

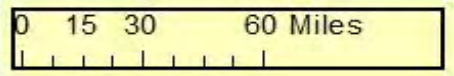
REGION I OVERVIEW

ALASKA BOARD of GAME
Juneau, Alaska

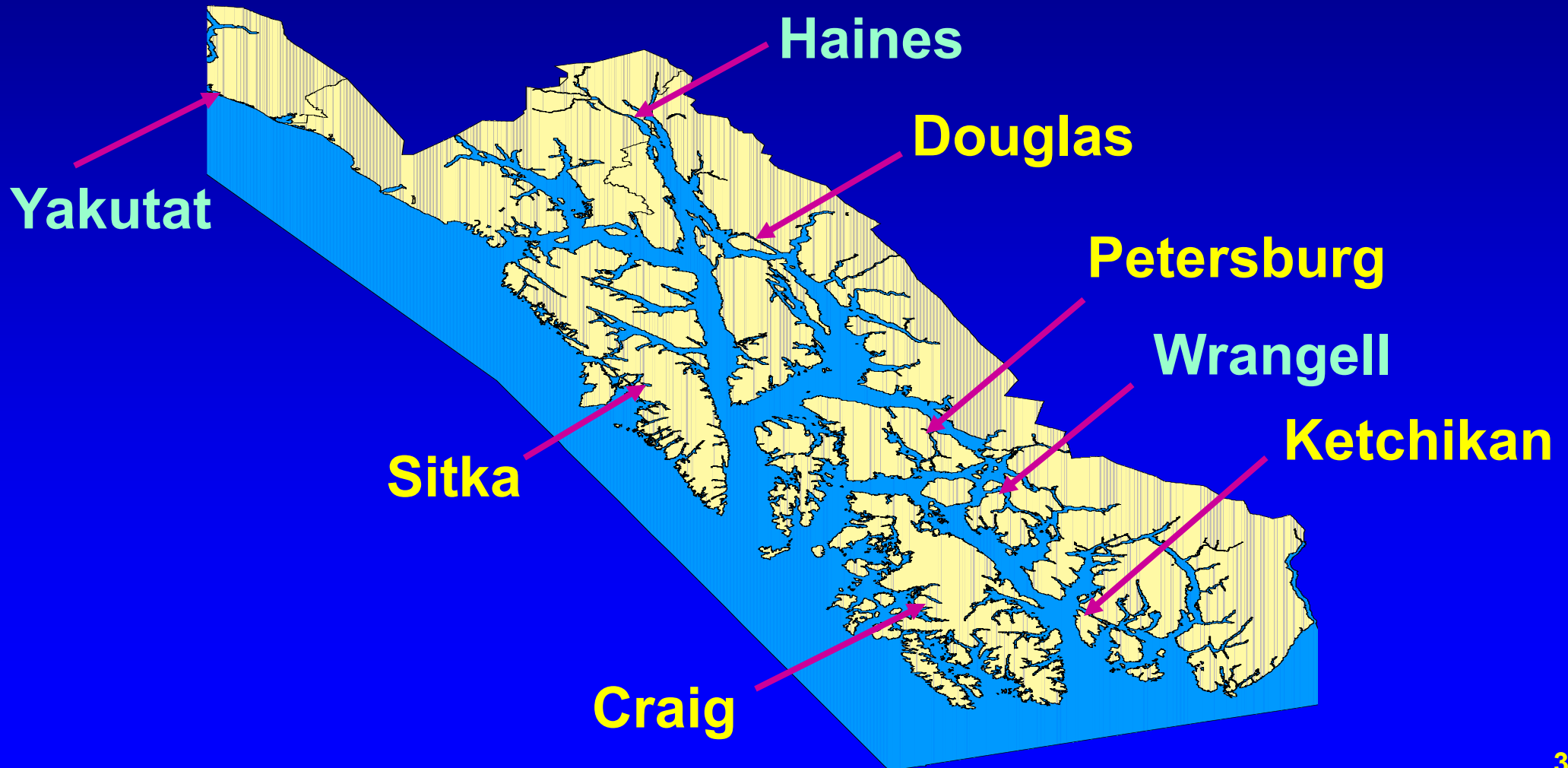
JANUARY 2015

Ryan Scott

Region I Game Management Units 1-5



Area & Regional Offices



REGIONAL STAFFING

Twenty-nine Full Time & Seasonal Staff

Management Coordinator

- Vacant-Recruiting(Douglas)

