

RC004

Comments on Emergency Petition  
re: Denali National Park Area Wolves

Submitted By  
April Warwick  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 2:51:45 PM  
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Ms.

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I'm writing to encourage the Board of Game to reinstate the Buffer Zone at the Denali National Park to help protect wolves. Taking away the buffer zone was a huge mistake they made as can be seen by the number of wolves - 143 in the fall 2007 to 50 in the fall 2014. Many people tried to tell the BOG that the Buffer Zone is needed but as usual they don't listen. There seems to be three types of people, those who kill animals, those who make their living on killing animals and those who want to protect animals. I'm clearly on the side of trying to protect our magnificent wildlife but Ak's BOG is only made up for those interested in killing or making money from killing Alaska's wildlife. With this extreme poor management our wildlife numbers continue to decrease. Our sheep numbers are down, caribou numbers are down, moose, buluga whales, bears and wolves numbers are lower than they were the year before because AK's BOG does such a poor job and is made up of the wrong time of humans. Instead of managing wildlife the BOG needs to manage humans and stop letting our best natural resource decline. Please put the Buffer Zone back up and protect our wildlife.

Submitted By  
Duane Howe  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 9:57:10 PM  
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The wolf population has decreased considerably in Denali National Park due in part, at least, to the uncontrolled trapping near the park boundary. Many people come a long ways to visit the park, and many of them come to see wolves. As the number of wolves has declined the number of park visitors has declined also. The success of wolf viewing has decreased from over 40% in the 10 or so years past, but success has declined to less than only 5% in recent years. The value of wolf viewing is far greater than the value of the few skins that are sold by trappers, so it makes no sense to allow the reduction of wolf numbers by trapping. The wolves have much greater value as live than dead animals and should be allowed to increase in population during the next several years at least.

I strongly support the re-establishment of the buffer zone along the east side of the park in order to allow wolf populations to recover in and near the park. I hope you will see the value in stopping the unnecessary killing of wolves where they could be allowed to educate people who are interested in wildlife and would pay money to see them during the summer months. This worked very well until the trapping was allowed to return.

I hope you will allow the wolf populations to return to normal in and near the park as the state constitution was written to allow.

Submitted By  
Kneeland Taylor  
Submitted On  
2/25/2015 7:50:49 PM  
Affiliation  
Independent

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I strongly support a controlled use area for State and private land adjoining Denali National Park in the vicinity of the Stampede road and trail; and near the Parks highway on the east side of the Park. The purpose of the controlled use area I support would be to prohibit the trapping or hunting of wolves so that wolf sightings within the Park would increase. Of course, there should be exceptions for State biologists responding to emergencies.

There are literally more than 100,000 people who ride the buses inside the Park every year, and one thing they want is a glimpse of a wolf, or perhaps a close up view. It wasn't long ago that glimpses and close ups were possible, frequently. But since the Board of Game in anger at the Park Service eliminated the controlled use area put in place in 2000, a very small number of trappers have eliminated the wolves that were once treasured by so many. The result is that wolf sightings are almost impossible now.

The BOG's insistence on allowing trapping along the border of the Park is one of the worst misallocations of Alaska's public resources of which I am aware. I cannot forget that it was a 4-3 vote that eliminated the previous controlled use area, with the deciding vote by Al Barrett whose appointment to the BOG was rejected by the Legislature shortly thereafter.

Certainly, it is time for the BOG and the Department to give consideration to people such as myself who want to see wildlife when we visit Denali National Park. We have a new governor, and the transition team's report on wildlife emphasizes the goal of gaining support from a broad cross-section of Alaskans. A giant step in that direction could be taken by protecting the Denali wolves which from time to time wander outside the Park boundaries. Rejection once again of a controlled use area providing protection to these wolves will cement in the minds of many, mine included, the idea that nothing has or will change when it comes to the issue of wildlife viewing, and that non consumptive users remain second class citizens in the eyes of the Board of Game.

**From:** [Kneeland Taylor](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** DENALI WOLF CONTROLLED USE AREA  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:13:35 PM

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## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GAME

I strongly support a controlled use area for State and private lands bordering Denali National Park in the vicinity of the Stampede road and trail, and near the Parks Highway on the east side of the Park. The goal of such a controlled use area would be to protect the Denali National Park wolves which den and spend most of their time near the Park road, but from time to time wander outside the Park. To achieve this goal, trapping and hunting of wolves should be prohibited in the controlled use area. Of course there should be exceptions for taking wolves in emergency situations by State wildlife biologists.

I tried submitting this same comment on the Department's comment form, but after submitting the comment, instructions appeared, the essence of which was that submission of a comment on the Department's form was too late. And so I am now duplicating my effort.

Wolf sightings along the Park road have declined since the previous buffer was removed in a 4-3 vote by the BOG. The deciding vote was by Al Barrette who was a temporary appointee, and who was NOT confirmed by the Legislature, with his negative vote on Denali wolves the principal reason why people like me contacted our representatives, sent letters, and lobbied against Mr. Barrett.

Governor Walker's wildlife transition team in its report emphasizes the goal of gaining wider public support for the Department, and the need to bring in people who have been excluded in the past. Putting in place a controlled use area protecting wolves would be a giant step toward gaining public support and signaling that the Department is serious. Rejecting the proposed controlled use area, and refusing to even consider it until 2018, would be a clear signal that nothing will change; that misallocation and mismanagement of the public's wildlife will continue unabated; and that those of us who come to the Department with reasonable requests will continue to be treated as second class citizens.

Very truly yours,  
Kneeland Taylor

Submitted By  
Yolanda Dela Cruz  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 9:52:08 PM  
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To: the Department of Fish and Game Board members,

The natural resources belong to all Alaskans, therefore I am asking that these public servers of the Department of Fish and Game Board members to re-establish a Buffer Zone along the eastern boundary of Denali National Park. In 2010, the Advisories and the BOG eliminated the previous Buffer. Previous requests were submitted to these public servers and all were denied. I have been attending Advisories and BOG meetings and even have been silenced by some of them because they do not share my views of preserving the natural resources for future generations. I have visited Denali recently and it's really sad that there are no more majestic wolves there. The tourism is one of the main sources in the State of Alaska. The tourists come to Alaska to see and enjoy the wildlife and they bring revenues to the state through restaurants, hotels, shops and transportation which benefit the community however, sport hunting only benefits a few of them. Wolves have been used as scapegoats and are blamed for the decrease of moose and caribou when people come from all over the world to kill moose and caribou as trophies. It's time to control over hunting. In order to have balance on the BOG, we need to have diversity in the Advisories and in the BOG particular representation on subsistence, and tourism because on the Advisories and in the BOG there is only one kind of people, and there are no representation for subsistence and tourism..Wolves have a high value in the tourism industry drawing a source of revenue for the entire community and the state from people coming to see them. I think it is time to work for all Alaskans and to preserve the wolves for future generations. I know a lot of people are also sending their comments asking the BOG members to re-establish a Buffer Zone in Denali National Park. Once again,the natural resources belong to all Alaskans and these public servers should be working on behalf of all Alaskans and for the best interest of the state.

**From:** [Claudia](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Buffer zone around the park  
**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2015 7:55:28 PM

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I support the buffer zone that would help protect the wolves of Denali. I was appalled to read the effects the elimination of the buffer had on the pack. You need to reestablish the buffer.

Claudia Markham  
Fairbanks

**From:** [Jos Bakker](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Denali Buffer Zone  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 9:51:11 PM

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**Please reinstate the Denali Buffer zone.**

The wolf population Denali Park has dramatically declined from about 150 wolves to about 50 wolves in 2014. Trappers have been specifically targeting Denali wolves when they leave the Park in their winter pursuit of caribou.

We lost the most viewable wolves of the park. The chances for the **400,000+** visitors to see a wolf dropped from 44% to 12%. It is appalling that a few trappers are more important than the many Alaskans that make a living from **tourism in Denali Park**. Tourism brings in more money to the State of Alaska than the few trappers that trapped the Denali wolves. Killing the Denali wolves was unethical and unnecessary.

**Please reinstate the Denali Buffer zone.**



**From:** [Keri](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Denali Buffer Zone  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 6:01:18 AM

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Please stop sacrificing the good of the many for the good of the few by allowing trapping of the Denali wolves in the land surrounding the National Park. Alaska is shooting itself in the foot by allowing a few trappers the right to decimate the Denali wolf packs. This will generate a ton of bad press and impact tourism to the park and to Alaska as well.

We don't need any more bad press like the time Coke Wallace shot his horse on the border of the park to kill park wolves. It leaves a nasty taste in everyone's mouth and makes Alaskans look bad.

Sincerely,

Keri Gardner  
Anchorage, AK, on assignment to Lyon Mountain, NY

**From:** [Jos Bakker](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Denali Buffer Zone  
**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2015 8:38:53 AM

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**Please reinstate the Denali Buffer zone.**

The wolf population Denali Park has dramatically declined from about 150 wolves to about 50 wolves in 2014. Trappers have been specifically targeting Denali wolves when they leave the Park in their winter pursuit of caribou.

We lost the most viewable wolves of the park. The chances for the **400,000+** visitors to see a wolf dropped from 44% to 12%. It is appalling that a few trappers are more important than the many Alaskans that make a living from **tourism in Denali Park**. Tourism brings in more money to the State of Alaska than the few trappers that trapped the Denali wolves. Killing the Denali wolves was unethical and unnecessary.

**Please reinstate the Denali Buffer zone.**

Jos Bakker

PO Box 211403

Auke Bay, Alaska 99821

**From:** [Leo & Dorothy Keeler](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Denali Emergency Petition  
**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2015 2:18:37 PM

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Dear Board Members,

As a 2000 Board of Game Member, not confirmed due to politics, I encourage you to show that the BOG "TRULY" acts for all Alaskans and not just wildlife consumers. Please restore the Denali Wolf Buffer Zone.

I personally spent years to get the original "Denali Wolf Buffer" established in 2002. When in Denali, I was always hearing from tourists, Alaskan, American, and foreign, about how excited they were to have seen wolves. Denali was known world wide as the place to go to see wolves, and people came.

The decline from 44% of visitors seeing wolves to only 4% since the removal of the "Buffer" in 2010 warrants Board action on behalf of wildlife viewers and tourism related businesses.

Predation control efforts have definitely impacted the general wolf population and decreased the numbers inside Denali from 143 to only 50. I realize that reduction to 34% does not meet the Boards statewide objective to reduce wolves to only 20% of the population in the year 1999, but it should be considered close enough. Now it's time to act "For" non-consumptive users.

The Board taking action to increase sightings in eastern Denali and along the road to Kantishna will express at least minimal concern for wildlife viewing and the tourism industry that benefits from Denali visitors seeing wolves.

The BOG has never demonstrated a concern for and has rarely acted on behalf on wildlife viewers. They have also frequently expressed disdain for all tourism other than hunting.

Please take a step to reverse that unfortunate fact and restore the Denali Wolf Buffer Zone.

