

Board of Game Members:

I am writing to urge in the strongest possible terms your support of Proposal 86 to re-establish a no-trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park. This proposal would provide crucial protection for wolves that wander across the Park boundary onto state land in search of prey or mates, where they are targeted by several recreational trappers.

Wolf populations (and therefore viewing opportunities) have declined significantly in the Park to one of the lowest populations in decades, due in part to trapping along the east and south Park boundary.

Several hundred thousand visitors annually travel to Denali to view wolves and other wildlife. I am a nature photographer and I am planning a trip to Alaska in 2014. I feel cheated that your policies (no buffer zone) allowed the killing of two prime breeding female wolves in Denali last year - causing one of the packs to disperse - which means I and thousands of other park visitors are much less likely to see wolves along the Denali road when I visit.

Two or three recreational trappers targeting wolves habituated to the sight and smell of humans should not be allowed to negate visitors' viewing opportunities (nor the millions of dollars they spend in the state).

Thank you for your consideration.

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