

Submitted By  
Mike Vaughn  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 4:59:09 PM  
Affiliation  
SE Waterfowl hunter

This comment is written in opposition of Proposal 5. In 2014 the Board deliberated on a change to the definition of edible meat for game birds. The Board did approve an expansion of the edible meat definition for swans, geese and cranes, but in my opinion appropriately excluded small game birds.

Adoption of this proposal would be most burdensome to those of us that target green-wing teal, wigeon and snipe where the presence of meat in the back, legs and wings is negligent, but this proposal goes too far even with a bird the size of a mallard. Requiring the salvage of organs is asking way too much. Please oppose this proposal.

Thank you

Submitted By  
Todd Fritze  
Submitted On  
1/12/2016 9:16:17 AM  
Affiliation  
none

I oppose proposal #5 requiring the Tibia and Fiba and internal organs of some birds be kept. Most birds tibia abd fibia have absolutley no meat on them on the case of cranes it will require we cary these extra long pieces out of the field when there is no reason for it. In the case of internal organs many people do not eat internal organs due to health reason or issue they personally have in eating them. It isnot fair to require them to do so because others can or do consume them

Submitted By  
Charles Carr  
Submitted On  
2/5/2016 9:42:29 AM  
Affiliation

Proposal 13-5 AAC 92.080(11) and Proposal 11-5 AAC 92.080

I am in support of age 55 verse age 65. trying to draw a 65lb bow could lead to a variety of mishaps and potentially injuring an animal that cannot be recovered. Also, assuming a person injury to an individual at age 55, i.e., torn rotator cuff and then having to wait 10 years is a long wait and missed time in the woods.

Thanks for your consideration

Submitted By  
Jim Sackett  
Submitted On  
2/4/2016 3:35:14 PM  
Affiliation

Greetings,

It becomes apparent as one gets older there are things they used to do they no longer can. Bow hunting is a passion for many Alaskans and age takes its toll on this activity. I will soon reach a point where I cannot draw back a 65lb bow and I would love to hunt until my time on earth is done. I would really like for you to consider allowing crossbows for women and men who are 55 or older. Many states now allow this exception, but many choose an older age of 60 or 65, which means missing 10 years of hunting or tear a rotator cuff as your only options. The age of 55 is reasonable, I see proposal PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 92.080(11) calls for an age of 65, frankly I support this proposal, but with an age of 55 years. I also hope you'll give serious consideration (and pass) PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.080, which would allow crossbows in any archery hunt as they are in fact a bow. These are some simple ways that you can improve the quality of life for our small but aging population in Alaska. Thank you for your consideration on these proposals.

Jim Sackett

Submitted By  
Jim Sackett  
Submitted On  
2/11/2016 2:55:50 PM  
Affiliation  
AOC

Greetings,

I strongly support the proposal for intensive predator management in units 13 & 20. Four years ago in unit 20A I saw 52 moose in a one week period and one grizzly bear. This past year we saw 10 moose and 11 grizzly bears in the same area over the same week, there were also a large number of wolves in the area, I personally saw six and heard many more as they howled in communication. We did find a 36" bull moose that was either wolf or bear killed while hunting. I also support the AOC PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 92.004(a)(4), which would limit the board of games ability to limit the use of off road vehicles, ATV's, UTV's, Argos, and the like while hunting. These tools are absolutely necessary for access and removal of game when successful. I trust common sense will prevail and the board will pass both of these proposals. Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Sackett, Fairbanks



Submitted By  
DAVID ESCH  
Submitted On  
2/4/2016 4:07:58 PM  
Affiliation  
SCI,NRA

Phone  
9077456620

Email  
[ESCHDAVE@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ESCHDAVE@YAHOO.COM)

Address  
9240 TERN DRIVE  
PALMER, Alaska 99645

AT AGE 75 I AM NO LONGER ABLE TO DRAW MY BOW.

PLEASE ALLOW CROSSBOW USE BY US "OLDSTERS" FOR ARCHERY ONLY DRAWINGS AND AREAS.



**From:** [Dennis Hedgecock](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** I would like to speak in support of allowing 55 and older to use cross-bows in archery only hunts. I am now 64 with bad shoulders but they have been bad now for several years. I have had to give up many activities tennis, racketball, softball; anything...  
**Date:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:58:34 PM

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Dennis Hedgecock



Alaska Board of Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

March 4, 2016

**RE: Board of Game 2016 Proposal 20**

Dear Mr. Spraker and members of the Alaska Board of Game,

The Wilderness Society supports the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) request for clarification on what qualifies as “specific location of fish and wildlife species” and for permission to release data no longer deemed specific. Public availability of out-of-season data will facilitate education, research, and conservation efforts and encourage a deeper understanding and respect for Alaska’s incredible natural resources.

Location information, both in aggregated forms and as specific latitude and longitude coordinates, plays an important role in understanding animal behavior and habitat use and informing management and conservation decisions. These data have the potential to be further leveraged to provide benefits for education, research, and public interest in Alaska and beyond. Animal location data from around the world are used to teach students about animal research and to engage them in the scientific process [1-3]. Making fish and wildlife location data publically available will present new opportunities for teachers in Alaska to use information from our state to inform their lessons.

As a wildlife ecologist with The Wilderness Society I collaborate with state, regional and federal biologists to conduct analyses of habitat use based on animal location data in Alaska. Access to location data is imperative to such analyses. Scientific research regularly provides information that helps set harvest quotas and informs location-specific management policies and efforts. As the Board of Game considers Proposal 20, we urge adoption of policies that will facilitate access to specific location information for research purposes. This will likely include access to data that are not yet widely available to the public and that are subject to constraints on further sharing of information.

Living in the state of Alaska, we are blessed with an incredible array of natural habitats and fish and wildlife species. Public access to location data can be used to help create a better informed Alaska citizenry that recognizes and values the importance of these natural resources on a landscape level.

We understand and share ADF&G’s concerns about release of in-season locations of game species or other sensitive species. Such data should be withheld from public distribution until after the end of hunting season. While data for species that return annually to the exact same

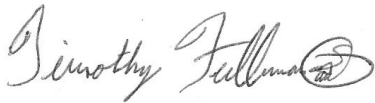
locations (e.g., birds that reuse nest sites each year) may need to be withheld for a longer period, the high mobility and annual variability of many big game species in Alaska (e.g., caribou) mean that a delayed release of latitude and longitude location data for specific individuals should not increase the risk of take for those individuals.

In light of the above considerations, we urge that aggregated displays of fish and wildlife locations (e.g., kernel density maps, migration corridor maps) be made publically accessible as soon as they are available after the hunting season. We further request that specific location data (e.g., latitude and longitude records from collared animals) be made publically available after a period of two years, with possible extensions for species that return annually to specific locations, and with more rapid access for research.

ADF&G raise concerns about disruption of other department duties and responsibilities due to numerous requests for location data. To minimize this, we recommend a publically accessible repository of released location data be made available. This could take the form of a department-hosted website or could utilize existing online animal location databases, such as Movebank [4].

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your efforts to care for Alaska's fish and wildlife and look forward to continuing to steward and enjoy them.

Sincerely,



Timothy Fullman, Ph.D.  
Senior Ecologist  
The Wilderness Society

#### References

1. Ocean Tracks: Connecting students with scientific data. <http://oceantracks.org/>
2. Science Buddies: Using animal tracking data from Movebank for science projects. [http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project\\_ideas/movebank\\_tutorial.shtml](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_ideas/movebank_tutorial.shtml)
3. Teach Engineering: Marine animal tracking. [https://www.teachengineering.org/view\\_lesson.php?url=collection/duk\\_/lessons/duk\\_marine\\_musc\\_less2/duk\\_marine\\_musc\\_less2.xml](https://www.teachengineering.org/view_lesson.php?url=collection/duk_/lessons/duk_marine_musc_less2/duk_marine_musc_less2.xml)
4. Movebank. <https://www.movebank.org>.



January 24, 2016

To Whom it may concern,

As an introduction, My name is Tom Shankster, Master guide #148. I moved to Alaska in 1980 and worked in the guiding industry for George Palmer in the mid 80's to early 90's, and then through today. I also served as Chairman for the Mat-Sue F&G advisory board. I have guided under the old "exclusive guide use areas" and under the current system for all these years. While guiding for Mr. Palmer, we averaged around 15 rams a year in virtually the same area that I currently guide in. We did not employ the use of aircraft to spot sheep at that time. I currently average 10 rams a year from this area with a high of 14 rams in 2014 and 7 rams for 2015. I do fly a Super Cub, and I do use the aircraft to place clients in the field , mostly in established State LAS permitted camps. I do use the Super Cub to "survey" sheep numbers.

This first season with the "no fly" restriction has been a refreshing reprieve. My clients have been able to enjoy their Alaska wilderness hunt with out the disruption of aircraft circling the very sheep they are stalking, or just the constant flying in and out of canyons looking for sheep near their camp. I am able to operate very successfully with out the exclusive use of an airplane to "hunt" for a specific ram.

I love Alaska! The very fact that most of the state is inaccessible with out the use of an airplane, only exemplifies it's shear wilderness status.

I love flying! I learned to fly in Palmer Alaska, because I saw that it was the only way to practically access the State .I have flown my Super Cub from Belfast Maine, and Mesquite Texas, through Canada, and throughout Alaska. No where but Alaska is there that essence and mystique of flying so engrained.

As a pilot and guide, ( and resident hunter) I do not have a problem with not being able to spot sheep with the airplane during the season. Most of my clients are non residents, some are Alaska residents. Please bear in mind that Alaska residents can hunt sheep every year. A sheep hunt for non residents, is virtually a cherished, once in a life time experience. Also note that most Alaska resident sheep hunters look forward to hunting sheep in other states for big horn and desert rams. In 2014, my clients spent over \$35,000 on non resident hunting licenses and tags. Not to mention the revenue brought directly into the State economy with air taxis, hotels, restaurants, sporting good stores and more. There seems to be a controversy with Alaska residents not allowed to fly and spot sheep during the season. There are relatively few resident sheep hunters that essentially hunt sheep with their air plane. A possible solution would be to allow resident hunters only to fly and spot, and hunt sheep during the season. I would rather see that type of resolution than shortening, or restricting the season for a non resident hunter.

Sincerely

Tom Shankster

**From:** [cole\\_ellis](mailto:cole_ellis)  
**To:** [Rintala\\_Jessalynn\\_F\\_\(DFG\)](mailto:Rintala_Jessalynn_F_(DFG))  
**Subject:** RE: Alaska Board of Game: Additional Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, December 11, 2015 6:57:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

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Rintala, Alaska Board of Game

Thank you for

keeping me in the loop, sure appreciate it. I'd like to ask you for your help if you can circulate this note so other people can read it, too. I am a 2nd generation Big Game Guide and have always made my living that way and have always been careful not to overharvest my area. I am a Alaska resident and I live year around near my guide area, 14 miles from it, I would like to bring forth my idea with a way to help the Dall Sheep population. Years ago we had a problem with Grizzly Bears here, the population went down very low, and they put the bears on every 4 years per person, this brought our bears back to and are doing well. I have brought this up over and over but it is a no win with the resident population. , But I'm beating a dead horse on that note, so what I would like to propose , instead of putting the non- residents on a Draw and having more paperwork to contend with, why not put the Non residents on every 4 years for sheep hunting. What I dislike about cutting the non residents out, it's not just the money that they bring in to the state, from hotels, car rental, license, etc. etc. I would sure hate to go to another state and the residents be against me hunting wildlife in their state. They have a right to hunt here in this fine state we live in. And as a resident who has spent his whole life in Alaska, I have met and worked with alot of good resident hunters. I would like to say again, I am a small outfitter and don't take alot of hunters and have watched the numbers of animals where I guide and keep my bookings low. Thanks for listening, Good Luck to the hunters. Cole Ellis/  
Ellis Big Game Guides

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Submitted By

W. Cole Ellis

Submitted On

12/18/2015 8:16:38 PM

Affiliation

Phone

None

Email

[nabesna\\_ellis@hotmail.com](mailto:nabesna_ellis@hotmail.com)

Address

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Gakona, Alaska 99586

I appreciate this opportunity to add my input on the Dall Sheep. I sent a e-mail to Rinalta Jessalynn who was nice enough to forward it on to Kristy Tibbles and to send me this link to write on. I know I don't have all the answers but I do have a few ideas that I think would help. If you could please read my other letter that goes with this one and also these follow up notes as well. No matter what happend not everybody is going to be happy with the outcome, but I do think most people will agree that the Dall Sheep have been declining. As I said in the other letter I am against putting sheep on Draw permit, I know the out cry is to put the non residents out as I stated in my other letter, but I do believe this is wrong. Not only from the guide;s stand point but because of the revenues they bring in to the state. I mentioned about putting the non-residents every 4 years, and another idea would be stopping the next of kin law. I also strongly that we are losing alot of sheep because of the full curl law. I believe there are sheep being killed under full curl and being left in the field. I can't prove this but it is a believe that I have. It might be better to go back to the 3/4 curl and I think this would help improve the gene pool and give a bigger stronger ram a chance to breed more. This is just some of my thoughts on the sheep and to say again I do live here with them in the Wrangell Mts. year around and have all my life so I get to see and experience them more than the normal person. Thank you for your time.

Submitted By  
Joe Klutsch  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 4:09:16 PM  
Affiliation  
katmai guide service

Phone  
9072463030  
Email  
[joeklutsch@gmail.com](mailto:joeklutsch@gmail.com)  
Address  
Po Box 313  
King Salmon, Alaska 99613

From: Joe Klutsch

PO Box 313

King Salmon, AK 99613

To: Chairman Spraker and Members of the Board of Game

Dear Chairman Spraker and Members of the Board of Game,

I am writing you to comment on any proposals currently before you that would rescind or amend Proposal 207 which you have adopted. I believe the proposal as it stands has merits for the following reasons:

1. Hunters in the field have been increasingly confronted with aircraft relentlessly being used to spot sheep both prior to and during hunting season.
2. Individuals who use aircraft in this manner have a disproportionate advantage in harvesting sheep, especially fully mature age class sheep. This has resulted in ongoing conflicts in the field between both resident and non-resident hunters.
3. Using aircraft in this manner violates the ethical standards of true fair chase hunting. It also encroaches on the ability of hunters to pursue game in a fair chase manner.
4. This method and means of hunting jeopardizes the quality of experience which should be unique to wilderness sheep hunting. It also is jeopardizing the allocation of opportunity among all sheep hunters.

Contrary to the assertions by those who oppose these regulations, the regulation will be enforceable. I am confident that compliance can be achieved. There is also no doubt in my mind that general public acceptance of this regulation both by hunters and non-hunters is widespread. Nearly all the people I am aware of who have stated they fear being unjustly sited for use of aircraft to spot sheep are in fact people who use aircraft to spot sheep.

I urge you to hold your ground and let Alaska set the standard for quality of experience and for future generations of younger hunters whose opportunity to experience sheep hunting will be greatly diminished if these practices are not curtailed.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration on this matter.

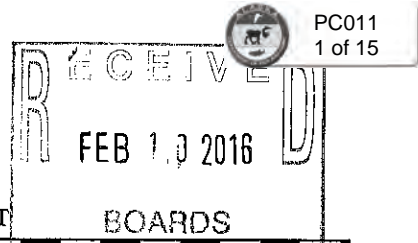
Sincerely,

Joe Klutsch  
Master Guide 91



FOUNDED IN 1887 BY

THEODORE ROOSEVELT



PC011  
1 of 15

**BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB**

ELDON L. "BUCK" BUCKNER

VICE PRESIDENT OF RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME DIVISION

February 7, 2016

Mr. Ted H. Spraker  
Board of Game Chairman  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Spraker,

Your letter to Club president, Morri Stevens, was referred to me for reply in Mr. Stevens absence.

By way of introduction, I have served as an Official Measurer for Boone and Crockett since March, 1968, Chairman of Judges Panel the three allowed times, and several other times as consultant. I've been a Regular Member of the Club since 1990, Chairman of the Records Committee for many years and have served in my present position for around 10 years. I've hunted Alaska several times, took my first ram there in 1971, and have long been familiar with Fair Chase issues.

I first became aware and interested in the airplane hunting issue through articles published in Outdoor Life magazine in the early 1960's. I'm enclosing some of those from the year 1963, including the announcement from Boone and Crockett of the rule prohibiting record entries of trophies taken by "spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for the purpose of pursuit and shooting."

As noted in the attached articles and letters, and others which are not enclosed, it was relatively common for bears, caribou and sheep to some extent, to be herded towards waiting hunters. I knew personally several of the B&C members, such as Frank Cook, former president of Alaska Trophy Hunters Club, who were involved with this rule and its original intention. The intention of the rule was to discourage the actual hunting of game by aircraft, followed by landing shortly afterward within stalking distance of the animal(s) spotted. Without saying, herding of animals by air was not allowed, as specifically stated. To a large extent, Alaska's early rule against a hunter flying the same day he took an animal, alleviated the problem, but it did not prevent a guide-outfitter from flying to locate game, then directing the hunter and his guide where to go.

I am aware that some individuals, including some Measurers, have espoused their own individual interpretation of this rule, but the only official interpretation comes from the Boone and Crockett Records Committee, as you have requested.





Mr. Ted Spraker, 2/7/16, Pg. 2

As you know, a Super-Cub with big tires can land in a lot of sheep country normally accessible only lots of hard climbing. Hunters landed on high ridges above rams spotted previously who were then able to kill a sheep after a short stalk were the recipient of my old friend, Jack O'Connor's, greatest disdain!

I am encouraged to hear that the 2015 Alaska regulation restricting aircraft usage August 10 thru September 20 from being used for spotting or locating Dall sheep seems to have been well-received. Boone and Crockett is fully supportive of such regulations that put the "hunt" back into hunting.

It should also be noted that Rule IX on our entry affidavitt requires all trophies to have been taken in full compliance of regulations issued by any legitimate governmental authority. (Affidavitt enclosed)

In regards to the aforementioned rule regarding game spotted from the air, it does not prevent game from being hunted that is seen from the air incidental to other authorized use of aircraft. There is a big difference between an outfitter spotting animals as he flies on a route to camp with supplies and one who makes repeated low passes to evaluate horn or antler size, marks the spot with GPS co-ordinates before continuing on his way.

I've been a pilot for 48 years and know first hand that aircraft usage is easily abused. However, reasonable regulations that encourage honorable sportsmanship and that are enforced fairly, just help level the playing field for all, and I like to believe that the message of Fair Chase hunting is being heard by more individuals all the time.

If you have further specific questions, feel free to write or call me at the contacts below.

Sincerely,

*Eldon "Buck" Buckner*

Eldon "Buck" Buckner

Copies:

Morrison Stevens, Pres.

Richard Hale, Records Chirman



# GET THE GAME

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# GRAB THE JET

The increasing use of airplanes to spot and kill big game has become a menace to American hunting. Here's a report that will shock sportsmen

By **BEN EAST**

**I**N THE FALL of 1961, a hunter in the Middle Park country of Colorado, on the western slope of the Rockies west of Denver was stalking a band of eight or 10 elk through snowy timber in an area of hills and broken draws. Suddenly he saw a light green-and-silver plane flying low over the trees.

While he kept one eye on the aircraft and the other on the elk as they moved up a slope ahead of him, the plane made a couple of circles, then dipped as low as it could, and he saw a small object tossed out. Almost instantly there was an explosion that sent snow cascading from the trees around him, 400 yards away.

Somebody in the plane had thrown a stick or two of dynamite into the herd of elk. Luckily, they scattered and broke into a run as the aircraft dived. The hunter went over the area carefully but could find no evidence that the blast had killed or injured any of the animals.

Colorado conservation officers, ready to throw the book at the dynamiter, tried hard to find and identify the plane. Unfortunately, the whole thing happened so unexpectedly the hunter failed to get the plane's identifying numbers. Officers checked airports all over that part of the state but were unable to find any aircraft of the right description that had been in the air at that time.

A few months before that, in the spring of 1961, Don DeHart, an outfitter and guide at Slana, Alaska, had set up a camp above Bear Lake on the Alaska Peninsula. From camp late one afternoon, DeHart and his assistant watched a light aircraft buzz an alder patch and drive a brown bear into the open.