Leo Keeler

**From:** [Andra Silgailis](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Denali wolf buffer  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 6:16:15 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

As a long term resident of Alaska, I am continuously frustrated by my inability to view the wildlife I expect to see in Alaska.

A place like Denali National Park, exists to give Americans the right to view North American animals. Obviously wild animals, like wolves, don't understand where the park begins and where it ends. Thus a buffer is crucial for their survival.

I am always perplexed why the requests of a few trappers, trump the rights of wildlife viewers. It seems that because certain individuals do not value viewing wildlife, they feel wanting to do so is silly.

Personally, I feel watching football is silly. But that does not give me the right to turn off everyone's TV.

Please vote in favor of a buffer for the Denali wolves.

Thank you,

Andra S.  
Eagle River, AK

**From:** [Roger Martinez](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** EMERGENCY PETITION (DENALI BUFFER): SUPPORT  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 9:30:54 PM

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To the Alaska Department of Fish & Game - Board of Game,

**EMERGENCY PETITION (DENALI BUFFER): SUPPORT**

For 25 years our family has lived in Alaska and we visit Denali National Park yearly, usually several times a year. We visit the park year round, hiking, cycling, skiing, and riding the shuttle buses in order to view and photograph the sublime landscapes, and in particular, the wildlife. Wolf viewing is a very special experience. One morning we were having breakfast on a backpacking trip near Polychrome Glacier when the Toklat Pack walked through our campsite. They then walked casually up a nearby ridge and treated us to a group howling session in the morning sunlight. When family or friends are visiting, we always bring them to the Park for a once in a lifetime adventure.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game's cruel experiment with the Denali wolf population has resulted in a two thirds loss of Denali wolves stemming from their decision to remove the trapping buffer in 2010. The data is clear per the National Park Service 2014 count of only 50 wolves in the 6 million acre park compared to 147 wolves in their prior count. The precipitous decrease in wolf sightings for Denali National Park visitors from 44% to 4 % from the years 2010 to 2013 confirms these data. So now we know. Removal of the buffer by the Alaska Fish & Game Department was a bad idea and a handful of trappers have been given priority over an estimated 400,000 yearly Denali National Park visitors including a large number of Alaskans. Times have changed. Animal populations are not able to defend themselves from the so-called "traditional" practices of a handful of individuals who cannot accept the fact, or care that the Denali ecosystem is now under significant stress from human exploitive practices. Trapping in this fragile ecosystem is not a sustainable practice given these real world data, and iconic species such as wolves may soon be only a memory. The incredible cruelty of intentionally subjecting an animal to this slow painful death is another issue. These people are a significant minority, and public servants on the Board of Fish & Game are legally constrained to represent the majority position in a democracy. Alaska's constitution requires these representatives to manage fish and wildlife "for the maximum benefit of the people", and those of us who regularly visit and financially support the park prefer wildlife viewing rather than seeing dead wolf skins on a wall.

Roger Martinez, M.D.  
P.O. Box 222  
Moose Pass, AK 99631

**From:** [Elena Cresap](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** EMERGENCY PETITION (DENALI BUFFER): SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, February 27, 2015 8:24:04 AM

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To the Alaska Department of Fish & Game - Board of Game,

**EMERGENCY PETITION (DENALI BUFFER): SUPPORT**

I am alarmed by the precipitous decline in wolf sightings reported by the National Park Service data and the loss of an amenity I appreciate as a visitor to Denali. My family has visited and in one family member's case, lived in Alaska for over 25 years. As a large family of 7 siblings, there have been many visits to Alaska- always with our resident brother as our official tour guide. Denali is the highlight and pinnacle of each visit providing wildlife sightings and stories of a thrilling experience of a lifetime for us lower 48 city dwellers. Members of our family annually visit Denali National Park for hiking, cycling, skiing, and riding the shuttle buses in order to view and photograph the sublime landscapes, and in particular, the wildlife. Wolf viewing is a very special experience. I recall my fascination and interest in the Denali shuttle guides' informed and detailed account of the history of the Denali wolf population, their habits, territory, breeding and denning. I was so proud of our country for creating this unique and expansive National Park and for the protection of its precious wildlife.

I am therefore shocked by the unforeseen and unexpected consequence and continued threat to the Denali wolf population due to the removal of a trapping buffer by the Alaska Fish & Game Department. Since the buffer removal in 2010, the Denali wolf population has suffered a two thirds loss of Denali wolves. The data is clear per the National Park Service 2014 count of only 50 wolves in the 6 million acre park compared to 147 wolves in their prior count. The precipitous decrease in wolf sightings for Denali National Park visitors from 44% to 4 % from the years 2010 to 2013 confirms these data. Removal of the buffer by the Alaska Fish & Game Department was a bad idea and a handful of trappers have been given priority over an estimated 400,000 yearly Denali National Park visitors including a large number of Alaskans.

Trapping in this fragile ecosystem is not a sustainable practice given these real world data, and iconic species such as wolves may soon be threatened to the point of extinction. The people affected by a reinstatement of the buffer zone requested in the emergency petition are a significant minority, and public servants on the Board of Fish & Game are legally constrained to represent the majority position in a democracy. Alaska's constitution requires these representatives to manage fish and wildlife "for the maximum benefit of the people", and those of us who regularly visit and financially support the park prefer wildlife viewing rather than seeing dead wolf skins on a wall.

I respectfully and urgently request the reinstatement of the Eastern Denali buffer zone, closing this land to the taking of wolves under Joint Board Petition Policy, (5 AAC 96.625(f)).

Elena Cresap  
U.S. Citizen and National Park and Wildlife supporter  
San Diego, California

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Josh Klauder](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): SUPPORT  
**Date:** Saturday, February 28, 2015 12:02:37 AM

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The following petition has been sent to the BOG for consideration at its upcoming meeting. I am including it here to place it in the public comment record.

I am in support of this petition, for the reasons outlined in the petition itself.

Josh Klauder  
Talkeetna Alaska

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Petition Requesting Alaska Board of Game to Adopt Emergency Regulation Closing State Lands to Taking of Wolves – a “Denali Buffer”- Along the Eastern Boundary of Denali National Park  
(GMU 20)  
February 23, 2015  
Petitioners: Alaska Wildlife Alliance (AWA)  
Denali Citizens Council (DCC)  
National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)  
Dave Braun  
Tina Brown  
Marybeth Holleman  
Sherrie Jans  
Nick Jans  
Johnny Johnson  
Rick Steiner

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#### 1. Legal context

This petition, filed pursuant to AS 44.62.220 and Joint Board Petition Policy (5 AAC 96.625(f)), requests the Alaska Board of Game to establish an Emergency Regulation closing state lands identified below in Game Management Unit (GMU) 20 along the eastern boundary of Denali National Park to the taking of wolves.

Under the Joint Board Petition Policy, (5 AAC 96.625(f)), an emergency is defined inter alia as “an unforeseen, unexpected event that...threatens a fish or game resource.” Thus, the legal threshold for emergency action proposed herein is that there exists a threat to a “game resource,” and that this threat was “unexpected” and “unforeseen” by the Board. As discussed below, both threshold conditions are clearly met in this case.

This petition does not assert that there exists a threat to the wolf populations across GMU 20, or even sub-units GMU 20C or GMU 20A, nor does it propose protecting such. The petition proposes simply that a small subset of the GMU 20 wolf population – the twenty to thirty individual animals that comprise what had been the most viewed 3 or 4 wolf packs in eastern Denali National Park – is at risk from take on adjacent state lands, and asks the State to grant

protection to this small, unique subset of the GMU 20 wolf population due to its significant and disproportionate economic value to Alaska.

It is important to note that nowhere does Joint Board Policy 5 AAC 96.625(f) state that, to be eligible for emergency action, a threat to a game resource must be found to exist across an entire GMU, entire GMU sub-unit, or entire wildlife population. Nor does the statute/policy identify a threshold level of decline or threat that must be found to exist. In fact, the language is silent as to the geographic, ecological, or economic scale across which a threat must extend, and the severity of decline or threat that must be found, in order to be eligible for emergency regulation by the Board. While traditionally the Board and Department have interpreted the emergency regulation statute/policy to apply only across broad geographic areas (e.g., across entire GMUs), or threats/declines to entire populations, the statute/policy itself clearly does not impose such limitations.

Thus, it is permissible and entirely appropriate to apply the statute/policy to a small sub-area and unique sup-population of a wildlife resource, such as the few wolf packs important for wildlife tourism in eastern Denali National Park. We note that Denali National Park contributes over \$500 million each year to the state economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, including wolves.

The petitioners respectfully request that the Board place this Emergency Petition on its March 2015 meeting agenda, solicit and consider public comment, and act affirmatively on the petition.

## 2. Unforeseen and unexpected threat to game resource requiring emergency action

The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board.

The wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 – a drop of almost 2/3 in just six years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.

Given the low count in fall 2014, it is expected that the wolf count for the park in spring 2015 survey will be even lower, likely again the lowest in the historical record. As well, it is expected that visitor viewing success of Denali wolves will remain extremely low in coming years, unless and until there is protection from trapping/hunting on state lands along the park boundary.

Just since the Board of Game removed the no-take Denali buffer in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44% in 2010, to 21% in 2011, 12% in 2012, to just 4% in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). As far as we are aware, this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system.

We recognize that natural factors may be involved in the wolf population and viewing decline, but it is clear that trapping/hunting take of important breeding individuals on state lands north



and east of the park is also a contributing factor. And while wildlife managers can't do much about natural causes, they can and should help to restore this game resource by minimizing additional losses from trapping/hunting.

As example of the potential effect of wolf take along the park boundary, the April 2012 snaring of the last breeding female wolf from the Grant Creek pack – formerly the most often viewed wolf pack in Denali National Park – on state lands just outside the park boundary (within the former buffer that was eliminated by the Board in 2010), resulted in the pack not having pups that year, not denning, and ultimately the pack's dispersal. Visitor viewing success for wolves in the park that summer dropped 9%, from 21% the previous year to just 12%.

The snaring of this one female wolf on state lands resulted in tens of thousands of national park visitors, Alaskans and non-Alaskans, being deprived of the opportunity to view wolves in Denali that year, leading to a significant loss in the tourism amenity of the park. Further, this trapping take and impact on Denali National Park resources received national media attention, resulting in significant damage to the State of Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to Alaska's reputation as a wildlife tourism destination.

Subsequent studies by Denali National Park wildlife biologists confirmed previously published studies – that the loss of significant breeding individuals from a wolf family group can, and often does, cause the family group to disband.

In addition, most of the members of the former Nenana River pack were taken outside the park in 2013, and the pack is no longer listed in the Denali wolf pack database.

It is inarguable that the take of wolves on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve has caused significant, deleterious impacts to park wolves - an Alaska game resource - and this impact was unforeseen and unexpected by the Board of Game in 2010 when it eliminated the buffer and imposed the 6-year moratorium on future proposals, and in 2012 when it declined the two previous emergency petitions.

Importantly, additional take of park wolves on state lands along the park boundary in spring 2015 could cause similar, or even more significant, deleterious impacts to this valuable wildlife and economic resource. There is clearly need for emergency action by the Board of Game.

