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August 7, 2015
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July 30, 2015

TO: Alaska Board of Game

FROM: Denali Citizens Council and Alaska Wildlife Alliance

SUBJECT: Comments in support of ACR #7 – August 7, 2015 Board Teleconference

Chairman Spraker and members of the Board of Game,

On behalf of our directors and over 600 members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments. We urge you to grant the ACR (#7) we filed asking the Board of Game to consider a proposal to *prohibit the take of wolves on certain lands in Unit 20, adjacent to Denali National Park* at its March 2016 meeting. With the ACR, we submitted a map of the area to be considered for closure. The map includes lands in the Stampede townships and along the Nenana Canyon formerly closed to the take of wolves by the Board of Game. We also submitted a draft proposal that we would like to be considered at the Board of Game's only 2016 regulatory meeting.

By request, we will confine our comments in support of this ACR to the criteria of acceptance as specified in 5 AAC 92.005.

a. Conservation purpose or reason – low numbers of wolves in Unit 20C

- i. Although natural cycling is expected in wolf populations, the numbers and densities of wolves in GMU 20C (which includes Denali National Park and lands north of the park extending as far as the Tanana River) have been low and in recent years below the Department of Fish and Game fall density objective of 11/1000 mi².
 - a. The Department's most recent survey of wolves in 20C outside Denali (2012) came up with a spring density of 4.1/1000 k² (10.7/1000mi²), just barely meeting the objective. *No data were collected for fall, but see NPS data in (b).*
 - b. Denali National Park, which occupies a good third of GMU 20C, conducted spring and fall surveys in 2012, confirming similar low densities (3.8/1000k² in spring, 3.1/1000k² in fall). It is notable that there was no increase through pup population between spring and fall in 2012.
 - c. Although the Department of Fish and Game does not conduct regular wolf surveys in 20C and has not published wolf survey data for 20C since 2012, scientists at Denali National Park have collected data on NPS lands since the 1980s in both spring and fall. These data show that, since 2012, spring wolf numbers and densities have continued to decline and remain below 11/1000 mi². The most recent density estimate was in spring 2015, at 2.8 wolves/1000 k². In early summer 2015, the Denali National Park wolf population was 46.
 - d. Wolf population numbers in Unit 20C as a whole are likely to be similar to those reported for Denali National Park. In any case, the Department has no data to indicate that wolf densities in any part of 20C are greater than those provided by National Park researchers.
- ii. For us, the reduction of wolf numbers in Unit 20C is a conservation concern because numbers are not meeting Department objectives, given the data we have for 20C. We know that the Department has stated that the wolf population as a whole in GMU 20 is healthy. However, for us, a conservation concern does not require a "unit-wide or population level" drop, but can exist at the subunit level. We note that other ACRs introduced for this teleconference deal with subunit conservation issues.

- iii. For us, this subunit-level conservation concern is about what many Alaskans value and want to retain in Denali National Park – the opportunity to view and study wolves in a relatively undisturbed predator-prey system, and the wish of many Alaskans that the Board of Game will support that opportunity. For many Alaskans this is about conserving a certain collection of wolves that den inside the park. Yes, there is dispersal but there are also known groupings of wolves that have historically used Denali National Park for denning and that attract visitors from around the world.

b. To correct an error in regulation N/A

c. To correct the effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

- i. The Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation has already stated in his comments on ACR #7 that changes in bear hunting regulations (allowing the take of brown bears at black bear bait stations) promulgated by the Board in 2012 had the unforeseen effect of bringing more hunters into the field during the spring bear baiting season, at a time when wolf hunting season is still open. During the most recent season, when there were bait stations on state lands just outside the National Park, wolves visited one of the stations and two East Fork pack wolves were killed. We agree that the presence of hunters and bait stations created an unforeseen effect on wolf take in the spring, during a time when wolves take predictable extraterritorial forays outside Denali Park. This situation was made even more critical by the placement of the East Fork den close to the park boundary and bait stations. Additionally, these wolves had the potential to be most viewed by park visitors, through the placement of their den. The board should have the opportunity to consider this new information at its earliest opportunity, which would be March 2016.
- ii. Finally, when in 2010 the Board of Game instituted a five-year moratorium on consideration of “no wolf take” proposals for state lands adjacent to Denali National Park, the Board itself had the expectation that an Interior Region Board of Game Meeting would occur in 2016, and set the moratorium to expire in time for that meeting. However, in January 2015 the Board of Game changed the cycle of its meetings, with the result that the next Interior Region Board of Game Meeting was moved to 2017, creating the unforeseen consequence of increasing the moratorium from five to six years. Since 2010, the National Park Service has conducted studies on the effect of breeder loss and the effect of hunting/trapping closures on viewability of park wolves, studies that were an effort to address concerns the Board of Game brought up in 2010. These studies are now complete or in review. Alaskans who consider this issue important expected that the Board would convene to hear new data on this issue in 2016. We ask that you make that possible by granting ACR#7.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. Questions may be directed to us at our emails, given below.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bale, Board Member, Denali Citizens Council, nancy@denalicitizens.org

Connie Brandel, Board Member, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, connie@akwildlife.org

Submitted By
Joan
Submitted On
7/29/2015 5:30:04 PM
Affiliation
National Parks Conservation Association

Phone
907-538-2693
Email
jfrankevich@npca.org

Address
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear members of the Board of Game,

Thank you for considering the Agenda Change Request (ACR #7) to include a Denali Wolf Buffer proposal at the March 2016 Statewide meeting. The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) supports ACR#7 and urges you to accept this request for the following reasons:

1. The six year moratorium imposed in 2010 will have expired.
2. In spring 2015 the population of Denali park wolves has dropped to the lowest recorded level (just 48 individuals) since surveys began in 1986.
3. From 2010 to 2014 the number of park visitors seeing wolves declined from 45% to 6%.
4. Unlike mortality from natural causes, wolf hunting and trapping frequently takes the alpha individuals. Loss of the pack leaders often causes disruption and dispersal of the entire pack and results in a decline of wolf viewing, as what happened with the Grant Creek pack in 2012.
5. The State Constitution (Article VIII) requires wildlife be managed "*for maximum use consistent with public interest.*" The public interest includes both hunting AND wildlife viewing.
6. ANILCA added the northern additions to Denali because it is "*critical range necessary to support populations of moose, wolf, and caribou as part of an integral ecosystem*" and that the Wolf Townships "*are important to the park and recommends that the Secretary seek land exchanges with the State of Alaska that would serve to bring these areas into the Park*". (Senate report 96-413, 1980, pages 166-167)
7. Tourism is vital to Alaska's economy and Denali is one of the state's top tourism destinations. Denali visitors contribute over \$500 million dollars to the local gateway economy - the third highest of any park in the nation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Frankevich

Alaska Regional Office

National Parks Conservation Association



Submitted By
alan colter
Submitted On
7/30/2015 12:01:33 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 529 7544

Email
acolterski@hotmail.com

Address
1102 w 30th ave
anchorage, Alaska 99503

leave the wolves for viewing their worth way more to the thousands of vistors viewing them !



From: [Alan Seegert](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: ACR#7
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015 12:15:09 PM

Hi: Still struggling with software issues, found your online form impossible. Please support ACR#7. I drive buses in the Park, and it seems a very poor tradeoff to allow a few trappers in the Healy area to keep knocking down wolves when they wander outside the Park boundary, into an area often good for caribou. Bring back the buffer zone!!!

Alan Seegert
Box 203
Denali Park, AK 99755



Submitted By
alonzo mandanna
Submitted On
7/30/2015 9:18:07 AM
Affiliation
local resident

I have been a local resident of the area since 2003 and am in support of the alaska board of game hearing the proposal for areas closed to the take of wolves on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park in 2016.



Submitted By
Alyson Pytte
Submitted On
7/28/2015 8:22:33 AM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game:

I am writing to urge you place the Denali wolf buffer on the agenda for your upcoming meeting. The 2010 moratorium was clearly for a 6-year period. Moreover, the new bear baiting regulations may be having an unforeseen impact on the Denali wolf population. Please reconsider any delay in addressing this important issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alyson Pytte

Submitted By
Amy Holonics
Submitted On
7/29/2015 11:51:17 PM
Affiliation

I urge you to vote yes on ACR #7. I want the buffer zones in the park to be extended to protect wolves.

Thank you very much.