Then, while they timed the action, raging inward-

*The plane dived, and a charge of dynamite was hurled from it into the scattering elk*





## GET THE GAME, GRAB THE JET

*continued*

ly, the pilot proceeded to haze the brownie two miles up the valley to where he had previously stationed his nonresident hunter.

The plane circled just above the brush, maneuvering like a crop-duster, diving on the bear, keeping it headed in the right direction, and turning it back each time it tried to bolt up the side of the valley. In 38 minutes it was literally driven into the hunter's lap, and he made his kill almost without moving out of his tracks. The pilot landed nearby and picked him up, and they headed for a camp 40 miles away, returning next morning to skin the bear.

The Colorado and Alaska cases both represented

flagrant violations of game laws. That's as far as the parallel extends, however. The Colorado incident was rare in the extreme, the only one of its kind on record in the state. The Alaska episode, on the other hand, was typical of hunting practices that are becoming more and more prevalent in the 49th state, and the game officials there readily admit they are unable to cope with the situation.

In an average year, something like 3,000 nonresident hunters go to Alaska. Many work hard, hunt fairly, and earn any trophies they take. But there's a growing number that falls back on a plane instead, not to ferry them to camp but to do the actual hunting.

"The picture has changed greatly in the past 35 years," Alf Madsen, long-established Kodiak Island guide and outfitter, told me. "Many hunters are coming to Alaska now with a minimum of time to bag their





**It took only 38 minutes for the pilot to drive the brownie up the valley and practically into the hunter's lap**

■ The use of aircraft by sportsmen to reach otherwise inaccessible hunting or fishing areas has grown rapidly since World War II. Used that way, a plane is as legitimate a means of transportation as a car, truck, jeep, or boat, and, except in the case of wilderness areas, no one objects.

In the past few years, however, reports have reached OUTDOOR LIFE with disturbing frequency of the use of aircraft to find, spot, follow, and herd game, and drive it to the gun. Moose, caribou, sheep, and bears are being taken that way in Alaska, and it is becoming so common there that many hunters apparently regard it as proper and respectable.

Believing that this type of hunting violates every rule of sportsmanship, and concerned about its long-range effects on hunting behavior and on the game supply, OUTDOOR LIFE assigned Ben East, its Midwest field editor, to learn how wide spread the practice is, how much of a problem it poses, what sportsmen, guides, outfitters, and game officials think of it, and what's being done to regulate or curb it.

Here he relates his findings, in a report that will shock many and be of interest to all who hunt big game, or who want to see rifle hunting remain a sport guided by high standards.

trophies. They forget about sportsmanship. The old type of sportsman who followed a set of strict hunting rules is seldom seen in Alaska any more. The motto today is 'Get the game and catch the jet,' and a lot of 'em don't care how they get it.'

The outsider is by no means the only offender, however. Many Alaska residents resort to the same tactics, and I found guides who think they are guilty more often than the nonresident.

The use of planes to find and run down game in Alaska began several years ago among polar-bear hunters on offshore ice. Because of the difficulties in hunting shifting ice fields any other way, and because aircraft enabled the hunters to range far out and pick the best trophies, it was generally considered justifiable, and little objection was raised. Many hunters who have taken bears that way, (continued on page 105)



# GET THE GAME

(continued from page 15)

however, have confessed to lukewarm feelings about it.

It wasn't long before some guides and outfitters, looking for ways to increase business, realized that brown and grizzly bears, moose, caribou, and even Dall sheep could be hunted the same way. Hunting from the air began to grow.

It has reached a point now where some leading guides and outfitters in Alaska say that unless it is stopped, the kind of trophy-game hunting for which Alaska has been famous is doomed. "The sportsmanship is nil," Bob Curtis, who operates Farewell Lake Lodge, told me. "Unless something is done to curb aerial hunting, within a very few years brown bears and grizzlies will be down in population to a point where hunting them will have to be on a permit basis."

Elmer Keith, well-known gun editor now of Guns & Ammo magazine, agrees whole-heartedly and adds shocking documentation. He writes: "This September I saw airplane driving of both Dall sheep and caribou first-hand. In fact, two airplanes herded some 300 head of caribou down on the Copper River flats about 35 miles from Slana. Then, while two riflemen got out of one and lined up on the caribou, the other plane continued to dive on the herd and sweep it right up to the guns. They fired into the herd as long as a big, white-necked bull was in evidence and dropped two fine heads as well as three cows that were left for the bears and the birds.

"When my guide Stephen John and I went over and examined the bulls, both down and wounded but neither one dead, and asked that they be finished off, the airplane pilot said, 'Oh, they can't get away; they'll die.' I put one of the animals out of his misery with my Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum anyway.

"The men apologized for hunting in country where a horse outfit was operating, namely Don DeHart's, and said there were other places they could hunt but that they had been after this herd for a week and had taken three double-shovel bulls out of it a day or so before.

"Next day they were right back doing the same thing again. My guide and I looked over the herd after they'd hunted it for a week, as they said they'd done, and we did not find one single shootable bull left.

"Also, we watched them try to drive Dall rams over Black Mountain to their side, and when Mrs. Keith, guide Elmer Boedecker, and I were in range of a band of nine rams, a plane dived on them and spooked them. As a result, after a half a day's hard climb to get up above and around the sheep, we got only one running out of the band. Mrs. Keith shot it.

"Bill Henley and Al Pabst, of Dallas, and I all wrote out depositions and presume the game department will also get them from the guides who witnessed all this. We heard that the man

who committed these violations was arraigned. Anyway, the game commission phoned me at Salmon, Idaho, after we got home from Alaska and asked if I would come up for the trial if necessary. I told them I surely would.

"On this same trip, a few miles north, we also witnessed airplanes chasing moose and then setting down on a lake nearby, and another float plane getting caribou by the process of spotting them and landing on a lake after herding the animals up to it.

"Spotting game with planes and using them to herd the game up to the guns is beyond the pale as far as I am concerned and unless it's stopped Alaska game, wherever it can be thus hunted, is doomed—in very short time."

Even before Alaska was admitted as a state the problem was a mounting one. At least as far back as 1956, under the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska game regulations specifically prohibited the use of aircraft for spotting, driving, herding, following, or molesting big game, or aiding in its taking except as a means of transportation. And later, the regulations tried further to curb the practice by requiring that whenever planes were used for transportation to a hunting area a camp must be established "prior to the taking of big game." This latter rule quickly ran up against an enforcement snag, however, and was dropped.

Following statehood, Alaska got a similar provision into its own game laws but again found it could not be enforced and abandoned it. "The intent of this regulation could be circumvented simply by hanging a tarp over an aircraft wing and tossing a sleeping bag underneath," James W. Brooks, director of the Alaska Division of Game, pointed out.

With statehood, too, Alaska made no attempt to ban the use of planes in spotting game, and over the last three years the state's regulation of aircraft in hunting has become progressively more lax. The Alaska Game Regulations published in July, 1961, provided that a plane could not be used for driving, herding, or molesting big-game animals. That ban is still in effect, but the game regulations issued last July make no mention of it. They simply state that shooting from an aircraft is illegal, and also ban helicopters. The fact that the prohibition against molesting or driving game is omitted indicates that nobody pays attention to it. The record of arrests and convictions clearly reflects this. Everyone familiar with the situation agrees that the spotting, hazing, and driving of game from the air has become commonplace. Yet in the past three years the game department has taken only nine cases into court, and in only three of those was it able to obtain convictions.

Jim Brooks explains the problem this way: "People cannot fly without reference to the ground, and when they are looking at the ground they are likely to see game. We found we could rarely prove a man was deliberately looking

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for game or driving it, even though we were convinced that was the case."

Game officials are by no means satisfied with the situation. Brooks says that moose and caribou are showing signs of overpopulation in some of the more remote areas in spite of hunting. He regards the use of aircraft for transport as essential if a proper harvest is to be taken, but he admits that flagrant abuses frequently occur and that trailing game from the air and driving it to the guns has become common.

"The irony of this situation is that trophy hunters, who generally consider themselves among the elite of sportsmen, are the ones who engage in aerial hunting most industriously," he comments. "Nothing in our regulations is intended to promote this practice, but we do not want to include prohibitions which we are utterly incapable of enforcing. Our theory is that if one regulation is violated with impunity, it encourages the violation of others. The department of fish and game is vigorously opposed to any unsportsmanlike use of aircraft, but the problem is complex and will not be solved by loud expressions of displeasure and the adoption of impossible-to-enforce regulations."

No one will quarrel with that. At the same time backing away from a law because it is persistently violated seems weak. A number of Alaska guides and outfitters, including several who use aircraft, contend the situation is badly out of hand and will get worse unless the game department cracks down hard.

The problem is made more acute by the great number of pilots, both civilian and military, in the state and the number of light aircraft in daily use. Of the privately owned float planes registered in the United States, half or more are in Alaska. Distances and lack of roads make flying necessary and commonplace there, and it is natural that planes should be used in hunting as other kinds of vehicles are in other places. The trouble is that aircraft lend themselves to abuse more readily than other types of transportation.

How common is this same practice in other states and in the provinces of Canada, and how are game officials dealing with it? So far as I could learn, it has not yet gained a real foothold anywhere outside of Alaska.

For example, Montana, Wyoming, California, Colorado, and North Dakota have regulations that permit the use of planes for transporting hunters but strictly prohibit their use to stir up, rally, drive, or follow game, and the laws are enforced with little difficulty. In some cases, the regulations also forbid signaling from air to ground while hunting.

"We've been able to pick off a few flagrant cases that involved spotting game and relaying tips back to hunters on foot," Bob Cooney, chief of game management in Montana, told me. "I guess that cooled others who might have had the same thing in mind."

California reports no ab-  
ming has a new law that prohibits any flying machine, motorboat, or automotive vehicle from pursuing or coursing any gamebird or animal and has no trouble enforcing it. Using aircraft to get close to game, followed by landing nearby to stalk and kill, is not practiced to any degree in Idaho, despite the fact that there is no law against it. John Woodworth, fish and game director, told me of one outfitter, however, who has used a variation of that idea, a two-way radio between airplane and hunting party. "Other hunters who learned of the practice have criticized it very strongly," Woodworth added, "and some sportsmen's groups have asked for legislation that would prohibit both the use of aircraft in spotting game and two-way radios in hunting."

The use of planes to find, follow, or get close to game is illegal in Colorado and occurs only in isolated instances. North Dakota reports an occasional complaint about aircraft being used in an attempt to drive geese over hunters, but the violations are infrequent (maybe because the offender can be seen for miles by ground hunters and is likely to get caught), and game men think such tactics spoil more shooting than they provide.

Even the use of aircraft for transportation to and from hunting areas is opposed by some Western game departments. Idaho and Montana favor it, say it helps distribute hunters for a better harvest of deer and elk in roadless country and does no harm when properly regulated. Wyoming and Colorado disagree. Wyoming charges it affects game populations adversely, especially bighorn sheep and moose, and Colorado believes it scatters elk and deer herds and results in poorer hunting.

One would expect that Canada, which has far larger roadless areas than any state and where some of the best hunting country is accessible only by air, would be a hotbed of undesirable practices, but such is not the case. The use of planes to transport hunters is legal all across Canada, but there is little abuse.

Newfoundland's regulations prohibit hunting from the air or using aircraft to locate, spot, or search for game for the purpose of directing or assisting another hunter to take it. Misuse can result in confiscation of the plane, and there are few enforcement difficulties.

Use of aircraft for transport is increasing in British Columbia, where there are 150,000 square miles of largely roadless country, and the Fish and Game Branch favors it, but using planes to scout for or pursue game, or spot and land for a stalk, is forbidden. There have been few violations. In Saskatchewan, it is illegal to follow or haze game or signal its location to a hunter on the ground. There is some abuse, but only once or twice have violations been serious.

Northwest Territories, which includes the Yukon, is sprawling and roadless and offers some of the most tempting



trophy-game hunting on the continent. It scorns the idea that laws regulating aircraft can't be enforced. The use of planes to reach hunting areas is encouraged but hunting from the air is prohibited, and hunting is defined to include pursuing, worrying, stalking, lying in wait to take or shoot at game. That's broad enough to cover just about every situation imaginable. Yet officials in Ottawa say flatly there have been no abuses.

Ontario encourages the use of aircraft for getting into remote areas, since some deer range and most of the moose range in the province has too few access routes for an adequate harvest. Ontario regulations formerly limited the use of planes to transportation between a settlement or base of operations and an established camp, but that provision has now been voided. The new Game Act provides only that no person shall use aircraft while hunting. However, that includes chasing, following, searching for, lying in wait for, worrying or molesting game, as well as shooting it. And under Ontario conditions there is very little opportunity for violations, none at all where deer and black bears are concerned. Moose might occasionally be shot from the air, but the possibilities are remote.

In the fall of 1961, to find ways of hiking the moose harvest in certain roadless and underhunted districts, Ontario's Department of Lands and Forests set aside an experimental area of 2,460 square miles in the Kenora District east of Lake of the Woods in which hunters were allowed to use aircraft to locate moose, then land on nearby lakes and hunt in the usual way. Reports from 146 hunters showed a kill of 110 moose, and game officials were pleased. There has been talk of extending this experiment to other parts of the province, but the idea is strongly opposed by a number of guides and outfitters who use planes for carrying hunters to and from their camps.

"It's a grave error and can result in annihilating the moose in a given area," was the reaction of Stan DeLuce of the White River Air Services, north of Lake Superior. Pete Hughes of Cochrane, Ont., who flies goose and moose hunters to camps in the James Bay country, called it a slaughter rather than a hunt. "I hope we can nip it in the bud," he added. And George Theriault, of the Theriault Air Services at Chapleau stated emphatically, "A big NO to the use of aircraft to locate, follow, or haze moose or any other game. Given the present rate of kill in some areas, and the increase in the use of aircraft, where is our big game headed?"

None of the officials or sportsmen with whom I got in touch for this report had a good word to say for the kind of aerial hunting that is becoming common in Alaska. Alaska officials ofered only the excuse that the former regulations were hard to enforce, and that hunting with aircraft probably does no "biological" harm to game.

They did not defend the practice on ethical grounds.

Officials of many states were outspoken in their condemnation. One called it disgraceful, another protested that it does not give the game a fair chance, and a third said it violates every rule of hunting ethics.

Individual sportsmen with whom I've talked made it clear without exception that using a plane to get easy hunting or to spot and take a trophy goes against their grain. Sportsmanship and fair play are deeply rooted among American hunters, nowhere more so than among the great majority of trophy hunters. When the Boone and Crockett Club, the highly respected organization that keeps official records of all North American game trophies, was formed in 1887, its objectives were to "promote manly sport with the rifle among the large game of the wilderness, encourage sportsmanlike methods of hunting, and work for game and forest preservation." Membership was and still is limited to 100 regular members who, to be eligible, must have killed at least three kinds of North American big game in fair chase. The club has never wavered from these principles. No hunter who waits while a plane drives a bear or sheep into his lap could join the Boone and Crockett Club if his behavior were known, and an overwhelming majority of average hunters say that's how it should be. They liken the spotting, trailing, and driving of game with a plane to shooting quail on the ground, dynamiting trout, or jacklighting deer. A number of them have told me so.

Comments of a few prominent sportsmen and conservationists reflect the general feeling. "It's not only poor sportsmanship but an indication of the ineptness of the hunter," wrote Tom Kimball, game warden of the Colorado Game Department and now executive director of the National Wildlife Federation. "The use of an airplane as a substitute for skill, woodcraft, and the spirit of the chase makes hunting the sport of stupid and lazy men. There should be both national and state legislation outlawing the use of aircraft in locating, taking, or attempting to take any wildlife."

Dr. Paul Herbert of East Lansing, Michigan, president of the National Wildlife Federation, takes much the same stand. "I oppose it because it favors those who can afford to hire aircraft, reduces the hours of recreation, and will almost certainly lead to a decrease in the game supply," he says. "Alaska is our last frontier, and the pressure of population will be felt there in the not-too-distant future. With it will come the same problems of game conservation we have in the other states."

Jack O'Connor, Outdoor Life's shooting editor, blasts the use of airplanes in aerial hunting for the lack of sportsmanship and adds that even rapid transportation has taken some of the romance out of big game hunting. "When a man gets a good ram by

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climbing for it he is proving that he  
has enough wind in his lungs and iron  
in his legs to meet the sheep on equal  
terms," he told me. "The hunter who  
is down in a light plane is that on the  
sheep ridges is robbing sheep hunting  
of its uniqueness and value. I think  
even locating sheep by aircraft is open  
to question and so is flying in to strips  
scratched out in sheep country. Also,  
the man who goes to the Yukon for a  
hunt by steamer and rail knows he has  
traveled a long way. The one who  
boards a plane in Seattle in the morn-  
ing and steps off in Whitehorse for  
lunch has just landed somewhere else."

I have said little here about the use of  
aircraft in hunting polar bears. Al-  
though there is some division of opin-  
ion, most of those with whom I have  
discussed it believe it is justified, for  
reasons I mentioned earlier.

Major disagreement, however, comes  
from Congressman John P. Saylor of  
Pennsylvania. He has a bill before  
Congress that would give added pro-  
tection to polar bears, along with  
walrus and sea otters, by regulating  
hunting by American nationals on the  
high seas, beyond territorial waters.  
Saylor calls present methods of polar-  
bear hunting "ruthless slaughter," and  
argues that federal control is needed to  
safeguard the animals.

Where the use of planes in hunting  
brown and grizzly bears, sheep, moose,  
and caribou is concerned, the harshest  
denunciation comes from long-estab-  
lished guides and outfitters in Alaska.  
"What kind of hunter does it take to  
land on a lake and shoot a moose feed-  
ing in the water or a caribou on shore  
100 yards away, or to spot a Dall ram  
on a hill, land, and walk 300 yards and  
kill him?" was the contemptuous ques-  
tion asked by Bill Pinnell, an old-time  
guide and outfitter at Kodiak. "No trophy  
taken that way is a trophy. An  
Anchorage man who hunts with a  
plane told me that the hunters he flew  
in and out last fall took 85 moose. No  
hunting country can stand such a kill.  
If we don't get a law to stop this air-  
craft hunting, and get it enforced, our  
big game in Alaska will soon be a  
thing of the past."

Don DeHart, whom I mentioned  
earlier, had this to say: "Planes should  
be used where needed, to carry hunters  
in and out. There are many fine guides  
and outfitters who use them only that  
way and are a credit to the business,  
but there's also a new breed that has  
come on the scene since we were made  
a state. In many cases, these Johnny-  
come-lately pirates are using aircraft  
to spot, herd, and hold game. They  
herd bears the way the one was herded  
that we timed for 38 minutes. They  
land in sheep range in planes with big  
tires, let their hunters out, go down  
and haze the sheep up to the gun. It's  
shameful, and I wouldn't consider any  
animal taken that way a trophy even  
if it were a Boone and Crockett win-  
ner. If the practice continues, our  
white sheep and the brown bears of the  
Alaska Peninsula are doomed. The  
same methods are being used on moose

and caribou, but they are n  
ous, and aircraft hunting will not make  
such serious inroads on them."

Bob Curtis, the outfitter who predicts  
permit hunting for grizzlies and browns  
unless the present use of aircraft is  
curbed, believes the three animals that  
will be most hurt by aerial hunting are  
the two big bears and sheep, none of  
them ever overabundant. "I'd be 100  
percent in favor of using aircraft only  
for purposes of transportation between  
the outfitting point and camps," Curtis  
said. "Certain outfitters are forcing  
some of us who have been around a  
long time to engage in distasteful  
methods whether we like it or not."

"In past years it was possible to set  
up a camp on the Alaska Peninsula,  
hunt afoot, and have 100 percent  
chance of taking a good bear," Anthony  
Lamoureux, outfitter and guide at  
Spenard, told me. "That's a thing of  
the past. During the spring bear sea-  
son now some of the airports down that  
way have about as much traffic as Idle-  
wild in New York City. Some opera-  
tors have even equipped their aircraft  
with ski-wheel combinations so they  
can land close to any bear that's still  
above snow line."

