Game Management Unit 1A

- Important Game Species
  - Moose
  - Goats
  - Deer
  - Black Bear
  - Brown Bear
  - Furbearers
  - Waterfowl

MAJOR COMMUNITIES

- KETCHIKAN pop. ~ 2,500
- Metlakatla pop. ~ 600
- Others pop. ~ 450

- Area Office located in Ketchikan
  Satellite office in Craig
Ketchikan Management Area

- Unit 1A Mainland and Islands
- ~ 5300 Square Miles
- Includes: 2400 Square Miles Misty Fiords National Monument

- Unit 2 Prince of Wales and other Islands
- ~ 3,600 Square Miles
- Includes: 3rd Largest Island in North America
Logging

- Mental Health Sales
- University Sales
- Federal Sales
- State Sales
- Sealaska Outside Box Selection
- Sealaska Cleveland Harvest

Commercial Fishing

- Seine
- Gill Net
- Ground Fish
- Trolling
- Dive Fishery
- Shrimp/Crab
Unit 1A Deer

- Population at Moderate to Low Level
- Winters Are Limiting
- Second Growth Issues
- Predation by Black Bears, Brown Bears, Wolves, and Mountain Lions
Unit 1A Black Bears

- Wide Distribution
- Healthy Population
- Harvest Fluctuates
- Spring Hunting Along Extensive Shoreline
- Color Phase on Mainland Includes Blue, Cinnamon, and White
Unit 1A Black Bear Harvest

Nuisance Bears/People

- Some years in Ketchikan killed 6-15 bears
- Seldom move bears
- Education effort
- Shifting responsibility to local residents
- Still no Ketchikan Borough or City garbage ordinance
Unit 1A Goat Status

- Healthy goat population
- One of the highest goat densities in state
- Several goats each year make B&C
- Several trend count areas showing low counts
- Both Transplants Showing Rapid Horn Growth Patterns
- Both Transplant Populations Have Stabilized
- Deer Mountain Area Open By Drawing Permits
Our Goat Management Approach

- Registration permits
- Hunter Comments
- Aerial Composition Surveys
  - Manage for 2-6 points/hundred goats surveyed
  - 2 points if poor survey conditions, bad winter, high harvest, or other concerns

Unit 1A Goat Harvest
Cleveland Goat Research (USFS and ADFG)

- 2009 Captured 8 Goats
- 7 VHF Collars
- 2010 Captured 5 Goats
- 5 GPS Collars
- Sightability Index, Mortality, Movements, Habitat Use, DNA For Viability
Unit 1A Brown Bear

- Distribution on Mainland, Cleveland, and Revilla Island
- Estimated Population 150-300
- Distribution Expanding
- Harvest Stable
- Important for Viewing and Hunting

Unit 1A Brown Bear Harvest

[Graph showing harvest data for different years.]
Mainland Brown Bear Research

- GPS Collars Providing Movement and Habitat Use
- Hair Snares For Mark Recapture Population Estimate
- Working with Canadian Bios Data Sharing

Unit 1A Wolves

- Wolf Population Appears Stable
- Trapping Effort Fluctuates
- Most Trapping Along Beaches
- Trophy Species for Nonresidents
- Hunting Season Extended to include August and April
- Trapping Season extended November and April
Unit 1A Wolf Harvest

Southeast Wolf Harvest
Unit 1A Moose

- Concentrated Mostly along the Unuk River
- Population and Harvest Low
- Any Bull by Registration Permit
- Season: Sept. 15–Oct. 15
- Issue 40-70 Registration Permits Annually
- Harvest Variable (1–6 bulls)
- Federal Registration Hunt Starts 10 Days Early (Sept. 6)
- Difficult to obtain Federal Hunt Data

Unit 1A Moose Harvest
(1992-2009)
Unit 1A Furbearers

- Marten average 167 (range 42-654)
- River Otter average 104 (range 45-185)
- Beaver average 35 (range 7-50)
- Wolverine average 3 (range 1-7)
Unit 2

- **Important Species**
  - Deer
  - Black Bear
  - Wolves
  - Furbearers
  - Upland Birds
Ketchikan Area Overview-Unit 2

