

WOLF HUNTING REGULATIONS PROPOSED FOR ALASKA NATIONAL PRESERVES

The National Park Service is accepting public comments on a proposed federal regulation prohibiting same-day airborne hunting of wolves in national preserves in Alaska. Comment will be taken through August 18, 1989.

The permanent regulation is proposed to go into effect before a temporary one-year regulation expires on November 21.

The National Park Service has petitioned the Alaska Board of Game to amend state regulations to be consistent with the proposed federal regulation. The board will consider the request in November. With few exceptions under state regulations, hunters may not shoot a big game animal until after 3 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred.

Same-day airborne wolf hunting entails a hunter using a light aircraft to spot wolves, then landing and shooting. The pelts are generally sold. Same-day airborne hunting is not compatible with the Park Service's management objectives of "fair chase" hunting, nor does it meet the requirements to manage preserves to the same "high standards" as national parks. National preserves in Alaska are managed in the same manner as national parks, however sport hunting, subsistence hunting and trapping are allowed in preserves.

Of the more than 1,300 letters received regarding the temporary regulation, there was overwhelming support for prohibiting same-day airborne wolf hunting in the preserves.

Copies of the proposed federal regulation are available at the Alaska Regional Office of the National Park Service, 2525 Gambell St., Anchorage, Ak 99503.

SAME-DAY-AIRBORNE HUNTING PERMANENT REGULATION PROPOSED

The National Park Service is proposing a permanent Federal regulation that will prohibit the hunting of wolves in national preserves in Alaska on the same day in which a hunter is airborne. The permanent Federal regulation is proposed to go into effect before a temporary one-year restriction prohibiting the same-day airborne hunting expires on November 21, 1989.

The proposed permanent Federal regulation would apply only to wolves. Hunting and trapping will continue to be allowed in the national preserves pursuant to applicable, non-conflicting State of Alaska and Federal laws and regulations, as specifically directed by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980.

This proposed Federal rulemaking will:

1. Prohibit the same-day-airborne hunting of wolves;
2. Satisfy the legal mandate to provide for subsistence and sport hunting opportunities in the national preserves;
3. Allow the National Park Service to manage national preserves for the purposes for which they were established by Congress; and,
4. Provide for more effective and fair enforcement of hunting laws and regulations.

Sixteen public hearings on the proposed regulations are scheduled. The public hearings schedule is as follows:

	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
1.	07/18	7pm	National Park Service Regional Office, 2525 Gambell St., Anchorage, Room 300
2.	07/19	7pm	King Salmon, NPS Office
3.	07/19	7pm	Wasilla City Council Chamber, Herning Ave.
4.	07/20	7pm	Chignik Community Hall
5.	07/20	7pm	McGrath, Captain Snow Bldg. Assembly Rm.
6.	07/21	7pm	Fairbanks North Star Public Library, Cowles St.
7.	07/24	7pm	Glennallen School
8.	07/24	7pm	Eagle Public Library
9.	07/25	7pm	Kenai City Council Chambers
10.	07/26	7pm	Bettles, National Park Service Office
11.	07/26	7pm	Iliamna FAA Community Service Bldg.
12.	07/27	8pm	Yakutat High School
13.	07/28	7pm	Kotzebue, National Park Service Visitor Center
14.	07/28	8pm	Juneau, Centennial Hall
15.	07/31	7pm	Nome, Northwest Campus College
16.	08/03	7pm	Washington, D.C., George Mason University, Professional Center, Arlington Campus, 3401 North Fairfax Dr.

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