Lamoureux charges that some outside  
hunters demand use of a plane  
for actual hunting when booking their  
hunt. "If I don't take them someone  
else will," he says. "I certainly don't  
feel proud of it, but I have to do it to  
stay in business."

These are typical comments. An-  
other Alaska outfitter told me of a hunt  
made on the Peninsula last spring by  
two nonresidents who used a light  
plane a piece to find and take good  
bears. They spotted one, landed, and  
killed it after a stalk of less than half  
a mile. The next day they located an-  
other. One plane landed, and the  
hunter and pilot started after the  
brownie on foot while the second air-  
craft circled overhead, keeping the men  
on the ground posted on the bear's  
movements. It took 30 minutes to  
maneuver the brownie to the right place.  
He broke out of the alders 30 feet in  
front of the hunter and was downed.

What chance does the game have in  
such a case? These men covered ter-  
ritory in a few hours that would have  
taken them weeks to get over on foot  
or by horseback. They could glass  
more game range at one time than  
they could have looked at in days of  
hard climbing, and the odds were good  
they could spot every bear that hap-  
pened to be in it.

Once game is located and followed  
from the air in that fashion, while  
members of the hunting team wait or  
maneuver on the ground, the rest of the  
hunt is hardly more sporting or diffi-  
cult than killing a steer in a pasture.

Should big-game hunting be reduced  
to that? Should Alaska, the last great  
treasure house of trophy game in the  
United States, be plundered of its  
bears, sheep, and moose by methods  
so questionable? Isn't it about time we  
put a stop to this business of hunting  
from the air?  
THE END





I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO DEFEND FROM WASTE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF MY COUNTRY - ITS SOIL AND MINERALS, ITS FORESTS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE

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April, 1963

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## What's on your mind?

### Get The Game—Grab The Jet

You are to be commended for publishing Ben East's fine article "Get The Game—Grab The Jet" in *OUTDOOR LIFE* for January. Few items have stirred such deep interest among sportsmen as Mr. East's comments on the use of airplanes to spot and kill big game. I hope some of your readers have suggestions which we can incorporate into either regulations or statutes which will serve to curb further decline of Alaska guide and hunting standards.

As a member of Alaska's legislature (Representative, Election District 15), you may be assured that I will do what I can to promote remedial procedures. As a registered guide of 17 years' experience in Alaska, it is a matter of both moral and monetary concern that Alaska has fallen upon sorry times.

Mr. East's report is a story which has long needed telling. Thank heaven someone has at last got around to it.—*Jay S. Hammond, Naknek, Alaska.*

I want your readers to know that both the Alaska Big Game Trophy Club, of which I am a founder and trustee, and the Boone and Crockett Club, of which I am on the executive committee and a member of the North American Big Game Records Committee, have already taken definite steps to outlaw this type of killing as far as recognition of trophies by these clubs are concerned.

We are also endeavoring to get a law passed this year to outlaw this abominable abuse of our game.

I want you to know you're not playing the game alone. The great majority of decent sportsmen are relentless foes of this type of hunting and we are determined to put a stop to it.—*Bob Reeve, Anchorage, Alaska.*

As a flyer-sportsman, I must take exception to the article. Mr. East seems to feel that anyone too busy, or financially unable, to take a leisurely hunt is not entitled to the privilege.

Mr. East should also have visited Missouri and heard the stories, completely false, which were circulated

about the stock and dogs killed by flyers hunting coyotes. These untrue stories were successful in getting legislation to prevent coyote hunting by plane.

Please don't be used by those who think that game should be hunted their way or not at all.—*V. R. Freer, Joplin, Mo.*

I know from personal experience that airplane hunting is every bit as threatening to big-game hunting as Mr. East points out. What's worse, it's a creeping, insidious business that's contagious—particularly to quasi-sportsmen who like their hunting easy and their bragging big.

I know several so-called sportsmen who returned from Alaska convinced that airplane hunting was a pretty good gimmick to use in their own state, whether it is legal or not. Others have jumped on the airplane wagon simply because a few big-name guides are using this method to make lots of money.

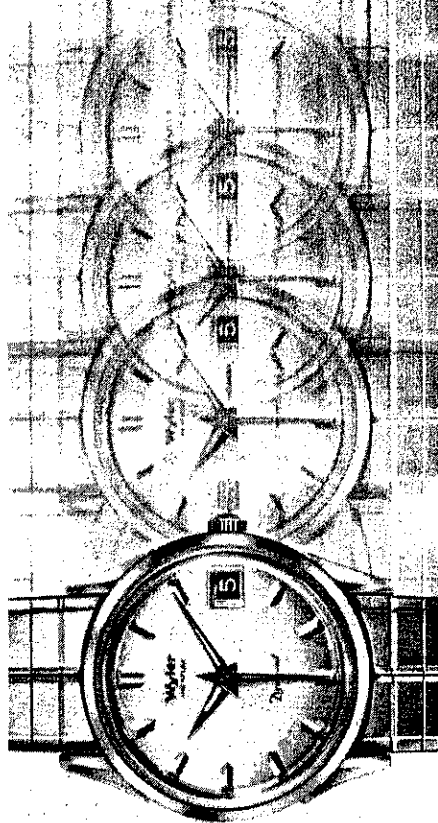
However, a sportsman worth the name knows that it isn't hunting. It's murder. And murder, no matter how you look at it, is a pretty nasty business.—*Ted Wilcox, Colorado Springs, Colo.*

My own flying and hunting coincide, covering about 26 years of each and about 12,000 hours of flying time, in one of the better hunting areas of the northwest. So I've seen this aircraft hunting problem develop.

The airplane, for many years, filled an important role in its use by sportsmen. It seems that the abuses started about the time the big push began on the use of motorized vehicles in hunting. The airplane was called upon to help, not in going to and from, but in actual hunting. Most sportsmen realize there is a definite use for flying over hunting areas, but I'm sure they would like to put a stop to trophy hunting by plane on the Kenai Peninsula, and other flagrant abuses. I've flown the Kenai and have counted moose by the

# dropped

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hundreds. I can see how this thing got started.

Any restrictions would probably have to be imposed on a federal, not a state, level, since all flying is done on a federal license. Probably enough letters to Najeeb Halaby, Administrator, Federal Aviation Agency, Washington, D.C., would eventually result in enough restrictions being written into licenses to easily curb this use of aircraft, since no pilot will knowingly jeopardize his flight privileges. I made this suggestion to the Washington State Game Department as long as two years ago.—*Fred W. Campbell, Walla Walla, Wash.*

If it is not feasible to enforce regulations against using airplanes to spot, herd, or molest game, then the prohibitions should be extended to bar even transportation of hunters by planes other than on regularly scheduled airline routes. Enforce the rule with some teeth, such as a mandatory jail sentence plus life-time prohibition from hunting or guiding.

Alaska, in it's latest game regulations, has apparently given up even professing to disapprove of plane murder. I intend to give Alaska a money reason for doing what it appears unwilling to do for reasons of decency. I'm cancelling plans for big-game hunting in Alaska until sportsmen can hunt there without shame.—*Richard E. Jay, Oakland, Calif.*

I'm 20 years old and hold an assistant guide's license in Alaska. Working with a horse outfit, I have a very good look at the situation, and I've seen a drastic change in the population of game in the past two years.

When I went to work for this outfit, we were putting in base camps in the Talkeetna Mountains. Everyday I saw bands of sheep numbering up to

50, an abundance of moose, and several black and brown bears. Two weeks before the season opened, the sky was full of small planes putting in fly camps between our camps and atop other mountains. By opening day, there wasn't a sheep, moose, or bear in the whole area that wouldn't dive for cover as soon as an airplane came into hearing.

Several times we came upon the remains of plastic bags, which apparently were filled with sand and dropped at sheep from airplanes to drive the animals from rocks and ledges where a hunter couldn't reach them.

I still cover the same ridges and canyons, but now I only see few sheep where several years ago there were hundreds. The feed is still there, but the sheep are gone. There is nothing left but bleak and barren mountains. There has to be a solution to the problem, or hunting in Alaska will be lost forever.—*Chuck DeFrest, Palmer, Alaska.*

I wonder how we Americans can blunder on without taking lessons from the past. The slaughter of the buffalo is an outstanding example. Alaska's game will be headed in the same direction unless this airplane hunting is stopped.

I contend that if persons can get to these locations to break the law, then the law can get there to apprehend the violators. I see no excuse why such an appalling situation should exist. Perhaps stiff federal controls may be the answer, or maybe a handful of dedicated men in Alaska would be just as effective.—*Henry E. Ogar, Shelter Island, N.Y.*

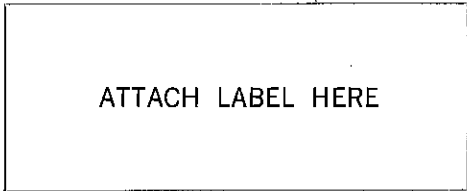
As a resident of Alaska, I spend over three months each year high in  
*(continued on page 153)*

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tically all of the big man-made lakes in the Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and North Carolina. Methods for catching them vary little, whether it is a two-acre farm pond or a 40,000-acre lake. The same methods, tackle, lures, and baits are used to catch big brim.

I've even caught brim on wads of cheese after everything else failed. A few times I've had them gobble crawfish tails after refusing even the choicest catalpa worms turned wrong side out on the hook. At least eight times out of 10, however, they will go for either small poppers or catalpa worms rather than any other baits or lures.

Rarely if ever during their active period do brim get moody like bass or walleyes. In my estimation, the bluegill is the All-American panfish. In all probability, more anglers fish for the bluegill than any other fresh-water fish, and the species has earned its popularity.

THE END

## WHAT'S ON MIND

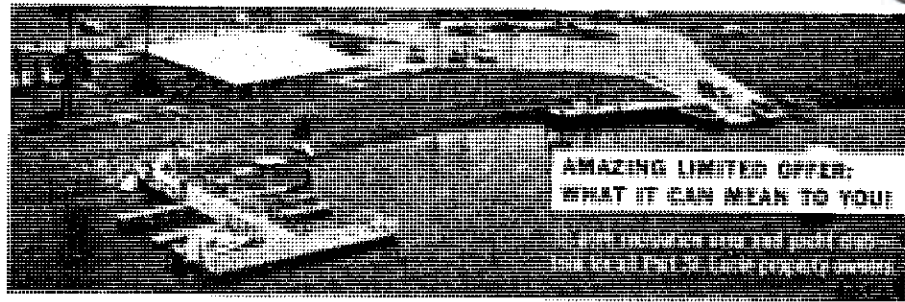
(continued from page 6)

the mountains photographing and hunting game. From this vantage point, I've witnessed a rapidly increasing number of aircraft spotting game, landing hunters, then flying out—too often taking only the rack and cape. The hunt is further insured by diving on concealed game to pinpoint its position. It's usually a simple matter to secure big game within a few hours for less than \$100. Consequently, countless aircraft are procured with big game as the ultimate medium of exchange. Often one can land within a few hundred feet of game, and the hunting is comparable with shooting cows. And, with the chances of detection so minute, expedience often dictates legality. Big game is big business in Alaska—big business unfettered by the necessary restraints normally imposed on big business.

Will we continue to permit our game to become exhausted to satisfy a few hundred privileged individuals and bolster the Alaskan economy temporarily? Or will we seek a long-range goal of continued revenue from our game resources and preserve this fabulous American heritage for posterity?—*Bob Boehm, Anchorage, Alaska.*

I've been a warden in Maine, have hunted clear across the United States, and did a temporary tour as game warden here in Alaska. After covering all this territory, hunting in most of it, I can say the airplane is hurting us badly.

Alaska needs professional law-enforcement officers and more active interest by genuine sportsmen, and not just plane owners and big-time Charles. The Alaska Fish and Game Department has rejected professional officers, and this may be the reason they can't cope with the airplane.—*G. F. Bryant, Fairbanks, Alaska.*



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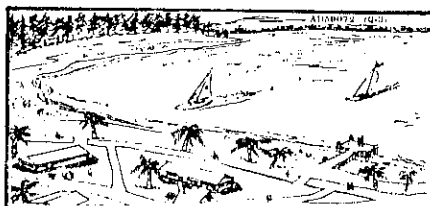
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do this to encourage selective hunting. Imagine what a hollow honor this would be if the selecting was done from a slow-flying bush plane or, worse, a helicopter.

I own my own plane and, like many other fellows in the outfitting business, would find it very hard to meet the demands of present-day hunters without the assistance of aircraft. Aircraft for transportation is essential. Aircraft for hunting should be repulsive to every sportsman who gives it serious thought. Let's stand opposed to this practice. Its continuance must not be tolerated.—*Don Peck, President, Northern B.C. Guides Association, Trutch, British Columbia.*

On behalf of the Alaska Big Game Trophy Club, Inc., I am pleased to acknowledge Mr. East's article on hunting from planes.

One of the main functions of our club is to promote fair chase and we are first to accept the fact that big-game hunting in Alaska with the use of aircraft in actual hunting, other than as a means of transportation, has become a major problem. Our bylaw reads as follows:

"The Alaska Big Game Trophy Club does not condone as fair chase the spotting of game from a helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft, nor the subsequent landing in the natural habitat and pursuit thereof. Trophies taken in such manner may not be eligible for recognition, for registration, or an award."

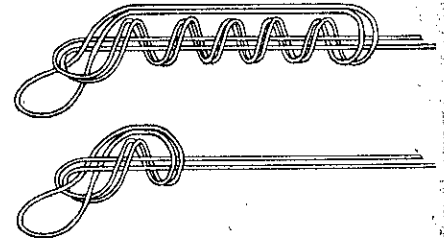
We wish to co-operate in any manner with your staff to promote fair chase and trophy hunting. We are more than pleased on your stand and exposure of the present hunting situation.—*Frank Cook, President, Alaska Big Game Trophy Club, Inc., Anchorage, Alaska. May, 1963*

## Monofilament

PC011  
13 of 15



I was interested in Wynn Davis' "Basic Monofilament Knots" in your February issue, but let's finish off that barrel knot so the big ones don't get away. For several years I've been using an "improved" barrel knot which I believe takes the "if" out of the knot and increases it in strength. It's actually a combination of the barrel and clinch knots. By taking the tails on both ends and tucking them back through the long loops already formed (see sketch above), the "if" is eliminated.—*Truman A. Day, Lisbon Falls, Maine.*



I noticed that when Mr. Davis ties a monofilament end loop, he puts the single loop through the double loop from the front (see top knot in sketch). When I tie this knot, I reverse the last step and put the single loop through from the back (see bottom knot in sketch). This method lacks the wrapped turns at both ends of the spiral. My method also requires only one wrap around the main line.—*E. J. Muffley, Decatur, Ill.*

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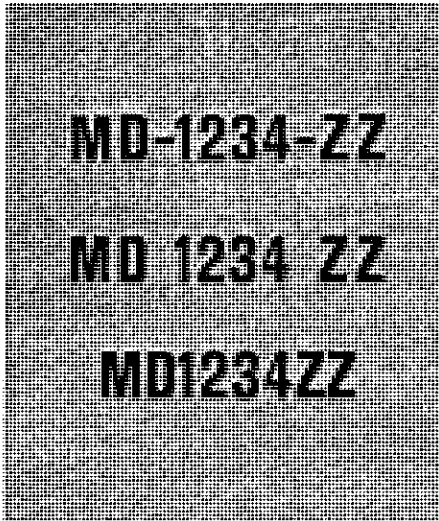
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# WHAT'S YOUR BOATING I.Q.?



According to U. S. Coast Guard, which of the above is proper display of boat number?



What does this symbol stand for?

The displays of boat numbers at top and center are both correct. The life preserver is the symbol of Quaker State Duplex Outboard Oil and Quaker State Super Blend Outboard Oil—because these protect the life of your outboard best. Quaker State Outboard Oils are refined only from 100% pure Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil. They give your outboard complete protection—assure added hours of trouble-free performance. Insist on Quaker State—the best engine life preserver.



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to be turned off before they could be removed, and even in death the owl kept its deadly grip on its prey.—Ben East, Holly, Mich.

## Ribbon Cutters

I think the story by Arthur Grahame in your June issue, "Are You A Sap for The Ribbon Cutters?", is terrific and appreciate the quotes which keep the Beamoc fight alive in your magazine. I am eternally grateful to OUTDOOR LIFE for publicizing the Beaverkill scrap to the extent that it has. I feel your help has been a decisive factor in enabling us to achieve the gains we have made in our fight to save our streams.—Harry A. Darbee, Beaverkill-Willowemoc Rod and Gun Club, Roscoe, N.Y.

Just want to express my appreciation for Arthur Grahame's piece on the ribbon cutters. This and his other article last November, "Roads to Ruin," have brought out some of the most serious hazards to our trout streams and put them right into the light where the public can get a good look at them. The bulldozer is second only to pollution as a stream destroyer. Let us hope our sportsmen's organizations will take the ball that Grahame has so ably kicked off and do some hard running with it.—G. Gordon, Jamaica, Vt.

## Outlaws Plane Hunts?

Your readers might be interested in knowing that the Idaho legislature passed into law a bill which makes it illegal to hunt in Idaho with airplanes or helicopters. Airplane hunting has been pretty rough on game for the past two years, especially on the Salmon River and its tributaries.—Pauline Miller, McCall, Idaho.

## Correction

We regret that the name of the author of "Mekong Madness" in the July issue of OUTDOOR LIFE was misspelled. His name is Charles W. Stockell, not Stockwell, as it appeared.

## Contents Noted



Collecting OUTDOOR LIFE articles into a personal notebook has paid off in my fishing. The trout I'm holding (see photo) were caught in the Big Diamond River in Arizona's White Mountains. I took these fish using the technique suggested by Jock Whitaker in his "Sunshaded Trout," which appeared in your August, 1957, issue.—G.A. Martins, Phoenix, Ariz.

## Boone and Crockett Bans Unfair Chase

Readers who agreed with OUTDOOR LIFE's stand against the use of aircraft to find, spot, follow, and herd game and drive it to the gun, as reported in "Get The Game, Grab The Jet," in the January issue, will be happy to know that score sheets sent out earlier this summer by the Boone and Crockett Club for measuring and scoring trophies for the North American Big Game Competition have included a rule which reads as follows:

NO TROPHY OBTAINED BY UNFAIR CHASE MAY BE ENTERED IN ANY BOONE AND CROCKETT BIG GAME COMPETITION

Spotting or herding Land game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for pursuit, shall be deemed UNFAIR CHASE and unsportsmanlike. Herding or pursuing ANY game from motor powered vehicles shall likewise be deemed Unfair Chase and unsportsmanlike.

I certify that the trophy scored on this chart was taken in Fair Chase as defined above by the Boone & Crockett Club. I certify that it was not taken by spotting or herding from the air followed by landing in its vicinity for pursuit. I further certify that it was not taken by herding or pursuing from motor powered vehicles.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Hunter \_\_\_\_\_

The change results from mounting dissatisfaction on the part of the club with the use of planes in the taking of trophies, and it should go far to correct the abuses described in the OUTDOOR LIFE article.—Ben East, Holly, Mich.



CATEGORY \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

# ENTRY AFFIDAVIT FOR ALL HUNTER-TAKEN TROPHIES

For the purpose of entry into the Boone and Crockett Club's® records, North American big game harvested by the use of the following methods or under the following conditions are ineligible:

- I. Spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for the purpose of pursuit and shooting;
- II. Herding or chasing with the aid of any motorized equipment;
- III. Use of electronic communication devices (2-way radios, cell phones, etc.) to guide hunters to game, artificial lighting, electronic light intensifying devices (night vision optics), sights with built-in electronic range-finding capabilities (including smart scopes), drones/unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), thermal imaging equipment, electronic game calls or cameras/timers/motion tracking devices that transmit images and other information to the hunter;
- IV. Confined by artificial barriers, including escape proof fenced enclosures;
- V. Transplanted for the purpose of commercial shooting;
- VI. By the use of traps or pharmaceuticals;
- VII. While swimming, helpless in deep snow, or helpless in any other natural or artificial medium;
- VIII. On another hunter's license;
- IX. Not in full compliance with the game laws or regulations of the federal government or of any state, province, territory, or tribal council on reservations or tribal lands;

Please answer the following questions:

Were dogs used in conjunction with the pursuit and harvest of this animal?