Amy Holonics

Submitted By
Amy
Holonics
Submitted On
7/29/2015 10:55:02 AM
Affiliation

Dear Department of Fish and Game, I worked in Denali Park in the 1980's and my daughter is working there now. She hasn't seen a single wolf in two summers. I saw wolves regularly. Wolves are an integral part of the environment in the park. Not only do people come from all over to the world to see them, they also want to know they are there. They want to know it is a place where they are protected. That is the purpose of a National Park. It is our job as citizens to uphold the mission of the park and protect the animals that live there. If we can create a buffer zone in order to protect the wolf population, it is our job as stewards of the wilderness to do so. There are plenty of other places in Alaska for people to trap wolves, and in those areas, plenty of other animals for them to trap. This state is enormous, and the opportunities are numerous. We Alaskans take things for granted: wolves, whales, polar bears, salmon. We think they're ours to harvest for our own benefit, yet they have a bigger value alive than they do dead. Alive they represent a thriving intact ecosystem which needs to be left alone to its own checks and balances because our government has created areas where they are federally designated and protected. PLEASE CREATE A BUFFER ZONE ON THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF DENALI NATIONAL PARK TO PROTECT THE WOLVES OF DENALI. Thank you, Amy Holonics



Submitted By
Becky Irish
Submitted On
7/29/2015 10:29:51 PM
Affiliation

I was pleased and relieved when the Alaska Board of Game performed an emergency closure of state lands northeast of Denali National Park to wolf hunting for the rest of the season (which did not end until May 31). I would like the Alaska Board of Game to hear a proposal for areas closed to the take of wolves on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park in 2016. I want to see a STOP to wolf hunting and trapping on state lands outside the northeast corner of Denali National Park & Preserve. I am a wilderness tour guide in Denali National Park and Preserve and have driven the Denali Park Road for the past 16 years. I interact with literally thousands of tourists throughout the summer who ride my tour bus into the park. For many of my visitors - the Denali Park Road is the "wildest" place they may ever experience in their lives. The Denali Park Road really is one of the last places left on the planet where a visitor can ride on a bus for a day and have the opportunity to view grizzly bears, wolves, moose, caribou and sheep. That's what draws the visitors here - to view wildlife. I think it's outrageous that our park wolves are being shot and trapped just outside the park boundary. Becky Irish 18 year resident - McKinley Village Retired AKANG - Clear AFS

Submitted By
Beth Davidow
Submitted On
7/30/2015 2:50:26 AM
Affiliation

Phone
8052341685
Email
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Address
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Prescott, Arizona 86305

Dear Board Members -

As a former resident of Alaska who lived & worked at Denali National Park, and someone who continues to bring visitors to the state for wildlife viewing purposes, I am deeply concerned about this issue. So much so, that I am writing to you while on business overseas. I urge the ADFG to grant ACR #7 (the Denali wold buffer zone) for the following reasons:

1. **Public policy:** The moratorium on consideration of wolf buffers from 2010 to 2016 was not good public policy. Adding another year onto this moratorium, in a climate of intense public interest, disrespects public discourse. The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting. It was disconcerting to have had the interior region meeting delayed. The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.
2. **Public policy:** A viewability study specifically requested by the Board of Game has recently been completed. The Board of Game should hear the results of this study as soon as possible, since it was the Board of Game that asked for the study.
3. **Conservation:** The overall population health of wolves in GMU 20 does not mean that a subunit-level conservation issue does not exist. We do not understand the Department's insistence on a region-wide interpretation of population health here. The data from GMU 20C are not indicative of wolf population health.
4. **Impact of hunting/trapping:** The fact that habitat and prey may be limiting numbers of wolves in 20C to densities near the lower management limit argues for considering stressors that can be controlled, such as hunting and trapping.
5. **Impact of hunting/trapping:** Although, from the numbers standpoint, human harvest of wolves in areas northeast of Denali National Park is low, the loss of just one wolf can disrupt the pack, if breeders are taken. This has been shown in a recent study. Since hunting season moves through the entire breeding season and into the denning season, breeders can be and have been taken. Additionally, this ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.

I urge you to please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

Thank-you,

Beth Davidow



Submitted By
Bill Sherwonit
Submitted On
7/27/2015 8:02:37 PM
Affiliation
self

I ask the members of the Board of Game to approve ACR 7, which would allow it to consider a proposal seeking a no-hunting and no-trapping "buffer" on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve at its March 2016 meeting. As members of the current Board are well aware, in 2010 the Board of Game placed a six-year moratorium on any Denali wolf-buffer proposals (which would have coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting). Since then, the Board revised its meeting schedule, so that proposals for Alaska's Interior Region won't be considered until 2017. Given those circumstances and the already long wait that buffer proponents have had to accept to get this issue considered again, it seems reasonable and fair for the Board to consider such a proposal at its March 2016 meeting, which will address statewide regulations. As others have pointed out, this ACR is intended to correct or address an unforeseen consequence of a Board action (namely its approval of brown bear baiting in the area adjacent to Denali Park, which has resulted in the unexpected kills of wolves). It thus meets the Board's own criteria to approve an ACR. It would also take into account changing circumstances (the new schedule) which weren't anticipated in 2010. Thanks for considering my comments, Bill Sherwonit



Submitted By
bob tourtelot
Submitted On
7/19/2015 9:32:33 PM
Affiliation
citizen

i support agenda change request #7 to add discussion of a no wolf hunting or trapping buffer north of Denali NP to the 2016 BOG meeting.

Submitted By
Bob Watson
Submitted On
7/28/2015 4:06:59 AM
Affiliation
U.S. Citizen

Phone
574-656-8719
Email
Bob@BobWatsonPhotography.com
Address
25945 New Rd
North Liberty, Indiana 46554

Hi Folks,

I've been visiting Denali National Park since 1981 and try to return every other year. One of my most important lure are the wolves of Denali. As such, this is a very important meeting and vote to me and many other U.S. Citizens. Accordingly, please see my following comments:

* Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

* The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

* The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.

* This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Watson

Submitted By
Brad De Noble
Submitted On
7/27/2015 3:57:09 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9076944338

Email
bdenoble@alaska.net

Address
32323 Mt. Korohusk Circle
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

** the ban is needed so please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

* your 2010 decision stated the moratorium is to be for six years, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

* delaying the next interior meeting to 2017 is not a good or valid reason for making the moratorium 7 years.

* This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR.

Thank you for considering my comments.



Submitted By
Brian
Submitted On
7/29/2015 10:57:54 PM
Affiliation

Phone
618-409-1581

Email
lunenmann@yahoo.com

Address
6120 Romania Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

Dear Board of Game:

I am writing to urge you place the Denali wolf buffer on the agenda for your upcoming meeting.

Brian Luenemann



Submitted By
Brian Napier
Submitted On
7/29/2015 9:20:57 PM
Affiliation
Private citizen

Phone
9076830503

Email
Bnapier_ak@hotmail.com

Address
PO box 491
Denali National Park, Alaska 99755

I wish to express my support for ACR#7. I am a resident and homeowner on the stampede and I believe the board owes it to the public to hear the proposal for a closed area for wolves in the wolf townships. With new information related to the viewability and economics of wildlife viewing as well as the importance of non consumptive activities to the Denali borough it seems a prudent use of the board's time. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Submitted By
Carol Biggs
Submitted On
7/28/2015 1:05:01 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9075862453
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aknature@alaska.net
Address
POBox 20271
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Below are talking points I support fully, prepared by Alaska Wildlife Alliance. Their talking points are succinct, to the point, and clearly state the rationale for voting "yes" to approve ACR #7.

* Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

* The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

* The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.

* This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.

Carol Biggs

Juneau AK



Submitted By
Cheryl Lovegreen
Submitted On
7/20/2015 10:26:15 AM
Affiliation

Please support ACR #7 to consider the buffer area near Denali Park. If we wait, more wolves will die and the population may not recover. I ask you to act now, while we can still save the wolf pack.



Submitted By
Christine Byl
Submitted On
7/20/2015 11:34:17 AM
Affiliation

I am writing in support of ACR #7, proposed by Denali Citizens Council, to put consideration of the Stampede Wolf Buffer on the March 2016 BOG meeting agenda.

I live in the Wolf townships, off Stampede Road. Based on the low numbers of Denali's historic Wolf packs and the recent human-caused deaths, I requested an emergency closure of the Wolf Townships to wolf hunting/trapping for the spring season and was thrilled when such closure was made. I request this ARC be accepted because BOG's avoidance of the buffer issue with a moratorium on consideration is poor public policy, and should be remedied, and a date set for consideration as soon as is possible, not waiting until 2017 when an Interior meeting is scheduled. Also, a recent study on wolf viewability in the park has been completed and the BOG should review this data, which it requested several years ago. This wolf pack has special significance in that it has been studied for over 50 years and is a symbol of stellar wildlife research. Please protect this distinctly Alaskan resource and honor Alaskans' right to be heard.

