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Cc: [Grediagin, Lisa M](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on WP26 19,20,21,22,23
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From: Jason Aigeldinger <aigbench@gmail.com>
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on WP26 19,20,21,22,23

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To: Federal Subsistence Board

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Dear Board,

In this correspondence I wish to comment on WP26 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

It is my intent to communicate to the board that i strongly feel that no action need to be taken in regards to the trapping setbacks laid out in the above six proposals submitted by Cooper Landing Safe Trails.

My experience and observation in regards to the issue warrants me to communicate to the board that no action needs to be taken, as it would limit the current ability for qualifeid Federal Subsistence Users to pursue subsistence activites afforded us under ANILICA as well as set a precedent that would further erode those rights in the future.

My perspective is rather unique, as for the last 25 winters I have nordic skied and skijored throughout Unit 7. In 25 years, my working dogs have never been caught up in snares or traps. We run with six foot lines attached to dog harnesses that are then affixed to a waist belt or hip belt of a pack. We have also run with a traditional pulk setup, where in a haul sled is situated just behind the working dog but forward the skier. The configuration all depends on surface conditions, topography, and cargo. My point is that during travel mode, the working dog is directly affixed to the skier and in full control at all times while underway.

In twenty-five winters we have traveled extensively through The Summit Lake corridor, both sides of Resurrection Pass, Old Sterling/Quartz Creek corridor, Trail Lakes Drainage, as well as the on and around all of Kenai Lake. Surface conditions, ice thickness and family work/school schedules

dictate are travel and we have always traveled with the assumption that trapping can be occurring throughout the Unit.

The practice of trapping has never limited our ability to travel within Unit 7 with working dogs and small children.

For thirteen winters, I volunteered with the Seward Nordic Ski Club and served as a groomer and maintained roughly four miles of ski trails on the roadbed running into and through the loops at Trail River Campground. I also served as a board member with the club for five years and served as a liaison between SNSC and Cooper Landing Ski Club by providing grooming equipment advice and grant information that lent to the establishment of volunteer grooming operations at Russian River Campground.

During those thirteen winters, I provided an exceptional surface enjoyed by many year round residents of the Eastern Kenai Peninsula and hosted varsity and junior varsity nordic skiing races for Kenai Peninsula School District teams.

My point is that nordic skiing has played a significant role in our families life here on the Eastern Kenai Peninsula and its important to note that that passionate pursuit has been executed without the safety of my self, my spouse, my children or my working dogs being jeopardized as a result of skiing in and around active trapping activities situated on Kenai Peninsula Borough, State of Alaska, or Chugach National Forest public lands.

My family finds it deeply alarming that in the past several springs, signs have been posted around the Cooper Landing community (at trailheads and portals situated on Borough, State and Federal lands) with language that restricts trapping activities, which were posted by Cooper Landing Community Safe Trails Committee. Signing public land by an organization unaffiliated with the three public land entities is deeply disturbing. We also question the legality of that activity.

We are alarmed by this behavior because we have always had open, informal communication with our neighbors who pursue trapping and every time we asked trappers if they were comfortable with telling us the general location of their traps, they always agreed to share that information with us. We would also then ask them if they were comfortable with us communicating that information to nordic skiers so that they would be aware of that activity and travel accordingly with their dogs. We manged that issue through informal, in person communication. In 25 winters there was never any trouble between the two user groups.

In conclusion, my family wishes to communicate to the board that we feel that no action needs to be taken on proposals WP26- 18,19,20,21,22,23.

We feel that the issue of the need for trap setbacks is a non-issue and being inflammed by a user group whose pursuit would severely limit our fellow community members, our neighbors, in their pursuit of federal subsistence activities afforded them under ANILCA.

It's also important to note that the survey referenced in the above proposals was never presented to the community residents who reside in the Primrose, Victor Creek, Crown Point, Moose Pass, Avalanche Acres, Summit Lake, Hope/Sunrise areas who are surrounded by Unit 7 and whose federal subsistence activities would be altered if the changes laid out in the above proposals were approved.

My personal opinion, for what it is worth, is that the group submitting the above proposals should focus more on communication with other user groups, these folks are our friends and neighbors, rather than pursue such restrictions of subsistence activities over such a huge geographical area of Unit 7.

Please take no action on these proposals.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Jason Aigeldinger