Yes  No

If the answer to the above question is yes, answer the following statements:

1. I was present on the hunt at the times the dogs were released to pursue this animal.

True  False

2. If electronic collars were attached to any of the dogs, receivers were not used to harvest this animal.

True  False

To the best of my knowledge the answers to the above statements are true. If the answer to either #1 or #2 above is false, please explain on a separate sheet of paper. I certify that the trophy scored on this chart was not taken in violation of the conditions listed above. In signing this statement, I understand that if the information provided on this entry is found to be misrepresented or fraudulent in any respect, it will not be accepted into the Awards Program and 1) all of my prior entries are subject to deletion from future editions of Records of North American Big Game 2) future entries may not be accepted. I also certify by my signature that the information I have provided on this form is accurate and correct. I also understand that all my entry materials, including photographs, as well as any additional photographs taken by Boone and Crockett Club® (our representatives or agents) during Awards Programs or Judges Panels, or likenesses rendered from these photographs become the property of the Boone and Crockett Club® and may be used to promote the Club, and its records-keeping activities. I agree to make my trophy available for DNA analysis or other testing if deemed necessary by the Club to determine eligibility. I hereby acknowledge that my entry fee is not refundable, except at the discretion of the Club, and that the Club's review of my trophy may take months to complete subject to staff availability and nature of the entry.

All trophies entered must have been taken in fair chase. FAIR CHASE, as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club®, is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, native North American big game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such game animals.

The Boone and Crockett Club® may exclude the entry of any animal that it deems to have been taken in an unethical manner or under conditions deemed inappropriate by the Club. The Club has the sole authority over the application and interpretation of its scoring system, fair chase rules, eligibility requirements, and the final score of a trophy. In consideration of my voluntary trophy entry in the Boone and Crockett Club® records program, I, on behalf of myself, my heirs, successors, and assigns release and relinquish all claims, demands, or damages arising from the processing of my entry or any actions or decisions made by the Boone and Crockett Club®, its officers, employees, members, agents, Official Measurers, and Judges Panels.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Hunter: \_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE MUST BE WITNESSED BY AN OFFICIAL MEASURER OR A NOTARY PUBLIC.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Notary or Official Measurer: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Trophies taken by qualifying handicapped hunters under circumstances that would otherwise be deemed unfair chase by Boone and Crockett Club's above Entry Affidavit are eligible for entry in B&C's records program, so long as their trophy was taken in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations in their state, province, reservation, and country.

## BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB® MATERIALS RELEASE FORM FOR ALL NON-HUNTER-TAKEN TROPHIES

I certify by my signature that the information I have provided on this form is accurate and correct. I also understand that all my entry materials, including photographs, as well as any additional photographs taken by Boone and Crockett (our representatives or agents) during Awards Programs or Judges Panels, or likenesses rendered from these photographs become the property of the Boone and Crockett Club and may be used to promote the Club, and its records-keeping activities.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Trophy Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** [James H. Johnson & Gwenetta F. Dunn-Johnson](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Sheep  
**Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 6:14:04 PM

---

Hello Folks:

Don't renew the ban on looking for sheep after sheep hunting season starts. That ranks as one of the dumbest regulations that have come out of Fish and Game in the 45 years that I have been in Alaska. First, I doubt that you can restrict my or anyone else's use of public airspace based on squabbling among sheep hunters. Second, what do you think I should do if the sheep that I **have** scouted out before season move? Just lace up my boots and head out? Third, would you just quit with the regulations? I am so tired of them. Do you folks like to sheep hunt because you like regulations? Are you nuts? Fourth, there will be accusations and conflict based on this regulation, and not just among sheep hunters. Hunters need more bad publicity like they need **more** holes in their heads. Wait for the howling to start when a sheep hunter turns in a sheep watcher.

Lest you think I have no skin in this game I assure you that I have had unhappy experiences in the field, hunting sheep and having to share the world with others. One time a pilot flew low over a band of twelve rams that I was onto, then flew low over them again, then flew over them again. That was once too many and they vacated the premises. Was I hopping up and down? You bet. Do I want a law that says he can't do it again? No. Another time I was putting the stalk on a nice sheep and stopped to scope him out. Suddenly he jumped up, fell over and then I heard the shot. An unseen hunter from below killed him. I found out later that he was a guided hunter and that the sheep was + 40 inches. Ouch. Should we ban guides? No.

Please manage the sheep, not me.

Sincerely,

James H. Johnson  
121 Trinidad Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-2902  
907-479-4123

Submitted By  
Jimmie Hunt  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 3:26:26 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-355-1509

Email  
[jimnrob@mtaonline.net](mailto:jimnrob@mtaonline.net)

Address  
P.O. Box 874588  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

I believe the rule about flying and looking for sheep during the hunting season should be recinded, because we already have a rule that states no same day flying and hunting. I support 23,24,25

Submitted By  
Dan Britton  
Submitted On  
2/23/2016 3:06:32 PM  
Affiliation

I encourage the board to adopt proposal 47 and create a youth sheep hunt Aug 1-5. The legislature has required special youth hunting opportunities, and there is currently no youth hunt for Sheep. The early season will eliminate conflicts with the opening day of school. For teenagers especially, the thought of missing the first day of school will cause many to not want to hunt. School in my area usually starts around August 15. This gives very little time, and no weather window, to plan a successful hunt on the traditional opening date.

Having a few parents accompany their teenagers on sheep hunts in early August will also reduce crowding on August 10, and because the adult also has to punch their tag, the overall sheep harvest should not increase.

Please adopt Proposal 47, and help support the next generation of Hunters.

Submitted By  
Hans Axelsson  
Submitted On  
2/11/2016 2:20:53 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073882645

Email  
[axelsson.hans@gmail.com](mailto:axelsson.hans@gmail.com)

Address  
po box 71634  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

I encourage the board to adopt proposal 47 and create a youth sheep hunt Aug 1-5. The legislature has required special youth hunting opportunities, and there is currently no youth hunt for Sheep. The early season will eliminate conflicts with the opening day of school. For teenagers especially, the thought of missing the first day of school will cause many to not want to hunt. School in my area usually starts around August 15. This gives very little time, and no weather window, to plan a successful hunt on the traditional opening date. Having a few parents accompany their teenagers on sheep hunts in early August will also reduce crowding on August 10, and because the adult also has to punch their tag, the overall sheep harvest should not increase. Please adopt Proposal 47, and help support the next generation of Hunters.



Dear Board of Game

I'm writing to  
show my support  
of proposal 47.

This is the youth  
hunt for Sharp Aug  
1-5.

The earlier hunt  
is well ahead of the  
start of school & also  
better weather would  
be expected resulting  
in a more anticipated  
hunt.

This seems to be  
a great way to get  
the 12-17 year olds

interested in hunting  
while not changing  
the # of sheep tags  
(the adult has to  
gunch them too)

I know several  
kids that would be  
able to hunt if the  
change were made.

I think you  
should adopt proposal  
47. Thanks for  
considering it.

Sincerely  
Eric Christensen  
(907) 460-2299





Submitted By  
Jennifer Lynch  
Submitted On  
2/28/2016 9:22:11 PM  
Affiliation

I encourage the board to adopt Proposal 47 and create a youth sheep hunt Aug. 1-5. It would be a chance for teenagers to hunt without worrying about the start of school, also reduce crowding on Aug. 10th.

Please adopt Proposal 47, and help support the next generation of Hunters.

Submitted By  
Mike Kramer  
Submitted On  
2/11/2016 9:33:56 AM  
Affiliation  
  
Phone  
907 3471240  
Email  
[mike@mikekramerlaw.com](mailto:mike@mikekramerlaw.com)  
Address  
216 Sacia Ave  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

I encourage the board to adopt proposal 47 and create a youth sheep hunt Aug 1-5.

The legislature has required special youth hunting opportunities, and there is currently no youth hunt for Sheep. The earlier season will eliminate conflicts with the opening day of school. While I generally do not favor special hunts, as the parent of a 13 year old girl who went on her first sheep hunt last year, and who became very upset over the thought of missing school due to bad weather, I believe to successfully introduce the next generation of hunters to Sheep hunting, we should offer an opportunity where they can experience better weather, and not have them worry about missing the first day or two of school due to weather delays, etc. Many kids don't mind missing school in September but the first day of school for a teenager is very important, especially for girls, and I am afraid many kids will not have a positive introduction to Sheep hunting due to the school conflict inherent in the General season. For teenagers especially, the prospect of missing the first day of school will cause many to not want to hunt. School in Fairbanks usually starts around August 15. This gives very little time, and no weather window, to plan a successful hunt on the traditional opening date.

Having a few parents accompany their teenagers on sheep hunts in early August will also reduce perceived crowding on August 10, and because the adult also has to punch their tag, the overall sheep harvest should not increase. If the board has concerns about creating a potentially advantageous hunting opportunity for kids, it should consider opening the general season August 1.

Please adopt Proposal 47, and help support the next generation of Hunters.

Submitted By  
BRIAN BAGLEY  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 10:29:52 PM  
Affiliation  
none

I am **not** in favor of proposal 48, the board generated proposal addressing hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep, for the following reasons:

All options for non residents would exclude non residents from needing to draw a tag for hunting on National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed lands. However, all of the options for residents would require residents to either draw a tag, or receive a tag only every 3 years, on a rotation. Some resident options would then open up to a general harvest season after September 1st.

However, I was unable to find a single air taxi that would service the northern brooks range after August 31st. Thus Proposal 48 would set aside the northern brooks range, an area in excess of 30,000 square miles- larger than the combined area of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey and New Hampshire, as a private hunting reserve for non residents that Alaskan residents would need to draw a tag for. I cannot think of a single state that would allow such an action.

Proposal 48 also unfairly discriminates against residents of school age, and those involved in education. All of the options proposed for residents would severely limit resident participation during the opening week of sheep season. As identified in AKDFG 2014 management report "Trends in Alaska Sheep Populations, Hunting, and Harvest", successful sheep hunting takes an average of 5 days. Since most schools are in session by the second week of sheep season, the only option for those involved in education to get enough days afield for success, would be the opening week of sheep season. In addition, the same management report identified that resident sheep hunter participation has steadily declined for the past 25 years. This proposal would greatly accelerate this decline.

In summary, I do not support Proposal 48, because it would set aside non resident hunting preserves that residents would need to draw a tag for, and that it would unfairly discriminate against those hunters of school age and those involved in education, further accelerating the decline of resident sheep hunters.

Submitted By  
Brian S. Kiefat  
Submitted On  
1/20/2016 4:58:07 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-229-5893  
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Address  
PO Box 1157  
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Greetings and God bless you,

Grizzly bears can be taken over black bear bait in GMUs: 12, 13, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, and 25D. However, they cannot be taken here in 20D near Delta Junction, AK. Delta Junction residents have been excluded from a significant hunting opportunity, that all of it's neighbors have not.

I ask that in 20D, hunters be allowed to take grizzly bear over black bear stands, just as it is allowed in the surrounding GMUs.

God bless you,

Rev. Brian S. Kiefat

Submitted By  
Chris Chartier  
Submitted On  
1/14/2016 10:17:59 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
760-567-0692  
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[clchartier11@gmail.com](mailto:clchartier11@gmail.com)

Address  
3463 Post Place  
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Currently grizzly bears (brown bears) can be taken over Bear Bait in GMUs: 12, 13, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E and 25D but not here in 20D near Delta Junction. I feel Delta residents have been excluded from a significant hunting opportunity in an area that has an abundance of brown bears in the game population. I would like the board to consider allowing brown bears to be taken at bait stations in 20D with similar regulations to other GMU's that already allow it. There is zero logical reason to continue to exclude this area from an opportunity already afforded to other units in such close proximity.

Thank you,

Chris Chartier

Submitted By  
Garry Williams  
Submitted On  
1/20/2016 4:20:21 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
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P.O. Box 867  
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

Support Proposal 64

Additional Comment 1: Add Unit 20D to Proposal 64

Additional Comment 2: If Proposal 64 is not approved, Present Proposal for Unit 20D on it's own merit for Grizzly Bear hunting over Bait.

Additional Comment 3: Aligned requirements for skull, hide, and meat salvaging for Grizzly Bear taking over bait sites with Black Bear criteria.



Submitted By  
George Lambert  
Submitted On  
1/18/2016 1:31:51 PM  
Affiliation

Please consider including area 20D in the provision to allow the taking of Brown/Grizzly Bears over a bait station along with Black Bears.

thank you

George Lambert



Submitted By  
Jacob Coots  
Submitted On  
1/18/2016 7:41:53 PM  
Affiliation

I would like to see the board approve prop. # 64 and extend it to unit # 20D. Delta area.



Submitted By  
James Shirk  
Submitted On  
1/15/2016 10:54:18 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9073621515

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Address  
pob 1701  
seward , Alaska 99664

**I support proposal 64** to allow grizzly bears to be hunted over black bear bait stations. While hunting moose last year in Delta Junction I encounter 5 Grizzly bears. Please pass this Proposal. Thank You

Submitted By  
john  
Submitted On  
1/17/2016 8:11:05 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
kobyarz  
Email  
[soldotnadds@hotmail.com](mailto:soldotnadds@hotmail.com)  
Address  
246 N. Binkley ST.  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

I am in favor of brown bear being taken on a bait station for bow-hunting. I would also like to see Game management Unit 20-D included in this regulation. I believe it is Prop. 64.

Also the moose season for disabled veterans should be continued. ACR 15

Submitted By  
John Ward  
Submitted On  
1/20/2016 11:11:33 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-590-2963  
Email  
[wardjr33@gmail.com](mailto:wardjr33@gmail.com)  
Address  
2544 Old Mission Road  
North Pole, Alaska 99705

Support Proposal 64.

Additional Comment 1: Recommend Unit 20D be added to the Proposal.

Additional Comment 2: Suggest a separate Proposal Submission for Unit 20D Only if Proposal 64 is not passed.

Additional Comment 3: Align requirements for taking Grizzly Bears on Bait Sites to the Black Bear requirements for hide, skull, and meat salvaging.



Submitted By  
Joshua Nairn  
Submitted On  
1/14/2016 10:47:14 AM  
Affiliation

I would like to recommend that 20D be opened for baiting grizzly. We are currently the only sub in unit 20 not currently allowed to do so.



Submitted By  
Lawrence R Madosik  
Submitted On  
1/13/2016 9:20:51 PM  
Affiliation

I am for the taking of grizzly bears over registered black bear bait stations in Unit 20D





Submitted By  
MICHAEL G. COOTS  
Submitted On  
1/16/2016 10:13:56 AM  
Affiliation

I AM IN FAVOR OF PROP. 64, BROWN / GRIZZLY BAITING. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BOARD EXTEND IT TO AREA 20 D, DELTA AREA. IN MY HUNTS IN THAT AREA I HAVE SEEN MANY GRIZZLY BEARS AND HAVE HAD ENCOUNTERS WITH A FAIR NUMBER. HAVING SAID THAT I BELIEVE THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT POPULATION IN THE AREA. I AM ALSO A 100% SERVICE CONNECTED DISABLED VETERAN AND BEING ABLE TO HUNT OVER BAIT WOULD ENHANCE MY OPPORTUNITIES TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN HARVESTING A GRIZZLY.



Submitted By  
Robert  
Submitted On  
1/13/2016 8:13:35 PM  
Affiliation  
Alaskan

Phone  
9079780368

Email  
[bobbylonghair@hotmail.com](mailto:bobbylonghair@hotmail.com)

Address  
PO Box 169  
Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

I am requesting that you allow bear baiting of grizzly bears in unit 20D as you have allowed in all other areas of unit 20. Thank you

Submitted By  
Robert Dvorak  
Submitted On  
1/14/2016 10:17:17 AM  
Affiliation

Proposal 64

With regards to hunting Grizzly Bears over bait, nearly all of the areas around 20D have been allowed to hunt grizzly over bait with no negative impact to the sustainable population or ethical hunting practices. The numbers of harvested bears have not "shot through the roof." There is no reason that 20D should not be allowed to follow the same rules that all of the other sub units of Unit 20 share, as well as, 12, 13 and 25D. It is a shame the 20D has been or was excluded form this excellent hunting oppertunity thus far.



Submitted By

Sylvia

Submitted On

1/18/2016 3:31:56 PM

Affiliation

I agree with proposal 64, and I would like to see it extended to area 20 D, "The Delta Area."

Submitted By  
Wayne Crowson  
Submitted On  
2/23/2016 9:11:24 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-895-4762

Email  
[none@wildak.net](mailto:none@wildak.net)

Address  
PO Box 231  
Delta Jct, Alaska 99737

I support **Proposal 64** for the taking of brown/grizzly bears over black bear baits especially as it applies to GMU 20D.

All the areas surrounding 20D allow harvesting grizzlies over black bear bait without excessive grizzly harvest.

GMU 20D had a total harvest of 9 grizzlies in 2015 but I see that many in two evenings at my bear bait. As a dedicated wolf trapper, I see grizzlies often as well as the resultant cow moose without calves.



Submitted By  
William Heath  
Submitted On  
1/21/2016 7:50:40 AM  
Affiliation

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334-467-7785

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Address  
PO Box 31242  
Fort Greely, Alaska 99731

The Alaskan Bowhunters Association has submitted PROPOSAL 64 to allow taking of Grizzly Bears at black bear stations. Grizzly Bears can be taken over Black Bear Bait in GMUs: 12, 13, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E and 25D but not here in 20D near Delta. Delta residents have been excluded from a significant hunting opportunity. I would like to recommend 20 Delta be added to this proposal or I would support 20D being added in another Proposal. Either way, the taking of grizzly bears over black bear bait should be allowed in 20D. Thanks for the opportunity to voice my request



Submitted By  
Zachary  
Submitted On  
1/18/2016 8:27:24 PM  
Affiliation

It is my opinion that the Board should accept prop. 64 and extend it to area 20D, Delta.

Submitted By  
Josh First  
Submitted On  
1/26/2016 1:07:02 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
7172328335  
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[josh@appalachianland.us](mailto:josh@appalachianland.us)  
Address  
3020 Green Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

**Josh First**

**3020 Green Street**

---

**Harrisburg PA 17110**

**(717) 232-8335**

Alaska Board of Game  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

January 26, 2016

Dear BOG,

Below are my comments, respectfully submitted, regarding several proposed regulation changes. Some I support, some I oppose. My comments are shaped by my experience as a lifelong hunter, fisherman, and trapper, and as a professional land manager who has held several leadership roles in the land conservation field, as well as leadership and senior staff position in federal and state conservation agencies. While I do not reside in Alaska, I have visited there to fish in wilderness conditions, and I intend to return again, possibly this summer, to fish and camp again. In 2005, we used a guide with a float plane (Max Schwab) out of Talkeetna. A photo of me with the 74-pound king salmon I caught on that trip, and its story, made Field & Stream Magazine, once again reinforcing Alaska's reputation as the gold standard for carefully managed consumptive use of wildlife.

And that is why I am submitting comments all the way from across the nation: Alaska is a symbol, an outpost, the last frontier, a place where ecological interests are daily weighed against consumptive use of natural resources and wildlife. Alaska is still place of freedom and opportunity where political correctness and non-scientific wildlife management have not taken hold. The rest of the nation looks to you for leadership on these subjects.

1) "**PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 92.080(1). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** Prohibit hunting and trapping from highway right-of-ways as follows: (...)."

**My comment:** I oppose this proposal. If private property or Native lands are being trespassed upon from public road rights-of-way, then the problem should be addressed directly as an individual trespassing issue when and where it occurs. It makes no sense to throw the baby out with the bathwater, and eliminate all hunting and trapping in these key areas just because of an occasional problem. As you well know, access to hunting, fishing and trapping in any rural area can be challenging, and in Alaska it is the ultimate challenge. It hardly seems fair or wise to eliminate hunting and trapping along all public roads when a lot, if not most, private or tribal land is not posted. Perhaps trespass fines can be increased if the trespass is defiant; it hardly makes sense to charge someone out in the middle of the Alaskan wilds when the property is not marked in some way as private. In sum, Alaska would be really damaging its user-friendly, Do-It-Yourself hunt/trap/fish reputation if it adopted this proposal. Find a way to address the problem with specific regulations, and not this blanket approach that will ruin so much of what makes Alaska a friendly, exciting DIY destination.