Research Coordinator

- Rod Flynn (Douglas)

Four Area Biologists & Two Assistant ABs

- Stephanie Sell/Carl Koch(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

Deer Management Biologist

- Karin McCoy (Douglas)

REGIONAL STAFFING

Research Biologists

- Kris Larson (Ketchikan)
- Kevin White, Gretchen Roffler, Anthony Crupi (Douglas)

Wildlife Technicians

- Lavern Beier, Chad Rice, Jane Pascoe, Lucas Baronovic, Jeff Jemison, Frank Zmuda (Douglas)

Program Technicians

- Timothy Miles(Douglas), Holley Dennison (Sitka), Mary Meucci (Petersburg), Emo Bylund (Ketchikan), Rhonda Ren-Kingery (Craig), Kim Fisher (Wrangell), Faith Lorentz (Haines), Stephanie Latzel (Yakutat)

Administrative & Accounting

- Brenda Hildre, Li'i Levale

➤ Programming / Biometrics / GIS Support

- Jenny McBride, Jason Waite, Dave Gregovich (Douglas)

REGIONAL BUDGET

FY15 - \$3.91 million, including salaries

Federal Aid & Fish and Game Funds: (\$3.1 million)

General Fund: (\$0.54 million)

Special Project Funds

(FS, BLM, NPS, DNR, FWS, Juneau Hydro): (\$0.27 million)

Stable budget over the past two years, declining now

Federal Aid appropriation (sale of firearms and ammunition)

LAND OWNERSHIP

Tongass National Forest (FS)

- 69,000 km² (73%) of lands in Southeast
- Sealaska Lands Bill ~283 km² (70,000 acres)

Glacier Bay National Park (NPS)

- 13,300 km² (14%) of lands in Southeast
- No hunting or trapping in park

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve

- 6811 km² (7%) of lands in Southeast
- Hunting and trapping allowed in preserve

Remaining lands

- State or private ownership (6%)

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Management

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



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Research

- Brown bears (Units 1C, 1D, 5)
- Black bears (Units 1C & 2)
- Deer fawn survivorship (Unit 2)
- Deer population assessment techniques (Units 1A & 3)
- Marten population assessment (Unit 3 – Kuiu Island)
- Moose (Unit 1C – Gustavus, Berners Bay)
- Mountain goats (Units 1A, 1C, 1D, 4)
- Elk (Unit 3)



REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Pack Creek Bear Viewing

HE & Juneau Shooting Facility

Wildlife Diversity

Marine Mammals

Education & Outreach



Ryan Scott



Doug Larsen



ADF&G

PACK CREEK

- Partnership with USFS; started in late 1980s
- Viewership increasing over past 5 years
- Annual revenue up from \$14,000 to ~\$19,000
- 8 permitted active guides
- Radio-collaring effort completed in 2014



HUNTER EDUCATION

- Staff involved in teaching courses across the region; Frank Zmuda regional lead
- User numbers low in Juneau indoor shooting facility
- Juneau Archery Club and Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation active and helping greatly
- Est. 570 students annually
 - All 6th graders in Juneau

Proposal: 35



Doug Larsen



Doug Larsen

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY



Karen Blejwas, Michael Kohan

Bat captures and surveys

- Species and distribution
- Survival and reproduction
- Seasonal activity pattern
- Roost site selection
- Monitoring in communities