Thanks for your consideration.

Best,
Christine Byl

Submitted By
cindy marvin
Submitted On
7/28/2015 7:53:25 PM
Affiliation

Phone
973-796-8349
Email
cindymrvn@yahoo.com
Address
213 pitney pl
morristown, New Jersey 07960

Dear Sirs:

As a mom from the Jersey shore, I implore you to consider giving the wolves a break. If they must be managed do it with honor, empathy and compassion. The yearly slaughtering of these animals is not sustainable. Although I am from Jersey I spend alot of money traveling to see our wildlife on vacation all over the USA. Why? Because I work 50 weeks a yr, 50hrs a week in a cubical with no windows, just a computer. So to get out and enjoy the world this is where I spend my money.

The wolf sanctuary is a wonderful place to visit a wolf here in NJ. Yes behind a protected wall. However, I got the chance to actually be with one, hands on. To observe face to face and to just watch. What a gift. If you experience this without fear you will understand, only if you open your heart & eyes will you feel the strength and will of the wolf. It is to be respected. Can you find it in your mind to respect an animal? This is the million dollar question. By nature the wolf wants nothing to do with humans, rightly so since we continually take pleasure in killing them with revenge in our actions.

I was told to keep this nice. I find this killing morally disturbing. So let me ask you how nice is it to have our wildlife decimated by unwarranted killing?

Why is killing the answer? Have you considered the amount of revenue wildlife brings into your economy through tourism? Celebrate the wolf and you will be rewarded in ways you can't possibly imagine, better then holding a gun to the head of an innocent. Innocent in that he does what he does out of instinct and nothing else, killing is not revenge it is only survival and only the weak will die. That is what it is in the kingdom of the wild.

Who wants to visit a state void of wildlife? Your mountains, streams and diverse wildlife is like our beach and the ocean wonders, to be able to cast a rod and catch a fish. Can't really do that anymore without wondering how much mercury is embedded in the gut of the fish. However you get the point I am sure.

What kind of legacy do you want to leave the next generation of children? The one that holds the gun has all the power? There is a kickback to that you know, a generation of children without. Without what? Use your imaginationWhere is the honor, the leadership of what is right and what is wrong, where is the conviction to protect those who have no voice? Our wildlife needs us to protect them not rape them.

What will you tell your grandchildren when you read them a children's story and they ask where have all our animals gone? We are the guardians of what was given to us by our grandfathers and great grandfathers, **THIS LIFE IS NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL, YOUR ACTIONS CAN NOT BE REVERSED WHEN A PATH YOU CHOOSE IS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.**

We must as a higher species look at the consequences of this belief is limiting which is old and no longer serves us. What will your state be left with? Silence. Void of the beauty that you once had. Is this your future? Is this what you want?

We are all intertwined one can not survive without the other. There are always consequences.

Thank you for your time. Remember the consequence of time is that you can never get it back it is gone for all eternity.

Respectfully,

Cindy



Submitted By
David A Laughton
Submitted On
7/30/2015 12:02:35 AM
Affiliation

Dear BOG,

For 33 years I have lived at the boundary of Denali Park. It is my heartfelt conviction that park visitors are thrilled with a wolf sighting when visiting the park. Please approve ACR #7. The BOG needs to hear arguments, consider and approve a no hunting and trapping zone for wolves at the boundary of Denali Park.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

David Laughton



Submitted By
David Braun
Submitted On
7/29/2015 5:51:20 PM
Affiliation

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9076832654

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davebraunak@gmail.com

Address
.5 arcturus avenue
Healy, Alaska 99743

I support Agenda Change Request #7. The issue of wolf trapping and wolf hunting in the areas adjoining Denali National Park should be addressed asap.

Submitted By
Debra Beaver
Submitted On
7/29/2015 4:04:43 PM
Affiliation

Phone
7048822404

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Address
2915 Stevens Mill Rd
Matthews, North Carolina 28104

* Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7. * The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting. * The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision. * This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.

Submitted By
Diane Bentivegna
Submitted On
7/28/2015 9:02:57 AM
Affiliation

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494 S. 14 St
New Hyde Park, New York 11040

I am concerned about notable decline in the number of wolf sightings in Denali National Park and Preserve due, in part, to hunting and trapping outside the Park's boundaries. In addition to the important function wolves play in maintaining ecosystem health, financial estimates show Denali tourism contributes over a \$140 million a year to Alaska's economy. In fact, according to a report from the Anchorage and Juneau based McDowell Group, wildlife viewing was one of the most popular activities for tourists visiting Alaska; those who traveled to Interior Alaska and Denali were more likely to look for wildlife – including wolves.

Recently, Denali's wolves got a brief reprieve when Alaska closed hunting and trapping along the park boundaries two weeks early. But the killing resumes in August, 2015.

Thus, I respectfully urge Governor Walker, Alaska Board of Fish and Game, and the representatives of the National Park Service to reinstate May's emergency closure so that state and federal officials can finally negotiate a permanent conservation easement that will protect Denali's wolves for future generations. When this occurs, I will resume my twice/yearly trips to Denali once again.



Submitted By
Diane Brandstetter
Submitted On
7/30/2015 8:10:49 AM
Affiliation
Mrs.

Phone
317-257-8721

Email
cbrandstetter@indy.rr.com

Address
5670 Carvel Ave
Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

Please vote yes to approve ACR#7. This ACR is needed to correct the unexpected result of an earlier board reaction and it meets the criteria for approval of ACRs. Man should be a protector not a detroyer. You have the ability and responsiblity to protect Alaska's wildlife. This action will do that.

Submitted By
Doug Lenier
Submitted On
7/28/2015 2:17:40 PM
Affiliation

Phone
818-901-0975
Email
dlpmusic@roadrunner.com
Address
5720 Costello Ave
Valley Glen, California 91401-4328

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

As a repeated visitor to this area, I have a particular interest in the matter.

I am asking that you please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

- The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

- The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.

- This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations, and should be ammended.

Thank you.



Submitted By
Dustin Whittemore
Submitted On
7/20/2015 4:14:13 AM
Affiliation

Hello,

Though I do not live in Alaska now I grew up in Cantwell and still monitor issues that affect my hometown and region. I grew up visiting Denali regularly and wolf sightings were the best part of any trip I would take in the park. Later in life I was able to guide visitors from around the world to Denali and again wolf sightings were the highlight of any visit, in part because they have become so rare. I am writing to ask that you consider ACR 7 to renew the discussion on the Wolf townships buffer submitting to you. After 6 years it is time to review data and reconsider the sunset of that buffer zone.

Thank you,

Dusty Whittemore



Submitted By
Elizabeth Garner
Submitted On
7/29/2015 4:39:55 PM
Affiliation

Phone
4259659416

Email
elizabeth.elalexander.garner@gmail.com

Address
13505 80th Street SE
Snohomish, Washington 98290-9069

Please do all you can to protect the wolves of Denali. As a resident of Washington State, I go to Alaska frequently for recreation. I won't return if the wolves aren't protected. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By
Elizabeth Hatton
Submitted On
7/23/2015 8:45:38 AM
Affiliation

This comment is submitted in support of the Denali Citizens Council change request to introduce wolf buffer at the 2016 Board of Game meeting, Agenda item 7. I believe that as an Alaskan supporting both the tourism industry and wildlife viewing opportunities throughout the state, we should do everything we can to increase the wolf viewing possibilities in Denali National Park. Please consider that managing resources for "consumption" also includes the "take" by viewers such as photographers, artists, wildlife enthusiasts, and tourists with their kids on tour buses. Live wolves in Denali are worth more to the Alaska economy than dead ones. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Emily Becker
Submitted On
7/29/2015 6:23:51 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9073067011

Email
emilyandzeke@yahoo.com

Address
2710 E 20TH AVE
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Greetings from Anchorage. I am a 20 year Alaska resident, with 12 of these spent in rural Alaska. I support a no wolf hunting and trapping zone on state lands outside the Northeast corner of Denali National Park.

In economic terms, these wolves are worth more alive than dead. People will pay a lot of money to see one of these rare and beautiful animals--alive. Please add the wolf hunting buffer zone to your meeting agenda.

Thanks for your consideration.



Submitted By
Eric McCoy
Submitted On
7/29/2015 11:42:37 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9072306915

Email
alaskan_paladin@yahoo.com

Address
709 Winter Haven St.
Anchorage , Alaska 99504

Please do what you can to ensure healthy wolf packs in Denali National Park. Seeing a wolf years ago was the highlight of my many trips there.