2) "**PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** Prohibit hunting with domestic dogs as follows: (...)."

**My comment:** I oppose this proposal. Domestic dogs are a critical element of a great deal of wingshooting and game tracking around the planet. This proposal seems like a nuclear sledgehammer response to a small potential problem. Perhaps Alaska can require out-of-state hunting dogs to be certified disease or parasite free. But to eliminate all dogs from hunting? That is basically an attack on all wingshooting and hounding, which automatically makes it an extreme proposal. Perhaps that is the real goal of this proposal.

3) "**PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Allow use of blackpowder cartridge rifles and crossbows in bison hunts as follows: (...)"

**My comment:** I support this proposal. My own experience hunting with black powder firearms, both metallic cartridges and muzzleloaders, is that they are much more powerful and effective than they are generally given credit for when analyzed by simple ballistics tables. Black powder hunting firearms suffer from unrealistic armchair analysis because the book ballistics indicate they only have so many foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards. Consider that black powder firearms killed elephants, lions, and other tough, dangerous animals 150 years ago. In fact, the **Taylor Knock-Out** formula developed for big-bore guns used on dangerous African game is much more of an accurate indicator of the likely effectiveness of the large, heavy lead bullets and round balls used by black powder guns than the modern ballistics "rules" relied upon by most shooters. The TKO value for most large bore black powder hunting firearms is basically the Hammer of Thor, and these TKO numbers compare favorably to actual historic and present field experience with large bore black powder firearms on large dangerous game. Based on the TKO formula, Alaska should allow all black powder rifles of fifty caliber or greater for bison. Similarly, crossbows have become a go-to hunting tool for disabled and injured hunters. Modern crossbows are setting incredible records for humane kills of large game across America. Recurve and wheel crossbows should be allowed for bison, too.

4) "**PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Remove all requirements for identification tags on traps and snares as follows: (...)"

**My comment:** I support this proposal. I hunt, trap and fish extensively in Pennsylvania, and hunt and fish in other states, and my discussions with trappers from other states bears out what this proposal asserts. Namely, wildlife officers and nosey individuals often needlessly disturb carefully prepared trap sets in their search for an identification tag or etching, for what good purpose, nobody can say. It is one thing to investigate a trapper who has left his traps unchecked for a long time, or whose trapped animals have clearly been left for too long and are going to waste, or who may have trapped more than the quota for a given species. But that investigation can be done through basic investigative techniques, like talking to local trappers, landowners, and hunters, analyzing snow disturbance, conducting interviews, looking at the sets from a distance to see if they contain an animal, and using hidden trail cameras. Asking around can quickly determine who is trapping a certain area. Trap tags seem to be nearly as much a lure or bait to wildlife officers as the actual lure and bait in the trap set are for furbearers. The cost of having trap tags is high, because once disturbed, trap sets are not functional and they have disclosed a hidden location to the target animals; they may have to then be moved far away altogether, further disrupting a carefully planned trapline. The window of opportunity for trappers is usually pretty narrow. When traps are disturbed, there is a huge opportunity cost. In sum, the use of trap tags seems to be a residual artifact from long ago practices or problems that do not seem to be present today. Today's trappers are highly motivated, usually well trained, using expensive equipment, investing a lot of time and money often for little or no profit, with good intentions and a desire to trap merely as a lifestyle. There is no need for trap tags.

5) "**PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 92.095(a). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Require traps to be checked every 24 hours as follows: (...)"

**My comment:** I oppose this proposal. The submitters, Andersen and O'Brien, do not understand either basic trapping practicalities or wildlife biology. Especially in a place like Alaska, which has vast trapping sections simultaneously dealing with multiple species in different habitats and rugged, roadless, remote landscapes separated by enormous travel time under dangerous conditions and sub-freezing temperatures, using totally different types of traps with different results. A 24-hour check is impractical and unnecessary under these conditions. Here in little old Pennsylvania, with a road just about every two miles, we have a blanket 36-hour check for all trap types -- bodygrippers (which kill immediately), footholds, snares (immediate kill, beavers only) and cable restraints, but most trappers check every morning in order to prevent lost, damaged, or stolen animals. Maine is a huge trapping destination in some ways similar to Alaska, and they have a 24-hour check on footholds only; bodygrippers and snares only require checks every few days to a week.

Why would an under-ice 330 or a running pole 220 Conibear-style bodygripper trap need a 24-hour check? Any animal caught in it will be instantly dead and cannot be resuscitated, whether it is found 24 seconds, 24 hours, or 2.4 days later. The same holds true for snares, which cause death within 30 to 60 seconds. Some traps cannot be checked without removing them from their set, which requires delicate work to arrange in the first place. Checking them would be disruptive and ruin the whole purpose of the trap set to begin with. Foothold traps are already checked frequently, usually every 36 hours, for the simple practical reason that an animal caught in one is eventually going to be eaten by another, bigger animal if it is not removed as soon as possible, or its pelt will be damaged by rodents. Do animals suffer when caught in footholds? It is doubtful that they enjoy being stuck in one place, but the truth is that most wild animals are capable of waiting out storms and bad weather for several days with little movement, food or water as a course of regular life. They also eat each other alive and don't seem too bothered by it.

Trappers already have a significant incentive to check their traps as soon as possible, because any delay can result in the loss of the entire animal or ruination of the valuable pelt by other animals. Given the large amount of time and money invested in setting out a trapline, it makes no sense to work against the incentives the trapper already has.

Therefore, requiring a 24-hour check on an Alaskan trapline that may be 150 miles long, with animals that were killed instantly days before, is unrealistic and serves no useful purpose.

In sum, this proposal is at best scientifically ignorant of trapping. More likely, it is clumsily, purposefully directed at undermining that occurs on the big traplines which Alaska is uniquely known for. The words used in this proposal indicate a strong antipathy to trapping in general, juvenile anthropomorphism, as well as an ignorance of what trapping is, what tools are used, and how trapped animals experience being trapped in different sets. This proposal is a backdoor effort to artificially limit or curtail trapping altogether by making it impossible to do well. Decline or ignore this proposal, it is purely political and has zero practical use.

**6) "PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Move trapping away from cities with a population of 1,000 or more as follows: (Quarter mile buffer zone...within 200 feet of a publicly maintained trail...within one mile of a house etc.)"

**My comment:** I oppose this proposal, because it is premised on highly limited, unusual, even fake reports of conflicts, and an open antipathy to all trapping. This proposal is like being against motherhood and rainbows: It is so ludicrous that no person of common sense would spend valuable time analyzing it. Like the other anti-trapping proposal from the same two submitters, Andersen and O'Brien, this one is another unreasonable attempt to stop, hamstring, undermine, limit, bog down, shame, damage and end trapping through endless and impractical regulations, one little "cut" at a time. The proposal creates a false problem and then asserts an extreme "solution" that would basically eliminate about fifty percent of the trapping in southern Alaska.

There is no science in this proposal. It fails to present actual data, evidence, or quantitative analysis. It fails to address private property rights, or the public benefits of trapping (like removing nest-raiding ground mammals, or aiding in scientific wildlife management and biological study). It fails to address the responsibility of pet owners to care for their pets, and how pet trespass on private property creates so many problems, disease, and wildlife damage. It fails to address the health issues and wildlife problem of feral dogs and cats coming from irresponsible pet owners in developed areas. It fails to make a sensible or defensible case for any of these huge exclusion zones, as though today's highly regulated trapping practices have resulted in problems. It fails to address how trappers would practically trap differently on private and public land within these zones, as private land owners are entitled to trap, hunt and fish on their own land. It fails to list or quantify the asserted, vague benefits of the proposal versus its enormous costs, such as the impact on rural and Native Alaskans, who depend upon trapping for a substantial amount of their family and village income.

In Pennsylvania, we have a mere 150-yard safety zone around occupied buildings and dwellings, everywhere in the state, from the most developed to the most rural areas, where hunting and trapping may not occur without the occupants' permission. Even in this relatively highly developed state, compared to Alaska, we do not have a problem with human safety, or with pet safety, in or outside of these safety zones. The risks asserted in the proposal seem to have been pulled out of thin air; when compared to actual data numbers, they don't add up.

What we do have in Pennsylvania is a real human trespass problem, pet trespass problem, feral animal problem, and a lot of anti-trapping bigotry that absolves pet owners from any responsibility for the conduct of their animals and which absolves human trespassers from needing to comply with private property laws. This anarchic mentality says that if an anti-trapping person can steal or disable traps on posted private property, then trespass is justified. This proposal here reflects that same lawless thinking, as though trappers were lepers deserving of being bullied beyond the outer limits of human habitation. It is the responsibility of the BOG to turn this mindless tide and stand up for the consumptive use of wildlife. If not in Alaska, then where?

Trapping is an essential human lifestyle in Alaska and across the planet. Trapping has been a quintessentially human activity for the past 20,000 years. If people do not want to trap, they don't have to, but they should not try to impede others from trapping. This proposal is simply an assault on trapping because the submitters just don't like trapping, an extreme policy position. This proposal is unfair, impractical, and unnecessary. There is no demonstrated need for it and it should not be given one second of consideration.



Submitted By  
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Submitted On  
2/25/2016 5:33:37 PM  
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self

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Dear Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed regulations being considered by the Board of Game. Please see my comments below:

Proposal 67 - I support a prohibition on hunting/trapping from public ROWs without permission from the surrounding private landowners. This regulation would support the landowners rights against trespass for the purpose of hunting/trapping and provide additional legal recourse against prohibited acts.

Proposal 68 - I support including FLIR as a prohibited artificial light for use of hunting. FLIR provides a much greater aid to hunters allowing identification of animals from far away, through barriers (e.g., snow) and in the dark that typical artificial lights. Prohibition of the use of FLIR is directly in line with the rest of the regulation.

Proposal 78 - I oppose the proposed regulation to remove the requirement to include IDs on traps. Requiring IDs allows efficient enforcement of the regulations because it allows LEOs to identify trappers who fail to follow requirements regarding areas of use, open seasons, and placement of traps. If traps do not have IDs, then it will become almost impossible to identify the trapper who fails to follow regulations. The argument in support of the proposed regulation included in the Proposal Book - that opponents of trapping will steal and relocate traps with the intention of entrapping personnel is unfounded. I am unaware that there has ever been prosecution of a trapper for illegal placement of a trap that was later discovered to be a result of such an incident. Until there is significant evidence that this is truly a problem, this proposal should be denied.

Proposal 79 - I support requiring all traps to be checked within 24 hrs of setting. This requirement would decrease suffering of trapped animals, and would increase the value of furs recovered by the trapper. Since fur-bearing animals are a State resource, the Board of Game has an obligation to ensure that the value of furs are maintained in good condition and retain their value. Given that trapper organizations did not respond to this proposal prior to its inclusion in the Proposal Book, it can be assumed that they do not have objections.

Proposal 80 - I support the proposal to move trapping away from population centers (1/4 mile from public roads and 200 ft from trails). This revision to regulations would help reduce conflicts between trappers and other users and reduce risks to the general public and their pets.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to these proposed regulations.

Michelle Turner

Submitted By  
Heather Fair  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 3:25:45 PM  
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The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Headquarters Right-of-Way Section has reviewed Proposal 67 and respectfully submits the following comments to the Board of Game for consideration.

As the agency responsible for acquiring, operating, and maintaining public transportation lands, including right of ways for the State, the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is opposed to Proposal 67 on the basis that it is unnecessary and impractical to enforce without contributory value to the management of the State's game and other public resources.

Proposal 67 seeks to amend regulations administered by the Department of Fish & Game (DFG) to include a new statement (a) under 5 AAC 92.080 (1) as follows:

**5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions**

The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(1) by shooting from, on, or across a highway;

**(a) it is unlawful to hunt or trap within State Federal Aid right-of-ways without written documentation granting permission from private land owner[s].**

The proposal includes a statement that, "Use of private lands without the landowner's permission, other than those legally reserved for public access easements, is trespassing."

DOT&PF encourages the public to understand land ownership status before hunting and to obtain permission to hunt on lands as appropriate to avoid trespassing. However, it is important to note that these right of ways are public and open to use by all. Though some property owners misinterpret public right of ways across, adjacent to, or through their property, the rights to use those right of ways have been transferred to DOT&PF for administration for public use. The adjacent or surrounding land owner does not have control over the right of way next to or across their land. If the proposal were approved and the regulation amended as written, the land owner with authority to grant or deny permission for all activities within the right of way would be DOT&PF. DOT&PF also has as no authority to enforce game harvest laws. Conversely, DFG has no authority to enforce private property rights or enter into related civil disputes on behalf of a private property owner.

It is also imperative to understand that right of ways vary across the state. Some right of ways are owned in fee simple, others are easements, and still others are temporarily permitted. Further, right of ways can extend much farther outside of the traveled way. Land ownership status information changes frequently and it is difficult for even DOT&PF (or DFG or the Department of Natural Resources) to define existing ownership of right of ways on the ground without extensive and costly title research at each and every site. Compliance and enforcement would be impractical because there would be no way for a hunter or game officer to identify the limits of the right-of-way on the fly. Further, it would be cost-prohibitive and impractical for DOT&PF to continually survey and mark the extent of every right of way in the state.

The existing regulation prohibiting "shooting from, on, or across a highway" works well on its own. Adding further limitations on uses within the right of way to "prohibit hunting and trapping" would be impossible to enforce and the activities may not be considered incongruent



uses. For example, it is difficult to determine whether or not a hunter is merely moving through an area, which would continue allowable activity, or actively hunting, which the proposal seeks to prohibit.

DOT&PF reiterates that this proposed regulatory change is unnecessary and cumbersome, resulting in costly property disputes and impossible enforcement challenges with no added benefit to the public and the sustainable management of State resources. We ask that the Board of Game reject Proposal 67 in totality.

Respectfully,

Heather Fair

Statewide Right-of-Way Chief

907.465.6954

Headquarters Right of Way

Design & Construction Standards Section

Statewide Design & Engineering Services

State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

<http://tinyurl.com/AKDOTROW/>

*The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities oversees 249 airports; 43 small harbors; a ferry system covering 3,500 nautical miles serving 35 coastal communities; more than 5,600 miles of paved and gravel highways; and 720 public facilities throughout the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure.*

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3/3/2016 1:20:54 PM  
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Members of the Board of Game, I would like to submit the following comments on proposals 67,78,79,80 and 81.

67- I oppose this proposal as Alaska has adequate trespass laws to protect the rights of private land owners like Ahtna corp.

78- I would like you to support this proposal for the reasons stated within it.

79- Oppose, a 24 hour trap check law is not needed in Alaska and would be impossible for most trappers to comply with. This proposal may be well intended but would destroy trapping in Alaska.

80- Oppose, this proposal would instantly draw thousands of invisible lines all across the state causing enforcement and compliance nightmares. Trappers would be burdened with accurately assessing populations, defining "public Trails"(some are obvious , many are not), and accurate measurement of set backs. The issues that this proposal attempts to address are being worked on through signage, and education of both trappers and the non-trapping public.

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3/3/2016 9:56:48 PM  
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Please let the board know that they should make an exception for hunters who are hunting alone. By that I mean without another human. They should be able to bring a dog with them in that case (if the decision is made to outlaw the use of domesticated canines.) Banning the use of domesticated canines could also be discriminatory against the handicapped if they need a guide dog to accompany them on hunts. Don't forget hunters who might use mush dogs as transport. It would be terribly discriminatory to allow a moose hunter to use a 4 wheeler with a meat wagon to haul quartered moose but not a musher with a freighter sled. Let's not be too hasty to ban our best friends on hunts.

Submitted By  
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2/29/2016 9:43:03 AM  
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#### Proposal 69

I would like to make some comments. I am completely opposed to this proposal. Proposal 69 prohibits domesticated dogs accompanying hunters into the field. Justification is to protect wild canine populations from possible sickness and disease. Hunting dogs are very small in actual numbers. They serve very useful purposes and prevent the loss of wounded and dead game such as upland birds and ducks. Some are also trained in blood work to track wounded big game animals and assist in their recovery thus preventing waste of an animal. Hunting dogs are usually well controlled by the hunter and interaction with wild canines would be a very rare event.

Additionally hunting dogs are some of the most well cared for dogs in Alaska. They receive numerous immunizations and physical check ups. I'm not sure which diseases are of concern but the chances the dogs have received shots for it are high.

The vast majority of dogs that may expose the wild canine population to diseases and problems are the numerous sled dogs and family pets that are out there. In some areas of the state, veterinary services are non-existent and dogs do not receive the immunizations and care. Pets taken for walks outside the cities are usually off the leash and allowed to run uncontrolled. There's only stop gap measures in the attempt to solve either situation.

Bottom line is that this proposal single outs hunting dogs in the attempt to solve a perceived problem, that hunting dogs are spreading disease to the wild canine population. This is a veiled attempt to ban the use of dogs for hunting and will not do anything to prevent diseases and sickness from affecting wild canine populations.



Submitted By  
Bob Hunter  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 9:56:43 AM  
Affiliation

Proposal 69- Oppose, As a lifelong hunter and gundog owner and trainer, I consider the proposal 69 to be either a thinly veiled antihunting proposal or at best, a misguided concern about the realities of disease transmission. With a focus on this proposal, the amount of investment that hunters put into purchase, training, companionship and the need for the dogs to remain fit for work, ensures that hunting dogs are likely amongst the healthiest dogs in our society. Gun dog and other working dog owners ensure vaccinations are up to date, dogs get regular wormings and are closely monitored for health issues or our dogs will fail in the field. The benefits to using trained hunting dogs are many. One benefit is that the use of dogs for hunting purposes also ensures the recovery of a large percentage of the wounded and otherwise lost game that society finds fault with. In regard to Prop 69, the fact is that hunting dogs comprise only a small fraction of the dogs taken out to the field for multitudes of reasons and do not pose a realistic risk to wildlife in regards to disease transmission. I strongly recommend opposing this proposal.

Submitted By  
Cheryl Laudert  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 11:55:43 PM  
Affiliation

Proposal 69 - to make it unlawful to use a domestic hunting dog while hunting. I am opposed to this proposal for the following reasons: 1) I believe that many people take their domestic dogs (and will continue to take their dogs) to remote areas of the state whether they are hunting or not. They take their dogs to cabins, on hikes, skiing, not to mention sled dog trips (to include all the existing dog sled race events that cross through miles of wildlife habitat). Also, moose and other wildlife many times live in and near towns and cities - where dogs also live. How was it determined that only hunting dogs pose this perceived health threat to wildlife? How will banning the use of a hunting dog eliminate your health concerns?

2) Prohibiting hunting with dogs just makes no sense to game management. I have hunted duck and upland birds with retrievers many times and I believe it should be unlawful to hunt WITHOUT a dog. Without a dog, many if not most of the downed birds are likely never recovered. Wasteful and a real shame.

I sincerely hope more thought goes into this and that proposal 69 will be defeated.

Submitted By  
Christopher molina  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 9:13:42 AM  
Affiliation

This is a outrage. Hunting dogs have been around since the beginning of hunting of most sorts. I have been hunting with dogs since I was a kid. From raccoons to waterfowl to upland birds. Saying dogs can transfer disease is pure ignorance due to the fact that game animals carry more diseases then the dogs we hunt them with. And k9s are a species. What of wolves and fox. Do they carry these so called diseases too?

Submitted By  
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3/3/2016 5:16:54 PM  
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I urge you to NOT adopt the following measures. They are anti-hunter, anti-sporting, anti-Alaskan, and un-American. The laws you propose, and especially the no hunting-dog law is CRAZY. It is another way of discouraging sportman who contribute to conservation efforts and bird hunters who ensure dropped fowl are recovered. This is ecologically and financially shortsighted. If the problem you are addressing deals with ticks and parasites it would be better to encourage use of Frontline and vaccinations. This could best be dealt with in other ways. Healthy hobbies that encourage family unity, animal husbandry, ecological conservation, and club growth should be encouraged in Alaska. As a third generation Alaskan, I can not believe I am even writing this letter. You would think that this was a proposal in California. BAD IDEA.