MARINE MAMMALS

Harbor Seal Research

Gail Blundell, Christine Schmale, Jon Barton, Justin Smith

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



Christine Schmale

Sea lion Research

Lauri Jemison, Kelly Hastings, Justin Jenniges

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



Lauri Jemison

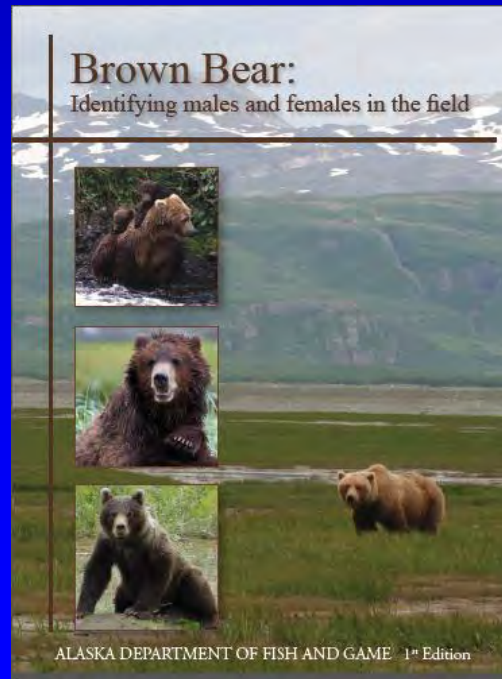
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Tennie Bentz

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



Ryan Scott



SPECIES STATUS

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



WOLVES



Steve Kannan

Occur in Units 1, 2, 3, and 5

- **Highest densities historically in Units 2 & 3**

Harvest

- **Avg. harvest (2004-2013) 158**
- **Harvest guideline in Unit 2 – 30% of estimated population**
- **Believed to be sustainable across Region**

Challenges

- **ESA listing petition**
- **Population assessment**
 - **Units 1A, 2, and 3**

Proposals: 12, 13, 14

Alexander Archipelago Wolf ESA Listing Petition Update



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Positive 90 day determination

- 12 month determination was scheduled for 2017 to allow for additional research

Court-agreed 12 month finding: Dec 2015

- ADF&G information submittal: January 15, 2015
- Unit of Analysis: January 31, 2015
- Population Viability Analysis: March 31, 2015
- Finding draft & review: June-August 2015
- 12-month finding release: December 31, 2015

DEER

Intensive Management in Units 1A & 3

Population Assessment

- **Traditional pellet surveys**
- **DNA mark-recapture**

Densities highest in Unit 4

Population changes dictated by weather

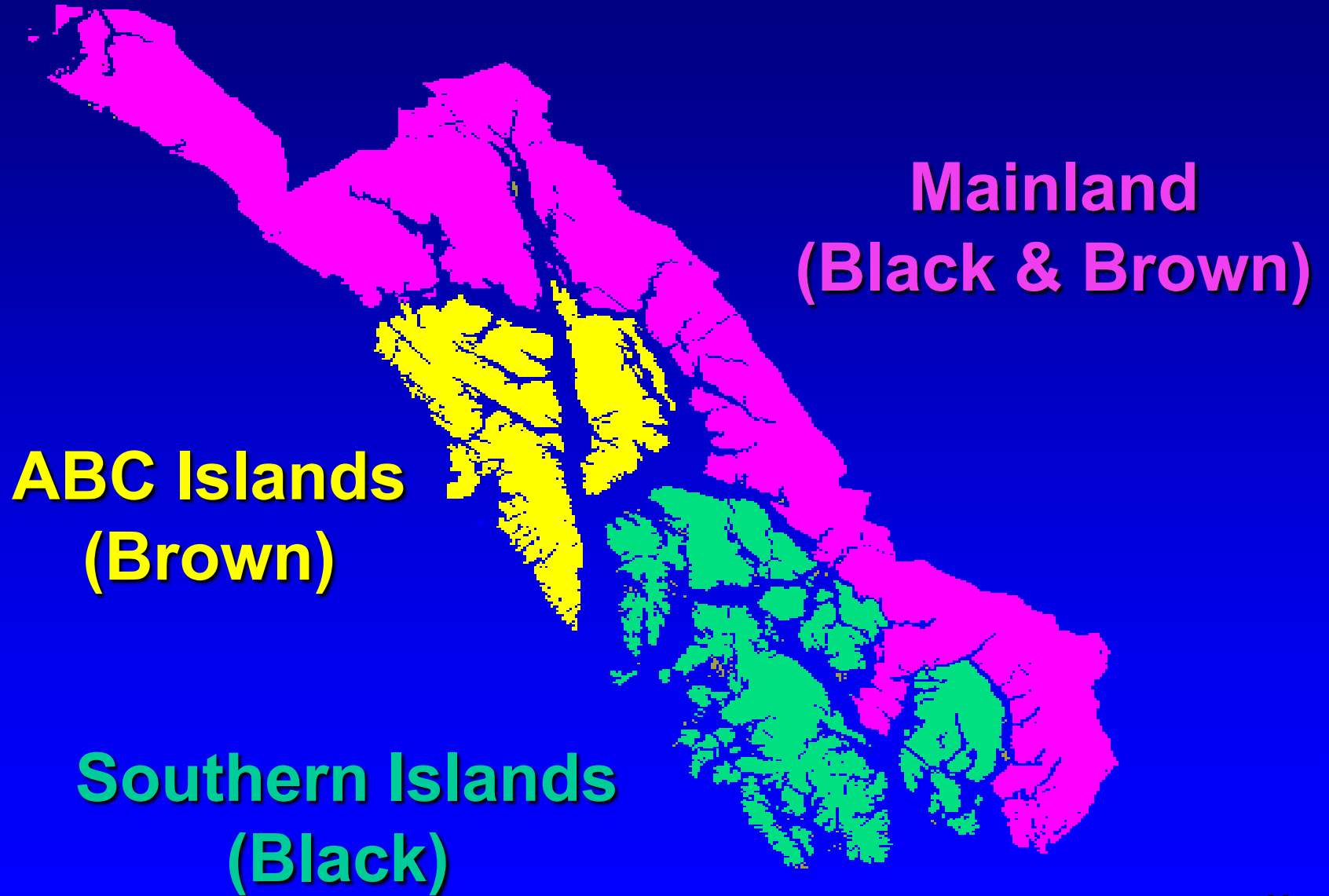
- **Severe winters: 2006-2008**
- **Doe season closure 2007-2014**
- **Habitat change**
- **Predation**

