



Call to Order: 3:03pm by Perry Olson

Roll Call:

| East POW AC Members | Officer | Designation | Present | Absent | Unexcused | Expiration |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Perry Olson | Chair | Coffman Cove | x | | | June 2024 |
| William Pattison | Vice Chair | Whale Pass | x | | | June 2024 |
| Kurt Whitehead | Secretary | | x | | | June 2025 |
| Chris Anderson | | | x | | | June 2025 |
| Jim Beard | | | x (phone) | | | June 2023 |
| Matt Beck | | | x | | | June 2023 |
| Della Colburn | | Kasaan | | x | | June 2025 |
| Dave Egelston | | | x | | | June 2025 |
| Amy Jennings | | | x | | | June 2025 |
| Kim Redmond | | Thorne Bay | x | | | June 2023 |
| Doug Rhodes | | | x | | | June 2024 |
| Dave Roberts | | | x | | | June 2025 |
| John Ryan | | | x | | | June 2024 |
| Ray Slayton | | | x | | | June 2024 |
| Dick Stewart | | | x (phone) | | | June 2023 |

15 Members:

Number needed for a quorum: 8

ADFG Staff Present:

None. The Unit 2 assistant, Tessa Hasbrouk, was scheduled to be online but sent an email 50 min prior to the meeting that she was sick and wouldn't attend telephonically. ADFG had no backup plan. Their staff comments aren't public yet so it would have been very helpful to have any SE region ADFG rep online to help answer our questions. It was also pointed out several times during the meeting by several members how we would have benefitted by having someone from ADFG.

Guests present: Chris Anderson (Whale Pass), Dave Roberts (Whale Pass), Rosey Roseland (Thorne Bay), Elijah Winrod (Klawock).

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made to approve the agenda.
Unanimous vote-yes.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

John Ryan stated there is no need to approve the minutes from 12.14.2021 since the chair has the ability to approve and was already done when submitted.



Reports:

Kurt said due to time constraints tonight, he will give reports on the past BOF & BOG meetings and Seasonal Residents at our next meeting.

Chair: None

ADFG: None

Other: None

Public Comment: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

Elections:

Moved and seconded to have elections.

Unanimous vote-yes.

Elections: Chris Anderson, Dave Roberts, Amy Jennings, Dave Egelston and Kurt Whitehead all spoke briefly about themselves/qualifications and each ran for election. All were unanimously elected including Della Colburn as the Kasaan representative. All seats on the AC are currently full.

Kurt Whitehead vote was 9-0

Dave Egelston vote was 10-0

Amy Jennings vote was 11-0

Chris Anderson vote was 12-0

Dave Roberts vote was 13-0

Della Colburn vote was 14-0

Proposals:

We started with the PoW props first.

Prop 42

Motion made and seconded to support.

Discussion: Brief but several agreed that deer meat is very important and it would also align the season with PoW.

Vote: Passed 12-2 Doug R. & Jim B. vote NO due to poor quality of meat in December.

Prop 43

Discussion: Brief but Kurt W. said he guided goat hunts in Units 1 and 4 for many years and that we shouldn't compare goats to deers as they are very different and also felt that Revillagigedo Is. is currently managed very well by ADFG for trophy goat hunting. He spoke about what a great hunting experience it was for him and his wife when she drew the tag on Revilla because of the multiple trophy goats they encountered and eventually ended up harvesting. He also spoke about not making a judgement on a prop if we didn't have full info.

No Action

Prop 44

Discussion: Brief but it was pointed out that having no ADFG staff present to answer our questions was a detriment and without more info we decided to take no action.

No Action

Prop 45

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: John Ryan summarized POW's past wolf management and how we got to our current mgt. plan. Rosey R. sealed 110 of the 163 wolves one year and the majority of the wolves came from the areas out of the hairboard study areas so he felt ADFG's data needs improvement.

Lots of discussion from several members about how the data collection could/should be improved with cameras and DNA analysis.

Ray Slayton abstains from voting since he works for the Forest Service and they are tasked as co-mangers of our wolves.

