Mr. Holman and Ms. Madsen for their comments concerning guided hunters as opposed to non-guided hunters. I can understand their need to have bears for the visitors to view. We share a common interest in a healthy bear population. I must ask, however, with the mobility of an airplane or high speed boat, are there not other venues that offer bear viewing in a wilderness setting a little farther from town?

I would also like to speak a little about Proposal # 5. I have already submitted Written Comments and would like to reiterate that closing a large area such as Rudyerd and Walker Cove would likely result in a shift of hunting pressure into an already small area.

With regard to Proposal # 4, I would suggest a compromise, that being to close a portion of the Marguerite drainage, ¼ mile either side of the Marguerite Creek downstream from the lake. I would like to see the remainder of the road system stay open to hunters, especially during the fall when residents are actively hunting deer. I personally do not guide hunters here but do visit the Marguerite Bay road system to hunt deer on occasion. This area is important to local hunters due to its proximity to Ketchikan and protection from the prevailing SE winds such as we have today. This area provides opportunity for hunters to take their sons or daughters on a one day hunt for deer, bear and wolf at a time when no tourists are present. There are other similar remote road systems in the Ketchikan area, but not all offer the short distance and semi-protected waters on an average weekend day in October or November. I believe there are enough bears to satisfy both the hunters and bear viewers, although they may not have made themselves plainly visible this year. I would suggest increased efforts in Hunter Education, possible signs advising hunters to be respectful of the other tourists and to avoid obvious conflicts such as Ms. Madsen described.

Thank you again for this opportunity to speak and your consideration to my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Ed Toribio

All corrections & additions are  
by me.

Janice Alsup; 15008 N. Tongass Hwy.; Ketchikan AK 99901

Janice Alsup

My name is Janice Alsup, I am speaking for myself and in opposition to Proposals 2, 1<sup>a</sup>, 3, 4, and 5. My family moved to Ketchikan in 1938 aboard a troller from Washington and began their new life with \$8 and some crude fishing gear. I am a commercial fisherman and though I have not hunted game, our family largely depends on it for food and I am favorable towards hunting.

I have observed bear mostly in Neets Bay and in Walker Cove. Having spent considerable time in Walker Cove as the only vessel there, I can tell you that many days I would see several bears wandering the flats and many days I wouldn't know if a bear lived anywhere in there if I hadn't seen them earlier. In my somewhat limited experience with bears, I do notice that they aren't on a tight schedule—so I wouldn't expect them to be on the flight seeing or boat sightseeing schedule. It has been said here in one of the reports by staff that the best viewing time is early morning and just before dark, and we are all aware of the vast canopy of the Tongass. Maybe the bears got tired of thousands of people looking at them and decided to be more vegetarian than carnivorous these past few seasons. I've witnessed viewing stations in places where there is nothing but grass to view because the subjects decided to feed elsewhere or not stand or bed down in the selected area.

With regard to the Tour Season that just passed, it must be taken into account that there were very good crops of berries this year and that persistent westerly winds and low rainfall during our exceptionally nice summer kept the mass of salmon schools many miles offshore and from coming in to some of the creeks during said Tour Season. With good feed other than salmon available, the bears are going to feed on it until the salmon show up in the streams. This time frame varies from year to year depending on the weather, especially adequate rainfall.

While it is unpleasant for many viewers to see dead bears or any dead game for that matter, and I don't advocate offhanded handling of game, we do live in Alaska and it is part of the reality that hunting happens here and many people live off wild game. It is unfair for hunters to be limited from areas that are in close proximity to where they live as well as areas in the "Misty Fjords" where they may *want* to go—for the sake of basically one user group. Perhaps instead of shortening seasons or limiting access to easily accessible areas for bear hunters, tours should have a shorter season for viewing. I think we'd find that many would deem that unconscionable, after all, it is a \$ million dollar industry.

The term non-resident keeps coming up, many times coupled with the term non-guided. Keep in mind the non-resident viewer is just as non-resident as some of the hunters and both paid their way. Some harvest bear and some do not, some see bear and some do not. By the same token, resident ~~users~~<sup>viewers</sup> are just as much resident as the resident hunters. Over the years many of us in the general public have "lost out" because some facets of tourism keep pushing their agenda at the same time causing us to be restricted or pushed out.

Thank you.



