

Protect Native Carnivores on Federal Lands in Alaska

On October 23, 2015, the National Park Service (NPS) finalized a rule amending its regulations for sport hunting and trapping in National Preserves in Alaska. A similar rule was finalized on August 3, 2016, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) amending their regulations for National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska to prohibit cruel killing methods. These rules would rightly prohibit controversial and scientifically unjustified killing methods on over 96 million acres of federal lands in Alaska.



American taxpayers maintain the 96 million acres of federal lands in Alaska, and wildlife watchers outnumber hunters nearly five to one in the state. These cruel methods of hunting native carnivores are opposed by Alaskans, undermine tourism, and should be banned.



The rules do not apply to subsistence hunting or restrict the taking of wildlife for public safety purposes or defense of property. They would ban *egregious* hunting methods including:

- Shooting defenseless, swimming caribou from motorboats;
- Using airplanes to scout and shoot grizzly bears;
- Luring grizzly bears with rotting meat and pet food to get a point blank kill;
- Killing wolf, black bear, and coyote mothers and their dependent pups and cubs at their dens; and,
- Trapping of grizzly bears and black bears with steel-jawed leghold traps and wire snares.

These are federal lands, maintained with taxpayer funds. Millions of Americans travel to Alaska each year for the unique opportunity to see bears, wolves, river otters, wolverines, bobcats, and lynx in America's national parks, preserves, and refuges. **Wildlife watchers outnumber hunters by nearly five to one in Alaska, and they spend five times more than hunters for wildlife recreational opportunities.**

- According to FWS records, Alaska attracts 640,000 wildlife watchers versus 125,000 hunters. Those wildlife watchers contributed \$2,058,355,000 to the economy, while the hunters spent just \$424,803,000.
- In 2015, NPS visitors spent an estimate \$1.2 billion in Alaska, supporting 17.6 thousand jobs, \$595.5 million in labor income, \$1 billion in value added, and \$1.7 billion in economic output in the Alaska economy.

The majority of Alaskans support banning these cruel methods of killing on federal lands in their state.

- A recent statewide poll shows that Alaskan voters strongly support eliminating these cruel and unsporting practices used to kill bears, wolves, and coyotes on Alaska federal lands.
- At a series of public meetings on the proposed rules, hundreds of Alaskans turned out to support the rulemaking actions because they want these inhumane, unsustainable practices to end.

Neither the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) nor any other law strips FWS or NPS of their jurisdiction over national wildlife refuges and national preserves lands in Alaska.

- The cruel methods at issue are contrary to NPS and FWS predator control policies and are disallowed on federal lands just about everywhere else in the United States.
- The FWS and the NPS issued these rules to clarify that these inhumane unsustainable hunting practices are not consistent with their statutory mandates to conserve wildlife species.
- These sensible management actions are well within the authority of FWS and NPS and are necessary to carry out their congressional mandate.

Language that would block one or both of these rules was inserted into the House and Senate Interior Appropriations bills and the House Energy bill. Please oppose language to undermine the NPS and FWS rules in the Energy Bill conference and the final spending package.

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