### 3. Necessity of Petition for Emergency Regulation

The emergency petition process is necessary in this case for a number of reasons.

First, at its 2010 meeting, the Board imposed a 6-year moratorium on further consideration of any Denali buffer proposals through its normal proposal process. Some of our petitioners formally requested in 2012 that the Board eliminate this moratorium, but the request was unanimously denied by the Board at its January 2013 meeting.

In May and June 2012, some of the current petitioners asked the ADF&G Commissioner on two separate occasions to issue an Emergency Order (under AS 16.050.060) closing state lands east of the park to take of wolves. The Commissioner denied both requests, stating at the time that the only option to enact such a closure would be to petition the Board of Game directly.

Accordingly, we then petitioned the Board of Game twice, in September and October 2012, both of which were denied without comment. Subsequently, many of the concerns raised in the 2012 Emergency Petitions regarding the impact of trapping/hunting of park wolves on state lands along the boundary have, unfortunately, been realized.

On December 1, 2014, some of the current petitioners asked the newly appointed ADF&G Commissioner to issue an Emergency Order to close this area, and the request was denied on Dec. 11, 2014. In his denial, the Interim Commissioner deferred again to the Board of Game.

Thus, an emergency petition is necessary in this instance as the significance and negative consequences to Alaska wildlife resources caused by the take of individual animals in the former closed areas were clearly unforeseen and unexpected by the Board when it eliminated the closure in 2010, imposed the moratorium, and denied the 2012 petitions.

If the threat to Denali wolf family group integrity and visitor viewing is not immediately remedied by Board action requested herein, there likely will be additional take of significant individuals this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource, to the detriment of the park and the Alaska tourism economy.

#### 4. Emergency Regulation Requested

This petition respectfully requests that the Board of Game immediately adopt the following Emergency Regulation:

Take of wolves is prohibited on state lands (GMU 20), in the area bounded on the west by the east boundary of Denali National Park; extending east to one mile east of, and parallel to, the Anchorage-Fairbanks Intertie Electrical Power Line; on the south by Carlo Creek; and on the north by a line from the southeast corner of Township 11S, Range 9W (Latitude 63 degrees, 55 minutes North), due east to the George Parks Highway, then south along the Parks Highway to a line running due east from the Highway through the town of Healy, to one mile east of the Intertie Line; inclusive of all State lands west of the George Parks Highway commonly referred to as the "Wolf Townships," and/or "Stampede Trail" (see attached 2012 Emergency Wolf Buffer Petition map).

The proposed boundaries for the closed area coincide approximately with the Denali National Park wolf population area, delineated by telemetry locations (see attached DNP Spring 2014 Wolf Population Estimate map). It is clear from park telemetry data that the home range of several park packs extends into the limited area of state land adjacent to the park boundary that is proposed for closure. [Note: this 2014 DNP wolf home range map was based on the historically low wolf population of 2013/2014].

The proposed closed area is larger than the former closed area that was eliminated in 2010, but smaller than the 2010 proposal from the Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee to expand it. The proposed area would provide significant, but not complete, protection to park wolves, and would provide a reasonable chance for the restoration of the wolf viewing opportunities within Denali National Park – a valuable Alaska game resource.

#### 5. Beneficiaries of the Requested Regulation

Park visitors who want to see wolves in the wild (400,000+ annual visitors).

Tour operators and the Alaska tourism industry.

Trappers statewide, as the public is less likely to develop anti-trapping opinions from seeing

injured wolves and learning of wolf take adjacent to park boundaries.

State of Alaska's reputation for wildlife management.

Public safety for people and pets using the Stampede Trail area.

People who value the concept of conservation areas for wildlife.

#### 6. Those Disadvantaged by the Requested Regulation

A few sport trappers and hunters who have operated in the area in recent years would need to relocate their trap lines and hunts out of the closed area, away from the park boundary, but would retain access to all other areas nearby open to trapping.

#### 7. Benefit/Cost of Requested Emergency Regulation

The significant advantages deriving from this proposed rule to Alaska citizens, Alaska's tourism economy, the State of Alaska, and others greatly outweigh the inconvenience of the few hunters and trappers having to relocate their operations.

#### 8. Conclusion

Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution – Natural Resources – stipulates that natural resources will be managed as a “public trust,” providing “for maximum use consistent with the public interest,” and for the “utilization, development, and conservation...for the maximum benefit of (the) people.” Clearly, this constitutional provision provides for non-consumptive uses of wildlife such as wildlife viewing, along with consumptive uses such as hunting and trapping. Regarding this issue, there is significant value to thousands of Alaskans provided by the viewing of Denali National Park wolves. The value and public interest to thousands of Alaskans provided by seeing Denali wolves, as well as the value to the many Alaskan businesses reliant on this wildlife viewing tourism, should greatly outweigh the value and public interest of just a few individuals being allowed to continue trapping and hunting Denali wolves along the park boundary. It would be irrational, and we suggest unconstitutional, to continue placing the interests of a few Alaskans over the interests of thousands of Alaskans.

Emergency regulation by the Board is clearly appropriate in this case, as there is a clear threat to an important Alaska game resource that was unforeseen and unexpected. This emergency petition presents significant new information showing the severity of impact of the take of park wolves on state lands: two park packs (Grant Creek and Nenana River) were severely affected by take in 2012 and 2013 on state lands along the boundary; visitor viewing success of park wolves dropped from an estimated 45% in 2010 to just 4% in 2013; the drop in viewing success of Denali wolves has, and will continue to, cost the local and state economy; the fall 2014 park wolf count did not increase above the historic low spring count; and the Alaska Constitution requires that wildlife resources be managed for the greater public interest, not narrow interests.

Thus, petitioners respectfully ask the Board to deliberate this issue thoughtfully, place the petition on the March 2015 Board meeting agenda, solicit public comment, and approve the requested emergency regulation.

**From:** [Debra Beaver](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 6:04:02 PM

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### **Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support**

I live in North Carolina, but we come to Alaska to see wolves and other wildlife (mostly wolves). The last 2 trips we were not able to see a single wolf. I talked to many others that were also disappointed that they were not able to see wolves in Denali. After a little research, I now understand why.

With Denali National Park wolf population down to 1/3 of the former population, action needs to be taken right away to protect the park wolves. Please reinstate the buffer zone so that park wolves are not trapped when they step just outside the park boundary.

Without the chance to see wolves, it's not worth it for my family to spend the money to travel to Alaska. We love the state and want to return to see a healthy wolf population.

Please vote to establish this buffer zone as quickly as possible before more park wolves are killed.

Thank you so much for your time,  
Debra Beaver

**From:** [Jane Baldwin](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 3:52:35 PM

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**Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support**

To: Board Of Game,

I strongly urge you to reinstate the Buffer Zone for wolf harvest along the perimeter of Denali National Park.

Denali is a big tourist draw, with animal viewing as a brilliant highlight of most visitors' experience. The sharp decline in wolf numbers since 2010 is directly related to elimination of the Denali Buffer Zone. If wolves are not often seen it will be one less intriguing draw for people to travel to Alaska and Denali. Further, if they hear about the wanton trapping and shooting of wildlife in general and wolves in particular they might be less inclined to give their money to this state at all.

The DFG is supposed to be managing wildlife for all Alaskans, and that includes those of us who would vote to have the population not hunted at all, to let nature truly take it 's course without the impact of man. I am one such, so consider this my voice and my vote, no less a vote than those of trappers and hunters.

Further, if Department of Fish and Game is supposed to manage sustainable resources of Alaska, they might want to look at what an unnaturally low wolf population will do to the rest of the ecosystem in Denali. If management neglects one segment under its care in deference to another, preferred segment, the entire system breaks down. This is true in all management situations.

Please reinstate the buffer zone around Denali State Park,

Urgently Yours,

Jane D. Baldwin  
15880 Walrus Circle  
Eagele River, AK 99577  
(907) 720-9394

**From:** [Larry Casey](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 2:35:39 PM

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I fully support increased protection and a buffer zone for wolves near Denali.

I would like to keep Alaska as truly wild as possible and not a game farm for trophy hunters. I hunt by the way.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Casey Family  
12428 Winter Park Circle  
Eagle River, AK 99577

**From:** [ssa1269](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 8:01:01 PM

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## Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support

Dear Board of Game Members

As visitors to Alaska, the item we most looked forward to was the wildlife. The wolves were amazing. Please note that we support the Denali Buffer.

The reasons we cite are:

According to the National Park Service, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.

Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system.

Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves.

Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination.

Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves.

The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board of Game.

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Thank you for your time.

Mr. And Mrs. Steven Aubry  
Wisconsin Residents/Alaska Visitors



**From:** [Sarah Horn](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** KILLING  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 6:55:20 PM

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Please come up with an alternate plan besides KILLING WILD ANIMALS. When I visited Alaska THATS what I wanted to see and on our bus tour of Denali we saw ground squirrels, caribou and one golden brown bear off on the distance.

Consider letting Mother Nature take control.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joanie Martinez](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** No-take wolf "Buffer" adjacent to Denali National Park  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:18:40 PM

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Department of Fish & Game, Board of Game:

I support the No-take wolf "Buffer" adjacent to Denali National Park.

My family and I have been visiting Denali National Park at least twice every year during our 25-year history as Alaskans. The wild spaces of the Park along with its spectacular wildlife are an Alaskan and a National heritage that is enjoyed and loved by countless people from all over the world! The wolves in particular are a favorite sight in the Park, and in the past we have been treated to many wonderful wolf-viewing experiences during our hikes there. Unfortunately in the last few years, since the buffer zone was removed, we have noticed a severe decrease in the number of wolf sightings; specifically only 4% of visitor sightings currently compared to 44% prior to 2010! Not only is this tragic and sad, it's maddening as well when we realize it's because the Alaska Department of Fish & Game catered to the wishes of a few trappers who wanted to access the wolves that found protection within and close to the Park. How can it be that the wolf population is decimated because of the wishes of a few people who want their pelts, when 400,000 visitors annually visit Denali for a glimpse of wolves **living** in the wild! How is it that the Department of Fish & Game has the power to make such a decision favoring the FEW over the MANY! Where is their representation of the majority of the population!?

But this is not just about wolves. Modern ecological scientific data has demonstrated in numerous studies that the health of an ecosystem is largely determined by the health of the apex predator within that system. So decimating the wolf population in Denali National Park will have extensive long range adverse effects on all the animal populations in the Park.

I SUPPORT THE NO-TAKE WOLF "BUFFER" ADJACENT TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK.

Joanie Martinez  
PO Box 222  
Moose Pass, Alaska 99631

**From:** [Susan and Pete Vogt](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** The BOG needs to establish a no-take wolf "Buffer" adjacent to Denali National Park  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 4:39:07 AM

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I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). This is not a coincidence.

Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves. I take my family there when they visit and they and myself want to see wolves. Alive!

Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves. My husband and I are Alaska citizens and our voice should count too, yet too many times the BOG ignores people like us. This is wrong and it is an outrage.