Thank you.

Submitted By
Fran Mauer
Submitted On
7/30/2015 10:04:42 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-455-6829

Email
fmauer@mosquitonet.com

Address
791 Redpoll Ln
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

I am writing in support of ACR # 7 because of the need to address a long standing wildlife management issue (Denali wildlife buffer NE of the Park) which is of significant interest to the Alaskan public as well as other citizens and visitors to the Park. During my 44 years of residency in Alaska and a long career in wildlife biology, I am well aware of how persistent harvest pressure can reduce and sustain low densities of wolves in certain areas. This is exactly what is occurring on the subject lands. The data is clear that wolf numbers and reproduction are low, and correspondingly, wolf sightings by Park visitors is at an all time low. The claim of Department that there is no "biological problem" for the over-all wolf population may be true, however that sweeping generalization misses the mark in this situation. The Department of Fish and Game and the BOG have a fundamental responsibility to address this very real circumstance and fulfill your duty as stewards of the public interest in these valuable wildlife resources. The first step in doing so would be to approve ACR # 7 and allow consideration of this issue to go forward. Thank you.



Submitted By
Fred hummelsheim
Submitted On
7/27/2015 7:59:23 AM
Affiliation

Please extend the buffer zone for wolves outside Denali park, wolf numbers are at an all time low. Tourists like myself spend more money than any tapper or hunter.we will not visit again until population is over 125

Submitted By
Gabe Travis
Submitted On
7/20/2015 11:36:11 AM
Affiliation

I am writing in support of ACR #7, proposed by Denali Citizens Council, to put consideration of the Stampede Wolf Buffer on the March 2016 BOG meeting agenda.

I live in the Wolf townships, off Stampede Road. Based on the low numbers of Denali's historic Wolf packs and the recent human-caused deaths, I requested an emergency closure of the Wolf Townships to wolf hunting/trapping for the spring season and was thrilled when such closure was made. I request this ARC be accepted because BOG's avoidance of the buffer issue with a moratorium on consideration is poor public policy, and should be remedied, and a date set for consideration as soon as is possible, not waiting until 2017 when an Interior meeting is scheduled. Also, a recent study on wolf viewability in the park has been completed and the BOG should review this data, which it requested several years ago. This wolf pack has special significance in that it has been studied for over 50 years and is a symbol of stellar wildlife research. Please protect this distinctly Alaskan resource and honor Interior Alaskans' right to be heard on an issue important to our region.

Thanks for your consideration.

Best,
Gabe Travis



Submitted By
Gerald Brookman
Submitted On
7/30/2015 12:39:09 PM
Affiliation
Alaska resident since 1957

Phone
9072839329
Email
brookman@alaska.net
Address
715 Muir Avenue
Kenai, Alaska 99611

I urge you to approve Agenda Request number seven.

This is a very important matter, and needs to be considered by the Board of Game at it's earliest opportunity. I believe this request is fully justified.



Submitted By
Greg Goodmacher
Submitted On
7/28/2015 4:00:18 AM
Affiliation

I had a wonderful time observing wolves in Denali. Wolves are important species, ecologically and culturally. Let wolves multiply naturally! It will benefit Alaska.

Submitted By
Hannah Ragland
Submitted On
7/30/2015 2:01:31 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-687-2403
Email
hbragland@hotmail.com
Address
PO Box 4
Healy, Alaska 99743

Re: Comments in support of ACR #7 – August 7, 2015 Board Teleconference

Chairman Spraker and members of the Board of Game,

I am writing to express support for the Agenda Change Request #7 submitted by the Denali Citizens Council and Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I live on Stampede Road, near the previous closure. While I am not opposed to hunting and trapping, I feel strongly that the non-consumptive uses of this particular wolf population is valuable to more people, and to our local economy (which is highly dependent on tourism income) than the consumptive uses. While this allocation issue is lurking in the background, I understand that in order to consider an ACR, other criteria are considered. I urge you to approve this ACR for the following reasons:

- **Conservation Concern:** While the Board has maintained that there is not a conservation issue in the whole of GMU 20, wolf population density in 20C is below the Department of Fish and Game's own management criteria (see "Species Management Report ADF&G/DWC/SMR-2012-4"). The Board of Game has an opportunity to address this by reinstating the closed area.
- **Address unexpected consequences of new regulations:** Bear baiting was uncommon in this area previously, as there are relatively few black bears. At least one hunter, most likely targeting brown bears, which are much more common in this area, has now established a bait station here. When the Board approved allowing the take of brown bears at black bear bait stations, I do not think it anticipated that this would lead to more hunters in the field in the spring, and the unforeseen consequences for the local wolf population.

When the Board decided not to renew the closure on Stampede and along the Nenana River corridor, you asked for research showing how or whether the closure impacted wolf viewing opportunities in Denali. This research now exists, and suggests that when the closure was in place, both wolf harvest on state lands and wolf viewing opportunities in the park were at higher levels when compared to when the closure was not in place. I hope that the Board is following this research to help inform your decisions, and encourage you to invite the primary researcher, NPS biologist Bridget Borg, to present her findings to you.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments,

Hannah Ragland

Submitted By
James Lundsted
Submitted On
7/28/2015 9:06:03 AM
Affiliation

Phone
573-635-2976

Email
jalundsted@mchsi.com

Address
4904 Woodhaven Dr
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

Please vote YES on ACR #7. The original six-year moratorium removing no-take zones on state park land near Denali was to end in 2016. We are suffering many wolf "takes" during the suspension of the zones, and, in particular, wolf numbers are down significantly in the lower 48 states.

I urge you to vote YES on ACR #7, and not allow the Greatland to join the lower 48 in continuing the persecution of these valuable members of our ecosystem.

Submitted By
Jan St Peters
Submitted On
7/19/2015 2:16:16 PM
Affiliation

I support a buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park. I have already written many letters in support of this. Please just count me a yes vote in support of further protection in an area that is constantly under assault for trapping, especially by one particular trapper.

Submitted By
Jan St Peters Submitted
On
7/30/2015 6:55:19 AM
Affiliation
Phone
907-683-2511
Email
Lakeotto@yahoo.com Address
POBox 323
Healy, Alaska 99701

I am in support of ACR #7. The consideration of the buffer zone for wolves must not be delayed. Thank you.

Submitted By
Jan Tomsen
Submitted On
7/19/2015 12:04:10 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907.683.2290
Email
jantomsen@gmail.com
Address
PO Box 67
Denali, Alaska 99755

Dear Board of Game,

I strongly support an Agenda Change Request for the Board to put wolf buffer proposal for the areas northeast of Denali National Park on the 2016 agenda due to conservation concerns.

I have lived in Denali for 7 year-round years, and 12 summers. I own a home here. This is my community and I work in the Park. When I first worked in Denali—back in 2003, we saw wolves frequently in the Toklat area. The population was over 100. The rush of adrenaline and thrill of a bus of visitors seeing a wolf trotting across the tundra, sometimes with a caribou leg, sometimes a ground squirrel...is immeasurable. Last year I only had one wolf sighting, and so far this summer, zero.

I grew up in hunting household in Alaska, got an undergraduate degree in wildlife biology and population dynamics at UAF, and know the ecology and landscape of the area intimately. Two relatively mild winters have no doubt been tough on wolves as well...making it easier for caribou and moose to travel, feed, and stay hardy.

As a Denali resident, I ask you to consider this agenda change request.

Please feel free to contact me with any further thoughts.

Best, Jan Tomsen

Submitted By
Janet Rhodes
Submitted On
7/27/2015 9:46:57 PM
Affiliation

Phone
760-699-5750

Email
janetrhodes1@msn.com

Address
69859 Van Gogh Rd
Cathedral City, California 92234

Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.

This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.

Thank you.



Submitted By
Jared Zimmerman
Submitted On
7/29/2015 11:01:05 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9076876696

Email
jared_zimmerman@hotmail.com

Address
PO Box 540
Healy, Alaska 99743

I believe that the wolf buffer is an important one to be discussed at the upcoming meeting, and I encourage the board to change its agenda to accommodate it. This is obviously an issue that the public cares deeply about, and there is evidence it is of pressing concern.

Management of the wolf resource in the Wolf Townships an allocation issue clearly in the hands of the Board, and it is only appropriate that it be debated and decided publicly. As a local resident, I appreciate you taking the time to consider this request.

Submitted By
Jed Zimmerman
Submitted On
7/28/2015 5:23:08 AM
Affiliation
Mr.

Phone
5614450156
Email
jedzim@gmail.com
Address
PO BOX 94014
Bozeman, Montana 59718

* Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

* The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

* The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.

