

Subject: PROPOSAL 199

I OPPOSE all parts of PROPOSAL 199  
5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.  
Prohibit trapping within 50 yards of multi-use trails and trailheads in Units 13, 14, and 16

As a current resident of Anchorage, I frequent the Matanuska Valley to visit friends, family, and recreate. While walking hiking, and biking in and around the trails of Anchorage, dog owners are accustomed to maintain control of their pets at all times. Leash laws along with fines are in effect as a reminder. And the constant danger of traffic brings a life or death component to the responsibility.

I cannot fathom why this level of responsible control over ones pets needs to be vacated and new regulations imposed on trappers. As a dog owner who hikes with their pet, I keep my dog on a leash and in control at all times - in Anchorage and in the Valley.

No one is asking car owners in Anchorage to stop driving to make a safe place for pets to run around.

I've seen angry dogs on the trail. I've been the victim of a dog bite - a dog whose owner was not responsible. No one needs dogs running loose on the trails anywhere.

Certain people desire the old ways to be eliminated - the culture of sustainability eliminated and in its place a home for the civilized people of Anchorage to let loose their pets. This is cultural genocide. Years, and years the Alaska Native culture has been destroyed, taken away, and controlled by the US Government. This proposal is a continuation of destroying the Alaskan way of life.

Honestly, this is disgusting. The level of disrespect and demand coming from city folk is astounding. The clear lack of care and respect for the culture and history of this great state is

horrific. My younger sisters, extended family and partner is Alaska Native.... and this

proposal is a continuation of cultural genocide their people have been experienced since US government took control. I am horrified by how much more the state is trying to take from a group of people who have suffered enough.

So when is enough, enough?

In 3 years, will they ask for 500ft off the trail?

In 5 year, will they ask for 1000ft off the trail?  
And in 10 years will trapping off a trail even be allowed?

Based on our past as a state, the taking from Alaska Native culture will continue until it is completely diminished. The cultural genocide has continued, and the entire Alaska Native population will continue to suffer at our hands. Is this okay with you? Is this really okay as a state? Do we have no respect for the cultures of our own US citizens? We took over their land and have continued to destroy and control their culture. The United States is responsible to take care of all cultures and people, not just irresponsible dog owners who refuse to respect the cultures of this land.

So ask yourself this question, are you willing to participate in the cultural genocide of Alaska Native people? Are you willing to chose to protect irresponsible dog owners over families who chose a substantial lifestyle to feed their family?

Please do not allow the culture of Alaska to continue to decline. Please reinforce the need for dog owners to be responsible.

If you want a setback, consider 1 foot. Because thats how close I have to be to get by a dog on a leash. And about the distance from sidewalk to vehicle in the city.

Megan Baker  
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