Vote: Passed to oppose 13-0 with 1 abstaining.



Prop 46

Motion made by John Ryan and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion:

John Ryan said the wolf season already opens early on federal lands under subsistence regs. Lack of prime fur quality was also cited as a reason to oppose.

Vote: Passed to oppose 14-0.

Prop 47

Motion made by John Ryan and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion:

John Ryan gave background on current sealing regs and how effective they are currently. Also cited how onerous it would be to have trappers have to comply with a 48hr requirement since many wolf trappers go by boat and camp for a few days when checking their traplines and many live in poor/nonexistent cell service. Several agreed the current sealing requirements are as good as we can get.

Rosey Roseland is a longtime trapper, hunter and authorized sealer in Thorne Bay and doesn't support this prop either due to the above reasons.

Vote: Passed 14-0

Prop 48

Motion made by Ray Slayton and seconded to support as written.

Discussion:

Extensive discussion for well over an hour on this proposal.

Jim Beard supports this prop as well.

Ray Slayton spoke in support of this so we can get better numbers.

Matt Beck said the state needs to get better numbers as well.

John Ryan read the proposal again and pointed out that genetic diversity is becoming a bigger issue. We need

"more tools and better research" which was agreed on by most everyone.

Amy Jennings asked who is a "qualified researcher" as worded in the prop?

Ray S. said the "researchers" would likely be grad students hired for the job.

Ray S. also said that the Roadless Rules hurt our deer herd due to all the stem exclusion on PoW and that we need hard science and better numbers to get our deer through the winter.

John R. said we should support better methodology.

Dave Egelston said he supports the first sentence of the proposal but not much else.

Jim Beard says he disagrees with our discussion and said the genetic diversity on PoW is very low and its important we pursue with the best science we can get. We want a viable population with NO ESA listing.

Elijah Winrod said he thinks the camera system would be the best and most accurate. Genetic diversity is what they are currently studying and add that **"It would be great to have 500-1000 wolves but there's not enough right deer now to support the numbers we have much less support that many wolves."**

Ray Slayton said the wolves diet is currently 40% deer, 20% beaver and 21% black bear using the latest DNA scat analysis methods. Wolves are encountering less deer now than they did 10 years ago when the wolves diet was 60% deer.

Rosey R. stated he hardly seals beavers now and in years past it was about 100 beavers sealed every year.

Agreement from many that the wolves are currently eating more beaver and black bear to make up for the lack of deer.

Amy Jennings said don't get rid of the hair boards but to add our comments to expand their methodology.

A motion was made to amend our motion to say "instead of change the methodology to expand the methodology"

Withdraw the motion to ammend. Motion is withdrawn.

Amy and Ray stated that we want to continue the hairboards but we also want more tools, we want collared wolves, we want cameras, we want trappers comments after the season and any other tools to better manage the wolves.

Ray said not every canine rolls, that's why hairboards aren't accurate. If they use the DNA, they can get it off the wolf tracks in the snow with the new technology.

Perry said we can support it the prop and also give comments. we support it with comments.

Kurt gave an example of how the current management doesn't work well.

Dave, John, Amy, Kurt and all agree that we need to get better technology.



Perry pointed out that the wording in the prop doesn't match the first sentence.

Kurt read from the current regs that **"Unit 2 wolves are currently managed for 20% of the population estimate"** and that prop 48 will change that to read **"The minimum population objective for wolves in Unit 2 shall be based on a biological population viability analysis, using available demographic data."**

Many of us agreed that the language in the prop sounds warm, fuzzy and admirable until you realize exactly what the new reg will look like.

Jim Beard said that he is changing his vote in light of Perry's analysis.

Motion to amend the main motion to "The East POW AC wants ADFG to use NEW science and new techniques to estimate the wolf population on POW in addition to existing methodologies."

Motion to withdraw the original motion.

Vote:

We had several motions to support this prop with amendments but ultimately we decided to oppose the prop completely.

Motion to NOT support (oppose) this prop passed unanimously.

We also voted unanimously to send the following comment to the Board of Game.

