

**PROPOSAL 104**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

**5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.**

Close Chugach State Park and Glacier Creek drainage in Unit 14C to lynx hunting and trapping as follows:

I am recommending the closure of all of Chugach State Park plus the Glacier Creek drainage be closed to hunting and trapping of lynx. The regulatory language I propose is as follows:

5 AAC 85.060(4) Lynx Units 6, 7, 11, 13 - 16 (General hunt only) Nov. 10 - Feb. 28 except that all of Chugach State Park and the Glacier Valley drainage are closed.

5 AAC 84.270(5) Lynx Units 7, 11, and 13 - 16 Nov. 10 - Last day of Feb. No limit: season may be closed by emergency order; except that all of Chugach State Park and the Glacier Creek drainage are closed.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Thousands of Alaskans who live in and around Anchorage currently have the rare opportunity to see lynx in the wild in the Anchorage bowl and Eagle River drainage, including at the Eagle River Nature Center. Videos of these cats often appear in social media, and on commercial tv. These cats are truly a premier species of watchable wildlife. These rare opportunities exist primarily because the Anchorage bowl, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), the Eagle River drainage, and large parts of the Eklutna drainage are currently closed to the hunting and trapping of lynx. and because most of the rest of Unit 14C is closed to lynx hunting and trapping by emergency order in those years when population numbers are low. But much of Unit 14C is open to the hunting and trapping of lynx, and was not closed by emergency order in 2021 - 2022. The areas permanently closed to hunting and trapping lynx should be expanded to include all of Chugach State Park and also the Glacier Creek drainage. (Most of the Glacier Creek drainage is outside Chugach State Park.) The purpose would be to increase the opportunity for residents and visitors to see these cats in the wild, and to provide a larger refuge. The value of these watchable wildlife to the thousands of people who are thrilled by the occasional glimpse exceeds the value of these cats to a handful of hunters and trappers. These animals are a publicly owned resource owned by all Alaskans, and their highest and best use is as watchable wildlife

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor

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