I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Susan and Pete Vogt  
269 Bias Dr #B  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

**From:** [merijeanne](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Wolf buffer  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2015 8:13:14 PM

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I am a resident of Alaska, and support a buffer zone around National Parks. Wolves, and other predators ensure healthy prey populations. As an Alaskan fisher/hunter, I support buffer zones. Please contact me if you would like further information. Merijeanne Moore Hollingsworth

Sent from my GCI smartphone.

Submitted By

Alanna Wilson

Submitted On

2/26/2015 4:51:24 AM

Affiliation

Mrs.

Phone

3369413261

Email

[wolf2959@aol.com](mailto:wolf2959@aol.com)

Address

963 Farmington Road

Mocksville, North Carolina 27028

I cannot believe our country is not taking the wolf population seriously. These beautiful creatures were here long before any of us and deserve their place in this world. We have NO RIGHT to kill off any species. We need to encourage people to understand the balance of nature. This is a time for reaching out to communities and sharing just how important every species is to our eco system. We are fighting for them, because they, "have no voice!"

Submitted By  
Alice Phass  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 2:24:29 PM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Phone  
2039075798

Email  
[alicephass@gmail.com](mailto:alicephass@gmail.com)

Address  
670 Boston post road, unit 9  
Milford, Connecticut 06460

To Whom This May Concern, According to the National Park Service, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does. Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system. Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves. Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination. Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves. The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board of Game. I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition. Thankyou for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response. Alice Phass

Submitted By

Alona Bonanno

Submitted On

2/26/2015 8:13:55 PM

Affiliation

Phone

505-310-1121

Email

[pointalona@gmail.com](mailto:pointalona@gmail.com)

Address

502 Fulton Lane

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

You know the stats. I will not repeat what you've read, hopefully, thousands of times. Do what is right; protect the rights and the lives of the Denali wolves. Their wellbeing is our, your, responsibility. What is done to them, is done to you, to us. Care for them. Thank you!!

Submitted By

Amy Butterworth, MD

Submitted On

2/25/2015 1:24:36 PM

Affiliation

Stop killing wolves please



Submitted By  
Amy Lauria  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 5:56:15 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
6513731185

Email  
[amyplauria@gmail.com](mailto:amyplauria@gmail.com)

Address  
8827 branson dr  
inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55076

**EMERGENCY PETITION (DENALI BUFFER): SUPPORT**

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Submitted By  
Anita Chittenden  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 10:14:16 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
209-267-8146  
Email  
[madeintahoe@aol.com](mailto:madeintahoe@aol.com)

Address  
P.O. Box 582  
Sloughouse, California 95683

Dear Alaska Department of Fish & Game

I am writing you with great concerns of the population of the Gray Wolf as only 50 wolves in and around Denali National Park..since there is no safe buffer zone that would not allow hunting and trpaping of wolves..the population is declining very fast and is not a sustainable healthy wolf population. I have a very good friend that spent two weeks in the park in 2013 hoping to see her 1st wolf in the wild...during her time there she did not see one wolf and was very sad and disappointed..2013 is one of the declining years for seeing wolves in the park and wolf watchers...wolf watching brings in millions of dollars to the economy. Wolves are worth more alive than dead. I am asking you to please give the protection these wolves need from hunting and trapping..Please give them a protective Buffer Zone around Denali National Park to keep them safe and enjoyed by millions of peoples that come to the park to see wolves..There are some hunters and trappers that target park wolves..a Buffer Zone would stop that.

Please I ask you to add a Buffer Zone around Denali National Park where no hunting and trapping can happen in that zone...the wolves need that protection

Thank you for your time reading my important concerns

Anita Chittenden

Submitted By

Annie Nelson

Submitted On

2/27/2015 7:45:42 PM

Affiliation

Hello.

I am to let you know that I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. The wolf population in a park with millions of acres has declined to just 50 wolves at last count, which is significantly lower than it was in 2007. Science has shown that wolves are a benefit to the ecosystem. They keep herds of their prey on the move so that one area of land is not overgrazed. In turn, there are stronger root systems in place which helps prevent erosion, etc. Wolves are essential. People come to the park to view wildlife, especially wolves, and a very small percentage of visitors has actually seen wolves in recent years, down to 4% in 2014. As a person who enjoys wildlife, I am planning a trip up to northern Minnesota to see wolves this spring and if I were to take a trip to Alaska to view wildlife, I would much like to see them there as well.

The current population in this area is the lowest on record. Please do not ignore this and let it slip through the cracks. No species should be overlooked and especially not a species that is still considered endangered federally. The population may already be too low to have retained the necessary genetic diversity needed to be able to survive a bad disease if one were to hit. Everything possible should be done to remedy this.

Thank you, and please take a stand for the wolves.

Annie Nelson

Submitted By

Arnold Johnson

Submitted On

2/26/2015 5:55:46 PM

Affiliation

Please allow the wolves a chance to thrive as a species,they are beneficial to the environment as a whole and deserve to be left alive and unhindered in the wilds.

# Fax

**To:**

Alaska Board of Game Comments

**Fax number:**

(907) 465-6094

**From:**

Connie Brandel, Alaska Wildlife Alliance

**Fax number:**

**Date:**

February 27, 2015

**Document:**

Alaska Wildlife Alliance comment letter submitted for the Board of Game March meeting

**Phone number for follow up:**

(907) 277-0897 or (907) 529-0155 (cell)

**Pages (including cover sheet):** 5



# **THE ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE**

"LETTING NATURE RUN WILD"

February 27, 2015

ATTN: Board of Game Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Via fax: (907) 465-6094

**RE: SUPPORT: Petition for Emergency Regulation (Denali Buffer)**

To Members of the Alaska Board of Game:

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance (AWA) herewith submits its written comments on the Petition for Emergency Regulation (Denali Wolf Buffer).

### **Our Mission Statement**

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to the conservation and protection of Alaska's wildlife. We promote the integrity, beauty, and stability of Alaska's ecosystems, support true subsistence hunting, and recognize the intrinsic value of wildlife. The AWA works to achieve and maintain balanced ecosystems in Alaska managed with the use of sound science to preserve wildlife for present and future generations.

This Petition for Emergency Regulation (Petition) asks the Board of Game to re-establish a no hunting/trapping wolf "buffer zone" (Buffer) in GMU 20 adjacent to the eastern boundary of Denali National Park. (Please see the Petition attachment *2012 Emergency Wolf Buffer* for the proposed Buffer boundaries.)

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance submitted this Petition with the enthusiastic support of numerous organizations and individuals as co-petitioners. For the following reasons we urge you to approve the requested Emergency Regulation.

1. There is a real and immediate threat to the Denali National Park (park) wolves. This threat meets the criteria of an emergency, as clearly detailed in the Petition and summarized below.

Briefly, during the past several years there has been a precipitous decline in the park's wolf population. In its Fall 2007 survey, the National Park Service counted 143 wolves in the park. Just seven years later in 2014, the NPS survey counted just 50 wolves – the lowest number in the park's historical record. It is expected that the Spring 2015 count will reveal the park's wolf population is now at a similar or even smaller number.

As the wolf population declined, very predictably wolf viewing success by park visitors declined dramatically as well. According to the National Park Service, in 2010 44 percent of park visitors saw wolves. By 2012 (just two years after the previous wolf Buffer was eliminated) that percentage was down to 12 percent. In 2013 the number was down to a paltry 4 percent – in other words, almost no one was able to see a wolf.

Nearly 500,000 people – Alaskans, and visitors from the Lower 48 and around the world – visit the park annually, and they help contribute nearly \$500 million to the Alaskan economy. They come hoping to see the park's diverse and abundant wildlife, especially wolves, its signature species since Adolph Murie's studies made them famous more than 70 years ago.

Unfortunately, in 2013, 96 percent of those visitors went home without seeing a wolf in the park. Given the low wolf population, the percentages for 2014, and eventually 2015, are very likely to remain in the dismal single digits.

If trapping/hunting activities are allowed to continue unchecked adjacent to the park boundary this Spring and beyond, it will only exacerbate the loss of wolves. The once-famous viewing opportunities will be further diminished, and a valuable wildlife resource will be further depleted.

2. According to Joint Board Petition Policy, the Board of Game may take emergency action when an unforeseen and unexpected event threatens a fish or game resource. This is discussed briefly below, and in greater depth on Pages 2 and 3 of the Petition.

The recent precipitous drop in both population and viewing success was an "unforeseen and unexpected" consequence when the Board discarded the previous wolf Buffer in 2010. Further, AWA asserts that the park's current record-low wolf population and the attendant low viewing success by visitors clearly meets the criteria for emergency action by the Board – in this case, closure of a very small portion of the adjacent GMU.

As detailed in the Petition on Page 3, hunting/trapping in the proposed Buffer area is a well -documented threat to the park wolves. For example, in 2013 most of wolves in the former Nenana River pack were killed outside of the park, and that pack is no longer listed in the park's wolf count database.

The demise of the park's Grant Creek pack is a prime example of the ripple effect that nearby trapping has on the park wolves. In April 2012 the last breeding female of that pack was snared on land within the proposed Buffer. Subsequently, the pack neither denned nor produced pups that year, and ultimately the remaining wolves dispersed.

The loss of just this one wolf pack had a significant and immediate impact. Its territory was near the park road, and for years the Grant Creek wolves were the most-often viewed wolves in the park. Not coincidentally, visitor viewing success declined by nearly half in 2012, from 21 percent to 12 percent.

More recently, studies by Denali park biologists have confirmed previously published research – that the loss of significant breeding individuals from a wolf family group causes the pack to disband. When more “experienced” wolves disappear from packs, their knowledge, such as the location of the best hunting and denning areas, is also lost. The remaining wolves are less likely to thrive, or even survive.

Fewer and fewer wolves impact not only the experience of visitors to the park, but will eventually have a deleterious effect on the park's ecosystems. Such effects are infinitely easier to prevent than to correct.

While natural causes – to an unknown degree – may be responsible for some of the park wolf population decline, that does not negate the responsibility of wildlife managers to mitigate the compounding pressure placed on the population by hunting and trapping.

These losses represent an immediate and critical threat to a unique and invaluable wildlife resource.

3. The Petition does not assert that the wolf population in the entire GMU 20 is threatened, and it does not seek protection for all of the wolves in the GMU. The proposed buffer would encompass a very small subset of the GMU adjoining the eastern boundary of the park. The Petition seeks protection for a small number - perhaps 20 or 30 wolves - from the park which seasonally use that area. Although a relatively small number, these wolves comprise the packs that are traditionally the most easily viewed by park visitors.



The proposed Buffer boundaries were drawn to coincide approximately with the Denali wolf population area, as delineated by wolf collar telemetry data. Please see the *Spring 2014 Wolf Population Estimate map* attached to the Petition. The proposed Buffer boundaries were drawn conservatively, and would likely protect most - but not all - of the park wolves.