* This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.



From: [Jim](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Agenda Change Request
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2015 7:39:25 PM

I am making an Agenda
Change Request for the
Board of Game to consider the matter of the
Denali Buffer request.
To continue to put this off
is unconsciencable.
Thank you.
Jim Kowalsky
Alaskans FOR Wildlife
pobox 10640
fairbanks 99710
44 years of visitation to Denali National Park and counting ...

Sent from my iPhone



Submitted By
John Gaguine
Submitted On
7/27/2015 8:49:44 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9077892986
Email
jgaguine@aol.com
Address
2551 Vista Drive D101
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Board in 2010 said it would reconsider the Denali wolves regulations in six years. Next year will be six years. The Board should keep to what it said in 2010 and modify its agenda so that those regulations can be reconsidered next year, and not put off until 2017.



Submitted By
Johnny Johnson
Submitted On
7/29/2015 10:34:53 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-562-0097

Email
jjphoto@gci.net

Address
3705 Arctic Blvd #881
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

I strongly recommend a YES VOTE to approve ACR#7 at your meeting on August 7th, 2015.

Thank you,

Johnny Johnson

Submitted By
Joyce Oswald
Submitted On
7/26/2015 8:09:35 AM
Affiliation

Please reconsider establishing a no wolf hunting and trapping zone on state lands outside the northeast corner of Denali National Park and Preserve. In reviewing ADF&G's Mission, Core and Guiding Principles the preservation of wildlife viewing opportunities fits well with the agency's mission. ~~ I've bolded the areas below that align with the need to provide interpretive opportunities to our visitors. Visitors to Alaska provide a huge economic benefit to our declining resource based economy. Thank you for remembering that thousands of tourists come to Denali each summer to view the wolves and preserve our wolves for that viewing opportunity. Alaska is a unique and special place that we need to preserve and protect for future generations.

From the ADF&G web site:

Mission

To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in **the best interest of the economy** and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

Guiding Principles:

Seeking excellence in carrying out its responsibilities under state and federal law, the department will:

- 1. Provide for the greatest long-term opportunities for people to use and enjoy Alaska's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources.**
2. Improve public accessibility to, and encourage active involvement by the public in, the department's decision-making processes.
3. Build a working environment based on mutual trust and respect between the department and the public, and among department staff.
4. Maintain the highest standards of scientific integrity and provide the most accurate and current information possible.
5. Foster professionalism in department staff, promote innovative and creative resource management, and provide ongoing training and education for career development.

Core Services:

- Provide opportunities to utilize fish and wildlife resources.**
- Ensure sustainability and harvestable surplus of fish and wildlife resources.
- Provide information on Alaska fish and wildlife resources to all customers.
- Involve the public in management of fish and wildlife resources.
- Protect the state's sovereignty to manage fish and wildlife resources.
- Protect important fish and wildlife habitat during permit and project review.**

Goals:

- Optimize economic benefits from fish and wildlife resources.**
- Optimize public participation in fish and wildlife pursuits.
- Increase public knowledge and confidence that wild populations of fish and wildlife are responsibly managed.**



Submitted By

juliette boselli

Submitted On

7/21/2015 8:53:10 PM

Affiliation

Phone

907-687-0176

Email

julietteboselli@yahoo.com

Address

P.O. Box 106

Denali Park, Alaska 99755

I would like to show my support for ACR #7, a change of agenda request to hold a board of game meeting in 2016 to discuss a wolf buffer zone on the border of Denali National Park.



Submitted By
Karen Peters
Submitted On
7/30/2015 10:04:53 AM
Affiliation

Please do not extend the buffer zones for wolves in Denali national park. The species desperately needs this protection. Wolves are an integral part of the ecosystem and we need to prevent them being hunted and diatribes in their role. Please help and restore the buffer zones against hunting. It will make the public perception of you better to do this.



Submitted By
Kate Maracas
Submitted On
7/30/2015 7:59:29 AM
Affiliation
Sound Energy Group

I am writing to urge the Board of Game (BOG) to accept Agenda Change Request (ACR) #7 submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance and the Denali Citizens Council. The ACR is consistent with the BOG's 2010 decision that the moratorium would be for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.

I deeply appreciate your consideration.

Kate Maracas

Submitted By
Kellie Cunningham
Submitted On
7/30/2015 4:07:32 AM
Affiliation

To whom it may concern,

Friends of mine are long time residents of Alaska. Their children were born in Alaska. The family is immersed in the diversity, the beauty, the wildness and the true awesomeness of the state. They embody what it means to be an Alaskan.

This being said, my admiration for their dedication and their intimate knowledge of the wildlife in Alaska has prompted me to raise my hand to ask you to vote YES to APPROVE ACR #7. An extremely important proposal.

Thank you.



Submitted By
Dr. Kim Ogden-Avrutik
Submitted On
7/27/2015 3:44:59 PM
Affiliation

Phone
847.681.8386

Email
Animalspeak@me.com

Address
639 East Meadowbrook Avenue
Orange, California 92865

Thank you,

Thank you you for your kind vote in regard to voting yes to approve ACR number 7.

Dear Board members

Please vote "yes" for approval of ACR #7.

Kim Ogden Avrutik

Submitted By
Kneeland Taylor
Submitted On
7/30/2015 11:13:16 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-276-6219
Email
kneelandtaylor@ak.net

Address
2244 Loussac Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

I urge the Board to approve Agenda Change Request #7 which would allow consideration of a special use area adjoining Denali National Park so as to increase wolf viewing opportunity within the Park. The Board's rule passed in 2010 prohibiting consideration of a "buffer" until 2016 was illegal at the time, and the subsequent revision of the BOG's meeting schedule extends an illegal rule, and should be challenged in court if ACR#7 is not approved.

The refusal to consider proposals that would reduce the take of wolves on the borders of Denali National Park has not been construed to prevent consideration and adoption of measures that increase the take of wolves on the Park's borders. No greater example of bias, rule making outside the purview of the statute, and disrespect for wildlife viewers could be shown. The Board of Game and the entire department should be ashamed of the way this issue has been handled.

Rejection of ACR #7 would only make things worse. Why not approve ACR #7? What is the Department and several board members afraid of? Facts? Science? Citizens? Department staff, and those members of the board who privately say they would re-institute a buffer need to push hard for approval of ACR#7 and a full airing of the cases for and against a buffer to increase wolf viewing opportunity.

Very truly yours, Kneeland Taylor

Submitted By
Kris Sullivan
Submitted On
7/29/2015 6:54:20 PM
Affiliation
Denali Citizens Council

Phone
3234635273
Email
Ksullivan22@roadrunner.com
Address
2934 hollyridge Drive
Los Angeles, California 90068

Dear Alaska Fish and Game Board, I respectfully request that you accept an ACR to allow for a discussion of a Wolf Buffer zone outside Denali Park.

I am a resident of California, but have travelled to Alaska multiple times and visited Denali every time. We have seen wolves in the Park, but the most exciting time was outside the park while having dinner in our camper. It is impossible to describe the thrill of seeing this beautiful animal in its natural habitat. I know that the protected wolves in Denali don't know the boundaries of the national park and I support the idea of a buffer zone for these very special packs. I am so supportive of the beauty and wildness of your state that I am a member of the Denali Citizens Council and also Audubon Alaska. I hope you realize that there are many people who live in other states that appreciate the protection of wild animals such as wolves. Please consider a serious buffer to protect the wolves of Denali Park. Thank you, Sincerely, Kris Sullivan



Submitted By

lael bradshaw

Submitted On

7/28/2015 9:32:03 PM

Affiliation

Logically speaking there should be a buffer around Denali Park. Animals do not understand lines drawn of no trespass and a buffer would protect them and hopefully any hunter who is close to poaching. Can't imagine the purpose of hunting for wolves as there is no sustenance involved, so it seems to be a waste of predatory balance to hunt them. Also due to the fact they are slow to reproduce it does upset the balance. Do not believe in trapping of any animal, its a waste and cruel.

Thank you for your time



Submitted By
Laura krip
Submitted On
7/28/2015 10:52:10 AM
Affiliation
Concerned resident

Phone
907-333-2806
Email
Willow.designs@yahoo.com
Address
1300 farrow circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Please vote yes to approve ACR number 7. Denali national park's wolf packs needs a protective buffer zone around the park for protection from local trappers and hunters. People travel from around the world to see the magnificence of our state and the animals that call it home. I have had so many visitors share their sightings of wild animals from the Denali tours they have taken. Their encounters, by their own accounts, were life altering. For this reason alone, we should be protecting this resource within our state, as the money brought in from out of state wildlife viewers is considerable. The Denali pack wolves have international attention and deserve special protective measures to ensure their healthy presence in the park for future generations. Thank you for considering my comments.