## Public Testimony List

# RC27

Board of Game, Southeast Meeting, Ketchikan, AK November 5-9, 2010

Call	Name	Topic
1	Mike Holman	Speaking for self to Bear Proposals 2,36 and 37. Turned in RC 9
2	Tory Korn	Speaking for Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary - Proposal 13, RC24
3	Jack Davies	Speaking for self - Proposals 4,5 – RC 10 & RC 11
4	Michelle Masden	Speaking for self – Proposal 4, RC 13, RC22
5	Len Laurance	Speaking for Taquan Air & Alaska rainforest Sanctuary – Proposals 3,4 and 9. RC14
6	Ann-Marie Parker	Speaking for self to Proposals 16, 27, 26, 28 and 37
7	Jack Shay	Speaking for Self to Proposal 4
8	Jim Church	Speaking for self about bear issues
9	Nicole Church	Speaking for Self and Ketchikan Outdoors Tours – Bear watching issues – RC 16
10	Dale Pihlman	Speaking for self to proposals 2-5, 19, 33 and 34. RC12
11	Robert Jahnke	Speaking for self about hunting and trapping. RC18
12	Tamara Buffalo	Speaking for Alaska Wildlife Alliance, SE Chapter. Speaking to Proposals 3-5, 19, 25, 33,34 and 43.
13	Dennis Diamond	Speaking for self about hunting issues – RC19
14	Brien Salazar	Speaking for self and Taquan Air, Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary to Proposals 3, 4, 5 and 19. RC20, RC23
15	Lesley Kamm	Speaking for self to Marguerite Creek bear observatory and Rudjerd Bay – RC17
16	Brian Warmuth	Speaking for self to Bear and Deer issues in Unit 1A
17	Susan Oehlers	Speaking for self and U.S. Forest Service – Yakutat Ranger District to Proposal 47, RC21
18	Mike Warner	Speaking for Self to POW Bear regulations.
19	Steve Kamm	Speaking for self to proposal 4
20	Bev Davies	Speaking for self to proposal 4 – RC 15
21	John Scoblic	Speaking for self – Proposals 36 and 38 & Sea Otters in SE Alaska.
22	Mike Douville	Speaking for SE RAC on wildlife proposals. PC13
23	Mike Douville	Speaking for self, Proposal 18
24	Jenny Pursell	Speaking for Douglas Island wildlife regarding proposals 12, 14, 29, 33-36, 39, 43 & 11.
25	A.J. Slagle Jr	Speaking for self to Proposals 2-5, and wolf populations in units 2 and 1A

# Public Testimony List

# RC27

## Board of Game, Southeast Meeting, Ketchikan, AK November 5-9, 2010

Call	Name	Topic
26	Mike Peterson	Speaking for JDAC to proposals 10-14, 16, 18, 29, 30, 32, 25, 36, 38 & 39. AC1
27	Barry Brokken	Speaking for self to proposals 14 & 30.
28	Kurt Whitehead	Speaking for self to wolves and black bears on POW – PC13
29	Brad Dennison	Speaking for self to Proposal 37 and 44. PC87
30	Dale Adams	Speaking for self to proposal 27 & 37.
31	John Scoblic	Speaking for Ketchikan AC, speaking to proposals 1-9, AC4
32	Jenny Pursell	Speaking to proposals 2-5, 19, 33-36, 21-23, 25, 11, 47, & 18. PC3 & PC58
33	Johnnie Laird	Speaking for self about black bear issues.
34	Ed Toribio	Speaking for self to proposals 4, 5, 33, 36. PC82 & RC25
35	Keegan McCarthy	Speaking for self to proposal 37 – Black bear hunting/guiding.
36	Dawn Jahnke	Speaking for self to bear hunting.
37	Jimmie Rosenbruch	Speaking to proposal 33, 26, 27 and 37. PC40
38	Zach Decker	Speaking for self to proposal 27, 12, 33, & 40.
39	Robert Fithian	Speaking for self to general proposals
40	Robert Fithian	Speaking for Alaska Professional Hunters Association. PC86
41	Art Maioriello	Speaking for self to general proposal comments.
42	Mike Peterson	Speaking for self to proposal 46
43	Bill Trembley	Speaking for US Forest Service to Bear Viewing Proposals.
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RC28



## Thorne Bay Lodge

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

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**5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** (a) The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

...

(16) in Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage,  
by using

(A) a snare with a cable diameter of 1/32 inch or larger that is set out of water, **unless the snare is constructed with a noose stop/breakaway and a diverter wire;**

(B) a trap or snare, unless the trap or snare is checked at least once every 72 hours;

...

**5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.** (a) In addition to the definitions in AS 16.05.940, in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 92, unless the context requires otherwise.

