

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING: SPEAK FOR WILDLIFE

Now is the time to speak up for the wonderful wildlife of Alaska. A number of proposals for regulation changes that will have serious consequences for wildlife and a balanced approach to wildlife concerns are again before the Alaska Board of Game .

The Board will take public testimony on March 19 during their meeting in Fairbanks at Pikes Waterfront Lodge, 1850 Hoselton Drive, Fairbanks. **Those wishing to testify must sign up before 10 AM on Saturday, March 19.**

Public comments should address specific proposals that are on the Board's agenda.

Here are some suggested talking points:

- **Proposal 141: (This proposal would change the season for hunting of wolves on lands in Unit 20C in the Stampede Corridor (Wolf Townships), adjacent to Denali National Park, from August 10 – May 31 to August 10 – April 15 to eliminate the overlap between the bear baiting and wolf hunting seasons). We support this proposal, as it represents only a beginning step towards resolving a long standing issue regarding hunting and trapping of wolves that are primarily associated with Denali National Park and are a valued experience for many hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Park each year. We also recommend that the BOG reduce the wolf trapping season in the Wolf Townships for the same reason given for this proposal. Increased take of wolves in this area occurred following the decision by the Board to abolish the buffer area in 2010. It is of the utmost importance to re-establish the buffer immediately. We urge you to enact proposal 141 and the complete wolf buffer as well.**
- **Proposal 78: (Would preempt any regulation requiring placement of identification tags on traps). We oppose this proposal because it would immunize trappers from ever being held responsible for inappropriate or illegal trapping activities. There are rising levels of conflict between some trappers who irresponsibly place traps and snares along heavily used recreational trails often in close proximity of communities, schools etc. This situation requires more accountability on the part of trappers, not less.**

- **Proposal 79: (Requires that traps be checked within 24 hours of when they have been set). We support this proposal and urge the BOG to pass it. Proposal 79 would achieve much needed responsibility to trapping in Alaska. It is well known that in many cases certain animals that are caught in traps do not die immediately, and some may remain alive for prolonged periods. This results in unacceptable pain and distress for the animals. A 24 hour trap check requirement would place responsibility on trappers to minimize such conditions for trapped animals, and establish at least a minimal degree of respect for wildlife.**
- **Proposal 80: This proposal would restrict the placement of traps within ¼ mile of a publicly maintained road; and within 200 feet of a publicly maintained trail and within 1 mile of a house or permanent dwelling, business, or developed campground or recreational facility. We support this proposal because it would significantly reduce the incidence of children, adults and pet from being caught in traps that have been irresponsibly placed in these zones of conflict. This problem is also increasing as urban areas expand, and people engage in outdoor recreation. The current lack of such restrictions of trapping, and irresponsible trappers needs to be addressed. We urge the BOG to fulfill its responsibility to all Alaskans, and pass this measure.**
- **Proposal 142: (This proposal if enacted would renew the IM program for GMU 13 for another 10 years (2027). We oppose proposal 142 for several reasons. Intensive Management was first implemented in Unit 13 fifteen years ago in 2000. After substantial effort and at very high costs during the past 15 years, objectives have only partially been met. If IM, and the Department’s capability to implement it are effective, more “success” should be evident by this time. Furthermore, we believe that overly high objectives were set from the start, which were largely driven by unreasonable demands by hunters that are largely unobtainable and certainly unsustainable. This was bound to fail, and it has. Yet the Department is requesting the BOG to continue this failed endeavor for another 10 years. This unjustified, wasteful and ineffective subsidy for a limited number of people should not continue for another decade. With an extreme fiscal crisis facing Alaska, it is time for the BOG to act in a responsible manner and cut the losses by not approving Prop 142.**

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