September 20, 2015

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Concerning Proposal 69: The use or accompaniment of domestic dogs is prohibited while hunting. Dogs used as service animals are defined under Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act are exempt if the hunter is in possession of current official certificate of veterinary inspection for the service dog.

I'm sorry, but I fail to see how this will help anything. I don't quite understand why only one type of dog is targeted here. Hunting dogs are probably the healthiest out there. When a person has put thousands of dollars into their dog they are not going to allow ticks or other parasites to infest their dog. To create a rule on supposition of what may happen boggles the mind. Let's use a bit of common sense here. My husband hunts, I hike with the dogs. The dogs belong to me. Can I help it if the dog happens to find birds and point them out to my husband? Who is to say if the dog is hiking with me or hunting with my husband? I would say that Hunting dogs are in a minority for those that are out using the wilderness. Will this then spread to Sleddogs and hiking dogs as well? Will Alaska be a state where no dogs are allowed at all? Surely we have better things to do then waist our time with silly proposals like this one.

Sincerely,

Dori Hollingsworth

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Submitted By  
Eloy Garcia  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 7:56:27 PM  
Affiliation

I urge the board not to adopt Proposal 69. Not using Dogs to hunt will result in lost game. Hunting with a dog would not put wild animals at more risk for disease than strolling through the woods with a dog or mushing.



Submitted By  
George Bennett  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 10:04:02 PM  
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I am commenting in opposition to proposal 69 which would prohibit hunting while accompanied by a domestic dog. The conservation benefits of reduced loss of harvested game through the use of trained bird dogs is well documented and far exceeds the minimum unproven claims of the spread of communicable diseases to wildlife. Prohibitions on the use of dogs would excessively impact the ability of hunters to hunt waterfowl.

Submitted By  
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Submitted On  
3/4/2016 11:58:26 AM  
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~~Proposal 69

Keeping only hunting dogs out of Alaska's wild areas won't prevent the spread of any disease because any other recreational user may still bring in their pet dogs.

The notion that dog ticks will add increase harm to humans seems to ignore the many pet dogs already living with people. Hence the exposure to these ticks to humans is already present. The general population engages in extensive travel between Alaska and other areas already affected. Most hunters traveling out of state with their dogs are keenly aware of the need to protect their dogs from parasites via proactive medication. It would be unlikely that hunting dogs severed as a host carrier.

The argument climate change and its dangers of parasites invasion is due to the use of hunting dogs seems to ignore again the recreational companionship of dogs. It further ignores the mere organic growth of overall change in the area of parasites. They will expand based on climate suitability whether hunting dogs are present or not. It would be more prudent to expect the change to occur and prepare for it rather than limiting a small group of people using hunting dogs for bird hunting.

Hunting dogs are instrumental in the retrieval of shot birds and the prevention of waste.

The two referenced article in the proposal seem to address the protections of the dogs more than they indicate any harm to wildlife.

Especially the article about tape worm seems to indicate their presents already.

At this point there is no scientific study or evidence of any negative effects hunting dogs bring to Alaskan hunting areas.

~[www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/species/disease/pdfs/dog\\_tick\\_memorandum.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/species/disease/pdfs/dog_tick_memorandum.pdf)

Submitted By  
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3/4/2016 6:38:41 PM  
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Briefly, the proposal to keep hunting dogs out of the woods and off the tundra is ludicrous and lacks legal merit. It is unconstitutional to single out just one segment of a large and diversified group of other dog owners. When, and if it moves forward, surely it will drag in other dog use in our back country, dogs like pets, and sled dogs. Obviously this would eventually have to include Iditarod and Yukon Quest dogs as well.

There are no "dog ticks." There are deer ticks found in other states that could conceivably be brought here to Alaska, but their proliferation is highly unlikely. We already have ticks, by the way the way, and one can occasionally see them on snowshoe hare. They didn't get onto the hare via hunting dogs.

No other state in the Union has such a ridiculous and unlawful proposal. Creation of this regulation prohibiting only hunting dogs from being in the back country is also unenforceable, and it will be challenged regularly in our courts of law.

As a hunter who uses pointing dogs to hunt wild gamebirds in Alaska for many decades I strongly suggest this proposal be rejected posthaste. I will gladly appear before the Board to present our case and answer any questions presented. This is a mean spirited and targeted attack on one single user group and as a 46 year long Alaskan I'm ashamed we even have to address such a unconstitutional matter.

Thank you for reading these words and rejecting this proposal.

James M. McCann

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Submitted By  
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Board of Game Members this comment is in regards to proposal 69 which is intended to "Prohibit hunting with domestic dogs" statewide. I oppose this proposal. The author states "There is concern that domestic dogs will transmit diseases to Alaska's wildlife populations." While domestic dogs could transmit diseases to wildlife, this proposal would only prohibit the use of dogs for hunting. Any dog that is not being used to hunt would still be allowed in the field. Besides people have been hunting with dogs in Alaska for thousands of years. Typically hunters take very good care of their hunting dogs and ensure that they are in top shape for the hunting season. It's extremely unlikely that a hunting dog will be diseased and transmit diseases to wildlife. On the other hand a well-trained domestic dog is one of the most effective conservation tools there are. Hunting dogs not only find game for hunter before the shot, such as grouse and ptarmigan. Retrieve game after the shot, such as retrieving ducks. And can be used to blood track wounded big game. When I lived in Southeast Alaska I was sickened by the wounding loss of black bears I was observing. At that time it was illegal to use dogs to track wounded big game, which prompted me to submit a proposal to legalize the use of leashed tracking dogs to locate wounded big game by following the blood track. The board of game passed the use of tracking dogs that year unanimously. Since then I have used my dogs to locate wounded moose and bear. I am aware of numerous big game animals that would have been lost by the hunter, but were recovered by a trained tracking dog. My dogs have also recovered many game birds that would have been lost without them. Working dogs, including hunting dogs have been part of the Alaska hunting culture likely since humans arrived in this country. I ask this board of game to continue supporting this hunting relationship that has existed between man and dog for thousands of years. Please continue to support wildlife conservation in this state by opposing this proposal. Thank you.



Submitted By  
Joseph presher  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 2:35:53 AM  
Affiliation

I am absolutely against taking canines out of the field they are a much needed key to success for finding downed game animals for there sense of smell is unmatched plz don't take man's best friend out of the field

Submitted By  
Judith Schonbeck  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 10:28:29 AM  
Affiliation

Regarding Proposal 69: the removal of retrievers/gun dogs from public grounds. I would encourage the board to reject this proposal.

Gun dogs have been assisting hunters for centuries, a proven means of less ground disturbing bird retrieval, and loss of game. A hunter does not need to haul/drag any type of boat to a pond with a dog that can swim and retrieve a shot bird..

Proposal 69 states dogs should not be on public lands due to ticks and contamination of feces. These statements are not based on scientific evidence. ADF&G has stated that Alaska has ticks on deer, moose and other wildlife. A well maintained hunting retriever would not have any ticks as the owner/handler would make sure the dog is healthy and the dog has been potentially treated with a tick preventative application. As for contamination from dog feces: if all hunters, hikers followed "Leave No Trace" there would not be an issue about any feces. I've seen more human feces at some hunting sites compared to canine.

This proposal is a ridiculous attempt to remove dogs from public lands and needs to be rejected.



Submitted By  
Juli  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 7:27:27 AM  
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Hello,

I am writing in response to the proposal to ban hunting with/in the presence of dogs. Hunting with dogs has been a part of man's existence since dog and man were united in the caves of Africa. The use of a well trained dog prevents waste of poorly shot/hit game birds and waterfowl. A well trained dog, used within the constraints of the current regulations, can blood trail and track a wounded big game animal, locating it when a human may not be able to do so.

And what of people who are hiking (not hunting) in Alaska's wilderness? Will they too be prevented from taking their dogs along?

This is completely absurd, and I am sure the game board will show some common sense in the review and subsequent decision regarding this proposal.

Thank you,

Juli Wolter,

Palmer, Alaska

Submitted By  
Karen Wilson  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 4:29:18 PM  
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Fairbanks Retriever Club

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RE: Proposal no. 69

I am opposed to proposal no. 69, which would prohibit hunting while accompanied by domestic dogs. Trained gundogs [i.e. retrievers, pointers, spaniels, setters, etc.] conserve gamebirds and this proposal would make it illegal for these dogs to work. In addition, these dogs are vaccinated against diseases and treated with tick/flea preventatives when needed. Their contact with wildlife while hunting is minimal, other than the birds they're retrieving/pointing/flushing. The proposal is ludicrous! What about non-hunters who are accompanied by dogs -- dog mushers to hikers to bikers to campers to fisherman to bird watchers? As a 27 year member of the Fairbanks Retriever Club (officer or Board member consecutively since May 1990), waterfowl and upland bird hunter, and 39 year resident of Alaska, I stand opposed to this proposal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Wilson

Secretary, Fairbanks Retriever Club

Submitted By  
Krystal Houston  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 4:17:19 PM  
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According to Proposal 69, the main points are that there is a fear that certain diseases (Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, tularemia, canine ehrlichiosis, canine babesiosis, Lyme Disease, and Q-fever, as well as cystic hydatid disease, alveolar hydatid disease, sarcocystosis, and muscle tapeworm cysts) could be transmitted from dogs to local wildlife via tick bites. It also states "Alaska's wild game populations are immunologically naive."

At least half of these diseases are found in humans as well as other vertebrate vectors, so the chances of introduction could arguably be the human half of the hunting team for Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, and Q-fever. Cystic hydatid disease, alveolar hydatid disease, sarcocystosis, and muscle tapeworm cysts are all different presentations of tapeworm infestations, which are not tick-transmitted.

It would seem that the likelihood of diseases introduced by domestic canines accompanying humans into hunting areas for a limited (by ADFW regulation) period is statistically insignificant compared to the likelihood of wildlife (coyotes, foxes, rodents) entering into backyards and parks and encountering these panic-inducing pathogens and parasites.

Keep in mind, also, that *Canis lupus familiaris* has been present in the area now known as Alaska for approximately 14,000 years. As with any health concern, appropriate preventative veterinary examinations and prophylactic treatment should be utilized to maintain the public health - of both urban and wildlife areas. As dogs that leave or enter Alaska via international borders or mass transport, such as airlines and ferries, are required to have current veterinary certificates of health and immunizations, this issue is already in hand, or primed to be expanded to test for additional conditions.

From personal experience, though, when my family was stationed in Fort Greeley, it was not the family dog who required regular examinations and baths for fleas and ticks, it was my 5-year-old self.

I strongly oppose this proposal as the proposed "prevention measure" far exceeds the severity required to address the actual issue.

Submitted By  
Lynda Barber-Wiltse  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 3:32:38 PM  
Affiliation

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PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Statement against Proposal 69. Bird dogs have deep roots in hunting and game bird conservation. Well-trained retrievers/hunting dogs find and help the hunter bag more legal birds, including cripples. These types of dogs are not running unsupervised "amongst the Alaskan wildlife".

I am much more worried about ticks and other parasites being transmitted to my dogs (which have been bred for and trained to retrieve waterfowl and other upland birds) from the wildlife and environment than I am from my dogs transmitting these parasites to the wildlife! My dogs live with me and I certainly don't want to share my house with the nasty ticks and other parasites!

If this proposal passes, has anyone projected the amount of waste we can expect from cripples and other unrecovered game birds that would occur? How would non hunting dogs be monitored to keep them away from the wildlife? What about sled dogs that mush/run thru wildlife areas? What about other domestic animals that might also come into contact with wildlife? Cats? Horses?

In the preservation of traditional waterfowl hunting, dogs are as vital as the gun. I strongly oppose this proposal.

Submitted By

Ralph Garafola

Submitted On

3/4/2016 1:26:59 PM

Affiliation

NRA, Ducks Unlimited, Life member Pheasants Forever

As an avid hunter since the 1940's, I strongly oppose the passing of Proposal 69 that would prohibit the use of domestic dogs in hunting birds in Alaska. Having hunted in Alaska since the 1950's, I have never found a tick on harvested game. In fact I have never found any parasites on the birds I have harvested.. The use of dogs in bird hunting is in fact a good thing, as dogs retrieve injured birds that would otherwise suffer or go to waste from lack of retrieval. This proposal is obviously the brainchild of an animal rights activist who wants to eliminate bird hunting in Alaska and further impinge on the individual rights of dog ownership.

Submitted By  
Robyn Langlie  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 9:48:44 AM  
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Good Morning, I'd like to address proposal 69- prohibit domestic dogs while hunting. As an avid waterfowl hunter, my dogs (Chesapeake Bay Retrievers) are essential. Not only will they willingly throw themselves into freezing cold water to retrieve my birds, but they can track them down when I have an off day and merely wound a bird. They are healthy, yearly vet checked dogs with not one tick ever found on any of them for the past 25 years I've lived in Alaska. In fact, dogs must be licensed which requires shots, meaning they have seen a veterinarian and so would be checked for ticks and any other issues they may have. Last time I checked they haven't banned dogs in the Lower 48 for hunting where there are ticks residing. The studies don't talk about how many animals are affected or how that is linked to hunting restrictions. There will always be disease that affects animals in the wild. Ticks are not going to decimate the entire population of moose, caribou or any other mammal and throw in climate change is silly. Yes, changes are coming that's obvious, but to discriminate against Alaskan bird hunters is ridiculous. How many dogs are out hiking and walking in those same areas in the summer, or mushing in the winter? I know I frequent many of the areas I hunt with my dog in the summer to scope things out or have a nice hike. I am also a dog trainer and compete in Hunt Trials, how would this affect those dogs? You can't ban all dogs, so why punish the hunting dogs? If your concern is dogs bringing in ticks from outside Alaska, then set up an inspection/quarantine upon arrival like Hawaii does, or the Agriculture department does for livestock. How many duck stamps would you sell if those with dogs couldn't hunt? How much income loss would that be? Banning hunting dogs will NOT solve the problem. I urge you to dismiss this proposal.

Sincerely, Robyn Langlie



Submitted By  
Ryan Schmidt  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 6:55:22 PM  
Affiliation

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I'm writing in response to prop 69 which I adamantly oppose. This prop unfairly targets hunting dogs although all domestic dogs have the potential to come in contact with wildlife. The risk of ticks in Alaska is minimal at this stage. An outright ban on dogs in Alaska is going overboard and not an appropriate response. My response will be short because my internet connection is spotty. This prop is hasty and inappropriate.

Submitted By  
STEPHEN SATTERLEE  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 3:35:21 PM  
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PROPOSAL 69, prohibiting hunting with domestic dogs, is totally NOT acceptable. I HAVE HUNTED WITH MULTIPLE RETRIEVERS IN ALASKA FOR OVER YEARS 30 AND MY DOGS HAVE NEVER ONCE HAD A TICK ON THEM. THERE IS NO IMPERICAL EVIDENCE OR DATA THAT DOMESTIC DOGS HAVE EVER TRANSMITTED A DISEASE TO WILDLIFE IN THE STATE OF ALASKA. RETRIEVERS ARE REQUIRED TO RETRIEVE DOWNED WATER FOWL.

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?

Submitted By  
Stephen Zeglen  
Submitted On  
3/2/2016 10:36:35 AM  
Affiliation

I am commenting to oppose the proposal to prohibit hunting with domestic dogs as stated in Proposal 69. ~PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Prohibit hunting with domestic dogs as follows:

This proposal states that it's purpose is to protect wildlife from ticks and diseases introduced by domestic hunting dogs. The proposal does nothing to address non-hunting domestic dogs or even non-canine vectors. The document cited by the proposer even states that humans can transport ticks which carry these diseases. The bottom line is that this proposal does nothing to actually address a threat to wildlife, it is simply a thin veiled attack on hunting dogs and their human partners.

Hunting with domestic dogs goes back thousands of years, these methods are not only culturally important, but more ethical and effective. Domestic hunting dogs decrease wounded game rates by assisting hunters as well as increasing wounded game retrieval rates, thereby reducing loss of game overall

Submitted By  
Suellen Appellof  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 7:17:02 AM  
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The use of well-trained hunting dogs has been proven to lose fewer birds. Hunting dogs are not running willy nilly through the forest spreading disease.

Warming in Alaska has changed many things, we now have a better environment for ticks to maintain populations in the wild. The ticks that live in our native species are more likely to be transmitted to my dog, rather than from my dogs.

Will this proposal establish a way to prove that my dog is a trained hunting dog? Because my dogs were bred to hunt and have been trained to hunt. My dogs are not just "pets".

In the preservation of traditional waterfowl hunting, the dogs, are as vital as the gun. I strongly oppose this proposal.

Submitted By  
Thomas Odenthal  
Submitted On  
2/28/2016 9:07:47 AM  
Affiliation  
License #6727699

Regarding: **PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** Prohibit hunting with domestic dogs. The concerns addressed to substantiate a problem exists in this, or any state, is unfounded. Articles addressing concerns for declining participation in hunting sports are all too common in outdoor literature. Non-hunting domestic dogs accompanying owners in the wilderness much more frequently than upland game or waterfowl hunters yet no one is trying to prohibit them on hiking, camping, and sled dog training events. The board should spend as little time as possible on this ludicrous recommendation and get after the real proposals. Does Guy Fulton even hold a current year, Alaska hunting license to make such a proposal? Seems only an anti-hunter would make a recommendation of this nature. Perhaps the board should consider making this mandatory for proposals, as well as comments; I included mine in the affiliation block above the comment field on the online comment form. Hope you will quickly discount this proposal and any like it going forward and consider a requirement of only those licensed to fish and/or hunt in Alaska. Thanks for your service on this board and for hearing my concerns.

Submitted By  
Austin Ahmasuk  
Submitted On  
11/18/2015 1:00:03 PM  
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self

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~~I am providing comments in opposition to Statewide BOG proposals 72, 73, & 74 submitted by Tim Crace. Proposals 72, 73, & 74 seek to revise lawful methods of take of big game by establishing a minimum caliber of .243 for moose, caribou, and bear. The proposals are similar to ones that people from rural Alaska must respond to at each statewide BOG meeting it seems, and people from rural Alaska are tired of having to defend our longstanding and successful use of smaller calibers. The pure and simple fact is that many people from rural Alaska are highly successful at killing big game such as moose, caribou, and bear with caliber smaller than .243. People from rural Alaska have routinely hunted large game with cartridges as small as .22 Hornet with great success. In somewhat of a coincidence the highly noted gun writer James Carmichael of Outdoor Life fame, professional cartridge developer, international hunter, and successful competitive shooter indicated in his book: "Book of the Rifle" (I paraphrase), that he would not need any more cartridge than the .22 Hornet to take any big game species in North America and would not need more than two shots. Whether you agree with that notion or not i.e. that large animals can be taken with small calibers is irrelevant. At the time that I write this comment letter (Nov. 18, 2015) in opposition to BOG proposals 72, 73, & 74 numerous rural Alaskans are hunting with small caliber rifles under the current lawful method and mean and more than likely have harvested a big game animal with total success with some caliber smaller than .243. Various .243 caliber cartridges are popular amongst rural residents for big game and I feel it is an excellent cartridge however it should not become the minimum standard. Simply mandating for a caliber restriction will not address the issue of game loss. A wide variety of wildcat cartridges in .243 caliber that could be derived from relatively small pistol cases would be legal under the caliber restriction if adopted, and so would not seem to address the issue that the proposals seek to have rectified. The current lawful method and mean of requiring centerfire cartridges for big game suffices. People in rural Alaska have long used any number of centerfire cartridges and two .223 caliber cartridges are important from the standpoint of economics. The .223 REM and .22-250 REM are available from the various ammunition companies in what is considered their "affordable" labels or brands and have for years been used with great success by many rural Alaskan hunters because the cartridges are affordable and out of necessity people have become proficient in using such for big game. By adopting proposals 72, 73, & 74 the Alaska BOG would be causing a level of hardship upon rural Alaskan hunters who have out of necessity used cartridges that are widely available in rifles that are also widely available. For rural Alaskan hunters that reload which is no small minority the options for bullets for use on big game are adequate. Proposals 72, 73, & 74 if adopted would cause undue hardship upon rural Alaskan hunters who must contend with unemployment, ammunition availability, and a whole host of socio-economic factors that affect hunting, the least of which is caliber restriction. Simply put rifles are means to put food on the table and in the freezer for many rural Alaskans. We are well adept at considering what rifle and caliber will work for us and the present center fire method and mean is sufficient. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Submitted By  
Vern Cleveland, Chair  
Submitted On  
2/17/2016 3:10:01 PM  
Affiliation  
Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working GroupC

February 17, 2016

ATTN: Alaska Board of Game Comments

**SUBJECT: Board of Game Proposal 73 – 5 AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Establish minimum caliber ammunition for caribou hunts as follows: Must use any caliber .243 or larger for caribou.