**() “noose stop/breakaway” means specifically that the cable is cut at a point that is either 9.5 inches or 10.5 inches from the cable end stop and then reattached with a double ferrule.**

**() “diverter wire” means a wire no larger than 11 gauge that is attached to the top of a snare so that the wire extends no fewer than 28 inches perpendicular to the snare loop at an angle of 10-20 degrees downward.**

**Proposal 47A**

**RC30**

**5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** (a) The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(20) In Unit 5(A), Yakutat area: 330 Conibear traps and snares are prohibited in the following areas:

(A) within 500 yards of permanent residences in Yakutat city limits and a portion of the Cannon Beach Recreation Area;

(B) 500 yards inland from the mean high tide line from the junction of Coast Guard Beach Road - #9967, along the Inner Beach Road-Forest Road #9968, to a point ½ mile south of the Junction of Cannon Beach Road and the Inner Beach Road #9968, locally known as “the barge”;

(C) 150 yards on either side of Cannon Beach Road; and

(D) 50 yards on either side of the Train Trail.

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.** Trapping seasons and bag limits for furbearers are as follows:

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
<b><u>(15) Fisher</u></b>		
<b><u>Unit 1</u></b>	<b><u>Dec. 1 - Feb. 15</u></b>	<b><u>1 per season</u></b>

**5 AAC 92.170. SEALING OF MARTEN, FISHER, LYNX, BEAVER, OTTER, WOLF, AND WOLVERINE.** (a) A person may not possess, transport, or export from the state the untanned skin of a marten taken in Units 1 – 7 and 14 - 16, the untanned skin of a beaver, taken in 1 - 11 and 13 - 17, or the untanned skin of a **fisher**, lynx, land otter, wolf, or wolverine, whether taken inside or outside the state, unless the department has sealed the skin. The seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has commenced or the skin has been transported from the state; however, the seal may be removed from the skin of a marten taken in Units 1 - 5 when the skin has been prepared for shipment from the state; skins must be sealed according to the schedule in (b) of this section.

(b) The sealing of marten, **fisher**, lynx, beaver, land otter, wolf, or wolverine must be accomplished as follows:

- (1) wolf (in Unit 2) taken by trapping must be sealed on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date of taking;
- (2) wolf, wolverine, and lynx taken by hunting must be sealed on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date of taking;
- (3) marten (Units 1—7 and 14—16 only), wolf (except in Unit 2), wolverine, lynx, **fisher**, beaver, and otter taken by trapping must be sealed on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the close of the season in the unit where taken;
- (4) repealed 7/1/2005.

...

**5 AAC 92.200 Purchase and sale of game.**

...

(b) Except as provided in 5 AAC 92.031, a person may not purchase, sell, barter, advertise, or otherwise offer for sale or barter:

...

(5) unsealed marten **or fisher** taken in Units 1 – 7, and 15, except as provided in 5 AAC 92.170(a);

**5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.** (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

- (1) the hide of a wolf, wolverine, coyote, fox, lynx, marten, mink, **fisher**, weasel and land otter, and the hide or meat of a beaver, muskrat, pika, ground squirrel, or marmot.

**5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.** (a) In addition to the definitions in AS 16.05.940, in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 92, unless the context requires otherwise.

(30) "furbearer" means a beaver, coyote, arctic fox, **fisher**, red fox, lynx, marten, mink, least weasel, short - tailed weasel, muskrat, land otter, red squirrel, flying squirrel, ground squirrel, Alaskan marmot, hoary marmot, woodchuck, wolf, or wolverine; "furbearer" is a classification of animals subject to taking with a trapping license;

RC37

To the Board of Game Chairman and Members

Because I feel that I did a poor job of presenting my information during public comment, I am submitting the following in hopes that you will read it before you take action on Proposal 2, 3, 4, and 5.

When I spoke I failed to mention that I had submitted RC 16. It was sent in by Tab McNabb, owner of Ketchikan Outdoors. It is a well respected wildlife/sightseeing boat excursion company that takes visitors south of town to the area Proposal 3 addresses. The following paragraphs come from his letter:

***"As a bear and wildlife viewing guide I have personally noticed dramatic decreases in the presence of black bears in the Ketchikan vicinity over the past seven years. I can no longer depend on the creeks up George Inlet near the cannery, Carol Inlet around the Salmon Berry subdivision, Herring cove beach, or various Gravina Island beaches to deliver what our visitors expect...a single bear.***

***Last summer a small creek across from the George Inlet Cannery (locally known as Blueberry Creek, was frequented by a large black bear. I was able to take a good number of guests to see this bear. On an early September day, when I took a group in hopes of seeing this awesome creature, two hunters were loading its remains into their skiff as we were arriving."***

