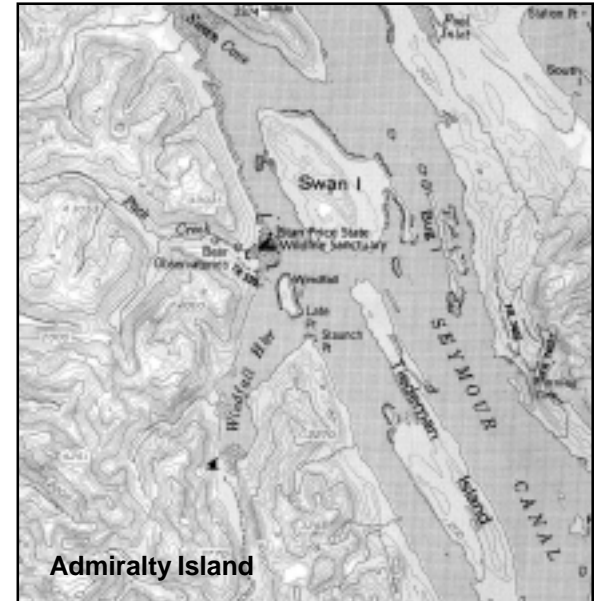


# PACK CREEK BEARS ENDANGERED!

## BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS TARGET SANCTUARY BEARS FOR HUNTING

Admiralty Island is a bear hunter's paradise, with more than 90% of the island open to trophy bear hunting. The island's Pack Creek Zoological Area is also a world famous Brown Bear viewing destination, even though this tiny protected area comprises just 6% of Admiralty. Yet, the Board of Game is considering opening up to a third of this small safe haven to hunters as well. In November they will decide on **proposals opening Swan Cove and Swan Island to bear hunting**, even though Swan Cove is less than 6 miles from Pack Creek itself and Pack Creek bears have been well documented frequenting this nearby drainage. Swan Cove and Island provide necessary buffers protecting Pack Creek's habituated bears and were added to the no-hunting area surrounding the sanctuary in 1984 precisely for that reason. Opening these areas to trophy hunters would recklessly impact sanctuary bears and visitors and be a blow to the Juneau economy. Even so, **bear hunting could begin at Pack Creek's doorstep as early as next spring.**



Proposals to open up Swan Cove and Swan Island to bear hunting threatens Pack Creek habituated bears.



Bears at Pack Creek frequent Swan Cove which is only 6 miles away.

**ACT NOW!** A strong public outcry can stop proposals to open up Swan Cove and Swan Island to bear hunting. Send comments to the Board of Game. Include specific reasons for opposing Proposals #13 & #15. Letters should be received by **5:00 p.m. October 27th.**

### **BOG COMMENTS:**

**Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game; Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99801-5526  
FAX: (907) 465-6094**

**SPEAK OUT!** Meeting opportunities to voice your opposition to bear hunting at Pack Creek's doorstep.

**October 5th Juneau Fish & Game Advisory Committee** meeting at 6:30 p.m. in ADF&G conference room.

**October 19th special Juneau meeting** with Board of Game representatives at 6:00 p.m. in Centennial Hall.

**Nov. 10-15th meeting in Wrangell** of the full Alaska Board of Game at the Nolan Center at 8:30 a.m. This is when their decision will be made.

### **Why This is a Bad Idea:**

- Bear viewing is a multi-million dollar industry in Alaska. Many Juneau residents and businesses benefit greatly from Pack Creek's visitors by providing guided tours, charter transportation, food, lodging and other services.
- Supporters of the proposals erroneously argue that male bears taken in the spring will not impact the Pack Creek visitors' experience. But spring visitation does overlap with hunting season; visitors' experiences are greatly enhanced by seeing males as well as female bears; and hunters do mistakenly take females. There is no question that hunting in Swan Cove and Island will endanger all of Pack Creek's bears.
- When humans choose to behave unobtrusively in the bears' environment, as they do at Pack Creek, bears naturally become habituated to human presence.
- This loss of wariness makes bears easier to view and photograph, but also makes them more vulnerable to hunters.
- Targeting habituated bears is unethical, violating the concept of fair chase.
- Killing just one bear in this area will reduce the viewing opportunities of hundreds of visitors for the sake of one single hunter's trophy, even though numerous locations exist in Unit 4 where bears can be taken without impacting viewing experiences.
- Currently no conflict exists between bear hunters and bear viewers on Admiralty. This proposal will create one, ultimately reflecting badly on hunters and on Alaska.

*Paid for by Friends of Admiralty Island  
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