

RC24

**Record Copy Comment****Proposal 28**

I am writing a late comment in support of Proposal 28. The proposal seeks to compel ADF&G issue bear baiting permits for Unit 1C . Proposal 28 wouldn't promote more human-bear encounters around town as bear baiting stations would need to be ¼ mile away from trails and roads, as in any other area of Alaska. ¼ mile away from a road in Juneau basically means portions of North Douglas and 'out the road', meaning bear baiting would take place in areas away from neighborhoods and businesses. The members of Juneau advisory committee were aware of that fact they voted in support of bear baiting in Unit 1C.

I think it's important to note that bear baiting would really benefit those without boats. If you have a boat, you can cruise the beaches looking for bears. It's easier and productive. Allowing bear baiting would allow someone without a boat the opportunity to harvest a bear via hard work (because the station and bait will likely need to be hauled into its location by hand) and patience.

Finally, I would like to point out that while the reasons above are compelling on their own, I – and other members of the Juneau Advisory Committee – have an issue with ADF&G arbitrarily deciding which rules and regulations they would like to comply with. ADF&G certainly has the ability to make proposals; they submitted several at this board meeting. If the department takes the stance that an activity should be prohibited, then fine, they can submit a proposal and go through the process. I feel that anything less than compelling ADF&G to follow the letter of the law sets a poor precedent now that the Board of Game is aware of this issue.

Thank you

Nicholas Orr