**Note from me: the guests on his boat (a husband and wife and 2 children) were staying at our Inn. When they returned to the Inn they were very angry and disappointed. They did not blame the hunter, who may or may not have been from Alaska, they blamed the tour operator and all of Alaska for being so thoughtless and unable to protect the bears that they had traveled thousands of miles to see. The father was a hunter but did not view what he had seen as hunting. He called in stealing.**

***"The same week in nearby Ice house Cove a group of Kayakers from another tour company were watching a black bear that they had seen many times before, walk out of the tree line onto the beach. It staggered and fell dead from a gunshot wound. This might have been a very dangerous situation for anyone on the beach. This graphic scene will not soon be forgotten by these Alaska tourists.***

***Furthermore, my wife Sara McNabb was a bear viewing guide in the late nineties and recalls guiding tours when it was common to see 5 to 10 bears on every trip. In 2010, the viewing companies are reporting to us that the average number of bears viewed was none or one, with no bears seen on at least 50% of their trips. This is a drastic change in a relatively short time. "***

My husband Jim's family came to South East in 1892. There are many photos and written accounts of the Families Bear Viewing trips to nearby sites over the years. I have been in Ketchikan for the last 12 years and viewing bears was one of the first things I wanted to do when I arrived. In July of 2005 Jim and I opened the Black Bear Inn. We have 1400 to 1500 guests stay with us each year. Because we set up all their activities in advance we know a lot about them. The number one thing each year is "Seeing wild life and nature, with bear watching being number one and eagle and whale watching number two. We have had 6 internationally known Photographers, who have come to Alaska for the sole purpose of photographing Bears, stay with us. One from France returns every year for 4 to 6 weeks. Another, from



Korea, came 3 years ago. He commented on how wonderful it was that we have not killed all our bears. Sadly, when he came back to Margaret Creek this past summer, he did not see any bears.

July and August are not the only months Independent travelers come to Southeast to view bears. They come late April through early October. They anticipate seeing a bear with very land or water tour they sign up for. In the shoulder months, when the tours are not operating, they go onto the beaches and up the trails on their own to find one. They rent a car and drive to Harring Cove or Ward Lake every evening in hopes of getting a bear photo. Cruise Ship passengers are also here from the first of May through the end of September. There are over one million tourists in Ketchikan each summer.

Each year, since we have been open the number of our guests who have seen bears has dropped. This past summer, only a few guests saw a bear, even though they took flight tours to viewing areas and several other land and water tours. The summer of 2009 was only slightly better.

There has been plenty of fish for them to eat, each of these years. Except for 2 years ago, the winters have been mild for the last 10 years. Our bears do not have to travel long distances to feed. They stay around the streams leading to fish hatcheries or spawning grounds. When the fish are not running they are still very close by, because there is an abundant supply of berries, skunk cabbage and devils club in the same area.

When I ask our fishing guides about this, people who have been on the water and in the lakes every day for years, they all confirmed that many of the bears that they have watched for years and even knew by name are gone. They have seen very few bears this summer, or any evidence of them, and almost no cubs.

Our Tlingit neighbors, who hunt and fish throughout the year, confirmed the same findings. They too are concerned by how few bears they have seen this year and how small they seem to be. They also shared their concern that their own youth have a very negative attitude about black bears. Some of them shoot bears as they drive along the roads, believing the bears are the reason they have not gotten a deer.

It seems to me that there is a lot of miss information about black bears. I see many publications about what to do if you see a bear, but little real information about them as animals. I know that in many parts of Alaska people just assume they will always be here. I am also concerned that there is not more material published for our own local hunters and non-resident hunters about the need to respect all peoples "Bear Rights" not just their right to kill one. I am not concerned about the professional Alaskan guides, it is clear that they understand the issues and practice outstanding sportsmanship.

I have a partial answer to the chairman's question "Where did the hunters go when the control area was instituted for September of 2009 on POW?"

I have learned a lot about non-resident hunters of all kinds. Maybe because of our Inn's name, we have had almost 100 of these hunters stay with us, since we opened. They are either planning to hunt here our go on to POW or someplace further North. Most of these hunters have come to Alaska many times to hunt bear and do not employ a guide. We have had some who come spring and fall to kill a bear.

Normally 8 to 15 come in the fall to hunt on POW. In the fall of 2009 no one came. When I ask those who normally stay with us why they were not coming in Sept, they said that they only hunt with vehicles and did not want to use a guide, and October is too cold, so they decided to wait till spring.