MAJOR COMMUNITIES

- Craig    pop. ~ 1,500
- Klawock  pop. ~ 650
- Thorne Bay pop. ~ 450
- Total POW pop. ~ 3,750

- ADFG office located in Craig
Major Industry

- Timber
- Commercial fishing
- U.S. Forest Service
- Small Mills
- Tourism
  - Charter Fishing
  - Hunting & Fishing
  - Bear Viewing
Logjam Timber Sale

- 73 MBF timber
- 3,422 acres
- 22 miles of new road
- Up to 50% allowed for export
- Diesel timber sale currently underway

Diesel Sale
Sealaska Bill

- Sealaska Corp. entitled to approx. 375K acres under 1971 ANCSA
- Transfer 85K acres of TNF to Seak Corp.
- Relinquish rights to 327K acres previously designated for selection
- Approximately 75K acres clear-cut logging
- Remainder in numerous sacred and “Native Futures” Sites

Unit 2 Black-Tailed Deer

- Fed. subsistence season July 24 – Dec 31, Bag limit 5 including up to one doe (Oct 15-Dec 31)
- State season Aug 1 – Dec 31, bag limit 4 bucks
- Non-federally qualified hunters season is August 16-December 31 (on Federal lands in Unit 2)
- Healthy and abundant population
- Mild winter in 2009/10 & low predator #’s
- Large tracts of second growth reaching stem exclusion stage
- Proposal 24
Unit 2 Deer Research

Deer Reproduction & Survival

- Objective:
  - measure neonate fawn survival
  - ID sources of fawn mortality
  - ID habitat and landscape correlates of mortality
  - Logged and unlogged watersheds

- Field Work:
  - Radio-collar does and fawns
  - Characterize birth & death sites, body condition mothers and fawns, monitor snowfall
Deer Reproduction & Survival

- Results 2010:
  - 21 does and 46 fawns collared
  - 19 (40%) fawn mortality (as of 9-10)
  - 15 black bear predation
  - 1 motor vehicle accident
  - 1 unknown predator
  - 1 poached (along with doe)
- Project to continue for next three years

Unit 2 Bear Issues

- Obvious changes in population over last decade
- No bear population or demographic data for Unit 2
- Recent harvest decline concerning
- Complaints from residents, guides, transporters, local hunters, lodges and other public about chronic low bear numbers and female harvest
- No measures of hunting success rates
- Increasing transporters
- Crowded hunting conditions
- Increasing conflicts between consumptive & non consumptive users
- Proposals 19-23, 33-40
Unit 2 Black Bear Harvest
(1990-2009)

Dog Salmon Viewing Area
Dog Salmon Viewing Area

- Approx. 1200 visitors in 6 week period
- 12 visitors every 2 hours
- No hunting within 150 yards by CFR
- USFS planning expanded parking & toilet facilities
- USFS wants to expand No Hunting Area as part of Dog Salmon Bear/Wildlife Viewing Area Management Plan

Unit 2 Bear Research
Hair Snare DNA Mark-Recapture

- Objectives:
  - Harvest Rate
  - Movements
  - Crude density estimate

- Currently awaiting lab results
Demographic, Life History, & Movement Research Project

- Objectives:
  - Movement patterns
  - Vulnerability to harvest
  - Home range estimates (first ever in SE Alaska)
  - Den site descriptions and habitat selection
  - Fecundity and cub survival
  - Will help corroborate DNA work, deer study and previous black bear research in SE Alaska
Ketchikan Area Overview-Unit 2
Southern Southeast Islands Controlled Use Area

- Implemented at the 2008 BOG Meeting
- No motorized land vehicle use for bear hunting September 1-30 in Units 2 and 3
- Includes transport of hunters, hunting equipment and bears
- Mostly affects non-residents
- Sunset clause 2012
2008 BOG Alternatives

- Fall drawing Hunt For Nonresidents
- Close Nonresident Fall Season Odd Years
- Close NR Fall Bear Hunting Season
- Open Black Bear Season Sept. 15
- Make No Changes
- Collect More Information and Monitor For 2 More Years
- Controlled Use Area For Central POW

Controlled Use Area Summary

- Average September Harvest 1999-2008
  - 101 Total, 52 Males, 49 Females
- 2009/2010 Average
  - 29 Total, 14 male, 15 female

