

**From:** [Subsistence, OSM](#)  
**To:** [Koller, Justin P](#)  
**Cc:** [Grediagin, Lisa M](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] 2026-28 Wildlife Proposal public comments re: Unit 7 trapping  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 7:11:34 AM

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**From:** Lisa Slepetski <lslepets@alumni.colostate.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2025 9:56 PM  
**To:** Subsistence, OSM <subsistence@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2026-28 Wildlife Proposal public comments re: Unit 7 trapping

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To: Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management

I oppose all of the following proposals for trapping in Unit 7:

- WP26-18
- WP26-19
- WP26-20
- WP26-21
- WP26-22
- WP26-23

I am a full time, year-round Moose Pass resident and subsistence user of Unit 7 public lands and trails - not only for hunting and trapping, but also for hiking, bird hunting, and skiing with my bird dog. These proposed regulations would be more restrictive than State trapping regulations. They place more burden on subsistence trappers, requiring more time, cost, and effort to engage in their subsistence rights under ANILCA. These proposals would remove many square miles of land from the customary and traditional use by trappers.

In addition, multiple proposals - like WP26-18: Kenai lake beaches, for example - are actually not federal land at all. Some proposals have buffers that extend off of federal land onto private, state, or Borough land.

Trapping is not open year-round in Unit 7 (for anything other than small rodents). The longest trapping season in Unit 7 is six months - which means there are also six months without set traps. Public land is managed for multiple uses, so both trappers and anxious dog owners can engage in their activities for half of the year without overlap. The Skilak Lake Loop of the Kenai Wildlife Refuge is closed to trapping, providing year-round, trap-free trails and roads.

Non trappers don't usually look up trapping regulations. People often have a hard time judging how far 100 or 200 yards is. They won't know which trails have trapping restrictions, and which do not. Even if they do, trails on paper do not always align with the trails on the snow. Plus, land ownership is not always obvious, as illustrated by the inclusion of the proposals here for non-federal land. It's complicated, confusing, and could result in a false sense of security. Wouldn't it be better for people to: Assume there may be traps ; control your dog or put on a leash; practice solid recall; recognize trapline indicators; know how to remove traps? The "Sharing the Trails " trapping / dog seminars, plus more education on social media by federal land agencies reminding folks when trapping season opens, would do far more good for all user groups.

My safety, and the safety of my dogs, is ultimately my responsibility in the woods. There are many ways dog owners can keep their dogs safe during trapping season, and the vast majority of people have been taking their dogs out in the winter without incident for as long as dogs and traps have been in the state. The constant barrage of state and federal trapping restriction proposals - even after some of their previous proposals passed and they do have areas closed to trapping - makes it clear that some people won't stop until trapping is entirely prohibited - or at least restricted to the steepest mountain cliffs that neither human nor dog can travel.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Lisa Slepetski  
Moose Pass, AK