

RC26

From: Kenai Peninsula Trapper's Association

To: Alaska State Board of Game

Date: 3/16/13

Re: RC Document regarding proposal # 160

It is the understanding of the Kenai Peninsula Trapper's Association (KPTA), which is an active chapter of the Alaska Trapper's Association, that proposal #160 seeks to adopt a no-closed-season for the hunting of wolves on the Kenai Peninsula. The KPTA would like to endorse this proposal with the following amendment:

That in addition to the no-closed-season for the hunting of wolves, there would also be an early opening of snaring for wolves (and subsequently coyotes) that begins on October 15th of each regulatory year. This early opening to the traditional start of the trapping season of November 10th would be for the following reasons:

* Since the hunting of wolves begins on August 10th, it is not unreasonable to have an October opening for snaring wolves.

* Snaring in particular, versus using leghold traps, would focus the harvest on wolves (and subsequently coyotes), and minimize the incidental take of non-target species of concern such as lynx and wolverine.

* Due to the infestation of lice and resulting damage to pelts, which is typical for Kenai Peninsula wolves harvested later in the season, wolves harvested in early fall, although not prime, are often in much better condition than late season prime pelts that are rubbed due to the lice issue.

* Although coyotes may be a fairly common by catch of this process, they are not a species of particular concern and their subsequent additional harvest presents no harmful effects.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Crawford

Kenai Peninsula Trapper's Association