Harvest ~ 10,000 deer/year region-wide

Proposals: 9, 10, 16, 17, 26, 27, 206



Black & Brown Bear Distributions



BEAR DENSITIES & HARVESTS

Densities

Black bears on islands:

- Up to 3.4 bears/mi²

Brown bears on islands:

- 1.0 bear/mi²

**Brown bears on mainland
(Bradfield, Unuk, Berners):**

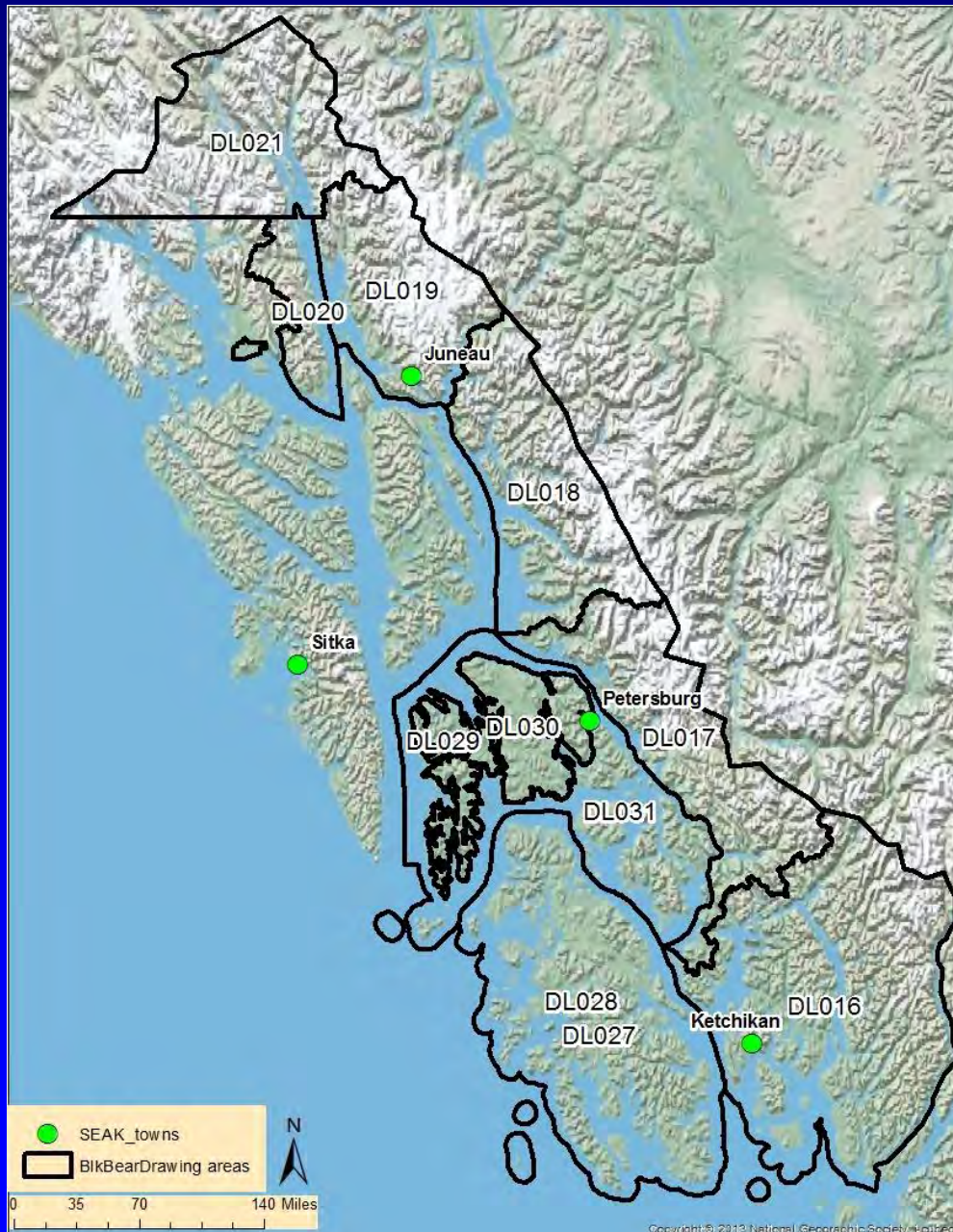
- 0.1 bears/mi²



Harvests (during past 5 years)

- 192 brown bears / year (68% nonresident)
- 730 black bears / year (70% nonresident)

BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT



History of management concerns

- Board adopted nonresident black bear drawing permit in 2010
 - 1st year: 2012
- Overall harvest has been reduced
- Guides asked to maintain 2007-2009 harvest levels
 - Guided harvests below allowable harvest
- Some undersubscribed hunts

Proposals: 21, 30, 33, 32, and 36

Regional Black Bear Harvest (All User Groups)

GMU	Mean Annual Harvest (2007-2009)	Mean Annual Harvest (2012-2013)
1A	92	59
1B	18	15
1C North	33	12
1C South	35	25
1C Remainder	28	19
1D	30	21
2	312	129
3 Kuiu	99	65
3 Kupreanof	80	64
3 Remainder	17	18
Total	744	427

