

RC referring to proposal 145 through 149

My name is Chris Perry, I live in Homer. I use the public trails, highway pullouts, rest areas and campgrounds in the Cooper Landing area as well as backcountry trails in the Summit Lake area.

I'd first like to state that these are NOT ANTI-TRAPPING PROPOSALS. Any consideration of these proposals thinking that they are is to no one's benefit.

It is important to seriously consider these proposals. They have been researched carefully and with input from multiple user groups in the Cooper landing area. Please show respect for these proposals and look carefully at the updated maps considered with the proposals. Please also refer to PC250 which has a substantial amount of local knowledge for consideration of the proposed areas in Cooper Landing.

It is important for the board to realize your ability to address and accept these proposals as a whole or in part. These proposals may be implemented by ordinance if Cooper Landing should organize, as we have seen in other areas around the state. This is your opportunity to address this problem of increasing conflict between user groups. As we've seen, this problem will not go away by denying the inherent problem, more people using the same Alaska wilderness.

Referring to RC 007 map I would describe this as a vague map which implies complete restriction of access to large areas of the backcountry. Road pullouts and rest areas are a very small percentage of highway miles available to frontage or backcountry access for trappers. Beaches on the Kenai Lake proposed are very small percentage of the 50+ miles of Lake frontage.

Reading through public comments, many make reference to ethical trappers are already doing this so it shouldn't be a regulation. The reality is, the code of ethics which is interpreted differently by every different person and unenforceable, recommends just these things, to avoid high use areas where there could be conflict with other user groups. I don't believe anyone wants to trap a dog. I know trappers who have trapped their whole lives and want to keep trapping the rest of their lives. They realize there need to be compromise to ensure their future participation. These proposals clarify distinct small areas where there is high multiple use and will help avoid confusion and conflicts. Please refer to maps.

There are some trail heads that are posted by Park service and trapper associations designating them as active trapping areas that are not necessarily active. This closes public access trails to users wrongly informed of active trapping area.

I use a 24 foot retractable leash in the back country. I know seven dogs trapped in my area where the traps were within 20 feet of public access and easement trails. This trapper considers himself an ethical trapper. A 24 foot lease will not protect a dog from a trap 20 feet from the trail. Do I need to use a 3 foot or 6 foot leash in the wild back country of Alaska? Do trappers need to trap on or in close proximity to a trail in the wild back country of Alaska, especially when it endangers other user groups using the trails?

Please accept these proposals in part or whole. And understand the thoughtful long term implications of your actions.

Thank you so much for your consideration and efforts to understand these proposals.