

March 20, 2015

Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Chairman Spraker, Members of the Board,

As an introduction, my name is Karen Linnell, born and raised in Alaska. I serve as Vice chair to the Copper Basin Fish & Game AC; Chair to the Wrangell- St Elias Subsistence Resource Commission; a former member of the the Ahtna C&T Committee; and am currently the Executive Director of the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (also known as CRITR).

I am writing in regards to Proposal 3, 67, and 141.

Proposal 3. Defining the term "general hunt." There are definitions for Tier I, Tier II and Drawing and Registration hunts and other subsistence hunts, the remaining hunts are "General Hunts." This definition would limit those who want to hunt to these non-subsistence use areas with very complex regulations. It would also require C&T finding and ANS determination for a "general hunt" use in all other areas. If there currently isn't a C&T finding or ANS determination, it will limit the subsistence user until there is one. This could lead to additional expense to the State.

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Proposal 67 This Right of Way Proposal was submitted by Ahtna as a way to resolve abuses of hunting within the right of way that crosses private property without permission of the land owner.

The problem is recurring in the Ahtna region in many areas. A particular area of concern is during the caribou migration along the Tok Road in the Chistochina, and Indian Flats Area. Hunters will shoot a caribou from the road that is on private property. Sometimes the animal is shot on the right of way and dies off the right of way and sometimes the animal is shot off the right of way. We end up with hunters being cited or there is conflict between our Natural Resource Technicians and the public and local Village residents.

We have worked with Alaska State Troopers and they say that we need clarification from DOT on what is am allowable or not allowable use of a highway right of way. We (Ahtna) meet quarterly with the commissioner's office of ADOT&PF, DNR and ADF&G. We brought this up at one of our quarterly commissioner's office meetings and the DOT said their agency has no jurisdiction to determine hunting

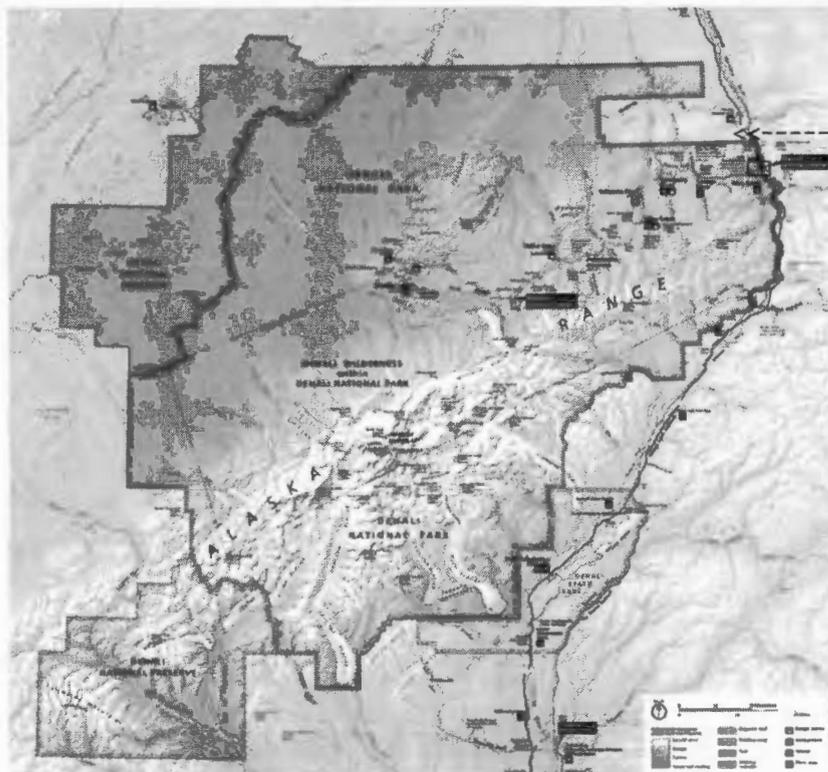
regulations and recommended that we submit a proposal to the Board of Game to address it. So that is why proposal 67 is before the Board of Game at this time.

We would like to thank the Board of Game for taking this proposal up on your agenda and giving Ahtna and the people of Alaska the opportunity for a hearing on this issue. We were a little frustrated to see a representative from the Alaska Department of Transportation Statewide Right of Way office submit written testimony and appear in person to testify against proposal 67 when DOT recommended that we submit this proposal to you in the first place. The issue is an important one that is not going to go away.

At some point we are going to need to define allowable uses on a right of way, specifically if hunting and trapping is allowed or not. We may be the first ones to bring this up, but it affects property owners throughout the state. As more land is patented from public to private ownership over time, this problem is going to become more of an issue.

Proposal 141 - Buffer zone for the Denali National Park. I believe this has been tried before in the late 90's, as proposed by the Defenders of wildlife with the NPS. They said it would be enough, then a few years later they tried to expand it even further. This was when the Board of Game repealed the buffer zone. The Denali National Park & Preserve is 6,075,29 acres and now they want another 69,120 acres as a buffer. Enough is enough.

When they testified to their proposal, they showed a small postage stamp of land and spoke to one wolf pack near the Parks Highway. They did not show the entire Denali landscape or speak to how many total wolf packs are with in that park, nor did they show any nearby wolf packs (not giving the entire picture.) The NPS is exerting the right of the non-consumptive user over the subsistence user's need for moose and the safety of nearby residents.



-----Area to be considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Karen Linnell