



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Park Service News Release

Release: December 10, 2012

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Hearing Set on Season Restrictions for Taking Brown Bears Over Bait Stations and Wolves and Coyotes

King Salmon/Naknek, AK – The National Park Service will hold a public hearing on December 17th, on two proposed changes to sport hunting regulations for Katmai and Aniakchak National Preserves as well as the Alagnak Wild River. The proposed changes would prohibit taking brown bears over bait stations and would shorten the season for hunting wolves and coyotes.

These proposed restrictions are based on recent changes to State of Alaska hunting regulations. Those changes included allowing the taking of brown bears over bait stations in three game management units, which included portions of the Denali, Yukon-Charlie and Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserves. The proposed prohibition reflects the NPS concerns about the dangers of food conditioned bears as well as the potential impact to the natural abundance, behavior, distribution, and ecological integrity of brown bear populations.

The State has also extended the hunting season for wolves and coyotes into the summer in several areas, including several National Preserves. The NPS is proposing to prohibit the take between May 1 and August 9 because it is the period when wolves and coyotes are denning and raising offspring and their pelts have little trophy or economic value.

The hearing is the first step leading to the potential implementation of restrictions in the annual Superintendent's Compendium, an annual compilation of temporary closures and similar restrictions. After taking into consideration public comments, the National Park Service may include hunting restrictions in the draft Compendium, which will be released on January 15. The text for all of the Alaska compendiums will be posted at:

<http://www.nps.gov/akso/management/compendiums.cfm>

A 30-day public comment period will also be held for the draft compendiums, with a final compendium expected to go into effect on April 1, 2013.

The hearing for the Alagnak Wild River as well as the Katmai and Aniakchak Preserves will be held on December 17, 2012 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Bristol Bay Assembly Chambers in Naknek, AK. Other national preserves which are affected by these proposed changes are holding separate public hearings. Comments will also be accepted by e-mail until midnight on February 15, 2013. The e-mail comment address is KATM_compendium@nps.gov.