- Average October Harvest 1999-2008
  - 12 Total, 6 male, 6 female
- 2009/2010 Average
  - 22 Total, 10 male, 12 female
Unit 2 October Harvest

Controlled Use Area Summary

- Average Harvest Fall 1999-2008
  - 118 Total, 62 Male, 56 Female

- 2009/2010 Average
  - 54 Total, 26 Male, 28 Female
Unit 2 Wolves

- Wolf Population Declining
- Fewer Trappers
- Harvest Cap 30% of Fall Population
- Closed By Emergency Order 1999
- Difficult To Track Population or Harvest
- Illegal Harvest
- Proposals 18 & 25

Unit 2 Wolf Harvest (1985-2009)
Wolf Research

- Objective:
  - Develop methods to estimate population and monitor trends using DNA extracted from scats

- Field work:
  - Scat collection along roads and trail intersects assisted by trained dog began spring 2010
  - Establish 50-60 scent post stations

- Results:
  - Few scats due to low wolf activity
  - Eleven previously active den sites all unused
Unit 2 Furbearers

- Marten average 796 (range 303-1226)
- River Otter average 235 (range 71-486)
- Beaver average 194 (range 53-310)
- Beaver & Marten Trappers Use Roads
  - 85% & 66%
- Otter Trappers Use Boats
  - 75%
- Proposals 29 & 31

Unit 2 Upland Birds
Elk On Prince of Wales?

Sasquatch
Proposal 6
Shorten Unit 1A Bucks Only Season
To End November 30

Public Proposal
Department Recommendation:
Adopt

Existing State Subsistence Criteria

- Positive C&T for deer in Unit 1A
- ANS is 225-250 deer
- Portion of Unit 1A in non subsistence area
Discussion

- Unit 1A Low deer numbers
- High wolf and bear density
- Moderate to poor deer winter habitat in most areas of Unit 1A
- Winter weather and predation drive deer numbers
- Consistent with areas with similar circumstances i.e. Unit 3
Unit 1A Deer Harvest By Month (1999-2009)

Unit 1A December Deer Harvest and Effort

Proposal 6
Unit 1A Deer Harvest and Hunters

Advisory Council Votes

• Ketchikan AC 4/5
Proposal 24

This proposal would reduce the non-resident bag limit in Unit 2 from 4 bucks to 2 antlered deer

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Do Not Adopt

Proposal 24

- The author of this proposal is concerned about increases in NR hunting pressure on deer which could result in a conservation risk and potential reduced resident opportunity
Bucks Per Successful NR Hunters (2005-2009)

Proposal 24

- Deer populations limited by weather, habitat and predation
- Unit 2 deer populations abundant
- Deer seldom targeted by nonresidents
  - NR typically purchase 2 deer tags
- No conservation concern
ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes
Proposal 24

- Craig AC- 7/1 Oppose

Department Recommendation:

Do Not Adopt
Proposal 7
Goat Drawing Permit Allocation

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Take No Action

Our Goat Management Approach

- Registration permits
- Hunter Comments
- Aerial Composition Surveys
  - Manage for 2-8 points/hundred goats surveyed
  - 2 points if poor survey conditions, bad winter, high harvest, or other concerns
## DG 003 Drawing Permit Allocations

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*3-4 points preferred for growing populations

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## Discussion

- Proponent suggests the Area Biologist does not use Standard Method for adjusting Goat Permit Allocation
- Hunt Permit Allocation Arbitrarily Set
- Should be “Better” Surveys before Permit Numbers are Set

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Proposal 7
Ketchikan and Deer Mountain
Proposal 23

This proposal would change the Unit 2 bear hunt to a registration hunt and shorten the season dates to Oct. 1- May 31

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:  
**Take No Action**  
(See Proposal 36)

Proposal 23

- The author of this proposal is concerned with over harvest of the black bear population
- Department proposal #36 addresses black bear conservation

Proposal 23

ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes

- Craig AC- 8/0 Oppose

Department Recommendation:

**Take No Action**  
(See Proposal 36)
Proposal 21
This proposal would shift the start of the black bear hunt in Unit 2 from Sept. 1 to Oct. 1
Public Proposal
Department Recommendation: Take No Action (See Proposal 36)