It is very important to note that Joint Board Policy does not state that a threat has to affect an entire game species population across an entire GMU or a GMU sub-unit. Hence, policy clearly allows that this small portion of GMU 20 could be set aside as a no-take wolf buffer.

4. According to Joint Board Policy, a Petition for Emergency Closure such as this is proper for the Board to consider and approve. There is also an identical precedent for a wolf Buffer at Denali.

A similarly sized no-take wolf area existed adjacent to the park between 2002 and 2010. It is noteworthy that the Board's vote to eliminate that Buffer was 4-3, and the Board member who cast the deciding vote served only briefly while his confirmation (ultimately defeated) was pending in the Legislature.

For the reasons detailed the Petition and summarized above, we respectfully ask that the Board vote to approve the Petition for Emergency Regulation (Denali Wolf Buffer).

Yours truly,



Edward Schmitt  
President  
Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Submitted By

Barbara L Bennett

Submitted On

2/27/2015 4:38:47 PM

Affiliation

PLEASE establish a buffer zone around Denali National Park, in which wolves cannot be shot or trapped. We citizens will no longer be able to view the wonderful wildlife in Denali if you don't protect them, and the wolves need a buffer zone so the packs are not decimated like they were a few years ago due to the lack of a buffer. Thank you for considering our comments in your decisions, and I hope we will be able to visit Denali again to see the wildlife soon. And that our children will still be able to do the same.

Submitted By  
Belinda McGill  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 11:34:44 AM  
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

Please re-establish a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves.

According to the NPS, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.

Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system.

Please restore the buffer and capitalize on one of Alaska's greatest treasures: WOLVES. Ecotourism is a huge source of wealth for Alaska. We want to see wolves on our wild landscape. I urge you to restore the buffer IMMEDIATELY. Thank you.

BELINDA MCGILL

Submitted By

Ben Giaquinto

Submitted On

2/26/2015 9:05:36 AM

Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

I am writing in support of the re-establishment of a buffer zone around Denali National Park. Looking at the numbers that prompted me to write this, it is quite clear that hunting and trapping around the park has caused a significant decline in the park's wolf population. I'm sure you are all well aware of the income brought into Alaska by non-consumptive outdoor recreation, as I'm sure you are aware of the other benefits brought by a viable and adequate wolf population. These are public lands held in National trust and should be preserved for future generations.

Submitted By  
Beth Katte  
Submitted On  
2/25/2015 2:22:11 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
3236910018

Email  
[bethkatte@yahoo.com](mailto:bethkatte@yahoo.com)

Address  
1330 N. Stanley  
Los Angeles, California 90046

Dear Board of Game,

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

According to the NPS, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.

Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system.

Please restore the buffer and capitalize on one of Alaska's greatest treasures: WOLVES. Ecotourism is a huge source of wealth to Alaska. We want to see wolves on the wild landscape. I urge you to restore the buffer IMMEDIATELY. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Beth C. Katte

Submitted By

Brenda DeBerry

Submitted On

2/25/2015 1:12:19 PM

Affiliation

1958

Stop the killing of the Wolfs !!!

## Denali Wolves

I am writing you today to speak on behalf of Denali Wolves. Wolves are losing their lives and are VITAL for the ecosystem, as every animal has their importance in balancing Mother Nature. If we continue to kill off these animals- we will continue to kill ourselves. We cannot wait until the point where it's too late to reverse the damage that we have done. Revenue has decreased due to the loss of wolves- wolves equal money - you are risking a subsequent amount of money and also your figure if you disrespect wildlife.

If you want people to continue to visit then I would HIGHLY suggest keeping the wolves safe/conserved along with all life. Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Brittany Straw. Reno, Nevada.

Submitted By

Caroline De Vere

Submitted On

2/25/2015 10:32:48 PM

Affiliation

I urge you to continue to protect and value the Wolves. They over time work with nature to manage and preserve. Many of the public are interested in their protection. We are far from the middle ages when hunting was seen as a sport and when people needed to hunt for food, its not a 3rd world country either which would explain hunting for food. The wild animals are part of the great resources on our planet , resources that maintain balance, somethingthat is beyond any wealth. Please protect these animals for our children and our childrens children. Leave them with a legacy they will be proud of.



Submitted By

Carrie Stokesberry

Submitted On

2/26/2015 5:50:43 AM

Affiliation

**Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support**

- I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.
- Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves.
- Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination
- My family is planning a trip to Alaska in the near future. One of the main highlights of our trip will be to see the wildlife at Denali National Park. If the preservation of threatened wildlife, especially the wolves, is not made a priority, I really don't see any reason for our visit.

Submitted By  
cathy evanovitz  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 12:23:21 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
3305029660

Email  
[ytownwolf@aol.com](mailto:ytownwolf@aol.com)

Address  
1464 cascade drive  
youngstown, Ohio 44511

When are governmental agency going to take a stand against the killing our endangered wildlife. Ignorance perpetuates the stereotype of the big bad wolf and so wolves continue to be persicuted and masacred. Government agency, designed to protect and preserve our wildlif, should stand up to such ignorance and not be diswayed from doing what is best for the wildlife and our eco system.

Submitted By

Cécile v. Zedtwitz

Submitted On

2/27/2015 10:40:13 PM

Affiliation

Dear Sirs,

Though I am from Germany I hope my submission will be regarded in the interest of the wolves.

With kind regards,

Yours

Cécile von Zedtwitz

Submitted By  
Charles  
Submitted On  
2/25/2015 4:10:32 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
2069304607

Email  
[lynngriffith3@gmail.com](mailto:lynngriffith3@gmail.com)

Address  
2635 Oak Hill Road  
Mouth Of Wilson, Virginia 24363-3004

Wolves strengthen caribou elk and deer populations because wolves target mostly weak members of a pack, they reduce the number of inferior and injured elk and deer, allowing only the strongest gene pools to repopulate. Contrary to what many hunters want you to think, the caribou elk and deer populations have actually increased in areas where wolves have been re-introduced after regional extinction. They also increase vegetation growth and help migrate elk and deer populations across territories, allowing for vegetation growth in areas in which those animals otherwise overgraze!

DO NOT KILL THE WOLVES

Submitted By  
Chris Albert, DVM  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 3:30:13 AM  
Affiliation  
Veterinary Relief and Consulting.

Phone  
5025946897

Email  
[chrisalbertdvm@aol.com](mailto:chrisalbertdvm@aol.com)

Address  
502 E. Pioneer Drive  
Lebanon Junction, Kentucky 40150

I visited Denali National Park in 2012 and enjoyed my visit there. I saw many of your iconic animals. The animal I most wanted to see was the wolf, but I didn't see one of those.

Since then I have learned why I didn't see a wolf: two thirds of the park wolves have been killed since 2010. This is because the park buffer has been removed and the wolves have been trapped and hunted up to the park boundaries.

Alaska has hugely liberal hunting and trapping opportunities for wolves. Please put a buffer in place so that visitors might see wolves again. I would love to visit again, but I want to see a wolf. Please make it possible.

Submitted By  
Chris Diekman  
Submitted On  
2/25/2015 5:08:22 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
3195382800

Email  
[greyhusky100@hotmail.com](mailto:greyhusky100@hotmail.com)

Address  
2777 Holly Court NW  
Swisher, Iowa 52338

**EMERGENCY PETITION (DENALI BUFFER): Support**

**I am fully in support of re-establishing a Buffer along the eastern boundary of Denali Park.**

**Based on numbers supplied by the National Park Service, the wolf population in this area has fallen precipitously, ever since the previous Buffer Zone was eliminated. With about 400,000 annual visitors to Denali, many of whom would love to see a wolf in its natural setting in magnificent Denali. These visitors represent significant eco-tourism dollars that they spend in the area. The dwindling wolf population (declined by 2/3 in the last 7 years and no recovery in sight) does not allow many visitors to even get a glimpse of a wolf. This could easily mean that they spend their vacation money elsewhere.**

**I thought that Alaska would manage its wildlife resource for the maximum benefit of the people, not just a few small special interest groups. Wolves balance an eco-system and make a wondrous land like Alaska complete.**

**Again, I am strongly in support of the Emergency Petition submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**C. Diekman**

Submitted By

chris rizzuto

Submitted On

2/27/2015 12:16:12 PM

Affiliation

Phone

9737039070

Email

[game06@optonline.net](mailto:game06@optonline.net)

Address

4805 cape may ave.

san diego, California 92107

Please help the wolves.

Submitted By

Christina Pruitt

Submitted On

2/26/2015 10:39:38 AM

Affiliation

Wolve advocate

LEAVE THE WOLVES ALONE! HUNT THE DECISION MAKERS AND THE HUNTERS! EXPOSE THE LIES! EXPOSE THE TRUTH!



Submitted By  
Christine Hoover  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 6:04:18 AM  
Affiliation  
Mrs.

Phone  
505-298-6251

Email  
[chrishoov@msn.com](mailto:chrishoov@msn.com)

Address  
6000 Shadow Ridge Dr NW  
ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico 87120

Wolves are better than people. They are loving to each other and don't kill each other out of greed, for fun, or just because they can. The pack mourns the death of even the lowest member. They share the responsibility of raising their young. They mate for life. They only kill what they eat.

Submitted By  
Christopher Polito  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 5:50:44 PM  
Affiliation

Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support

I am writing to support a buffer zone around the Denali National Park in order to ensure that in essence a DMZ area is established in which wildlife can safely cross over the national park border without running into a wall of traps and hunters.

- According to the National Park Service, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.
- Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system.
- Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves.
- Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination.
- Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves.
- The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board of Game.
- I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Thank you,

Christopher Polito

Submitted By

Cleo K. Cook

Submitted On

2/26/2015 5:28:20 AM

Affiliation

Phone

631 838 3212

Email

[cleokanovitzcook@me.com](mailto:cleokanovitzcook@me.com)

Address

361 North Sea Mecox Rd.  
Southampton, New York 11968

Please do not let this senseless slaughter of Wolves continue ! Please update the regulations to eliminate this oversight. Wild animals do not follow man made boundries, and should not be shot just because they step over an invisible line drawn through their range.

Thank you,

Cleo K. Cook

Submitted By  
Cristina Tirelli  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 12:07:09 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
0102345788

Email  
[anthelucy@yahoo.it](mailto:anthelucy@yahoo.it)

Address  
via San Bartolomeo 108  
Reggio Emilia - Italy, Other 42123

### **Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support.**

- According to the National Park Service, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.
- Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system.
- Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves.
- Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination.
- Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves.
- The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board of Game.
- I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

In fede

Submitted By

Cynthia Bittick

Submitted On

2/27/2015 8:25:57 AM

Affiliation

We must have a protective buffer zone for wolves around Denali. Their numbers are in great decline and they need protection. It is a fact that people love wolves. People love to see wolves in the wild and are willing to pay for the experience. Due to the drop in wolf population numbers the number of tourists and visitation has also dropped. Please re-establish the Buffer Zone around Denali for Wolves. I believe this is in agreement with the Board's mission. Thank you.