One of these guests who came back in the spring of 2010 brought 5 other people with him. Upon his return from hunting on POW, I ask him how they did. He said they got 6 bears. I ask him how many he shot and he just laughed. A few weeks later he sent us the pictures to prove they made 6 kills. I am sure that at least 2 of the women with him did not hunt. His only concern was that the woman he had left his bears with for cleaning, told him she was 2 years behind and did not know when he would get his. He said there were so many bears piled up he was afraid she would mix his bears up. We did not have any bear hunters stay with us this fall, but our spring numbers have stayed the same since we opened. I have asked many of these men why they come to Alaska to hunt and their reasons are all pretty much the same; Easy hunting, Easy places to get to, Not very expensive, Do not need a guide, The bears are big and Nobody bothers them. They say they prefer coming in May, June and September because they can fish at the same time.

One speaker suggested that tour operators need to prepare their passengers for not seeing bears when they go on a bear watching tour. We do not have Whale Watching tours, out of Ketchikan, because you are unlikely to see a whale. If there are no bears in the viewing areas we will not be able to offer bear watching tours. Visitors are not going to pay for a bear watching trip, after they are told there is not much of a chance that they will see a bear.

Another speaker said that anyone who wanted to see bears can go to Hyder or Anan. Most of the tourists who come to Ketchikan will not be going to Hyder. It is out of their way and you cannot get there from here. Locals would never get to see bear if Hyder was their only chance. Anan only takes a limited number of visitors each summer. You have to sign up way ahead, it is too far for locals to go in their own boats, and it is very expensive to take a flight seeing tour there. It was developed for Wrangell visitors and locals. Most independent travelers and cruise ships bypass Wrangell on their way to Juneau.

Bear Viewing does not have any detrimental impact on southeast Alaska. It only educates and brings pleasure to those who watch and photograph them. It is an important income source for many Alaskans who make this viewing possible. The absence of Black Bears will have a negative effect on all of Southeast's tourism industry. Limiting the number of months hunting is allowed near bear viewing areas is not the answer. If hunters come in and take all the bears during the authorized months, there will be no bears to watch during the other months. Bear viewing areas need buffer zones large enough to protect some of the bears. Proposal 36 and 37 will go a long way to help the situation, but will not stop the killing of those female bears that stay close to the viewing areas and have become accustomed to visitors standing nearby.

Thank you for taking my information. I am very impressed and appreciative that you all have taken so much time to hear our comments and concerns.

Nicole Church [www.stayinalaska.com](http://www.stayinalaska.com)



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

RC33  
SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526  
PHONE: (907) 465-4190  
FAX: (907) 465-6142

TO: Alaska Board of Game Members  
THRU: Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Boards Support  
FROM: Dale Rabe, <sup>DR</sup>Deputy Director, Wildlife Conservation  
DATE: November 7, 2010  
SUBJECT: Agenda Change Request to review tasers as an allowable method and means.

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The division of Wildlife Conservation is requesting an agenda change for the Region II March 2011 meeting in Anchorage.

Currently, the use of tasers is not addressed in regulation. The division has been testing the use of tasers as a means of immobilizing wildlife, with some encouraging results. The technology is available for purchase by the general public, and the division feels the Board should consider adopting regulations prohibiting the use of tasers, except in certain situations.

In order to address the issue, the division is requesting an agenda change request to open 5 AAC 92.080, Unlawful methods of taking game, exceptions.

RC 34

November 8, 2010

State of Alaska Board of Game  
Nov. 5-9 Southeast meeting  
Re: Support of Proposals 36, 37, 35, 39, 33, 34, 2, 3, 4, 5, 19

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board Members,

Thank you for your thoughtful questions and allowing us to inform you of the issues we need your help with. There is consensus with all the user groups, the department and locals that our black bear population in southeast is in trouble. It is not a stable, but a declining, population. It is also a fact that in southeast these bears are considered precious and are a valuable resource.

It has become evident that the unguided, non-resident hunters attracted by such ads as "dirt cheap hunts" are harvesting most of "our" bears. 500 (documented) were taken on Prince of Wales (Unit 2) in 2005. In 2006 89% were harvested by non-resident hunters, as per the ADF&G Bear Management Plan 2004-2007. I haven't researched the % of non-resident hunters currently. 173 (documented) black bears have been taken in Unit 1A since 2008, about 50% by non-resident hunters.

I request you adopt regulations to severely restrict the black bear harvest by the unguided, non-resident hunters, especially in Units 1A and 2. And to adopt any regulations that would encourage the use of guides by non-residents for black bear hunting, and possibly brown bear hunting if a similar problem exists with them too. Guides can educate their clients in taking males instead of females and how to tell the difference in the field, limit the wounding loss, and not hunt in close proximity to people. There would also be better oversight in the dubious reporting practices, by these unguided, non-residents, of numbers of bears taken, and by whom, that we have heard stories of in the last 2 days. Better oversight and regulation on the "transporter" is also obviously needed as these transporters seem to be operating as unlicensed guides.

I don't see the need to allow bear bait stations in southeast and recommend you carry Proposal 39 prohibiting the baiting of black bears. I was recently told a story that a trailer full of stale doughnuts was loaded on to the ferry going to Prince of Wales Island. Why allow the bears, that do not get killed, to get a taste of people food and then become nuisance bears around homes? This type of hunting is not sport and not "fair chase".

Proposal 33 and 34: there was overwhelming support in the Public Comments to carry both of these. Proposal 33 prohibits the sale of black bear hides, skull and parts in southeast. Please note: there is confusion in the department recommendations as it is only Proposal 34, not 33, that proposes "no black bear trapping season in southeast". Again, there was overwhelming support for both of these proposals in both PC and Public Testimony by all user groups. We already have a problem with our black bear population in southeast, we don't need harvesting for profit to add to it. Waiting for the department to "have time to assess the implications and effects of the sale of the hides" is reactionary and not proactive to the conservation concerns of this species already expressed by the department, several times, in other proposals.

Proposal 34 prohibits the establishment, in southeast, of a black bear trapping season and the sale of black bear meat. Even though the department says they do not intend to open a black bear trapping

season in southeast it is prudent to have this in writing now. Please do not wait until 2012 to take action on this proposal as recommended by the department. The proposal has been made, public comments and public testimony have been properly submitted. The correct process is in place. The Department of Law made no comments to the Board.

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Inc. (PC86) also supports both of these proposals as do local hunters. I agree with the reasons cited in these proposals.

Proposal 3 addresses closing an area 1 mile around the Whitman Lake fish hatchery located 8 miles south, by highway, from downtown Ketchikan. The Rainforest Sanctuary is adjacent and attracts over 16,000 visitors per summer for bear viewing tours. The business has been negatively impacted recently by the decline in the number of bears in this area and this small hunting closure will mitigate this loss and, in the long-term, restore a healthy population for this industry plus the Ketchikan residents who drive to see these bears in this cove (Herring Cove). Now that our garbage dump has closed (garbage is barged south) this is the only congregation of bears that the locals can drive to.

Proposal 19 closes a mile around the Dog Salmon drainage in Polk Inlet on Prince of Wales Island where there is an established and developed USFS bear viewing platform. Currently the USFS permits 1600 visitors to this observatory. This would then be the only area, only 1 mile radius, closed to bear hunting and thus designated for bear viewing on Prince of Wales Island, Unit 2 in its entirety.

Proposal 5 closes Walker Cove and Rudyerd Bay to brown bear hunting. Rudyerd Bay is on the flight path of the Misty Fjord National Monument (Federally designated wilderness area) flightseeing tours and is also frequented by boat tours. These "Misty" tours comprise the largest volume of cruise ship visitors than any other tour. Everyone wants to see a bear in the majestic wilderness of Alaska. The estimated revenue, including the more expensive and specific bear viewing tours, is app. \$35 million to the economy of Ketchikan. 29 Ketchikan based companies operate in this area.

Proposal 4 closes a one mile area around the Margaret Creek drainage and USFS maintained road system (20 miles total). Conflicts with hunters (equally resident and non-resident) and safety concerns have already been addressed in the proposal, comments, and public testimony. In my public testimony I illustrated the dollar value of bears for viewing. For example, the USFS permits 3436 visitors per summer  $\times$  \$365/visit = \$1,254,140 revenue per summer. The proposal requests app. 26 square miles be closed to bear hunting. The department estimates the bear density on Revilla Island to be 1.5 bears per square mile.  $26 \times 1.5 = 39$  bears.  $\$1,254,140$  divided by 39 = \$32,157  $\times$  20 years = \$643,148 is the revenue generated by one black bear from bear viewing over its lifetime (20 years). The number would be higher if normal inflation is factored in.