Proposal 21
- The author of this proposal is concerned with the harvest of females due to vulnerability along salmon streams
- Department proposal #36 addresses black bear conservation
Unit 2 September Harvest

Unit 2 October Harvest
Proposal 21

- 2009 harvest suggests females still vulnerable in October
- Hunt start date change may result in shift of hunter effort to October as seen with CUA
- Other options outlined in Proposal 36 would bring harvest closer to sustainable levels

**ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes**

Proposal 21

- Craig AC- 8/0 Oppose

Department Recommendation:
Do Not Adopt
(See Proposal 36)
Proposal 22

This proposal would eliminate the June portion of the black bear season in Unit 2

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Take No Action
(See Proposal 36)

Proposal 22

- The author of this proposal is concerned with harvest of females and poor hide quality in June
- Department proposal #36 addresses black bear conservation

ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes
Proposal 22

- Craig AC- 8/0 Oppose

Department Recommendation:
Take No Action
(See Proposal 36)
Proposal 20
This proposal would establish a draw Hunt for black bears in Unit 2
Public Proposal
Department Recommendation:
Take No Action
(See Proposal 36)

Proposal 20
- The author of this proposal is concerned with harvest levels and sustainability of population
- The author prefers drawing hunt rather than controlled use area
- Department proposal #36 addresses black bear conservation

ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes
Proposal 20
- Craig AC – 8/0 Oppose

Department Recommendation:
Take No Action
(See Proposal 36)
Proposal 1
Change the Bear Baiting Season Dates in Unit 1A

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Take No Action

Proposal 1

Author Issue: Bear baiting Spring 2009 interfered with wolf trapping

• Discussion:
• Trapping and baiting seasons overlap 2 weeks
• Start date for bear baiting April 15 across State
• In Unit 1A during April Average 5.1 (range 2-11) bear bait sites registered and 3.3 wolves harvested (range 0-9)
Unit 1A Bait Permits Issued

Advisory Votes

- Ketchikan AC votes
- Craig AC
Proposal 2
Close Area in Unit 1A To Black Bear Hunting

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
No Recommendation
Discussion

- No official bear viewing areas in these locations
- The area includes several bodies of protected coastal water on Revillagigedo Island near Ketchikan
- Popular bear hunting and recreation areas
- The Department considers this an allocation issue

Advisory Votes

- Ketchikan 0/8 oppose
- Craig 0/9 oppose
Proposal 3
Close an Area Near Ketchikan to Bear Hunting

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
No Recommendation
Herring Cove Bear Closure

- Area already closed by State Regulation ¼ mile from road and structures
- No bears ever harvested within 5 miles of this area
- Proponent mistook past DLP bears as hunter bear kills

Advisory Council Votes

- Ketchikan AC 0/9 oppose
- Craig AC no vote
Proposal 4
Close an area near Ketchikan to bear hunting

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
No Recommendation
Discussion

- Proposal submitted to Board several times during last 10 years
- Dock at saltwater and access road connects to several hundred miles of logging roads
- Forest Service Staff monitor site during June July and August
- Department considers this an allocation issue

Margaret Area Black Bear Harvest
AC vote

Craig AC  No Vote
Ketchikan AC  2/6

Proposal 4
Proposal 5
Close an Area Near Ketchikan to Bear Hunting

Public Proposal
Department Recommendation:
No Recommendation
Discussion

- Author would like to close an area in Misty Fiords to bear hunting to protect bears for viewing
- Department has no recommendation and sees this as an allocation issue
Rudyard Bay and Walker Cove Brown Bear Harvest By Season

Advisory Council Votes

- Ketchikan AC Vote 0/9
Proposal 19
Close The Area Around Dog Salmon Creek on POW to Bear Hunting

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
No Recommendation

Dog Salmon Creek on Prince of Wales Island
Discussion

- Author wants to close an area on POW island to bear hunting for viewing
- "No shooting" signs posted by USFS at trailhead and road/stream crossing below site
- Area closed to discharge of firearms within 150 yards of trail and site by Forest Service Regulation

Advisory Council Votes

- Ketchikan AC  No vote
- Craig AC  0/9 oppose
Proposal 9
Increase the Wolf Harvest Objectives in Unit 1A

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation:
Take No Action

Discussion
• Raise the management objectives for wolves in Unit 1A
• Met and discussed with proponent several times
• As periodic review of 1A wolf objectives we revised from 25 to 40

Advisory Council Votes
• Ketchikan AC 4/5 oppose
• Craig AC no vote
Proposal 18

This proposal would reduce the Unit 2 wolf bag limit to 10/year and require sealing within 14 days

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

Proposal 18

- The Department is concerned with long-term sustainability of Unit 2 wolf population, low populations could trigger listing
- Significant decline in harvest (131 to 18)
- Substantial reduction in wolf sign (scats, tracks, denning activity)
- Illegal snares found after season closed
Proposal 18

- Unit 2 harvest cap has been 90
- Department considering lowering harvest cap to 60 wolves/year
- Encourage USFS to adopt similar regulations including marking traps/snares

Unit 2 Wolf Harvest (1980-2009)

Harvest cap implemented

- Wolves
Unit 2 Wolf Trappers
1985-2009

Unit 2 Wolves Per Trapper
1985-2009
ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes
Proposal 18

- Juneau-Douglas AC - Support 6/5
- Craig AC - 8/0 Oppose
  - Agree wolf numbers down but less trapping due to market prices
  - Too many loopholes in regulation
  - Wolf trapping is self-regulatory, population is cyclic
  - Wolves on adjacent islands at high levels
  - 14 day sealing requirement is unenforceable

Proposal 18

Department Recommendation:
Do Not Adopt
Proposal 25
This proposal would modify the wolf trapping and hunting regulations in Unit 2
Public Proposal
Department Recommendation:
Take No Action
(See Proposal 18)

Proposal 25
- The author of this proposal is concerned with illegal/unreported harvest of wolves in Unit 2
- The author is concerned with wolf over-harvest
- Department proposal #18 addresses wolf conservation

Proposal 25
Defenders of Wildlife Support:
- Require trap and snare marking
  - ADFG: Required under state regulations
- Reduce harvest cap
  - ADFG: Can be done w/o regulatory change
- Establish trap check times
  - ADFG: Considering with Federal Agencies
- Reduce time to report
  - ADFG: Proposal 18
- Introduce bag limits
  - ADFG: Proposal 18

ADF&G Advisory Committee Votes
Proposal 25
- Craig AC- 8/0 Oppose
  - Agree wolf numbers down but less trapping due to market prices
  - Too many loopholes in regulation
  - Wolf trapping is self-regulatory, population is cyclic
  - Same species of wolves on adjacent islands at high levels
  - 14 day sealing requirement is unenforceable

Proposal 25
Department Recommendation:
Take No Action
(See Proposal 18)
Unit 1A Wolverine

PROPOSAL 8

Lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 1A

Nov 10 – April 30

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation

Do Not ADOPT

REGION 1 WOLVERINE TRAPPING SEASONS

• Prior to 1985: wolverine trapping season ranged from
  – Dec 1-Jan 31
  – Nov 10-Feb 15

• From 1985 – 2008
  - Nov 10 - April 30

• Since 2009
  - Nov 10 – Feb. 15

Proposal 8
Regional Percent Females by Month
(1984 – 2007)

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<th>Percentage</th>
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Proposal 8

Unit 1A Wolverine Harvest By Month

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Total  6   2   11  8   8   4   7   2   7   3
DISCUSSION

- Wolverine kits born Feb-Mar
- Some adult females were taken in March and April when they still had dependant young in dens
- Loss of litter = reduced recruitment
- Fewer animals available for harvest

Proposal 8

Summary

- Protecting denning females reduces opportunity for a few late-season trappers
- Incidental wolverine catch in wolf sets is believed to be relatively low
- Most wolf sets are pulled by April to avoid catching black bears

However, it...
- Increases reproductive success
  - Increases recruitment
  - Increases trapper success
  - Aligns wolverine end date with most furbearers

Proposal 8
Advisory Committee Votes

- Ketchikan AC  0/9 Support
- Craig AC    no vote

PROPOSAL 8

Department Recommendation

Do Not ADOPT