Submitted By

Leah kohman

Submitted On

7/29/2015 3:36:52 PM

Affiliation

I support the inclusion of a buffer proposal.

Submitted By
Lesa Miller
Submitted On
7/27/2015 8:37:52 PM
Affiliation

Phone
703/587-7389
Email
lesamiller@hotmail.com
Address
12400 Ventura Blvd
#793
Studio City, California 91604

Dear Board of Game,

Not for political reasons, but for ecological, legal, and ethical reasons, I urge you to please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7. A decision made by the Board of Game in 2010 states a six-year moratorium on buffer zone proposals, which originally, was would have corresponded well with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

The BoG's decision to delay its scheduled meeting and push the next Interior Region meeting until 2017 is unacceptable - postponing the moratorium for an additional year. I fear that predators, specifically wolves, will face mounting opposition (and ultimately death) as a result.

Bear-baiting stations near to the boundary have already lured a radiocollared wolf from the Park who was shot by a hunter. How many more have met the same fate that we're unaware of, much less will face in the future if ACR #7 is voted down? The odds of senseless wolf kills, intended or not, are greatly increased if wise changes to the buffer zones aren't made.

I respectfully implore you to make the right decision by the wildlife you're charged with protecting, not for the sake of hunters and ranchers, but for maintaining the integrity of a species, environmental balance, and people who don't hate/fear them, but revere them as the intelligent amazing predators they are. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lesa Miller

Submitted By
Linda Shaw
Submitted On
7/21/2015 8:09:06 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-790-2281
Email
lindarshaw@yahoo.com
Address
9684 Moraine Way
Juneau, Alaska 99801

I am writing to support inclusion of Agenda Change Request #7 for consideration of a no wolf hunting and trapping zone submitted by the Denali Citizen's Council and Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I fully support the no wolf hunting and trapping zone, which is long overdue. I have been personally affected by the low numbers of wolves in Denali when I went there with the hopes of photographing wolves and learned of the drastic reduction in population that is affecting viewing opportunities. Further, wolves have been shown to be an important part of a healthy ecosystem in Yellowstone National Park, and Denali should be no less a fully functioning healthy ecosystem. Finally, wolves are a prime viewing target for visitors to Denali and should be protected as an economic driver of the tourism industry supporting the Park. Many websites still list Denali as a place to see wolves, although this is certainly not the case any longer, setting up visitors for disappointment. I recently spoke to a tourist from Australia in the Juneau airport who had seen a wolf in northern Southeast Alaska and expressed that it was the single best highlight of their trip to Alaska. All of these issues should be considered with an inclusion of Agenda Change Request #7.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Linda Wagner
Submitted On
7/30/2015 12:27:55 PM
Affiliation

Phone
615-833-5196

Email
lswagner@comcast.net

Address
141 Neese Dr. V452
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

Please approve ACR #7 by voting "yes" The Board of Game decided recently to change its meeting schedule. This will delay the next Interior Region meeting until 2017 and this means the moratorium will be increased to seven years. The intent of the 2010 BOG decision did not include extension of the moratorium..

Submitted By
m. lee zucker
Submitted On
7/28/2015 11:18:22 AM
Affiliation

Phone
5414659062
Email
lee@thelocomotive.com
Address
1966 orchard st.
eugene, Oregon 97403

Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.

This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.

Submitted By
Margaret McGinnis
Submitted On
7/28/2015 4:12:25 PM
Affiliation

~~

I am writing to urge that you vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

* The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

* The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.

* This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.

Submitted By
Margaret Wilkinson
Submitted On
7/28/2015 11:43:14 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907 240-1020

Email
Maggie.wilkinson1@gmail.com

Address
3021 Concord Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

I couldn't say this any better only with more emotions! Please take the following words into serious consideration:

* Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

* The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.

* The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.

* This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.



Submitted By

Mark Huckel

Submitted On

7/28/2015 3:34:22 AM

Affiliation

Phone

727-399-8572

Email

Pinknosser@aol.com

Address

6168 1/2 Seminole Blvd
Seminole, Florida 33772

Please vote yes for ACR #7

Submitted By
Maya Heubner
Submitted On
7/29/2015 10:38:04 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-562-3966

Email
maya.earthgirl13@gmail.com

Address
4721 Newcastle Way
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

I vote yes to approve ACR #7. I approve it because keeping your word is a good way to keep respect, and I would find it very difficult to respect the Board if it postponed the date on such an important and controversial decision/meeting. Please consider keeping the original 2016 date for the end of the moratorium on wolf buffer zones. It's the right thing to do. Thank you.

Submitted By
Melanie Heacox
Submitted On
7/30/2015 10:56:09 AM
Affiliation

~~Agenda Change Request #7: Wolf Buffer Zone

Reason for Change: **A Conservation Concern**

Recent changes in Board of Game process have bumped the 2016 Interior Region meeting to 2017, making it almost two years before this critical issue can be addressed in a normal Board of Game process. Therefore I am requesting an agenda change which will allow a full discussion of the buffer zone before 2017.

Why:

1. **Public policy:** The moratorium on consideration of wolf buffers from 2010 to 2016 was not good public policy. Adding another year onto this moratorium, in a climate of intense public interest, disrespects public discourse. The Board of Game specifically requested a study about this issue, which was completed, and the results should be reviewed as soon as possible for making science-based decisions.
 2. **Conservation:** The overall population health of wolves in GMU 20 does not mean that a subunit-level conservation issue does not exist. The Department should reconsider making a region-wide interpretation of population health. The data from GMU 20C are not indicative of the overall wolf population health.
 3. **Impact of hunting/trapping, part 1:** The fact that habitat and prey may be limiting numbers of wolves in 20C to densities near the lower management limit argues for considering stressors that can be controlled, such as hunting and trapping.
 4. **Impact of hunting/trapping, part 2:** Although, from the numbers standpoint, human harvest of wolves in areas northeast of Denali National Park is low, the loss of just one wolf can disrupt the pack, if breeders are taken. This has been shown in a recent study. Since hunting season moves through the entire breeding season and into the denning season, breeders can be and have been taken.
- Conclusion:** Because of these four factors, this discussion should not wait till 2017. I urge you to allow an agenda change request for discussion of a no-take wolf buffer zone in 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Sincerely, Melanie Heacox



Submitted By
Melissa Chisham
Submitted On
7/29/2015 9:59:23 PM
Affiliation

Phone
9072311051

Email
my_dog_sunny@yahoo.com

Address
7641 Blackberry St
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

I support the inclusion of a buffer proposal to help protect wolves. Thank you.



Submitted By
 michael banks
Submitted On
 7/28/2015 8:52:52 AM
Affiliation

Phone
 847 256 2291

Email
 mike@westendantiques.com

Address
 619 green bay road
 wilmette, Illinois 60091

Hi Board of Game:

There is no reason to kill wolves in Alaska. They are valuable apex predators that take out sick and old ungulates. Until the killing by helicopter, poison, etc., is stopped, nether myself, family, friends, clients, will set foot in your state.

Michael Banks

Submitted By
Michael J Gawel
Submitted On
7/30/2015 5:02:13 AM
Affiliation
Property owner at Pinto Creek

Phone
671-688-9783
Email
mgawel@guam.net
Address
120 Bengbing St
Dededo, Other 96929

As an owner of undeveloped recreational land adjacent to the original Mt. McKinley National Park and in the range of wolf packs of Denali National Park, I am greatly disturbed by the killing of wolves that may frequent my land. When I next visit my property on Pinto Creek in two weeks, I hope to see no evidence of wolf hunting or trapping and request that such actions be banned permanently in that area in the future. My family and I wish to support Denali Citizens Council in their proposals for conservation of wildlife in the area.

Michael J. Gawel

Submitted By
michael mcbride
Submitted On
7/28/2015 9:11:11 AM
Affiliation
Mr.

Phone
9072358910

Email
michael@alaskawildernesslodge.com

Address
po 956
PO 956
homer, Alaska 99603

Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

I have been a trapper for many years, I hold Master Guide license #49

have guided in the state for almost 50 years

killing these wolves is simply stupid --- and for so many reasons,

not the least of this is discrediting the Department of Fish and Game through the Game Board

don't we live in a Democracy, shouldn't the majority of people be listened to ??

does anyone think that the majority of the people of Alaska would support killing these wolves??

This is such a "stick in the eye" of public opinion and discredits the State efforts at advertising tourism, wildlife and wilderness.

