

ATTN: Board of Game Comments regarding support for Proposals 105, 86

I strongly support Proposal 105.

I have lived in Alaska for 33 years and have been a member of the Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee for 10 years. My background is in wildlife biology and I have been a professional naturalist guide in the arctic and subarctic for over 30 years.

1. I support the ban on grizzly and black bear snaring because it is archaic, cruel and indiscriminate.
2. The possibility of snaring females with cubs creates a situation that is highly dangerous to other outdoor users who may not be aware that a bait station may be in the vicinity and it is not biologically sustainable to allow any females to be taken, given the number of years it takes a female grizzly to reach her first estrus. There is nothing that prevents the indiscriminate take of females with/ and/or cubs. The whole idea is shameful.
3. Baited traps produce food-conditioned bears, which goes against every public education outreach program that, rightfully so, prioritizes keeping bears away from food.
4. Living bears are a huge draw for tourists and other non-consumptive users, of which there are many. Their economic value as a living, top-predator, in this over-developed world, should at the least, have enormous consideration.

Proposal 86

I strongly support proposal 86 for a no-trapping buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park.

1. Recreational trapping by a few individuals should not take precedence over the value potential of wolf viewing for thousands of visitors to Denali National Park.
2. I have lived and worked as a naturalist guide in Denali since 1987 and have had continued feedback by visitors to Alaska who express their dismay with wildlife management in Alaska, which prioritizes an archaic value system that offends visitors from all over the world and undermines the vitality of an ecosystem which retains its top predators.

Nan Eagleson
PO Box 114
Denali Park, AK 99755