**MINUTES**

**Girdwood Trails Committee**

**P. O. Box 1154, Girdwood, AK 99587**

**Special Meeting to discuss Cooper Landing Trapping Proposal**

**Monday, February 23, 2015**

**Girdwood Community Room, 7pm**

**Call to Order** 7PM

Approval of Agenda

**Introduction of Guests/Presentations**Gary Galbraith introduced himself as former resident of Cooper Landing, now resident of Girdwood, and presented info on Cooper Landing Trapping proposal

In Cooper Landing, game is plentiful, and there are many resident and recreational trappers that trap in the valley. As this is state land, there are no setbacks or restrictions. Many dogs are caught, and trapping is cause of strife in population, on both sides.

Safe Public Lands Coalition is group formed in Cooper Landing to address trails issues.

**Old Business**

* Review of Cooper Landing Community Council Trapping proposal

Brian Burnett stated that there is need for formal agreements to outline the trapping rules.

This proposal is well laid out and clear, and seems to be a compromise agreement between trappers and non-trappers, with consideration to allow small leg-hold traps within setback area as they are not a hazard to larger animals.

Group discusses that there is opposition in the trapping community for labeling traps.

Group discusses that in Chugach State Park, traps must be labeled/tagged and are required to be at least 100’ off the trail.

Board of Game sets the rules, which the Chugach State Park and USFS follow.

In Fairbanks and Wasilla, there are efforts to engage both trappers and non-trappers in agreements to respect boundaries, but the agreements are not formalized.

* Consideration of Letter of Support for Cooper Landing Trapping Proposal, to be sent to Fish and Game prior to 2/27 comment period closing.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at the at the Girdwood Community Room, 7:00 pm**

Girdwood Trails Committee Agendas and minutes are available on line: http://www.muni.org/gbos



Kate Sandberg states that the proposal is clear and well laid out. This can set precedent for other areas in AK to follow, including Girdwood. Must keep track of the conversation at Board of Game meeting and record what arguments are presented.

Brian Burnett says he appreciates the definition provided by the Cooper Landing proposal. Useful in building a similar proposal for our valley.

Kate presented draft of the statement of support:

**Board of Game Proposal 180—Cooper Landing Area**

Girdwood Trails Committee members support in total Proposal 180 that prohibits trapping within 250 feet of any road that leads to public or private property in the Cooper Landing area. The Committee also supports Proposal 180’s restrictions on trapping within 250 feet of multi-use trails and campgrounds and other special area closures in the defined area.

Like Cooper Landing, Girdwood and the Portage areas have seen increased recreational trapping that, though mostly legal, has resulted in dog injuries and worrisome user issues on the trails. Our members sympathize with Cooper Landing citizens and support their efforts to retain trapping but to limit it so that children, adults, and dogs are not harmed and so that disputes do not escalate. Girdwood Trails members find Proposal 180 to be reasonable, enforceable, and beneficial to Cooper Landing citizens and its winter visitors.

Motion: The Girdwood Trails Committee moves to accept the draft statement of support, to be entered in the Board of Game’s public comment, as presented.

Motion made by Brian Burnett

2nd by Diana Livingston

Motion carries 7-0

Margaret to input statement of support through public comment of Board of Game for this item.

Meeting Adjourned 7:28PM