To the Alaska Board of Game:

At the December 15-16, 2015 meeting of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, the working group members voted unanimously to submit a comment to the Board of Game opposing regulatory proposal 73.

The Working Group does not support establishing a minimum caliber of .243 for caribou. Hunters in the region customarily and successfully use smaller caliber ammunition to harvest caribou. Requiring .243 caliber ammunition would cause excessive damage to the meat and would place an unnecessary hardship on hunters, many of whom would have to purchase new rifles and ammunition. The Working Group does not see a reason for this regulatory change and opposes the proposal.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

On behalf of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group,

Vern Cleveland, Sr., Chair



Submitted By  
Lynn Mitchell  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 11:10:10 PM  
Affiliation

Proposal 77: Oppose

See comment to Proposal 80 - same applies here.

Submitted By  
Lynn Mitchell  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 11:12:49 PM  
Affiliation

Proposal 78: Oppose

See comment to Proposal 80 - same applies. If you want to make the public really angry, go ahead and pass this one. This one will really resonate with people who are already angry about their pets being trapped, the vet bills they are paying, and the unknown trapper getting off scot free. Yep, you will get the masses moving with letting this one sail through.

Submitted By  
Lynn Mitchell  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 11:08:11 PM  
Affiliation

Proposal 79: Support with modification

Please see my comment to Proposal 80. That comment applies to all my comments. I believe it is high time to acknowledge that trapping, left unregulated, allows for suffering that hunting does not. The public needs assurance that trapping is conducted in a manner that mitigates "pain and suffering." A compromise could be examined with respect to this proposal that would accomplish that objective.

Submitted By  
Lynn Mitchell  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 11:00:43 PM  
Affiliation

Proposal 80: Support

With respect to Proposal 80 submitted for your consideration at your next meeting, I am reluctant to even offer any commentary at all, merely because your history of deliberations suggests that comments that dispute the views of the majority members of your Board are simply disregarded. Thus, I am offering you this commentary: One of your current members has been a long time personal friend of my father, and that should tell you something in and of itself. I am NOT some "newbie greenie" who has come to this state to change this state. On the contrary, change is necessary to preserve the very nature of what your majority members hope to protect. Should you continue to ignore the conflicts that are occurring due to the "Last Frontier" becoming more and more inviting to a broad cross section of people migrating to this state, you actually endanger the very thing you hope to protect. You will eventually lose more than you hope to gain by beating back the voices which will surely outnumber your own. Already, several groups have aligned to insure that these voices, and your decisions, WILL be heard. You should consider, finally, the rationale for reasonable restrictions on "urban" trapping...I think Hugh Glass would spit on the word when given that context.

Lynn Mitchell

Proposal 80: Support

Submitted By  
mike matney  
Submitted On  
11/17/2015 6:57:03 PM  
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I support Proposal 77 page 64 , the use of artificial light to harvest furbears. This method has been used years ago to just harvest adult male mink, leaving female for reproduction and juveniles to mature. It was a much more selective method of harvest and better utilization of the resource. The majority of furbears are nocturnal making this method of harvest much more effective to make a selective harvest. This is one more tool for trappers to better manage there trapline and the resource.

It is currently legal to harvest furbears during daylight from a boat provided all forward movement has ceased. I see no reason to limit this to land only. In southeast AK the majority of trapping is done from a boat. Weather it is mink in southeast or beaver and muskrat in the interior or marten lynx above the artic circle, the ability to selectively harvest the best and leaving others for reproduction will be a great advantage to the sustainability of the resorce.

Thank You

Mike Matney

Submitted By  
Barry Brokken  
Submitted On  
2/17/2016 9:14:36 AM  
Affiliation

Proposl 78; Trap Tag Requirments-

Trap tags are currently required in units 1-5, and have been since 2007, (passed as proposal #1 at the BOG Southeast Reginal Meeting Nov. 10-14, 2006).

The original intent of the proposal, submitted by an individual member of the public, was motivated for animal and human saftey, as noted by the Department when they submitted thier recommendation. Saftey was not cited as a Department concern. However, the Department did rec ommend to Amend And Adopt, and cited the requirment as a reasonable means for trappers to identify thier lines and traps. It was not noted or recommended as a Law Enforcment tool.

During discussion by the Board, it was noted that "requiring personal markings on traps would have a positive impact on getting trappers to retrieve thier traps at the end of the season".

This requirment has had un-intended consequences in this area, (GMU1-C). Local Wildlife Troopers have been using this requirment to actively inspect, and handle traps under the claim that they are checking for trap tag compliance, disturbing legally set traps in the process.

They redilly admit to this practice, and have told me personally that they see it as no different than marking a crab pot bouy, pulling a pot to check for proper escape mechanisms, etc.

While a mink or marten may not be too concerned over scent contamination, and a crab could care less, many animals will avoid a set that has been disturbed, handled, etc.

In the event that this proposal passes, I would urge the board to add language that restricts the act of simply touching a legally set trap, or disturbing a set location simply to look for a tag by Enforcment. It is currently illegal to disturb a legally set trap, by Statute.

I would much prefer a repeal of tag requirments in full.

Thank You, Barry Brokken

Submitted By  
barry brokken  
Submitted On  
2/17/2016 9:28:27 AM  
Affiliation

Proposal 79; 24 hour trap check-

This proposal raises several concerns. Obviously inclement weather, the in-ability to run an entire long-line in a single day, diminished daylight hours, human saftey, and schedueling conflicts, un-plowed roads and un-managable boat ramps, to name a few.

As an example, this past trapping season, I mentored 3 new trappers, two of which are high school students. They religously checked thier traps every weekend, and juggled after-school sports and homework assignments to try and check at least once, (in the dark), during the week.

Requiring a 24 check period would simply prevent young trappers from participating. Coupled with the locally closed areas here in Juneau, you can't simply check your traps with a vehicle after school. All trapping requires either a lengthy, often dangerous boat ride, or some serious walking/snow -shoing. It is impracticle, and at times impossible.

Thank You, Barry Brokken.

Submitted By  
John Shook  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 1:54:17 PM  
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Citizen

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I urge the Board of Game to support Proposal 80. This proposal clearly supports the ADF&G Trapping Regulations booklet which states that trappers are advised to "trap in ways that minimize conflict between trapping and other users, e.g., avoid high recreational use areas."

The Alaska Trappers Association (ATA) provides guidelines that, if followed, would highly reduce conflicts with other recreational users. From ATA website: "Responsible trappers keep their traps away from busy trails." However, in my experience, the trappers at the root of most conflicts are not members of the Alaska Trappers and do not follow their guidelines. These are often inexperienced trappers that want to trap animals for fun and do so near their homes on public trails which is near the homes and trails of many others. Or they are independant-minded trappers that do not agree with Alaska Trappers Association. Here we see that guidelines from the ATA are "preaching to the choir," and have been inadequate. The majority of problem-causers need a law in the regulations in order to effectively set traps while avoiding user conflicts.

Proposition 80 would clearly reduce conflict between these two user groups.

Thank you for your consideration, John

Submitted By  
John Shook  
Submitted On  
3/3/2016 2:10:59 PM  
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Please oppose Proposal 78.

We can see from the examples in fisheries that when people are required to label their fish nets or crab-pots, they are more responsible at setting and maintaining those types of traps.

In my many years of exploring Alaska's wilderness, I have encountered several illegally set (out of season) traps and snares (I witnessed one snare kill a baby moose). If the traps were labelled, the irresponsible trapper could have been contacted and could have learned something from the experience. I highly doubt that our law-enforcement officials have the time, energy, funding and interest in checking on traplines and contaminating the gear with human scent (as is argued in the proposal). Furthermore, the thought that opponents of trapping would illegally re-set traps is not well-thought-out. The last thing people whom oppose trapping would do is re-set a trap that could kill or injure an animal or pet.

In accordance with the Alaska Trappers Association, trappers who label their traplines are being responsible to fellow trappers and the community.

Thank you for your consideration, John

Submitted By  
Jos Bakker  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 3:56:54 PM  
Affiliation

Proposal 78 - I oppose proposal 78

How can attaching a small tag to a trap be that cumbersome. It should be required throughout the State of Alaska. It is a way too, to hold a trapper accountable. Conflicts between trappers and recreationalist should be a non issue if trappers would follow the ATA's own directive to avoid heavily used areas

Proposal 80 - I support proposal 80

We do need some rules to restrict trapping so that all user groups know what to expect when being in the out doors.

Submitted By  
Julie Schampel  
Submitted On  
3/1/2016 4:29:55 AM  
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A small metal tag - or a single sign for a trapping site - hardly constitutes a "cumbersome" burden on trappers. It is certainly no more bothersome than complying with the requirement for trappers to seal furs, or for fishermen to place id on their crab pots.

\* The existing trap-id regulations have been in place for more than 10 years. They are not a new or little-known requirement.

\* Conflicts between trappers and recreationalists are not going to end; reports are in fact increasing. Of course trap ids will make trappers more conscious of where they set traps. If they are already following regulations - and the ATA's own directive to avoid heavily used recreation areas - this should not be an issue.

\* Trappers who choose to follow the regulations and the ATA directive to avoid heavily used areas should in fact support trap-id. It would aid law enforcement in weeding out the scofflaws who intentionally foster conflicts - and in the process obtain advantage over other trappers.



Submitted By  
Laura Lieberman  
Submitted On  
3/1/2016 10:59:41 AM  
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Please oppose Proposal 78. This is an attempt to allow trappers to remain anonymous while taking a resource from public or private property for their benefit. This is an effort to clearly pre-empt any additional trap-id requirements which puts an end to any accountability for any incidental catch of wildlife, pets and people.



Submitted By  
Robert Monberg  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 12:41:23 PM  
Affiliation

Proposal 78: Oppose. Every other aspect of fish and game law relies on personal accountability. Fishing and hunting by their nature require the consumptive user to be present and hence identifiable as they pursue fish and game. Shrimp and Crab pots require personal identification of the user. The policy should be consistent across all aspects of fish and game law. I see no reason to allow Trappers to hide their use behind a cloak of anonymity. Furthermore I believe open accountability will help protect the rights of trappers with legal trap lines.

Proposal 79: Support. Frequent (24 hours and longer with exceptions) checks of trap lines are consistent with ethical use of Alaska's natural resources and in line with maximizing the quality of trap line yield and avoiding wanton waste of pelts. Ethical hunters do not leave wounded game in the field and in fact are encouraged to expeditiously pursue and dispatch wounded animals. It is inconsistent to require hunters to expeditiously dispatch wounded animals while allowing the trapping consumptive user to let trapped fur-bearers (or inadvertently trapped larger game animals) to languish in a wounded state for an indefinite period of time.

Submitted By  
Tom  
Submitted On  
1/26/2016 12:12:09 PM  
Affiliation  
skijorer

### **PROPOSAL 78: MODIFY**

Please take advantage of Proposal 78 concerning IDs on traps to require that Fish and Game issue an **ID NUMBER** with each trapping license and require the trapper to have that number either on or near each trap or set or posted prominently near a trapline. (Some trappers already post information signs when their traplines are near high-use trails, which is greatly appreciated by other users.)

This will allow Fish and Game to contact the trapper if there are complaints or problems but not expose the trapper's name to the general public. In the unlikely event that someone maliciously moves a trap to an illegal area, the trapper can just so state and it's likely that a quick observation by a wildlife trooper will verify their version.

Currently there is no way for anyone to determine who is responsible for any traps if there are problems unless they actually observe the trapper. This has caused problems where I skijor in Creamers Refuge. Trappers are required to register (free) with the refuge and to keep traps at least 30 feet from the groomed mushing trails. But since no ID is required, it's impossible to know who set a trap if it's too close to the trail or if other traps are, in fact, registered.

Without any way to identify a problem trapper, it ends up giving all trappers a poor reputation.

Thanks.

Submitted By  
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3/3/2016 12:49:38 PM  
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Proposal 78: Oppose. The logic for removal of trap identification requirements as requested by the Alaska Trappers Association is speculative and has no base of factual findings. On the contrary, the number of both target and non-target species entangled in traps and snares well after the season is closed is based on factual physical evidence and well documented. No trap and snare identification requirement result in snare sets remaining in the field post season with a resultant wanton waste of game.

Proposal 79: Support. With no time limit to check trap/snare sets both target and non-target species suffer a torturous fate. Data from the borders of Denali National Park confirm wolves remaining alive in traps for over a week waiting for the hobby trapper to return to put them out of their misery. Meanwhile they broke every tooth trying to chew the trap off and the steel stripped the fur and muscle that was once a leg to just a bloody bone still held at the foot. Placing a time limit on the checking of traps and snares will place little to no burden on the professional trapper in return for instilling a positive ethos in regard to Alaska's wildlife.

Submitted By  
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3/1/2016 12:10:17 PM  
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Proposal 78 - Oppose Proposal 79 - Support Proposal 80 - Support

Submitted By  
Bill Sherwonit  
Submitted On  
3/1/2016 12:17:11 PM  
Affiliation  
self

Please consider my comments on proposals 78, 79, & 80

Proposal 78: I oppose this proposal to remove trap ID requirements and make a "statement of legislative intent" opposing any future law requiring such IDs. It's my understanding that such IDs are required in only a few areas; if anything, I would expand the requirement, rather than get rid of it entirely, if for no other reason than it will likely make some trappers more accountable for their actions, especially where trapping occurs in areas that present potential conflicts with other activities and/or present a danger to nontargeted species. As long as trappers are following regulations (as I expect the great majority are), they should have no concerns about identifying their traps and the ID requirements place little burden on the trappers.

Proposal 79: I support this proposal to require that traps be checked at intervals of no more than 24 hours, except for delays caused by weather. The state's current guidelines or "code of ethics" to "check traps regularly" is ridiculously vague and largely meaningless. I know that some (perhaps most) trappers will argue that 24-hour checks is unrealistic, especially those with long and/or remote traplines, but some sort of trap-check requirement like this is needed to lessen the suffering of trapped animals, whether targeted or "incidental." The BOG needs to have a serious discussion about this issue.

Proposal 80: I support this proposal, which in communities of 1,000 or more would prohibit trapping within a quarter mile of publicly maintained roads or 200 feet of a publicly maintained trail, and also within one mile of a home, school, or public recreational facility. As the BOG is well aware, in certain parts of the state conflicts between trappers and other recreationists -- and residents -- is a serious and growing concern. There is no good reason trappers need to operate in residential or high-use recreational areas. It's my understanding that the state's published trapping regulations advise trappers to avoid such areas; I agree with those who argue that such advice or suggestions instead become regulations that will more realistically address and diminish unnecessary conflicts in such places.

Thanks for considering my perspective,

Bill Sherwonit, Anchorage, Alaska



Submitted By  
Carol Biggs  
Submitted On  
3/2/2016 8:03:20 AM  
Affiliation

To the Board of Game

Please Vote YES to require frequent trap-checks and ban trapping near cities and recreational areas, and please vote NO to removing trap id requirements.



Submitted By  
D. B. iliff  
Submitted On  
3/1/2016 5:17:37 PM  
Affiliation

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Please oppose trapping proposal number # 78 and support trapping proposals #79 and # 80.



Submitted By  
Daniel Nelson  
Submitted On  
11/20/2015 3:50:50 PM  
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Hunter, trapper

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Dear Board of Game,

As a dedicated trapper, conservationist and general avid outdoorsman, I am writing in staunch opposition to several proposal changes to trapping regulations in Alaska.

Proposition 79: 24-hour mandatory trap checks. Please reject this proposal. This is not a reasonable, realistic, feasible or otherwise well thought-out proposal for implementation in the state of Alaska. All it would do (if implemented as written) would be effectively shut down all trapping in Alaska. It is clear that this is what the proponents of the proposal want, but circumventing the system by placing these ridiculous and illogically strict regulations on a way of life for generations of Alaskans and Alaska Natives through a back-door mechanism like this is not the answer. If the proponents want to eliminate trapping altogether, they need to submit a proposal that says as much and determine where the chips fall. However, a 24-hour check is not the answer. It does nothing for animal protections while effectively shutting down all trapping, statewide.

Proposition 80: Trap setbacks minimums. Please reject this proposal. Again, this is another attempt to effectively eliminate trapping in Alaska through a back-door mechanism. A vast majority of traps that are currently set in the state would fall within the boundaries that are set forth in this proposal. For example, over 90% of marten traps in the state are very near trails or roads of some sort. As marten are the most highly sought after furbearer in Alaska, this proposal would essentially eliminate 90% + of marten traps/ traplines in the state. There is no biologic, safety, or other rationale that reasonably justifies such a drastic and draconian change in regulations as is put forth in this proposal. Please reject this proposal.

Respectfully,

Dan Nelson

Submitted By  
Douglas McIntosh  
Submitted On  
3/2/2016 9:44:05 AM  
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alaskansforwildlife

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Proposal 78 Oppose

Traps must be tagged with owners name to help enforce responsible trapping.

Proposal 79 Support

Trappers,must check traps frequently to remove nontarget animals.

Proposal 80 Support

Trapping near civilization must end.



Submitted By  
Elizabeth Hatton  
Submitted On  
3/2/2016 1:31:37 PM  
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Dear Sirs, Concerning proposal 78, please do not remove the requirement for trap identification. The tags are essential for law enforcement. Please do support proposal 79 as a reasonable and humane regulation consistent with ethical trapping. Please do support proposal 80. Twice I have had my dog caught in a trap beside a well used recreational trail. It did not have to happen. This is a sensible and necessary regulation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Submitted By  
Gail Davidson  
Submitted On  
2/23/2016 10:48:08 PM  
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This comment is in support of Proposals 78, 79, and 80. Proposal 78 allowing unmarked traps has no reason for being if trappers are operating ethically. Last week I skijored on a well used trail for many miles until I came to a sign warning me of a trapline ahead (traps near but not on the trail) and bearing the name and phone number of the trapper. My hat is off to that person. I then knew to keep my eyes open and my dogs on the trail.

Proposal 79 will reduce suffering of animals trapped but not killed, as well as reducing preying on trapped animals by others.

Proposal 80 is particularly important to the majority of residents of populated areas. Too many pets, and potentially small children, are being trapped, sometimes by traps or snares placed directly in trails used by the general populace. I have personally had this happen to my dog. Codes of conduct are not sufficient to stop neophyte (or even experienced) trappers from placing traps too close to trails and roads if they never read those codes of conduct, or if they choose to ignore them. Alaska's populated areas have grown beyond the point where a small minority of trappers should outweigh the safety and well-being of the general populace. There is no reasonable explanation for traps along the shores of the Tanana below Chena Pump and Rosie Creek Roads, areas where many people and their pets spend a great deal of time. Recently tourist groups have started using this area; winter economics will certainly be affected if tourists run into trapping in populated areas like this.

The setbacks called for in Proposal 80 for non-populated areas will also help in keeping those who use trails further away from the cities to travel more safely.

Submitted By  
Ilana Kingsley  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 11:44:24 AM  
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**I oppose Proposal 78.** This proposal asks the Alaska Board of Game to remove the few existing trap-id requirements, and make a "statement of legislative intent" opposing any future law requiring trap ids.

**I support Proposal 79 and I support Proposal 80.**

I've had two dogs caught in old traps that were not checked. One dog was in a trap for three days after he climbed our fence. The trap was 100 feet from a heavily used mushing trail. Luckily he was okay. He lost a toe and was unable to be a sled dog due to severe damage to his paw.