Submitted By  
Cynthia Brooks-Fetty  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 1:00:24 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
620 214 3154

Email  
[Libsncatsrule@gmail.com](mailto:Libsncatsrule@gmail.com)

Address  
501 South 6th Street  
Leoti, Kansas 67861

Stop the constant persecution of wolves! They are part of Our American Heritage and must be protected!

Submitted By  
Daniel A. Martinez  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 12:12:23 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
703-835-1543  
Email  
[dmbcycles@gmail.com](mailto:dmbcycles@gmail.com)  
Address  
17755 Devereux Road  
San Diego, California 92128

To: Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Board of Game

EMERGENCY PETITION (DENALI BUFFER): SUPPORT

I am writing to express my unquestionable support for an emergency petition by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance to establish a no hunting/trapping buffer zone (Denali Buffer) to protect an alarmingly reduced wolf population in Denali National Park. I am not from the state of Alaska, but have visited the state - and Denali National Park - a few times already and now that I have retired from the U.S. Foreign Service and re-located on the West Coast I look forward to visiting Alaska and Denali more often.

I recall with great pleasure my first visit to Denali in 2007. My brother who is a long-time Alaskan resident organized a camping/hiking/photographic visit to Denali for my family and I. We were amazed by the diversity of wildlife and thrilled to see wolves on a couple of occasions. Back then, I remember hearing of a buffer zone that had been created to protect Denali wolves when ranging across northeast park boundaries from being shot or trapped (an area close to the park entrance where most park visitors might have a chance to view wolves in their natural habitat). Now, I am alarmed to learn that since the buffer zone was removed in 2010, the wolf population has fallen to a drastically low level - just 50 individuals in 2014 - very worrisome for future sustainability and resulting in an unhealthy wildlife balance — not to mention my ability to see one during my next visit to Denali.

Upon learning of this petition to re-establish a buffer zone along the northeast corner of the park, I took time to read over some other articles on the internet related to this issue. One in particular caught my eye was one that reported of a breeding female (Alpha) of one pack that was trapped just outside the park and the result was that the rest of the pack disbanded. This undoubtedly leads to a significant negative impact on the future wolf population — they have a hard enough time of surviving the elements.

I respectfully urge immediate action by the Alaska Board of Game to re-establish the Denali Buffer Zone and do everything in its power to work with state biologists and other state officials to protect this invaluable resource to ensure that this iconic symbol remains for us to appreciate and for future generations. I plan to continue to stay informed on this issue and involve others.

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in this Petition.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Martinez

Submitted By

Danielle Houlne

Submitted On

2/27/2015 2:15:26 PM

Affiliation

Phone

2676223235

Email

[Waterwinglymeru@aol.com](mailto:Waterwinglymeru@aol.com)

Address

4009 gilham st

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19135

Trapping is wrong!



Submitted By

Danny Gabbard

Submitted On

2/26/2015 9:28:07 AM

Affiliation

Why do humans need to kill everything free and wild ? Need to stop the slaughter of all animals ! The wolves are like anything on this planet !! They should be able to live there lives ! Not HUNTED and destroyed ! There everybodys to enjoy ! Not a few that want them eliminated . So wake up and be human and stop being UNHUMAN !!

Submitted By

Darren

Submitted On

2/27/2015 5:56:03 PM

Affiliation

Phone

3038779052

Email

[da.halcon@yahoo.com](mailto:da.halcon@yahoo.com)

Address

1004 hermitage rd

virginia beach, Virginia 23459

Accident to information Ive come across, wolf populations are very low. It only makes sense to provide some sort of relief and aid their recovery. Alaska is known worldwide for its natural beauty, please help preserve that

Submitted By  
David Ruane  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 9:54:45 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
9702140923

Email  
[daveruane65@gmail.com](mailto:daveruane65@gmail.com)

Address  
37467 Lee Lake Ave.  
Windsor, Colorado 80550

I have plans to visit Alaska in the next 12 months. The primary driver for a visit is the wilderness - including the wildlife and primarily the apex predators like wolves.

It is beginning to seem like a visit to Yellowstone would be a better place to see wildlife due to the ongoing persecution by Alaska BOG

- 66% decrease in the wolf population of the 6 million acre Denali NP and Preserve in the past 7 years?
- without a hunting/trapping buffer like the one in 2010 it sounds like wildlife viewing success is pathetic in the area.
- Why would I spend money in Alaska to come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves when those monies may in fact be used to destroy their populations?
- Without this a closure or buffer, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination.
- Do what is ethical and right Alaska BOG!
- I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Submitted By

Dawn Hamilton

Submitted On

2/27/2015 6:06:19 PM

Affiliation

Phone

248-505-2840

Email

[dhamilton@lasalleinc.com](mailto:dhamilton@lasalleinc.com)

Address

5232 Barrington Dr  
Rochester, Michigan 48306

Please help preserve this beautiful animal before it is once more struggling against irradiation. There are many means to solve the current issues, death of a spiritual American treasure should not be an option to even consider. Preserve the future of our beautiful diversity please, the power lies with you. Respectfully, Dawn Hamilton

Submitted By  
Deb Frank  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 11:41:44 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
636-285-7053  
Email  
[tervheads@aol.com](mailto:tervheads@aol.com)  
Address  
7916 Lyle Lane  
Dittmer, Missouri 63023

Dear Board of Game,

Please re-establish a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves.

According to the NPS, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.

Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system.

Please restore the buffer and capitalize on one of Alaska's greatest treasures: WOLVES. Ecotourism is a huge source of wealth for Alaska. We want to see wolves on our wild landscape. I urge you to restore the buffer IMMEDIATELY. Thank you.

Submitted By

Deborah Van Damme

Submitted On

2/25/2015 6:50:44 PM

Affiliation

Wolves are highly intelligent, sentient and compassionate creatures. The problem is not with wolves but rather the exploding human population and encroachment into their territory. We need to prevent ranchers, hunters and developers from destroying the planet and all the beautiful natural life that we as humans need to survive. Murdering wolves is definitely not the solution and criminal. We need to COEXIST.

Submitted By  
Deborah Verholtz  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 10:20:36 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
951-218-4621  
Email  
[jdtstjt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdtstjt@sbcglobal.net)

Address  
12447 Kentucky Derby Ct.  
Rancho Cucamonga, California 91739

**Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support**

**I am submitting a comment in support of the Emergency Petition for the Denali Buffer. The facts show that the numbers of wolves have declined greatly and the sightings of wolves have declined. My husband and I are photographers and have been planning to travel to Alaska to see and photograph the Denali Wolves. Since the chances of wolf sighting is very low, we will not be planning that trip. I feel that wildlife is a precious resource that belongs to the public. If something is not done to protect the wolves, it will be too late and the wolves will be gone forever. The loss of the wolves also affects other wildlife.**

**I strongly urge the closure of the Denali Buffer and not allow any trapping or taking of wolves in that area.**

**I look forward to the day when I can plan a trip to the Denali area and enjoy photographing wildlife, especially wolves.**

**Thank you for considering my comment.**

**Deborah Verholtz**

Submitted By

Debra L Rinaldi

Submitted On

2/27/2015 1:59:13 AM

Affiliation

Phone

(914) 374-1637

Email

[debbier1205@gmail.com](mailto:debbier1205@gmail.com)

Address

17 Hickory Lane

Bedford, New York 10506

Please protect the wolves.,Which are an integral part of a healthy ecosystem. Do not let my ftax dollars go towards culling them. Do not shoot them from helicopters. Protect them from harm and lleave them alone



**From:** [Patti Rose](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** DENALI WOLVES  
**Date:** Saturday, February 28, 2015 9:02:07 PM

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What is wrong with you?

Wolves are a Brilliant Specie they build Water Ways where they need to be. They Are Amazing. They Are Not Ignorant. Humans Are. You Are.

Submitted By

Devin sims

Submitted On

2/27/2015 5:19:25 PM

Affiliation

Phone

3235008600

Email

[hidevmusic@gmail.com](mailto:hidevmusic@gmail.com)

Address

2958 Bellevue ave

los angeles, California 90026

Wolves need protection they are a balance for our ecosystem

Submitted By  
Diane Brandstetter  
Submitted On  
2/25/2015 8:32:28 PM  
Affiliation  
Interested Person

Phone  
317-257-8721  
Email  
[cbrandstetter@indy.rr.com](mailto:cbrandstetter@indy.rr.com)  
Address  
5670 Carvel Ave  
Indy, Indiana 46220

We strongly encourage you to read the Emergency Petition from the Alaska Wildlife Alliance to re-establish a Buffer Zone for the Denali National Park. We retired and always planned on a number of trips to Alaska to view the abundance of wildlife you have especially wolves. Denali was always on our agenda. We have refused to go to Alaska until the BOG starts more protection of their wildlife like the Denali wolves. There are many of us in the lower 48 that watch and care about what the BOG does to protect wildlife like wolves. No buffer zone means it will be almost impossible to see wolves at Denali as people have in the past. We will not support the Alaskan economy until your state improves it's effort to protect your wildlife. We encourage our friends to not visit Alaska until that happens. We have no wolves in Indiana and have not had any for a long time. Please don't make the same mistakes we made here in Indiana. We will never hear the howl of a wild wolf because we did not protect our wildlife.

Diane Brandstetter

5670 Carvel Ave

Indianapolis, Indiana 46220

[cbrandstetter@indy.rr.com](mailto:cbrandstetter@indy.rr.com)

Submitted By

DIANE GUBRUD

Submitted On

2/27/2015 2:18:43 PM

Affiliation

How Wolves Change Rivers - YouTube

Submitted By

Don Blake

Submitted On

2/26/2015 10:42:14 PM

Affiliation

Hello. I am writing on the behalf of the wolves to create a buffer zone in the Denali location. If they are truly hunters they also have unwritten rules they live by and to hunt the wolves that come over that park divide where they are unprotected is wrong. So please create a buffer before it is too late and we lose yet another great creature that we could have spared for our children to see. Thanks for listening

Submitted By  
Dorothy Keeler  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 3:40:04 PM  
Affiliation  
Former 28 year Alaska Resident

Phone  
406-333-4366  
Email  
[info@akwildlife.com](mailto:info@akwildlife.com)  
Address  
P.O. Box 433  
Emigrant, Montana 59027

Dear Board Members,

As a former 28 year Alaska resident, I encourage you to restore the Denali Wolf Buffer Zone.

According to Defenders of Wildlife, wolves bring more than 150,000 people and \$35 million to the Yellowstone area each year.

Similarly, Denali's wolves are worth far more alive than dead. According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Alaska, there were 125 thousand residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older who hunted in Alaska. Of the 125 thousand, 104 thousand were state residents and 21,000 thousand were nonresidents.

All hunting-related expenditures in Alaska totaled \$425 million in 2011. The average trip-related expenditure per hunter was \$1,339.