There is a large female brown bear living at Pack Creek on Admiralty Island that sleeps at the bear viewing platform (managed jointly by the USFS and ADF&G) and even nurses her cubs in front of visitors. Hair sample studies have proven that this bear also frequents the Snow Cove area 6 miles away. In 2006 the BOG wisely voted down 2 proposals to re-open the Snow Cove area to brown bear hunting and even adopted a moratorium on any future BOG considering such proposals for the next 10 years. This action prevented the loss of this bear (from hunting) and thus prevented a great loss to the viewing program. Bears like this are needed at Margaret Creek. An average of 8 bears per year (10 year average) are harvested from there now or 20.5% of the estimated, above, 39 bears residing there. Each bear taken out is a huge loss to the bear viewing program. Less than 50% of the visitors and local residents saw a bear there last summer. The air taxis had to cancel several tours. Pack Creek boasts that 95% of their visitors see at least one bear. Anan Creek, close to Wrangell, can say the same. The home range of a

black bear is 1 to 15 square miles so closing only a small part of Margaret Creek or shortening the black bear hunting season to residents and/or non-residents simply will not solve the conservation and development problem and will create a cost problem to the outfitter/guides (air taxis) permitted to go there.

Please note that Anan Creek has a closure of one mile around the Anan Creek drainage, however, this site is much more remote than Margaret Creek, does not have a dock with ramp, does not have a protected anchorage and does not have a road system. We visited there for the first time this summer and had an amazing bear viewing experience. There were at least 12 different black bears at the platform, and 4 brown bears at the mouth of the creek. There were 20 people on the platform with a normal handrail, and a bear standing so close you could have reached through the rail and touched it's fur. One black bear, named Sweet Mama, they think is 25-30 years old. She has quite a fat tummy.

Several of the visitors to Margaret Creek are not physically fit or agile enough to go to a place like Anan where there is no dock or ramp and a half mile walk on a boardwalk, with stairs, to get to the platform. Due to their size, physical ailments and/or age several of these visitors need 2 people to assist them in just getting in and out of the airplane at the dock at Margaret. This past summer we met a lovely couple from England who had been on a cruise to Ketchikan before and went to Neets Bay (the next cove north of Margaret Creek where there is a privately operated fish hatchery) to view bears (not open to the public, only Promech Air has a contract to take their visitors there). They wanted to come back to Alaska to specifically see bears and chose Margaret Creek because the trail to the platform is handicap accessible and now the wife has MS and is bound to a wheelchair. They did not see a bear at the platform. Her husband took a photo of a teddy bear on the rail for that eventuality. Fortunately, they did glimpse a bear for a few seconds in the creek at the lake bridge and left very happy.

I sincerely doubt the logging road system at Margaret Creek will ever be connected to the Ketchikan road system as was mentioned in public testimony. Please look at the large map I provided (RC15). There is a possibility, and discussions are underway, for the Ketchikan road system to connect to the Shelter Cove USFS road system on the opposite side of the island, but nowhere near Margaret.

There was a man mentioned in public testimony who was responsible for the harvest of several bears from Margaret Creek, in one day in 2008. Interestingly, he was there 6 weeks ago (he no longer resides in Ketchikan) and we talked to him on the dock. When we told him about our proposal to close hunting there he wholeheartedly agreed, stating that hunting shouldn't be allowed because of the bear viewing platform, that the bears were habituated to humans and it was too "easy". He had, however, just ridden the roads on a motorcycle and we heard him telling his friends of the bear scat he had seen.

In summary, if the proposals mentioned above are passed as requested the resident bear viewers and the bear viewing industry will be satisfied, hunters will still have plenty of land to hunt, the black bear population will have a chance to recover (giving black bear hunters future hunting opportunities) and a long-term solution will have been achieved for the problems we currently have.

Again, thank you for your professionalism and courtesy. You are conducting an impressive meeting.

Sincerely,



Bev Davies, 37-year resident of Ketchikan (907-617-7207)

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. (a) ...

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
----------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------

(1)

...

Unit 1(C), that portion bounded by Montana Creek trail, McGinnis Creek to its headwaters, then due north to the edge of the south side of the Mendenhall Glacier, then north and west along the edge of the Mendenhall and Herbert Glaciers, then along the southwest side of Herbert glacier/river back to the Montana Creek Trail

Oct. 1 - Nov. 30

Oct. 1 - Nov. 30

1 goat, by drawing permit only, up to 10 permits may be issued

Unit 1(C), that portion draining into Stephens Passage between Eagle Glacier and River and the mouth of Little Sheep Creek, excluding that portion bounded by Montana Creek trail, McGinnis Creek to its

No open season.

No open season.

headwaters, then due  
north to the edge of the  
south side of the  
Mendenhall Glacier,  
then north and west  
along the edge of the  
Mendenhall and Herbert  
Glaciers, then down  
Herbert Glacier Trail  
back to the Montana  
Creek Trail

...



**5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** (a) The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

...