Please listen to the people, opinion poll after opinion poll shows what you need to know

Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

Submitted By
Michael Raffaelli
Submitted On
7/17/2015 9:19:08 PM
Affiliation

Regarding the Agenda Change Request to Prohibit the take of wolves on lands in GMU 20 adjacent to Denali National Park: 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting and 5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

I have been living in the Denali Area since 2008 and have witnessed how important seeing wolves is to the hundreds and thousands of visitors that come to our borough each year and subsequently spend their money which helps to support our community and local businesses. I am compelled to ask you to grant the ACR for the following reasons:

1. **Impact of hunting/trapping:** Although, from the numbers standpoint, human harvest of wolves in areas northeast of Denali National Park is low, the loss of just one wolf can disrupt the pack, if breeders are taken. This has been shown in a recent study. Since the hunting season moves through the entire breeding season and into the denning season, breeders can be and have been taken.
2. **Impact of hunting/trapping:** The fact that habitat and prey may be limiting numbers of wolves in 20C to densities near the lower management limit argues for considering stressors that can be controlled, such as hunting and trapping.
3. **Conservation:** The overall population health of wolves in GMU 20 does not mean that a subunit-level conservation issue does not exist. Regulations for "take" are often tailored to data from subunits. I do not understand the Department's insistence on a region-wide interpretation of population health. The data from GMU 20C are not indicative of wolf population health.
4. **Public policy:** A viewability study specifically requested by the Board of Game has recently been completed. The Board of Game should hear the results of this study as soon as possible, since it was the Board of Game that asked for the study.
5. **Public policy:** The moratorium on the consideration of wolf buffers from 2010 to 2016, in a climate of intense public interest, discouraged public discourse. This is an anathema to democracy and to public participation in the management of our wildlife. The moratorium ends in 2016, and with the change in the Board's meeting schedule, this issue would not otherwise be heard until 2017. It is of the public's best interest that this issue is heard when the board said it could be heard again.



Submitted By
Michael S Howell
Submitted On
7/30/2015 4:49:25 PM
Affiliation

Phone
2063072934

Email
mhowell777@earthlink.net

Address
19620 53rd Ave NE
Lake Forest Park, Washington 98155

Dear Board Members

I have visited Denali several times from WA, and one of the big draws was seeing wolves in the Park. I would like to think that next time I visit that wolves will also be present, but friends up there have noticed an absence of wolves, with a contributing factor being the removal of the no-take buffer zone. With that in mind, and your tourism at stake, Please

- 1) vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.
- 2) ban bear baiting stations in the zones adjacent to Denali National Park to avoid inadvertently baiting wolves.



Submitted By

Nan Deschu

Submitted On

7/28/2015 1:55:52 PM

Affiliation

A discussion needs to happen regarding wolves/Denali National Park and Preserve. Therefore it is important that a change be made to the Board of Game agenda so a discussion can be held and public involved in that discussion.

Please vote YES to approve ACR #7

Submitted By
Nancy VanDeWeghe
Submitted On
7/29/2015 8:08:05 PM
Affiliation
Wolf Supporter

Phone
608-628-5317
Email
vancats3@yahoo.com
Address
7362 Timberlake Trail - 303
Madison, Wisconsin 53719

As a former employee in Denali Canyon (summer 2014), I spoke with visitors to DNP from ALL over the world (during a four month period) asking them about their park experience and what wildlife, if any, they saw - and out of many thousands of people, only a HANDFUL of them said they saw a wolf! (I, myself, took bus rides into the park regularly and never saw one all summer). And of the tourists I spoke with, many, many of them came to Denali specifically hoping to see wild wolves, primarily because DNP is one of the LAST places on earth that tourists can see them. Consequently, they were extremely disappointed. Many tourists were also educated (via the Murie Science and Learning Ctr talks) about some of the reasons wolves are at such an all time low and how the families of wolves have been disrupted and scattered....i.e., the harvesting of wolves outside park boundaries....which I believe led to their disillusionment of DNP in general. As a result, I believe the lack of wolf sightings potentially decreased tourism revenue but also may have led to a decreased positive public perception of Denali National Park and it's surrounding land and people. I would think the state of Alaska would want to protect - AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE - the biological, pristine environment that Denali is and support any measure that contributes to the INCREASE of animals in the park as well as maintain the limited footprint on the environment, specifically because it's one of the world's gems. MANY people view wolves as a symbol of wild places, much of which we have lost in our society, and to be fortunate enough to see one in it's natural environment reinforces that those places still exist on earth. Alaska is a beacon in that regard, therefore, I strongly urge the state, the park service and the people of Alaska to SHARE the beauty of the area (and specifically DNP) with others around the world by DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES to preserve the land and animals for future generations.....instead of giving in to a few hunters/trappers that want to continue their way of life. After learning about the unthinkable and unjust actions of a HANDFUL of hunters/trappers (not to mention governmental 'predator control') where wolves were taken outside park boundaries - and entire families of wolves destroyed as a result - I am in COMPLETE SUPPORT of a buffer zone in the area known as the Wolf Townships outside the northeastern boundary of DNP. The wolves (and animals) that migrate through this area in winter desperately need to be protected so that they can REMAIN park animals and help strengthen the dynamics of the park's animal life (and thus, increase tourist sightings). Heaven knows, there is enough OTHER land in Alaska for hunters/trappers to find game elsewhere in the state! The small area of land that is the Wolf Townships MUST be off limits to hunting and trapping ASAP to protect Denali's wolves. That said, the land is probably peppered with hunting camps and a buffer zone to protect wolves and other game likely wouldn't make those hunters/trappers very happy, but they can hunt/trap elsewhere! - Denali National Park CANNOT be relocated and the future of the wolves in the park (and ultimately, park animal dynamics) depends on that buffer zone. Something needs to be done NOW and I sincerely hope the BOG can step up and do the right thing for Denali's, and Alaska's, future. Thank You.



Submitted By
Nicolene Jordan
Submitted On
7/27/2015 11:17:11 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-355-4044

Email
glassart@mtaonline.net

Address
PO Box 2572
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Please vote 'yes' to approve ACR #7.

Sincerely,

Nicolene Jordan

Submitted By
Norma Schultz
Submitted On
7/30/2015 4:26:17 AM
Affiliation

Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.

- * The Board of Game's 2010 decision clearly stated the moratorium was for a six-year period, which at that time coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting.
- * The Board's recent decision to change its meeting schedule, thereby delaying the next Interior Region meeting to 2017, is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years. This was not the intent of the Board's 2010 decision.
- * This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and therefore meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. After the Board extended the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, at least one radiocollared wolf from the Park was attracted to a bait station and shot by a hunter. This increased opportunity to harvest wolves is clearly an unforeseen and unintended consequence of the Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations.



Submitted By

oscar thompson

Submitted On

7/30/2015 4:53:51 PM

Affiliation

wolves are an apex predator of our northern ecosystems, helping to ensure the health and viability of animal populations and prevent overuse of forages by large populations. wolves need large ranges to survive and do not necessarily stay in protected areas. to that extent we should not kill them and remove their protections, rather give them more protection, and larger buffer zones.

Submitted By
Patricia Kinnunen
Submitted On
7/28/2015 9:36:14 AM
Affiliation
1939

Phone
9075637766
Email
triciak@acsalaska.net
Address
1930 E. 56th Ave.
same as above
anchorage, Alaska 99507

Gentlemen,

I am appaled to have to write this message. The Board of Game was created to protect people from severe encounters with wildlife, and also to protect the animals given to us in this world. All I can see that the Board does is accommodate hunters and trappers. The hunters would like their kill to appear at the front door of their cabin; and the trappers could care less how much pain the animal suffers in thir barbaric traps. On the other hand, the wolves only take what they need to survive. The hunters and trappers just want more and more. It's unconscianable that the Board has the power to make decisions without more approval from society. We need control of our wildlife not butchers. I'd like to say just one more thing: "God is watching you".