Regional Black Bear harvest

GMU	Mean Annual Guided Harvest (2007-2009)	Maximum Guided Harvest Allowed (2012-2014)	Total Guided Harvest 2012 thru fall 2014
1A	7	21	14
1B	5	15	8
1C North	0	0	0
1C South	20	60	22
1C Remainder	4	12	4
1D	2	6	0
2	49	147	87
3 Kuiu	52	156	88
3 Kupreanof	25	75	47
3 Remainder	0	0	0
Total	164	492	270

Nonresident Black Bear Drawing Permits

		2012	2013	2014
Hunt	Area	Permits Issued/Permits Available	Permits Issued/Permits Available	Permits Issued/Permits Available
DL016	1A	45/75	40/75	60/75
DL017	1B	27/24	24/24	13/24
DL018	1C South	10/10	10/10	6/10
DL019	1C North	10/10	9/10	5/10
DL020	1C Remainder	23/24	17/24	3/24
DL021	1D	5/20	5/20	2/20
DL027	2 (fall)	30/30	30/30	30/30
DL028	2 (spring)	80/80	80/80	80/80
DL029	3 Kuiu Is.	40/40	40/40	40/40
DL030	3 Kupreanof Is.	83/80	80/80	82/80
DL031	3 Remainder	21/40	41/40	9/40

Nonresident Guided Black Bear harvest

GMU	Unguided Nonresident Mean Harvest (2007-2009)	Unguided Nonresident Mean Harvest (2012-2014)
1A	37	11
1B	7	4
1C North	3	1
1C South	5	1
1C Remainder	8	3
1D	3	0
2	218	33
3 Kuiu	32	10
3 Kupreanof	37	17
3 Remainder	5	3

