

**PROPOSAL 18**

**5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.**

Increase the bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder as follows:

Increase bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder (i.e. the area outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet) from four deer to six deer.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increase the limit from four deer to six deer in Unit 4 outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet. Doing so would allow for hunters who normally harvest four deer to instead have the opportunity to harvest six. Increasing the limit would increase opportunities for all hunters.

Increasing the limit would have minimal impact on the Unit 4 deer population outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet. Unit 4 hunters averaged 1.9 deer per hunter in 2016. This deer per hunter figure has averaged 1.62 over the past five years with minimal fluctuation.

Increasing the limit would have minimal impact on other communities in Southeast Alaska that already have six deer limits under federal regulations. As there is not much hunting effort in Unit 4 from hunters outside of Southeast Alaska, this change would impact almost exclusively residents of Juneau. Increasing the deer limit would not result in increased Juneau hunter effort near rural communities as the distances traveled by boat between Juneau and surrounding communities are prohibitively long considering the generally inclement weather and short days during which most deer hunting effort is located (November/December). Furthermore, localized marine weather—persistent, strong winds out of Northern Lynn Canal and Taku Inlet—regularly limits Juneau hunters to the area on Admiralty Island between Point Retreat and Point Arden.

This change would not cost the state additional money from a regulatory perspective as hunters are already required to carry six tags. Additionally, this change would bring state deer limits in line with federal deer limits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nicholas Orr

(EG-F18-034)

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