Very Sincerely,

Patricia Kinnunen

Submitted By
Patricia O'Brien
Submitted On
7/22/2015 4:09:41 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 789-9405

Email
patriciaobrien@gci.net

Address
PO Box 35451
Juneau, Alaska 99803-5451

~~Support Agenda Change Request #7 to the Alaska Board of Game

1. Avoiding Public Involvement The Alaska Board of Game appears to again be avoiding input from the public. When the Board placed a moratorium on the Denali wolf buffer zone from 2010 to 2016, many of us consider that they did it in secret. E-mailing among members, the Board avoided opportunity for the public to comment. The Board of Game was sued over that action and lost. The board must now provide opportunity for public comment.
2. Public Discourse on this issue should not be delayed any longer The Board deferred their 2016 interior region meeting until 2017. The 2016 meeting would have been the first time in five years, a buffer zone proposal could be considered. This is an issue of longstanding importance to Alaskans and to the tourism industry. Delay flies in the face of fairness to Alaskans.
3. Impact on Tourism An Alaskan for 47 years, I was interested in wolves long before I moved here. The thrill of my first view of wolves was in a visit to Denali. Today every wolf sighting in Denali is worth a fortune in tourism dollars.
4. Impact of hunting/trapping next to Denali Park. Research has proven that the loss of even one significant breeding individual wolf can cause significant consequences for wolf family groups and visitor viewing success. For instance, the alpha breeding female from the Park's Grant Creek family group was trapped on state lands in April 2012, leading to the group not denning or pupping, dispersing, declining from 15 members to only 3 that fall, and visitor viewing success in the Park dropping from 22% to 12% that summer. Due largely to the loss of this one animal, over 50,000 Park visitors were denied the rare opportunity to view wolves in the Park that summer. Source: Alaska to Reopen Wolf Hunt Outside Denali National Park, Rick Steiner, Press Release; richard.g.steiner@gmail.com 7/21/2015.



Submitted By
Richard Murrietta
Submitted On
7/28/2015 4:38:05 PM
Affiliation

Phone
5099652411

Email
nightsazrael@yahoo.com

Address
7610 W Nob Hill Blvd Unit 212
Yakima, Washington 98908

Please vote "yes" to approve ACR #7.



Submitted By
Stewart Cubley
Submitted On
7/29/2015 5:20:02 PM
Affiliation
landowner Wolf Townships

Phone
415-457-8615
Email
stewartcubley@gmail.com
Address
PO Box 309
Fairfax, California 94978

I support the I am a landowner in the Wolf Townships west of Healy. I have a home in a remote location, and over the 25 years that I have been there I have had the opportunity to see and hear wolves in the area. But over the last 4-5 years, there has been no sign of a wolf population.

I support ACR #7, no wolf hunting or trapping on state lands outside the northeast corner of Denali National Park.

Stewart Cubley



Submitted By
Sue Adams
Submitted On
7/30/2015 6:09:59 AM
Affiliation
Nat'l Park Visitor

Phone
630-927-3999

Email
suea110@gmail.com

Address
110 Long Ave
North Aurora, Illinois 60542

Please support ACR to enable the reinstatement of the buffer zone in Denali which should permit the rebuilding of the wolf population.



Submitted By

Susan Braun

Submitted On

7/29/2015 6:21:23 PM

Affiliation

I write in support of ACR #7. I have lived on the Stampede Road northwest of Healy for 26 years and also have a remote cabin, built by my husband and I in 1979, on the Savage River, within the Wolf Townships. I much prefer the wolves who den and live mostly in Denali National Park alive so that park visitors from all over the world and I have a chance to see or hear them. Please accept the agenda change request that will allow the Board of Game to hear the proposal for closing areas to the take of wolves on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park as I understand this is the only way the proposal can be heard in 2016.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.



Submitted By
Terry grabow
Submitted On
7/30/2015 9:57:21 AM
Affiliation

Phone
5416397730

Email
Terryngrabow@yahoo.com

Address
Mile 230 Parks hwy
Denali, Alaska 99755

I am writing to support the agenda change to allow discussion of Denali Park wolf buffers at the upcoming board of game meeting. I would also like to urge the game board to consider managing game for the maximum economic benefit of all Alaskans, and not just the maximum sustainable game yield. I do not hunt, but I do earn my livelihood off game, as I am a tour guide in Denali Park. Over a half million people visit the park each year, and the opportunity to see wolves in the wild is a major reason that they come. These visitors spend millions of dollars each year that supports Alaskans and Alaska's economy. There are thousands of wolves in Alaska, but the 50-150 that live in Denali are the only ones that state visitors are likely to see. By not protecting these wolves, we are sending our guests a message that we do not care about them or their desire to experience all that makes Alaska a unique, must see destination. Let's spare a few wolves for our visitors and the tourism industry. We are really shooting ourselves in the foot by doing otherwise.



Submitted By
Tom Meacham
Submitted On
7/30/2015 10:13:55 AM
Affiliation

Phone
907-346-1077
Email
tmecham@gci.net
Address
9500 Prospect Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

My wife and I strongly support ACR #7, so that the issue of a Denali wolf buffer can be heard at the March 2016 Board of Game meeting.

The deteriorating population of wolves in the easterly portion of Denali National Park began in 2010, when the last wolf buffer area was dissolved by the Board. It is essential that this issue be revisited by the Board at the earliest possible time. Thank you.

Submitted By
Dulce
Submitted On
7/19/2015 8:18:30 PM
Affiliation

Grant ACR #7 (Denali Wolf buffer zone) for the following reasons –

1. **Public policy:** The moratorium on consideration of wolf buffers from 2010 to 2016 was not good public policy. Adding another year onto this moratorium, in a climate of intense public interest, disrespects public discourse.
(A large number of Alaskans are concerned about the Board of Game's avoidance of an issue that is important to them. Many of these Alaskans submitted comments on the recent Emergency Petition and the requests for Emergency Closure in May. It was truly an unforeseen change when the Board delayed an expected 2016 interior region meeting where, for the first time in five years, a buffer proposal could be heard.)
2. **Public policy:** A viewability study specifically requested by the Board of Game has recently been completed. The Board of Game should hear the results of this study as soon as possible, since it was the Board of Game that asked for the study.
3. **Conservation:** The overall population health of wolves in GMU 20 does not mean that a subunit-level conservation issue does not exist. We do not understand the Department's insistence on a region-wide interpretation of population health here. The data from GMU 20C are not indicative of wolf population health.
4. **Impact of hunting/trapping:** The fact that habitat and prey may be limiting numbers of wolves in 20C to densities near the lower management limit argues for considering stressors that can be controlled, such as hunting and trapping.
5. **Impact of hunting/trapping:** Although, from the numbers standpoint, human harvest of wolves in areas northeast of Denali National Park is low, the loss of just one wolf can disrupt the pack, if breeders are taken. This has been shown in a recent study. Since hunting season moves through the entire breeding season and into the denning season, breeders can be and have been taken.



Submitted By
Sarah
Submitted On
7/29/2015 8:58:09 AM
Affiliation

Hello,

Please vote yes **on Agenda Change Request #7** to allow a change in the agenda to allow the discussion of the Denali Buffer Zone for wolves. There is a serious problem happening and the Denali Wolf Population is rapidly declining. We can no longer ignore this. This concern is becoming a firestorm in the rest of the lower 48 states as well as in Alaska. I think it is sad if we do not protect our National Park wolves. It is a very real possibility that Denali may lose all of their wolves if this decline continues. Please do the right thing and allow this. We have seen what happens to a landscape that loses key species...I hope that in 2015 and the years to come this doesn't have to be an issue for National Parks and the lands beyond. This is our last frontier...the last wilderness....please help keep it this.

Thanks,

Sarah

Submitted By
Jeffrey
Submitted On
7/29/2015 12:12:15 PM
Affiliation

Phone
347 258-8581
Email
jk8786@verizon.net
Address
2150 east 69 street
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Dear Sirs,

As a regular visitor to Alaska's Denali National Park who has an interest in the preservation of all its wildlife, I submit the following comments below:

(1) Yes, Approve ACR#7 (Agenda Change Request). The BOG's original decision had stated that the moratorium was for a six-year period which coincided with the 2016 Interior Region meeting. Changing your meeting schedule for the next Interior Region meeting to 2017 is not a valid reason for lengthening the moratorium to seven years.

(2) This ACR is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of an earlier Board action, and thus meets the Board's own criteria for approval of an ACR. By the Board's extension of the season for bear-baiting stations adjacent to the boundary, already at least one radiocollared wolf was shot by a hunter because of the bear-baiting station. The Board's changes to the bear-baiting regulations have plainly impacted the wolf population by increased harvesting.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Submitted By
Andra
Submitted On
7/27/2015 4:14:20 PM
Affiliation

Phone
622-2277

Email
knikvista@yahoo.com

Address
26016 Eagle River Road
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Dear Board Members:

I am asking that you please vote yes for ACR # 7. As long time Alaskans, my family finds that the Board does not represent our interests and rights. We have the right to enjoy wildlife viewing, and obtaining an income through tourism, photography and other benefits gained by protecting wolves and their packs. We support the Denali Buffer. When wildlife stays, wildlife pays. Please respect our rights too.

Thank you.