(16) in Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage, by using

(A) a snare with a cable diameter of 1/32 inch or larger that is set out of water, **unless the snare is constructed with an ADF&G style noose stop/breakaway and a diverter wire;**

(B) a trap or snare, unless the trap or snare is checked at least once every 72 hours;

...

**5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.** (a) In addition to the definitions in AS 16.05.940, in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 92, unless the context requires otherwise.

**() "ADF&G style noose stop/breakaway" means specifically that the cable is severed at a point that is 10.0 inches to 10.5 inches from the cable end stop and then reattached with a double ferrule**

**() "diverter wire" means a wire designed to divert non-target species that is attached to a snare so that the diverter wire extends at least 28 inches from the snare loop and is perpendicular to the loop.**

**5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** (a) The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(20) In Unit 5(A), Yakutat area: Conibear traps larger than 280, and snares are prohibited in the following areas:

(A) within 500 yards of permanent residences in Yakutat city limits;

(B) 500 yards inland from the mean high tide line between the intersection of Coast Guard Beach Road and the coast, and a point 1/2 mile south of the intersection of Cannon Beach Road and the coast, locally known as "the barge";

(C) 150 yards on either side of Cannon Beach Road; and

(D) 50 yards on either side of the Train Trail.

5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. (a) ...

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and	Nonresident
Units and Bag Limits	General Hunts)	Open Season
(1)		
<u>Units 1A, 1B, that that portion south of Bradfield Canal and the east fork of the Bradfield River, and Unit 3</u>	<u>Aug. 1 – May 31 (General hunt only)</u>	<u>Aug. 1 – May 31</u>
5 wolves		
<u>Units 1B, remainder, 1C, 1D, 4 and 5 [3 -5]</u>	Aug. 1 – Apr. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 1 – Apr. 31

5 wolves

...

**Summary of 2009 Actual Licensed Transporter Services Black Bear Hunter Activity  
As Per Department of Commerce Transporter Activity Reports.**

November 8, 2010-11-08

Alaska Board of Game

Southeast Alaska Regional Meeting

**The following summary of 2009 (calendar year) transporter activity was obtained  
from the BGCSB, based upon 2009 transporter activity reports.**

**GMU1**

**7 transporter activity reports (total number)**

4 different transporters (spellings are approximate)

Landing Otter Cove

Frost

Pacific Wing

Collins

**20 total clients (not all black bear)**

**6 black bears harvested**

**GMU2**

**17 transporter activity reports**

5 different transporters (spellings approx)

Log Cabin Resorts

Landing Otter Cove

Pacific Wing

Hockstatter

Adkinson

**49 total clients (not all black bear)**

**4 black bears harvested**

**GMU3**

**18 transporter activity reports**

3 different transporters (spellings approx)

Wild Alaska Cruises

Pacific Wing

Bailey

**50 total clients (not all black bear)**

**20 black bear harvested**

**GMU4 NA**

**GMU5 No activity reports turned in.**

November 8, 2010

State of Alaska Board of Game  
Nov. 5-9, 2010 Southeast meeting

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board members,

I have been listening to the live audio feed of the meeting this morning and have some input that may be helpful. In regard to the lower harvest levels reported in Units 1A and 2, does the department study the demographics of the hunter? For example, since our pulp mill closed in 1997 we have made a drastic change from a timber industry base to tourism. All the logging camps have closed and there has been a reduction in the human populations in both Ketchikan and the POW areas. Ketchikan has gone from 14,000 people to about 12,500. I don't know the numbers for POW but suspect they have a much higher percentage of a decrease as the cruise ships do not dock there. In addition, the loggers were probably much more active hunters and I am guessing, more for meat, than the tourism industry employees. Therefore, studying harvest level data of the resident hunters might be better explained by this drastic shift in demographics of the human population.

As opportunities for tourism increases, including the encouragement of the unguided, non-resident hunter with "dirt cheap hunts", this trend will continue and we will see a large percentage increase in the non-consumptive use. Humans adapt to change and I suspect we will see some transporters on POW becoming involved in the bear viewing industry.

A question I would have for the department in regard to Unit 2 and the effect the CUA in September has had is: Has the harvest increased in the Spring? We heard testimony from a Ketchikan B & B owner that was the case.

This spring and summer we observed the most deer we have ever seen both in the Margaret Creek area and around Ketchikan, especially on Revilla Road (7 highway miles north of downtown Ketchikan on the paved road to Ward Lake). Friends reported the most deer they have ever seen on POW and recently hunted there for less than 2 days and came home with 7.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Bev Davies  
37-year Ketchikan resident  
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