

REGION I OVERVIEW

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME KETCHIKAN, ALASKA NOVEMBER 2010

Doug Larsen, Regional Supervisor

REGIONAL STAFFING

Twenty-four Full Time & Seasonal Staff; currently two vacant positions

Management Coordinator
• Neil Barten (Douglas)

Research Coordinator
• Rod Flynn (Douglas)

Four Area Biologists & Two Assistant ABs

- Ryan Scott / Anthony Crupi (Douglas) – Units 1C, 1D, and 5
- Rich Lowell (Petersburg) – Units 1B and 3
- Phil Mooney (Sitka) – Unit 4
- Boyd Porter / Steve Bethune (Ketchikan / Craig) – Units 1A and 2

REGIONAL UNITS & SUBUNITS



REGIONAL STAFFING

Research Biologists

- Dave Person (Ketchikan)
- Rod Flynn, Kevin White, Karin McCoy (Douglas), WB II vacant (Douglas)

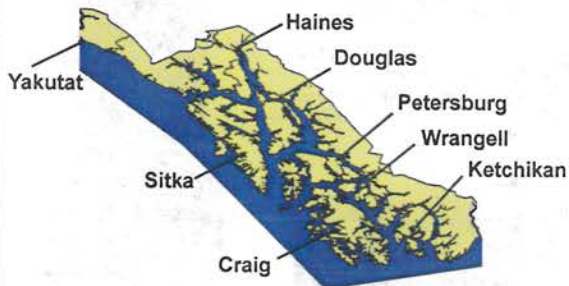
Technicians

- Lavern Beier, Chad Rice, Jane Pascoe, Carl Koch, Jeff Jemison (Douglas)

Administrative / Program Technicians

- Brenda Hildre, Steve Kanan, Brenda Chevis (Douglas), Holley Dennison (Sitka), Mary Meucci (Petersburg), Jodi Goffinet (Ketchikan), Stat Tech vacant (Douglas)

Area & Regional Offices



REGIONAL BUDGET

FY11 - \$3.5 million, including salaries

Federal Aid & Fish and Game Funds: (\$2.55 million)
General Fund: (\$0.54 million)

Special Project Funds
(FWS, FS, BLM, NPS, City of Sitka): (\$0.28 million)
"Juneau Access" Funds (DOT): (\$0.1 million)

Budget increased in the past two years

Federal Aid appropriation (sale of firearms and ammunition)

LAND OWNERSHIP

- Tongass National Forest (FS)
 - 69,000 km² (76%) of lands in Southeast
- Glacier Bay National Park (NPS)
 - 13,300 km² (15%) of lands in Southeast
 - No hunting in park
- Remaining lands
 - State or private ownership (9%)

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

- Pack Creek
- HE & Juneau Shooting Facility
- Wildlife Diversity
- Marine Mammals
- Education & Outreach



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Management

- Survey & Inventory
- Public service
- Nuisance wildlife
- Hunt monitoring



PACK CREEK

- Partnership with USFS; started in late 1980s
- Closed to bear hunting
- Radio-collaring effort (PC, Swan, Windfall)
- Viewership down 44% in past 6 years
- Annual revenue down from \$22,000 to \$14,000
- New FS prospectus and on-line permitting



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Research

- Black bears (Unit 2)
- Brown bears (Units 1A, 1C, 1D, 4)
- Deer fawn survivorship (Unit 2)
- Deer population assessment techniques (Unit 4)
- Marten population assessment (Unit 3 - Kuiu Island)
- Moose (Unit 1C - Gustavus, Berners Bay)
- Mountain goats (Units 1A, 1C, 4)
- Predator dynamics (Unit 1C - Gustavus)
- Wolverine (Units 1B & 1C)



HUNTER EDUCATION

- Staff involved in teaching courses across the region: Zmuda primary
- User numbers low in Juneau indoor shooting facility
- Archery side completed, thanks to numerous volunteers
- Juneau Archery Club and Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation active and helping greatly



WILDLIFE DIVERSITY



- Karen Blejwas
- Alpine surveys
- Bat surveys
- Bioblitz (Juneau)
- Bycatch of Kittlitz's murrelets
- Winter ecology of marbled murrelets



SPECIES STATUS

- Black & Brown Bears
- Mountain Goats
- Moose
- Deer
- Elk
- Furbearers
- Wolves



MARINE MAMMALS

Harbor Seal Research

Gail Blundell, Christine Schmale

- Endicott and Tracy Arms; cruise ships, day boats, private vessels
- Important habitat for pupping, breeding, & molting seals
- Research focused on effects of disturbance



Sea lion Research

Lauri Jemison, Kelly Hastings

- Survival, reproduction, recruitment
- Distribution, entanglements
- Concurrent studies in western Alaska



