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**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Proposed Trapping Regulations WP 26- 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23  
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**From:** theo lexmond <tlexmond@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2025 8:39 AM  
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**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Proposed Trapping Regulations WP 26- 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23

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I am a full time resident of Cooper Landing. I am writing to support the adoption of proposed Cooper Landing area trapping regulations WP 26- 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23. I have reviewed each of these proposed regulations and find them to be a common sense way to manage the ongoing conflicts between trappers and other user groups on federal lands in and around Cooper Landing. The proposed regulations are clear, well explained and straightforward. Anyone who has lived in this area for any length of time has collected a portfolio of stories about the ongoing conflicts that trappers, who insist on trapping in high traffic, multi-use areas of the community, have caused. The problem is that trapper behavior is almost entirely unregulated, with enforcement of even the paltry regulations that do exist in state law being nearly impossible to enforce because trappers are not required to even identify the presence of their traps or their activity on state lands. This situation has been extremely difficult to address at the state level. It will, hopefully, be possible to address it on the federal lands that surround Cooper Landing through the adoption of these regulations.

The "code of ethics" adopted by the Alaska Trappers Association that is listed on the back of the State of Alaska's annual trapping rule book indicates that trappers are to

avoid areas where conflicts with other user groups are likely to occur. Many trappers adhere to this code of ethics. Unfortunately, some do not. Hence we experience ongoing conflicts with traps being set in high traffic, multi-use areas with the outcome that one would expect from such choices. Regulation to encourage unethical trappers to behave respectfully towards other user groups is needed. Please support these common sense regulations as proposed.

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