In contrast, in 2011, 640 thousand U.S. residents 16 years old and older participated in wildlife-watching activities. Unlike most states, a minority of the wildlife watchers, 36 percent (229 thousand), enjoyed their activities close to home and are called "around-the-home" participants. Those persons who enjoyed wildlife at least one mile from home are called "away-from-home" participants. People participating in away-from-home activities in Alaska in 2011 numbered 498 thousand, **or nearly 5 times the number of hunters**. Of the 498 thousand, 104 thousand were state residents and 395 thousand were nonresidents, compared to 21,000 thousand non-resident hunters.

Wildlife watchers spent \$2.1 billion on wildlife-watching activities in Alaska

in 2011, **or nearly 4 times the number of hunters**. The average of trip-related expenditures for away-from-home participants was \$3,952 per person in 2011, **or nearly 3 times the amount spent by hunters**.

Clearly, if the leadership in Alaska is truly concerned with finding a replacement for dwindling oil revenues, reducing the need for a state income tax, and insuring the solvency of the state, they should stop managing Alaska's wildlife for the sole benefit of hunters and promote wildlife watching activities statewide.

The decline from 44% of visitors seeing wolves to only 4% since the removal of the "Buffer" in 2010 warrants Board action on behalf of wildlife watchers.

Therefore, I encourage you to restore the Denali Wolf Buffer Zone.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Keeler

Submitted By

Dr. Tony Povilitis

Submitted On

2/27/2015 1:23:06 PM

Affiliation

Life Net Nature

Phone

5203843886

Email

[a\\_povilitis@yahoo.com](mailto:a_povilitis@yahoo.com)

Address

6423 So. Bascom Trail

Willcox, Arizona 85643

Please help protect national park wolves! A safety zone for wolves is needed around Denali National Park. Thank you for considering myappeal.

Submitted By  
elena shepard  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 2:32:59 PM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Phone  
2095416271

Email  
[elenashepard@live.com](mailto:elenashepard@live.com)

Address  
320 9th st.  
120 N. Taylor St. Fallon, Nv.  
modesto, California 95351

Wolves.....met them in Canada. Dangerous? No. They came to our campsite. I was alone...didn't run. Just said "hello". We spent several hours together. For me, it was life altering. We became friends. It's been many years since, but it is a memory I carry with me, as a blessing. They showed me how magnificent being accepted was. It was a gift, from God. To be at one, with what stupid ranchers consider "evil". They are free, something we humans don't have anymore, that, I have come to see, is the threat they pose. Envy...of natural freedom. We don't have it and probably never will now that Corporations run our lives. They want profit, and we and every "free" creature are a threat to them. If you love freedom, would you willingly become their "tool". No. So the extermination begins.



Submitted By

Elena

Submitted On

2/26/2015 6:17:33 AM

Affiliation

Popowski

Phone

386 672 5784

Email

[elena615@hotmail.com](mailto:elena615@hotmail.com)

Address

3842 Esplanade Ave  
Port Orange, Florida 32129

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer.

Visitors from all over the country to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves.

I love wolves there for I respectfully ask the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in the petition Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance.

Thanks

Submitted By  
Elise Allen  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 12:23:22 PM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Phone  
2035210102

Email  
[elise.a.allen@gmail.com](mailto:elise.a.allen@gmail.com)

Address  
670 boston post rd.,unit 9  
Milford, Connecticut 06460

According to the National Park Service, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does. Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system. Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves. Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination. Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves. The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board of Game. I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition. Thankyou for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response. Elise Allen

Submitted By

Elizabeth Swenson

Submitted On

2/27/2015 4:19:25 AM

Affiliation

If you are not going to ban the wolf hunt then you should at the very least help protect the Denali wolf from being hunted by providing a buffer. Any other state would. Would you do this for another game probably. There is no reason to risk sending a hunter to prison when he gets 'buck fwver' and takes one of the famous Denali wolf. It could case a huge scene these wolves now have fans all over the world who want them to be safe including me.its not hard just give a buffer and the whole thing can be avoided.

Submitted By  
Ellen McConnell  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 7:58:09 AM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Phone  
7326130132

Email  
[cats4all@optonline.net](mailto:cats4all@optonline.net)

Address  
14 Winsor Ct  
Sayreville, New Jersey 08872

Please support the Buffer next to Denali Park for wolves. They need habitat to live in.

Submitted By

Eric Odle

Submitted On

2/26/2015 12:22:45 PM

Affiliation

Private citizen

Science has demonstrated time and again that destruction of the wolf is destruction of the very ecosystem that you are charged with protecting, does common sense check itself at the doorway of the BOG? Do all of us a favor and kindly base your decision regarding protection of wolves and the buffer zone at Denali on common sense and science.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Odle

Submitted By

Erika Lessard

Submitted On

2/27/2015 7:52:17 AM

Affiliation

Phone

(509)200-9118

Email

[erikalessard@gmail.com](mailto:erikalessard@gmail.com)

Address

2204 W. Euclid Ave.  
Spokane, Washington 99205

Hello.

I am asking you to give wolves a break in Denali. Is it not good for your economy to have tourists that wish to view wolves? Additionally, having lived in Alaska in the past I find it heartbreaking to see that great state working Against wildlife. So much for the last frontier. If nothing else, please do not allow trapping. It's terribly cruel and inhumane.

Thank you for your consideration, Erika Lessard

Submitted By  
Erin Hauge  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 7:59:03 AM  
Affiliation  
Wildlife Advocate

Phone  
916-764-7953  
Email  
[advocate4wildlife@gmail.com](mailto:advocate4wildlife@gmail.com)  
Address  
1559 5th Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

To: Alaska Board of Game

I strongly support the buffer on Denali's eastern boundary being considered to protect Denali's wolves.

A two-thirds loss in wolf populations in Denali National Park in 7 years is not only unsustainable, it tarnishes Denali's image as a holy grail for eco-tourism by visitors from around the globe. People come to see Denali's astounding diversity of wildlife, and especially Denali's wolves.

Allowing these essential apex predators to be blasted by hunters who manage to lure them out of the park and onto the unprotected and huntable state lands east of the park is cruel and short-sighted.

Allowing continued hunting off the unprotected eastern boundary areas will undeniably result in further destruction of Denali wolf populations to the point where they may not even survive. This lack of sound science management will irreparably damage what has been Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, not to mention destroy its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination.

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Wolves belong on Alaska's landscape. They are native. They must be protected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,  
Erin Hauge

Submitted By

Florence Stasch

Submitted On

2/25/2015 12:22:55 PM

Affiliation

Friend

In 1998 we visited Denali Nat. Part to view wolves. Seeing and hearing the wolves in a wilderness area was a thrill. Please do not deny others this same unique experience. Alaska is known far and wide for its wilderness and its wildlife. Please support the tourism that wildlife encourages and save the wolves. Thank you



Submitted By

Flynn Welles

Submitted On

2/26/2015 2:22:57 PM

Affiliation

Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer) Support

Phone

217-508-6092

Email

[flynn.welles@earthlink.net](mailto:flynn.welles@earthlink.net)

Address

P.O. Box 332

Neoga, Illinois 62447

I support the Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support. Please continue the support to help the Denali Wolves.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Flynn Welles, Illinois

Submitted By  
Frances Farmer  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 8:23:57 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
530-677-2261

Email  
[ffarmer@buckeyeusd.org](mailto:ffarmer@buckeyeusd.org)

Address  
PO Box 4768  
El Dorado Hills, California 95762

I am writing to support a buffer zone of 50 miles outside of Denali National Park for wolves. I do not approve of legal trapping or hunting of wolves in that zone. I visited Denali during the summer of 2013, and was disappointed to not see at least one wolf, and even more disappointed, as well as discouraged, to hear that the Denali wolf population may now be as low as 50 wolves.

Submitted By  
Frank Benjamin  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 3:08:40 PM  
Affiliation  
advocate

Phone  
702-505-0000

Email  
[spiritgecko@cox.net](mailto:spiritgecko@cox.net)

Address  
6134 Rocky Mountain Av.  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89156

Wolves cant shoot back, file litigations, spend money, or vote, because they are too busy protecting an ecosystem that procures even the safety of man. To ignore the libraries full of scientific proof is to devalue the lives of your families and friends.

Submitted By

geoff whittles

Submitted On

2/25/2015 2:39:46 PM

Affiliation

a census count of only 50 wolves in the area absolutely warrants complete and thorough protection. It is beyond me how officials can so easily disregard science and then claim lack of evidence for establishing protection measures. Increased killing of wolves has been shown to destabilize the pack's fragile structure, which in turn leads to more desperate and disorganized wolves. These wolves, being in such a state are far more likely to go after livestock than wolves that are in a healthy functioning pack and have the organizational structure in place to take down wild prey.

Submitted By

Gynette Cathey

Submitted On

2/27/2015 3:22:50 AM

Affiliation

Phone

636 358 3390

Email

[gynettecathey@yahoo.com](mailto:gynettecathey@yahoo.com)

Address

509 Lincoln st

Elsberry, Missouri 63343

Wolves are essential to healthy ecosystems. Stop the baiting to get them out of tthe parks.A buffer zone would help. But full protection is what is needed.

Submitted By

Henry

Submitted On

2/27/2015 7:54:57 PM

Affiliation

McKennon

Wolves are a vital part of the ecosystem. Without them, prey animals gorge themselves on grass and destroy resources. With their presence, as evidenced with the Yellowstone reintroduction, prey animals are forced to move, and balance is restored.

Providing them a buffer-zone is of the utmost importance. They need a place to roam that isn't immediately encroached upon from all sides. Their concerns are not for taking livestock or killing people; they only desire to kill prey animals to feed their families, and to be left in peace. This is the same as human beings.

Submitted By  
Ian Courts  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 4:11:38 AM  
Affiliation  
Mr.

Phone  
7887711542

Email  
[timberwolf01@hotmail.com](mailto:timberwolf01@hotmail.com)

Address  
9 Dalleston  
Binegar  
Radstock, Other BA3 4UD

There needs to be a buffer zone around Denali National Park as wolves cannot read signs & will inevitably stray outside park boundaries occasionally. There is also the risk of them being 'baited' out of the park by those less than ethical hunters, who are only interested in killing as many wolves as they can. A buffer zone would go a long way to prevent this. The World is watching the continued persecution of this essential keystone species, & is dismayed by the apparent contempt in which the wolf is held.

Submitted By  
J Beverly  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 3:52:39 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
2173370180

Email  
[jbeverly@illinois.edu](mailto:jbeverly@illinois.edu)

Address  
803 Shurts Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

### **Emergency Petition (Denali Buffer): Support**

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

According to the National Park Service, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.

Since the previous Denali Buffer was eliminated in 2010, wolf-viewing success for the park's 400,000 annual visitors has dropped precipitously - from 44 percent in 2010, to 12 percent in 2012, to just 4 percent in 2013 (the most recent year for which these data have been reported). We believe this precipitous decline in wildlife viewing success is unprecedented in the history of the U.S. National Park system.

Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves.

Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination.

Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves.