Black & Brown Bear Distribution



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Kristen Romanoff
- ABC is partner program
- Volunteers give school presentations
- Brochures & Booklets



BEAR DENSITIES & HARVESTS

Densities

- Black bears on islands: Up to 3.4 bears/m²
- Brown bears on islands: Up to 1.0 – 1.6 bears/m²
- Brown bears on mainland: 0.1 (Bradfield & Unuk) – 0.3 bears/m² (Berners Bay)

Harvests

- 225 brown bears / year
- 800 black bears / year

Three proposals for brown bears
Nineteen proposals for black bears



BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

- Highly prized trophy – 75% nonresident harvest
- Concerns expressed by hunters, guides, and residents that black bears are declining in some areas
- Developing a management plan – multiple values for bears (trophy, subsistence, viewing, predator)

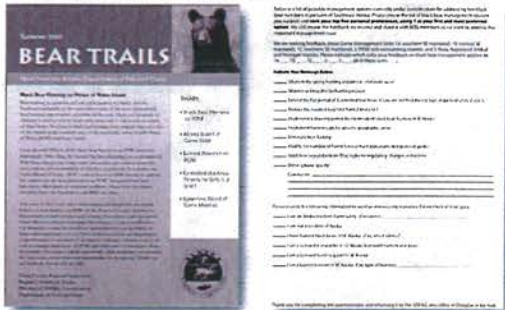


FORTRESS OF THE BEAR

- Les and Evy Kinnear own and operate
- Board of Directors
- Five bears in facility



BEAR TRAILS NEWSLETTER



MOUNTAIN GOATS

Occur in Units 1, 4, and 5

- Transplants to Baranof Island (Unit 4) and Revilla Island (Unit 1A)
- SE population: 10,000 – 15,000
- Stable or increasing
- Harvest ~ 175/year
- Point system (male = 1; female = 2)



Three proposals for goats

BLACK BEAR HARVEST TICKETS

- Discussed for several years; wish we'd started back when first brought up
- Allows the department to obtain hunter effort data
- Effort data can help assess reasons for harvest changes



MOOSE

Occur in Units 1, 3, and 5

- Harvests increased, now stabilized at about 180/year

Management challenges

- Registration, Tier II, and Drawing
- Any bull, Spike/fork/50, Cow

One proposal for moose



DEER

Pellet surveys / new DNA / Hunter questionnaires

- Densities highest in Unit 4
- Population changes are dictated mostly by weather
 - Tough winters: 2006-2008
 - Closed doe hunting in Unit 4: 2007-2010
- Harvest ~ 11,000/year



Management Challenges:

- Weather, habitat change, allocation

Three proposals for deer

WOLVES

Occur in Units 1, 2, 3, and 5

- Highest densities in Units 2 & 3

Harvest

- About 180/year region-wide
- Harvest guideline in Unit 2 – 30% of estimated population

Seven proposals for wolves



ELK

Occur mainly on Etolin and Zarembo Islands

- Introduced in 1987 to Etolin Island (Roosevelt & Rocky Mountain)
- Fifty originally; est. ~ 250 today
- Collaring effort underway
- Drawing and registration permit hunts: bow / firearm
- Low harvests; mean = 9 per year (range: 1 – 19)



No proposals for elk

HUNTING ACCESS

- Road systems associated with logging
 - Prince of Wales (Unit 2)
 - Mitkof, Wrangell, Kupreanof, Kuiu (Unit 3)
 - Northeast Chichagof (Unit 4)



- Boat and float plane access to coastal areas
- Limited float plane access to freshwater lakes

FURBEARERS

Average Annual Harvests

- Beaver: ~ 400
- River otters: ~ 750
- Wolverines: ~ 20
- Lynx: ~ 3
- Marten: ~ 2,800



Four proposals for furbearers

ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- Three consecutive hard winters: 2006 - 2008
- Concerns about deer, black bear, and wolves in parts of the region
- Land management
 - New FS direction with 2nd growth
 - New FS Regional Forester
 - New Tongass FS Wildlife Biologist; good working relationship
 - New Habitat Division staff for Tongass
 - Sealaska Lands Bill



ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- Chilkoot River Bears and People
 - Radio-collared 4 female brown bears; 2 with cubs
 - Involved in Stakeholder process
- Mendenhall Refuge
 - Public relations markedly improved
 - Accretion remains an issue: Seal Trust effort
- Federal Subsistence (dual regulatory system)



ISSUES & CHALLENGES

Population Assessment

- Forest cover makes seeing animals difficult (deer, elk, bears, furbearer wolves)
- Aerial surveys (moose, goats)
 - Cost of flight time
 - Availability of aircraft
 - Weather-related limitations
- Ground-based surveys
 - Pellet (deer)
 - Hair-snaring (brown & black bears / wolf scat)