"The East POW AC wants ADFG to use NEW science and new techniques to estimate the wolf population on POW in addition to existing methodologies."

Prop 49

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 50

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 51

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 52

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 53

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Our comments to the BoG: "We would like ADFG to follow their own management system and quit stopping the harvest season early."

Prop 54

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: We cited all the reasons given earlier in prop 48.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 1

Motion made by Amy J. and seconded to support.

Discussion: We would like it to be statewide.

Vote: Passed to support unanimously.



We agreed to send the following comments to the BoG **"We want this Hunter Safety Ed requirement to be statewide."**

Prop 3

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: Kurt, Rosey & John all said that the current sealing regs provide valuable data to ADFG that is important in managing our black bears. Removing the requirement would make it much harder for ADFG to get accurate data.

Vote: Passed unanimously to NOT support (oppose).

Prop 6

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: Rosey, Will and several others spoke in opposition due to the fur primeness and how the current season works well.

Vote: Passed unanimously to NOT support (oppose).

Prop 8

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: Will and several other trappers spoke that the current season length is good as is and that after Feb.15 the fur is not as prime.

Vote: Passed unanimously to NOT support (oppose).

Prop 10

Discussion: Kurt, Amy and Doug spoke on this but it was pointed out that Unit 4 has the highest deer population in all of SE AK and there are NO wolves in Unit 4 so decreasing the bag limit on our great eating deer doesn't make a lot of sense.

No Action

Prop 17

Motion made and seconded to support.

Discussion: John, Will and several others said this would be a positive change and also help law enforcement.

Vote: Passed to support unanimously.

Prop 18

Motion made and seconded to oppose because we support Prop 17.

Discussion: The same reasons as noted above were cited.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 20

Motion made and seconded to NOT support (oppose).

Discussion: Doug R. is opposed for a variety of reasons and said that enforcement would be a nightmare and dealing with WX makes this untenable. Will P. echoed his thoughts.

Vote: Passed to NOT support (oppose) unanimously.

Prop 21

Motion made (by John R.) and seconded to support.

Discussion: John R. said it will align better with the rest of the state and it should improve enforcement.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

Prop 201

Motion made (by John R.) and seconded to support.

Discussion: John stated that we need to have a state sponsored sea otter season.

Doug and John spoke at length about how the sea otter have decimated our crab and dive fisheries. We agree that our comments to the BoG include **"make sure the board reviews the proposal."** John said the prop was not submitted late but rather ADFG changed the deadline.

Vote: Passed 12-1. Jim Beard is opposed. Ray Slayton abstains due to wording and his employment.

We would like the Board of Game to make sure they review proposal 201.



Prop 202

Motion made (by Dave E.) and seconded to support.

Discussion: ADFG keeps moving the goalposts. They aren't following their own management plans. They have not had a full length season yet. They keep closing the season and they aren't telling us why they close it early.

John R. gave background info on wolf management. Rosey spoke in support. John spoke in support and said **"If there is an overwhelming harvest then ADFG should retain the ability to close the season by emergency order."**

We should have trappers comment after the season to provide ADFG more info.

Vote: Motion passed 13-1 to support.

Doug Rhodes is in opposition due to the poor wording.

We would like the Board of Game to make sure they review proposal 202.

William Pattison was unanimously voted to be our representative for the upcoming Board of Game meeting in KTN Jan 20-24, 2023.

Next meeting is Dec. 17 @ 3pm in Thorne Bay.

Adjourned at 6:01pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Perry Olson

Date: 11.21.2022



Call to Order: 3:10pm by Perry Olson

Roll Call:

| East POW AC Members | Officer | Designation | Present | Absent | Expiration |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|-----------|--------|------------|
| Perry Olson | Chair | Coffman Cove | x | | June 2024 |
| William Pattison | Vice Chair | Whale Pass | x | | June 2024 |
| Kurt Whitehead | Secretary | | x | | June 2025 |
| Kris Anderson | | | x (phone) | | June 2025 |
| Jim Beard | | | | x | June 2023 |
| Matt Beck | | | x | | June 2023 |
| Della Colburn | | Kasaan | | x | June 2025 |
| Dave Egelston | | | x | | June 2025 |
| Amy Jennings | | | x | | June 2025 |
| Kim Redmond | | Thorne Bay | x | | June 2023 |
| Doug Rhodes | | | x (phone) | | June 2024 |
| Dave Roberts | | | | x | June 2025 |
| John Ryan | | | x (phone) | | June 2024 |
| Ray Slayton | | | | x | June 2024 |
| Dick Stewart | | | x (phone) | | June 2023 |