The other dog was not so lucky. She escaped during a thunder storm and was caught in a neighborhood trap that was never checked. One of our neighbors (not the owner of the trap) found half of her body three months later. If this trap had been checked, we would have been either able to save her, or know the status of her. We do not know how long she suffered in the trap.

---

I have to say that my experience mushing in the White Mountains has not been a beautiful wilderness experience. It's pretty gross when you're mushing through a pristine area and where on either side of the trail are dead birds hanging as bait in traps. Additionally, I need to worry about dogs running toward the trap to get to the dead bait.

Submitted By  
james dryden  
Submitted On  
3/1/2016 7:39:34 PM  
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Proposed changes to trapping regulations don't seem prudent. As an alternative, I suggest :

- 1) All traps should have trapper identification required.
- 2) Traps should be checked to insure a 90% chance that the trapped animal is recovered in a state usable for food or fur and that the resource is not being wasted. Often this would amount to daily checking of the trap. Such waste should be punishable by fine.
- 3) Traps in areas of frequent human traffic should be posted with signs to warn people. The trapper accepts the liability for any injury to people or their animals resulting from unposted or inadequately posted warning signs.

Submitted By  
Jeannette Calvo  
Submitted On  
3/1/2016 1:50:06 PM  
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~~Proposal 78 - Oppose.

- \* A small metal tag - or a single sign for a trapping site - hardly constitutes a "cumbersome" burden on trappers. It is certainly no more bothersome than complying with the requirement for trappers to seal furs, or for fishermen to place id on their crab pots.
- \* The existing trap-id regulations have been in place for more than 10 years. They are not a new or little-known requirement.
- \* Conflicts between trappers and recreationalists are not going to end; reports are in fact increasing. Of course trap ids will make trappers more conscious of where they set traps. If they are already following regulations - and the ATA's own directive to avoid heavily used recreation areas - this should not be an issue.
- \* Trappers who choose to follow the regulations and the ATA directive to avoid heavily used areas should in fact support trap-id. It would aid law enforcement in weeding out the scofflaws who intentionally foster conflicts - and in the process obtain advantage over other trappers.

\* \* \*

Proposal 79 - Support.

- \* Animals caught in traps are not always killed instantly. To allow them to languish for an indefinite period of time subjects them to inhumane suffering as a result of injuries, starvation, dehydration or predation by other animals.
- \* The mere advice to "check traps regularly" is hardly a sufficient instruction for trappers. "Regularly" can be interpreted as daily, weekly, monthly, or "as time permits" - entirely at the trapper's discretion.
- \* A short trap-check interval benefits fur trappers by ensuring that the animals' pelts will be in good condition rather than wasted as unusable. It would also lessen the stigma attached to trapping for killing non-target species and allowing excessive suffering.

\*\*\*

Proposal 80 - Support.

- \* A section of the state's published trapping regulations advises trappers to avoid high recreational-use areas and locations where a pet might be caught. Numerous reports of traps set on or adjacent to trails clearly indicate that these common-sense suggestions are not being followed. It is time for the BOG to make these "suggestions" into "regulations" that can be enforced.
- \* Hikers, mushers and other trail users should not have to worry that their dog(s) might step into a trap set just a few feet off of a heavily used trail. Public trails are just that - public - and not the exclusive domain of trappers.
- \* Trapping adjacent to trails and public facilities is a danger to people as well as pets. Large traps are almost impossible to release without tools and expertise, and can inflict fatal injuries to a pet instantly. A person stepping on such a trap would be unable to free themselves and likely would suffer serious injuries.
- \* Conflicts between private property owners, recreationalists, etc., and trappers are growing, and resentment between the groups will escalate unless rules to restrict - not eliminate - trapping are enacted. Specific regulations would benefit both user groups.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By  
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3/2/2016 12:45:05 PM  
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I am a 63-year-old Permanent H/F/T Alaskan licence holder and a wildlife watcher and outdoor writer who has lived in Alaska for 22 years. (I was born elsewhere, and came and stayed here by choice, not by chance.) I'd like to make my comment more general, in support of Proposals 79 and 80, and in opposition to Proposal 78. I am not a trapper, but I support trapping within the morals of our wild connections to wildlife.

The ethical, "fair chase" and "lethal shot" morality of careful, traditional hunting would suggest that trapping also would require frequent trap checks and less suffering by anything caught.

The very reputation of trapping, here in Alaska, is more and more defamed by irresponsible trappers who set traps close to town and along heavily frequented trails where pet animals may be caught. And they are caught. Let's keep trapping off the main trails and further outside town and city environs. My own sweet hunter Tripper, a Brittany, was once leg-trapped just a few yards off of a human hiking trail just outside ANC. It made me swear at the trapper who set it so lazily near a popular trail. I rescued Tripper without injury, and tore the trap out of the ground and hung it in a tree nearby. But I don't at all blame all trappers for that unfortunate incident. City trappers need to trap outside their cities and towns and trails.

Good Alaskan trappers, which covers most of them by far, are willing to put their names on their traps, because they already follow the moral mores and legal rules. When I ice-fish, I find it easy to put my name and contact info on every "trap." Same for trappers. Look secretive?—look malevolent.

The best way to induce more anti-trapping, anti-hunting sentiment is to hide from exposure and argue against ethical trap-checks and setting traps away from where pets are legally and illegally run. The last thing outdoors men and women need these days are such things that infuriate many pet owners and artis, as well as many trappers themselves.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Submitted By  
Joe Berry  
Submitted On  
1/27/2016 4:27:30 PM  
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Alaska resident for 20 years and have been trapping for the greater portion of that time. I strongly oppose of the proposal to have a 24 hour trap check law because of weather complications and fuel costs. It would be physically impossible for me to check my Trapline everyday because the weather simple does not permit such simple requests.

Submitted By  
Judith Kimminau  
Submitted On  
3/1/2016 10:51:56 AM  
Affiliation

Hi, I'm writing today in regard to upcoming meetings and reviews on proposals regarding trapping policies. I would like to express my full support of proposal 79 that will mandate traps be checked at 24 hour intervals. This is very important that injured animals are not left for days to suffer in pain. For the trapper, it benefits them by ensuring the pelt is in good condition.

Proposal 80: I am also in support of this proposal that prohibits trapping within 1/4 mile of public roads. People should be able to be sure that their own personal pets are not ever in danger of getting caught in a trap.

Proposal 78: I oppose this proposal to remove the existing trap-ID requirements. This is just good wildlife management policy and I'm unclear for the benefit to the general public for removing this. The policy is already in place so trappers are not being asked to do more work, if there are conflicts between trappers and recreational users, this will help get to the root of the issues. Also, it makes sense that trappers who are following the regulations would support this; it will aid law enforcement in stopping other trappers who are not following the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy Kimminau

Submitted By  
karen capp  
Submitted On  
12/4/2015 11:19:08 AM  
Affiliation

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First, I would like to see baiting of any animal for hunting purposes prohibited.

Second, I oppose your trapping regulation proposal 78-5AAC92.095. In fact, I would like to see high visible reflective stakes that would indicate to people that a trap or snare is set in that area.

I support Proposal 79 - 5AAC92.095(a) and Proposal 80 5AAC92.095.



January 25, 2016

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

Dear Board of Game:

**Proposal 78 -5 AAC 92.095: I Oppose**

I just learned that there is no statewide regulation that trappers need to ID their traps and snares. I oppose this proposal because it targets Juneau and 2 Northern areas where ID tags have been deemed reasonable. We have had some recent incidents that have demonstrated the importance of ID tags.

**Proposal 79 – 5 AAC 92.095(a): I Support**

I support having a 24-hour check requirement for all traps and snares. I see that trappers have a Code of Ethics to kill in a humane way. This proposal contributes to a more humane activity. A statewide 24 hour-check would allow trappers to show the public that they are reducing unnecessary animal suffering. Because I love the wildlife around me, it helps to know that traps are faithfully being checked every 24 hours to prevent a lingering dying process for a wounded animal.

**Proposal 80 -5 AAC 92.095: I Support**

I believe traps and snares statewide should be moved away from populated areas with 1,000 or more people. Statewide regulations and enforcement are needed because there have been a lot of pets trapped recently in the Mat-Su. Trappers appear to not be following state trapping recommendations. Stronger measures are needed. Traps should not be near schools, homes, roads, popular trails, and recreation facilities. Statewide, families out walking, hikers, dog mushers, children, pets and domestic animals need a safer environment. Traps and snares are not easy for the average citizen to release and they have to attend a class to learn how to do it. We need this proposal because we need trappers to increase safety levels, given how lethal trapping is.

Thank you for a YES vote on Proposals 79 and 80, and a NO vote on Proposal 78.

Sincerely,

*Karen T. Wells*

Submitted By  
Kathleen Turley  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 1:23:17 PM  
Affiliation

Proposal 78. Opposed.

Traps should be required to have identification tags, just like crab traps. Without identifying ownership of traps the trappers cannot be held accountable for their traps. There would be no way to enforce any trapping laws.

Proposal 79. Support.

A daily trap check requirement would be a very good idea. This could potentially save the lives of non-target animals which are accidentally caught in a trap. On December 24, 2014, I found an eagle in two large jaw-traps (one on each foot) in Juneau. After an hour of struggling with it, I was able to free the eagle and take it to the Raptor Center, but they had to euthanize it due to injuries. If I hadn't found it, this eagle would have been stuck in the trap for three more days until the trapper found it on his regular weekly check of his trap line. It would have suffered a lot longer before dying. In many cases finding an animal in a trap within 24 hours would enable that animal to be saved and live. That non-target animal stuck in a trap could easily be an eagle, moose, dog, or even a human.

This incident made me realize how dangerous traps are. This jaw trap was large enough to detain a bear. I was only able to open the traps by jumping up and down on one side of the trap, shoving a stick into the partially open trap jaws, then repeating the procedure on the other side of the trap. If it were my own foot caught in the trap I would not have been able to open it, as it took all my weight to open the trap even a little ways. This was in an area of no cell coverage, on an icy December day. I am small, but strong, and I am frequently out hiking and running by myself (with dogs).

Proposal 80. Support.

In the above mentioned incidence I was on the Davis Creek trail. This is at the north end of Juneau, and starts right at the road. It is the first trail listed in the trail book: 90 Short Walks Around Juneau. There were several small traps within a couple yards of the trail. Even a dog on a leash would be in danger of sticking their nose into these small conibear traps to get the bait. The two large leg hold traps which the eagle was in were right on the trail. One would have to purposefully walk off the trail to avoid them. This trail leads up a valley with a beautiful hanging glacier at the far end of it. The trail starts as an old road, then becomes a very well defined trail, and eventually becomes more of a marked route. Some of the small traps were along the old road. The large traps were on the very well defined section of the trail. To get all the way up the valley to see the glacier is a long hike, and takes many hours. This valley has many swampy areas and beaver ponds that are easiest to cross in the winter when they are frozen. In the winter there is, of coarse, not very many hours of daylight, so this hike is frequently done such that the easy sections of trail are done in the dark, saving the daylight hours for the less defined area further up the valley. I was very scared to realize how likely it is that a small hiker could easily step into one of these large traps on the trail in the dark, on a cold winter day, out of cell range, and not be able to get out of the trap at all. I have not been back to that trail alone since this incident. (I had been there once or twice a winter in previous recent years.) This is a beautiful area which my family and I have been hiking in for 25 years. The weekend of the eagle-incident there were two separate groups of ten people hiking on this trail. It is a used hiking trail.

After my unpleasant hours spent in court over this incident, I have learned many things about trapping. One thing I was surprised to learn is that setting these large traps in the middle of this trail is totally legal! I think that should be changed. Most trappers certainly agree that it is not wise to set traps in the middle of a trail, but apparently common sense is not enough: there needs to be a law against it also.

This is just an example from one specific trail, but there are many other trails in the Juneau area that are not protected from the few trappers that lack common sense, and even more trails and areas throughout the state. This proposal would help a lot.

Submitted By  
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Submitted On  
12/5/2015 5:10:54 PM  
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I have comments on three 2106 BOG Proposals :

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Remove all requirements for identification tags on traps and snares and prohibit future discussion by the ATA. I FIRMLY OPPOSE Proposal 78. Trap identification is a complex issue but it is not one that should be swept under the rug with one sweeping Alaska Trappers Association coup d'etat. I question the legality of doing so, especially since technological improvements of ID tagging in the future may become reality; ie: bar coding traps that allow wildlife troops to ID check set trap lines from a distance without physically disturbing them. Eventually to be included in a bar code read-from-a-distance system, I would suggest GPS co-ordinates and time and date of setting to be entered as well - this would help trappers with one of their chief complaints of ID regulations, that someone will move their traps to get them in trouble. This proposal 78 is 100% one sided for the debateable benefit of today's present ATA and is not justifiable.

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 92.095(a). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Require traps to be checked every 24 hours by Michelle Anderson and Patricia O'Brien. I SUPPORT Proposal 79. Requiring traps to be checked reasonably often should be SOP for trapping. The BOG mechanism for determining "reasonable regulations" is flawed since there is no forum or procedure for debate. Though I suspect this proposal will be turned down, I SUPPORT it as it is but I would SUPPORT a mandatory time limit for checking traps every 48 hours. I would also support a mandatory set date and time notification either directly to wildlife authorities or on trap lines themselves (This could eventually be included in a bar code read-from-a-distance system).

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Move trapping away from cities with a population of 1,000 or more... by Michelle Anderson and Patricia O'Brien. I SUPPORT Proposal 80 although such a proposal will need a lot of work identifying the boundaries of implementation. This is not impossible work, and should be stipulated by the BOG as how to proceed.

Thank you Ken Green Cooper Landing

Submitted By  
Ken Thynes  
Submitted On  
3/4/2016 10:22:07 AM  
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I found information about this very foolish proposal by some "Safe Trails" organization on the Internet , and as a long time Alaska citizen, I want my comment in opposition to passing any more trapping regulations! I want my statements to be recorded as in favor and supporting the Alaska Trappers Assciation's proposal #78, to have "trap identification tags removed from traps. I am also in support of proposal #79, which calls for a specified trap check time limit, this regulation is a waste of time, and is not needed. Finally, I want to testify against proposal #80; there are already city and community regulations which prohibit the trapping off animals within their corporate limits. This regulation is also not needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on these trapping regulation proposals.

Sincerely;

ken Thynes



Submitted By  
Kerry Howard  
Submitted On  
1/23/2016 9:10:27 AM  
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none

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Proposal 78: Oppose. All trappers should be required to retain their ID on traps for purposes of accountability and ease of contact in case of emergencies. Proposal 79: Support. To ensure the most humane trapping possible, trappers should be required to check their traps every 24 hours to reduce animal suffering. An exception can be made for extreme weather situations. Proposal 80: Support. Trappers should be required to set traps a minimum of 200 feet from public trails. I personally walk trails with dogs where trapping is allowed and worry about them unknowingly getting into a trap. 200 feet is a reasonable distance to provide a safety buffer from people and domestic animals. Thank you for your consideration.



January 25, 2016

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

Dear Board of Game:

**Proposal 78 -5 AAC 92.095: I Oppose**

Currently Alaskan trappers do not need to attach ID to their traps and snares, and I oppose this proposal because it targets Juneau and 2 Northern areas where ID tags have been deemed reasonable. Because more pets and unintended wildlife are being caught, it makes sense for trappers to ID their traps and snares.

**Proposal 79 - 5 AAC 92.095(a): I Support**

I support having a 24-hour check requirement for all traps and snares. This change is humane. It is a more responsible way for trappers to do their work. Trappers have a recommended Code of Ethics to provide humane killing. A statewide 24 hour-check would show the public that trappers are reducing unnecessary animal suffering. For those of us who appreciate wildlife, it helps to know that traps are faithfully being checked every 24 hours to prevent a lingering dying process for an intended or unintended wounded animal.

**Proposal 80 -5 AAC 92.095: I Support**

It makes sense to move traps and snares statewide away from populated areas with 1,000 or more people. Recently there have been a lot of unsafe pet trapping situations in the Mat-Su and Juneau that show statewide regulations and enforcement are needed. Trappers are not following state trapping recommendations. Some cities prohibit traps near schools, homes, roads, publically maintained trails, and recreation facilities. Statewide, a stronger safety environment is needed for hikers, skijorers, dog mushers, children, pets and domestic animals. Many of us have a growing distaste for the lethal and unsafe environment created by traps and snares, and we need trappers to increase safety levels.

Thank you for a YES vote on Proposals 79 and 80, and a NO vote on Proposal 78.

Sincerely,

*Laura M. Minne*  
*522 W 11th*  
*Juneau, AK 99801*

Submitted By  
Lauren Heine  
Submitted On  
11/12/2015 5:44:15 PM  
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I am in favor of Proposal 79 (p 65) which proposes a 24-hour check requirement for traps and snares for the entire state (with exceptions only for extreme weather). This would reduce suffering for animals caught in the traps and reduce waste when hides are destroyed by other animals feeding on the trapped animal. Responsible maintenance of traps requires prompt and regular attention.

I am in favor of Proposal 80 (p 66) that asks for statewide movement of traps and snares from populations of 1000 or more unless a more restrictive city ordinance is in place. It would also require traps and snares to be at least 200 feet from an established trail, 1/4 mile away from publicly maintained roads, and 1 mile away from schools, businesses, homes, developed campground or recreational facilities. This is necessary for protection of Alaskan citizens and their pets.

12/5/15

ATTN: Board of Game Comments  
Alaska Dept of Fish and Game Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Dear Board of Game:

Proposal 79: I Support

I support having a 24-hour check requirement for all traps and snares. As someone who hikes a trail everyday, I think this practical change will improve good will between all trail user groups. It clearly seems like a more humane and professional way for trappers to do their work. This proposal allows for delayed checking if there is documented severe weather. I have heard an animal moaning in a trap, and that sound will haunt me the rest of my life. A statewide 24 hour-check would reduce animal suffering and some human suffering.

As a lifelong daily hiker and appreciator of wildlife, knowing that traps are being checked every 24 hours helps with one inhumane aspect where a wounded animal or wrong animal or pet in a trap would be relieved of its suffering within 24 hours.

Proposal 80: I Support

I support having traps and snares moved from populated areas with 1,000 or more people. Some cities already have more restrictive ordinances in place and they have seen the wisdom in this ability to protect non-trapper citizens, pets and domestic animals. This is a reasonable way to have trappers demonstrate their professional work ethic.

Since there is growing public distaste for trapping, this proposal can also help minimize the ongoing conflict between trappers and the public. This proposal allows trappers to avoid the kinds of incidents that cause more people to question why trapping exists. This proposal allows trappers to show increasing good faith effort to minimize negative and inhumane situations. Upholding these distances through statewide regulations and enforcement is superior to just offering that these distances simply be suggestions.

Thank you for considering Proposals 79 and 80.

Lin Davis  
3099 Nowell Ave  
Juneau, AK 99801





1/10/16

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

Dear Board of Game:

Proposal 78: I oppose

This proposal allows trappers to not put ID tags on their traps and snares. I oppose this proposal because it unfairly targets Juneau and 2 Northern areas where ID tags are required, and where a board decision process has already determined that it is reasonable and effective that all traps and snares must have ID tags.

Hidden traps are inherently dangerous to hikers, pets, livestock, eagles and other unintended wildlife. Given declining public respect for trapping, the future of trapping rests on trappers demonstrating their professional ethics and open declaration of their work. When I attended a workshop for hikers and dog owners, I watched a young Juneau trapper demonstrate the different kinds of traps and snares, and he showed us how to spring them open if we got caught or our pets became trapped. He repeated his point that trappers want to show that they are responsible and committed to safety. He indicated that putting ID tags on all traps is a step in the right direction.

In a prior letter dated 12/5/16, I explained why I support Proposal 79 -5AAC 92.095(a) and Proposal 80 - 5AAC.92.095. This letter is an addendum to the earlier one.

Thank you for considering a No Vote on Proposal 78-5AAC 92.095.

Sincerely,

Lin Davis  
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