Bears & Trash



Historic problem

- Public safety
- Bear mortality
- Expense

Possible Solutions

- Bear resistant cans
- Incineration
- Electric fence

GMU	Community	Human Population	Landfill Status	Black/Brown/Both	Annual Bear Kills in Community	Bear Calls*
1A	Ketchikan	14,000	Bale/Ship	Black	3-6	200-800
1A	Hyder	250	No fence, burn	Both	1-4	2-10
1B	Petersburg		Bail/Ship	Black	>1	10-20
1B	Wrangell		Sort/Ship	Black	1	10-20
1B	Kake		Landfill/burn/bury	Black	0-7	Numerous
1C	Juneau	33,000	Landfill/Bury/ chain link fence	Both	4-5	200-400
1C	Gustavus	450	Bale-ship, recycle, compost, /chain link	Black	0-1	1-10
1D	Haines	3,000	Composting/ Electric fence	Brown	4-5	50
1D	Skagway	995	Burn/compost/ship/ chain link	Both	0-1	1-5
2	Craig/Klawock	1950	Bale/ship	Black	0-5	25-75
3						
4	Sitka	9500	Curbside PU Recycle	Brown	4-9	200-400
4	Hoonah	800	Landfill/burn	Brown	3-6	100-150
4	Angoon	460	Landfill/burn	Brown	3-4	30-60
4	Tenakee	131	Burn	Brown	0-1	10-20
4	Pelican	89	Landfill	Brown	0-2	10-20
4	Elfin Cove	52	Burn/bury	Brown	3-4	20-30
5A	Yakutat	662	Landfill/burn	Brown	4-5	20-50

BROWN BEAR MANAGEMENT

Highly prized trophy

- 68% nonresident harvest (2004-2013)
- Historically the Board received numerous proposals
- Unit 4 Brown Bear Mgmt. Strategy developed (2000) to more broadly address issues
 - Board update at 2013 meeting

Proposals: 1, 2, 3, 11, and 31



MOUNTAIN GOATS

Goats found in Units 1, 4, and 5

- Transplants to Baranof Island (Unit 4) and Revilla Island (Unit 1A)
- SE population: 10,000 – 15,000
 - Stable
- Harvest ~ 146/year (2004 – 2013)
- 63% resident harvest
- Female harvest discouraged: point system (male = 1; female = 2)

Proposals: 8, 18, 19 and 20



MOOSE

Occur in Units 1, 3, and 5

- **Harvest has stabilized at about 223/year (2004-2013)**

Management challenges

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

Proposals: 6, 7, 22, 23, 24



Ryan Scott

ELK

Occur mainly on Etolin and Zarembo islands in Unit 3

**Roosevelt & Rocky Mountain
Introduced in 1987 to Etolin Island**

- **50 animals originally**
- **Current estimate: 250**

Collaring effort initiated in 2008

- **Cooperative with RMEF**
- **17 total collars**

Low harvests

- **Avg. 7 elk/year (2004-2013)**

Elk hunt boundary changed in 2013

- **Illegal harvest concerns reduced**



FURBEARERS

Region Wide Average Annual Harvests (2004-2013)

- Beaver: ~ 307
- River otters: ~ 594
- Wolverines: ~ 21
- Lynx: ~ 3
- Marten: ~ 3308

Proposals: 15, 28, 29



Additional Proposals

Proposals 4 & 5: Unit 3 closed area boundary adjustment

Proposal 25: Shift waterfowl season in Unit 5

Proposal 33: Prohibition on the use of felt sole waders

Proposal 34: Migratory bird harvest reporting

Proposals 37 & 38: Residency, permit allocation and season length

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 and river systems
- Limited wheeled plane access

ISSUES & CHALLENGES

Land management

- Re-entries into previously harvested watersheds (e.g., Big Thorne)
- Second growth use
- Review of TLMP and its conservation strategy
- IM law and timber production
- Hydroelectric projects



ISSUES & CHALLENGES

Population Assessment

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



ISSUES & CHALLENGES

Retirements & Relocation

- Doug Larsen & Neil Barten
- Anticipate 4-5 retirements in next 12 months



Douglas Island Remodel & Bill Ray Center temporary quarters

- Moved April-May 2014
- Anticipate return in fall 2015

DWC Staff has continued to provide excellent public service & dedication to the Region's wildlife resources



QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION

