

Alaska Board of Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Feb 18, 2011

Dear Members of the Board of Game,

I write these comments on behalf of the board and members of the Denali Citizens Council. DCC, founded in Cantwell, is a grassroots public advocacy organization. Many of our members live in the gateway communities of Denali National Park and Preserve and have firsthand knowledge of and a large stake in activities conducted on public lands around the park.

**We urge you to defeat Proposal 232.** The Yanert Controlled Use Area has been in place for more than two decades and reflects an important past decision by the Board of Game. The Board felt then, and we continue to feel, now, that it is proper and appropriate to designate certain areas for hunting on foot or by non-motorized conveyance such as horseback. The aesthetic of this type of experience is something that a number of Alaskan hunters crave, and it is not available many places in Alaska. We urge the Board of Game not to act hastily, at a non Interior meeting, to enact this Proposal. It is viewed with skepticism by locals, including the local Advisory Committee, it is not well thought-out, and it may not even achieve the desired goal, while at the same time introducing myriad unintended consequences.

**Here are a few other reasons we oppose this proposal**

1. Although pitched as a snowmachine hunt, this could easily become an ATV-ORV hunt, since October is often a snowless, warmer time of year in the Yanert Valley. Introducing the myriad of impacts that are recorded in other parts of 20A through use of ORVs-ATVs will be a major, if unintended, consequence and could be predicted into and through November on certain years.
2. The ROW into the Yanert Valley is a narrow 17 b easement across Ahtna lands. It is likely to be overused and damaged during the transition months of October – early November.
3. Moist tundra with ponds and mixed taiga forests dominate much of the valley floor, and they are classically vulnerable to rutting, pooling and other impacts from the heavy loads required to pull a full camp in, then a loaded moose out using motorized equipment. In searching uplands for moose, folks are going to leave what few established trails there are, spreading the rutting and pooling.
4. Parking along the highway is minimal to non-existent and this problem complicates the existing hunt. Trash pickup is non-existent. Conflicts with very close residential neighbors are inevitable.
5. Winter hunts conducted with snowmachines carry with them the same impacts as listed in #2 and #4, and additional ones from the avalanche dangers in upper creeks and, despite what the Proposal alleges, instability and periodic overflow on the Yanert River and associated creeks.

Please consider leaving this Controlled Use Area as stipulated...it is one of a kind. The benefits to intensive management by opening this valley will be **far outstripped by the costs** and impacts mentioned above.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bale, President, DCC  
907-277-3825

DCC Board

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