The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board of Game.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By  
James Newton  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 1:56:13 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
701 657-2102  
Email  
[papafiggy@yahoo.com](mailto:papafiggy@yahoo.com)

Address  
2045 Appleton Av.  
Crystal, North Dakota 58222

To Whom it may Concern:

I have been asked to say a few words on behalf of the 50 remainind Wolves in the areea in question if allowed to continue at the reate of decline that it has ther will be no wolves left with in the next four years. Back in 2007, the National Park Service counted 143 wolves in the 6-million-acre park. In 2014, NPS counted just 50 wolves, the lowest population in the park's historical record, and a decline of nearly two-thirds in just seven years. Unfortunately, the count for Spring 2015 is expected stay at the same record-low level.

Wolves are not only essential they are paramount to the health of their eco systems. They not only kill thr sick and old. They also eat carrion keeping the putrefying flesh from leaching into the ground and eventually into the water. The loss of any more wolves could be disastrous to the over all health of the the eitire ecosphere of the **Denali National Park**. Therefore the **No Take WOLF Buffer Zone** is imperative.

Thank You,

James Newton

Submitted By

Jan Revard

Submitted On

2/26/2015 2:23:19 PM

Affiliation

Phone

316-213-1589

Email

[snojaz@cox.net](mailto:snojaz@cox.net)

Address

Brookdale rd

augusta, Kansas 67010

I request of you to protect the wolves of Denali National Park and establish a buffer zone adjacent to the park. We have seen the drastic drop in the wolf population of the park. The buffer zone would protect the wolves of the park from the aggressive hunters whom wait at the parks borders to nail a wolf. The wolves do not know the boundaries, that if they step out of bounds one step, they will be killed instantly. Protect your wolves, it's your responsibility, and it is the right thing to do!

Thank you

Submitted By

Janice Sampo

Submitted On

2/26/2015 4:39:45 PM

Affiliation

Phone

920-498-0108

Email

[jsampo1@att.net](mailto:jsampo1@att.net)

Address

2058 HilltopDr

Green Bay , Wisconsin 54313

Wolves need a buffer zone,they don't understand boundaries! I will not visit Denali if you don't protect your wolves,Wolves are Essential!!

Submitted By  
Jann V Webb  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 7:07:47 AM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Phone  
4176712539  
Email  
[webbjann@gmail.com](mailto:webbjann@gmail.com)  
Address  
632 E LAKEVIEW DR  
GREAT BEND, Kansas 67530

I have lived in Alaska for years in the bush.

There was a wolf pack denning area about 1/4 mile from my cabin...i had a dog team, a horse and cats. Never, not once did they trespass into my land nor harm any of my animals. This senseless killing of wolves has got to stop.

Alaska used to be proud of their wildlife and firecely protected them...what happened to change that?

In Respect,

Jann

Submitted By

Jenifer Malone

Submitted On

2/26/2015 1:57:57 PM

Affiliation

Phone

317-319-5158

Email

[joy4life1990@gmail.com](mailto:joy4life1990@gmail.com)

Address

5803 Sebring Drive

#B

Indianapolis, Indiana 46254

We must save the wildlife of our country. Each species plays an integral part of our ecosystems. We must all take action to further the well-being of the wildlife. Wolves are essential to us all.

Submitted By  
Jennelle Gould  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 10:25:30 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
5307212632

Email  
[haute.paiute@gmail.com](mailto:haute.paiute@gmail.com)

Address  
PO Box 17036  
S. Lake Tahoe , California 96151

As a Paiute American Indian Wolves are given hero status in the eyes & hearts of my people.

These beautiful animals deserve the right to live without being slaughtered. I'm very concerned that the Denali wolf population has not risen over the summer. I urge the State of Alaska to work in unison with the U.S. Department of Interior to establish a permanent protective buffer for Denali's Wolves on state lands along the NE borders of Denali National Park

Don't let a handful of hunters ruin rob future generations of this majestic species.

Sincerely,  
Jennelle Gould

Submitted By  
Jennifer  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 10:24:46 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
7079538132

Email  
[jbastian82@yahoo.com](mailto:jbastian82@yahoo.com)

Address  
8065 Leno Drive  
Windsor, California 95492

We need to re-establish a Buffer along the eastern boundary of Denali. The wolves are disappearing. Please take the time to recognize the importance of their survival. It is not just their survival but how they naturally affect the entire ecosystem.

Submitted By

Jennifer Jenks

Submitted On

2/25/2015 8:44:30 PM

Affiliation

It has been brought to my attention that the population of wolves whose territory includes parts of Denali National Park and land east of the Park has suffered tremendously in recent years. Wolves, as well as caribou, elk, bison and other territorial wildlife, are always at risk when they leave the sanctuary of a National Park. A persecution-free buffer zone near Park boundaries is an important step in population stabilization and recovery. For nearly a century, wolves have been persecuted as nuisance animals by ranchers and hunters. But extensive studies have shown that a healthy wolf presence is essential to balance wildlife populations as well as vegetation. Hunters and ranchers are concerned that wolves are nuisance predators, but large game such as caribou and cattle are difficult for wolves to pursue, unless they are unhealthy. Unless properly culled by wolves, large game populations can face diminished resources and ultimate sickness or starvation. A perfect example of this can be learned from the history of wolves in Yellowstone National Park. When the wolf population was critically endangered, the herds of elk became overpopulated and unhealthy. They were overgrazing vegetation, eroding riverbanks, and having a profound negative impact on habitats for bears, bison, beavers, migratory waterfowl and many others. The deterioration of the beauty and wildlife diversity was reflected in declining numbers of visitors and revenue. When wolves were reintroduced on a trial basis to Yellowstone NP in 1995, this situation was dramatically reversed within a decade. Stigma against wolves is factually unjustifiable, and should be reconsidered after reviewing objective environmental studies. I strongly encourage the Board to approve the establishment of the Denali Buffer zone east of the Park boundaries, as proposed by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. This is an important first step in restoring this area for the maximum benefit of the people, as well as the wildlife so many of us enjoy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jenks



Submitted By

jennifer voorheis

Submitted On

2/26/2015 5:19:34 AM

Affiliation

Phone

520-425-1625

Email

[mazda83815@gmail.com](mailto:mazda83815@gmail.com)

Address

6910 e calle neptuno  
tucson, Arizona 85710

To whom it may concern, Our world has a lot of issues to deal with, I know that. Some of them nothing can be done to help them. Some things are too late to turn around, but this, this is a problem we created for these wolves and one that we can fix. Don't let this beautiful breed die out because of our selfishness. Please protect those that cannot protect themselves!

Submitted By

Jenny Zerello

Submitted On

2/27/2015 12:45:02 AM

Affiliation

I stand for the wolves, we have no right to be killing them! Leave them alone

Submitted By  
Jeremy Robinson  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 2:27:46 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
6039182023

Email  
[dovahkiin122112@yahoo.com](mailto:dovahkiin122112@yahoo.com)

Address  
698 Lafayette Rd 133  
Hampton , New Hampshire 03842

I am writing about the Denali Wolves. They should be protected, and we humans should do what we can to protect this beautiful and essential animal.

Submitted By  
Jerold & Cheri Pilant  
Submitted On  
2/26/2015 7:26:15 AM  
Affiliation

Phone  
402-453-5348  
Email  
[cherjerjo1@yahoo.com](mailto:cherjerjo1@yahoo.com)

Address  
10607 N 50 Ave  
Omaha, Nebraska 68152

Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens and visitors wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves.

According to the National Park Service, the wolf population across the 6 million acre park and preserve has declined from 143 wolves in fall 2007 to just 50 in fall 2014 - a drop of almost two-thirds in just seven years. The spring 2014 wolf count in the park of just 50 wolves was the lowest in the park's historical record, and remained at 50 in the fall count. It is highly unusual, indeed worrisome, that the 2014 Denali wolf population did not increase over the summer as it traditionally does.

Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens and visitors wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves.

The unexpected and precipitous decline in the Denali wolf resource (population and viewing success) clearly meets the threshold for emergency action by the Board of Game.

We strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. .

The wildlife of the USA belongs to all of it's citizens. As American citizens we are asking that you protect our wildlife for us and future generations,

We respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.

Submitted By

Jessica hernandez

Submitted On

2/27/2015 8:10:54 PM

Affiliation

Phone

870 582 2931

Email

[Jessicahernandez1313@yahoo.com](mailto:Jessicahernandez1313@yahoo.com)

Address

831 nth 4th st

Dequeen, Arkansas 71832

Wolves don't deserve to be killed. These animals don't look for trouble, it's the man that does. Stop killing these beautiful animals! Wolves should be free in the wild running free. Stop killing these animals! Wolves are not the ones that causes people's livestock to decrease, many other predators are out there. Blaming wolves is just wrong! Also wolves aren't the reason for elk or moose to decrease, there are many reasons why they are going down. Like a disease, or hunters! Which hunters hunt for food so maybe putting a stop to hunters could help a lot! Wolves are a good thing to have, they have changed rivers, forests, lakes, etc. so that's a very important thing to have all wolves live as free just like any animals should. Let all wolves be free!

Submitted By  
Jessie Megginson  
Submitted On  
2/27/2015 7:50:59 PM  
Affiliation  
Ms.

Phone  
4233611642  
Email  
[jessx3uv@yahoo.com](mailto:jessx3uv@yahoo.com)  
Address  
4482 Hwy 421  
Bristol, Tennessee 37620

#### EMERGENCY PETITION (DENALI BUFFER): SUPPORT

The toll on the wolves has been immense in Denali Park. Back in 2007, the National Park Service counted 143 wolves in the 6-million-acre park. (Which is already EXTREMELY low.) In 2014, NPS counted just 50 wolves, the lowest population in the park's historical record, and a decline of nearly two-thirds in just seven years. Unfortunately, the count for Spring 2015 is expected stay at the same record-low level. Predictably, wolf-viewing success for the 400,000+ annual visitors to the park dropped accordingly. In 2010, the last year the Buffer was in place, 44 percent of visitors saw wolves. That number dropped to 12 percent in 2012, and to just 4 percent in 2013. Given the very low wolf numbers, the 2014 viewing success rate was likely very similar, and the outlook for 2015 is no better. The state of Alaska is severely hurting not only its ecosystems but its own revenue by not protecting these wolves. Visitors to Denali National Park contribute more than \$500 million each year to Alaska's economy, and one of the main reasons tourists come to Denali is to see wildlife, especially wolves. Without this requested emergency closure, there likely will be additional take of wolves this spring, resulting in further long-lasting impacts and lost value of the resource. The result will be significant damage to Alaska's commitment to sustainable wildlife management, and to its reputation as a premier wildlife tourism destination. Alaska's constitution requires the state to manage fish and wildlife for the "maximum benefit of the people", which includes non-consumptive values like wildlife viewing. The emergency regulation requested will benefit thousands of Alaska citizens wishing to view wolves in the wild, over a few who wish to hunt and trap park wolves. Wolves could provide potential for more income for the state. Accept a positive change and reinstate a no-take wolf "buffer" zone adjacent to Denali Park.

I strongly support re-establishing a Denali Buffer as outlined in the Petition for Emergency Regulation submitted by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. I respectfully ask that the Board of Game vote in favor of the emergency closure as described in that Petition.