

Denali Citizens Council



Advocating for Denali's Wilderness, Wildlife and Way of life.

June 30, 2013

Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve
PO Box 9
Denali National Park, AK 99755

Dear Superintendent Striker;

On behalf of the board and over 300 members of the Denali Citizens Council (DCC), I urge you to reconsider your decision not to rescue the recently orphaned moose calf. This calf appears to be the only survivor of the two orphaned when their mother was killed behind the Denali Visitor Center by a park visitor on June 6th.

DCC represents local, regional and national citizens with a particular interest in protecting wildlife within the natural system of Denali National Park and Preserve. While our organization does not generally endorse interfering with wildlife and natural processes, this situation was caused by humans and requires special consideration. DCC supports capturing the calf and putting it in the care of a rescue facility for the winter, releasing it back into the park in the spring.

The decision to not capture the calf because, according to your staff, "any attempt would do more harm than good" is incompatible with the NPS mission to protect, especially in light of the human involvement in the cow moose's death.

There have been eyewitness accounts of a law enforcement ranger throwing rocks at the calf as it lingers around a particular cabin in the JV housing area. According to your staff, this is being done to prevent acclimation. Throwing rocks at a bewildered spring calf seems inappropriate for many reasons. A capture and rescue would be much more humane and would be in keeping with National Park Service values.

There is enormous public interest in a rescue and doing so will provide the NPS an opportunity to reverse the negative publicity that this event is generating. Such an action will also provide care for the calf that has already endured an unnecessary tragedy as a result of humans.

We hope the NPS will be more proactive in the future when humans interfere with natural processes. In this case, we hope you will capture the calf and allow a third party to protect and nurture it until it has some chance of being independent in its natural habitat.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

Barbara Brease
Director, Denali Citizens Council Board

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