15 total Members, 11 are present

Number needed for a quorum: 8

ADFG Staff Present:

Ross Dorenedorf ADFG (online), Craig Schwanke ADFG sport fish biologist

Guests present: Glen Holt (Thorne Bay), Lee Burger (Thorne Bay), Beau Dale/KTN (phone)

Approval of Agenda:

Moved and seconded to approve the agenda.
Unanimous vote-yes.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Already done

Reports:

ADFG:

Craig Schwanke: gave a report on the fishery proposals that passed at the last BOF meetings.



Prop 82: Modifies the provisions in the SE AK King Salmon Management Plan. Specifically, changes to resident and non-resident bag limits based on the SE AK winter troll fishery CPUE and adds provision that any unused balance of the allocation percentage of the annual harvest ceiling established by the Pacific Salmon Commission be allocated to the troll fishery. Annual limits are changed for nonresidents according to date and creates requirement of a harvest record as specified in 5AAC75.006. Area specific provisions for bag and possession limits are eliminated and limits now apply to the entirety of Southeast. A provision is added for resident priority for closures or restrictions.
Implemented by EO June 20,2022.

Prop 134: Adds language stating that a gill net or beach seine used for subsistence fishing may not block more than one-half the width of any bay, river, creek or stream. **Implemented Jan. 1, 2023**

Prop 172: Changes the commercial pot shrimp fishing season from Oct. through Feb. to May through July.
Implemented May 15, 2023.

Prop 200: Close commercial fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of the community of Klawock.
Prop 200: Closes sport fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of the community of Klawock.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 204: Closes sport fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of the community of Coffman Cove.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 206: Closes the Dungeness crab sport fishery in the vicinity of Whale Pass.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 207: Closes commercial fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of Whale Pass.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 210: Closes commercial fishing for Dungeness crab in the surrounding waters of Hydaburg.
Implemented Jan. 1, 2023.

Prop 226: Prohibits retention of yelloweye, while allowing residents to harvest 1 Demersal Shelf Rockfish. Residents and nonresidents can harvest 1 slope rockfish.
Implemented by EO, April 14, 2022.

Reports:

Ross Dorendorf: 41 wolves have been reported so far by the call in. The sealing period is 15 days so by the end of December they will have the the exact number of wolves harvested on POW.

Kurt Whitehead: Will ADFG extend the wolf season since there have been requests due to the inclement Wx and if so how that would work.

Ross: Early to mid January they will have all the numbers and they will decide at that time whether or not to extend the season but they have never done that before.

Kurt Whitehead: Seasonal Residents report. He will be traveling to Juneau in February looking for sponsors of a bill addressing the seasonal resident issue in SE AK and meeting with several representatives.

John Ryan: Our seasonal resident issue has to be address by statute not regulation, that's why our prior proposals didn't pass at the past BOF.

Perry Olson: Coffman Cove passed a motion supporting the statement that "the city of Coffman Cove is NOT in favor of listing the AA wolves under the ESA."

Public Comments:

Beau Dale from KTN AC: Asked why we haven't discussed prop 19.

Lee Burger mayor of TBY: The City of Thorne Bay will be meeting soon to address the Wolf petition that proposes to list them under the ESA.



Glen Holt: He sent a letter to Perry Olson. He recapped predator control in GMU's 19, 16 & 13 and is in favor of predator control in the state and on POW. He has started an adopt a trapper program to support local trappers and encourage more trappers to get involved in trapping. He is also in favor of harvesting more 2nd growth timber in a sustainable fashion as it will improve our deer habitat but emphasized that habitat is not the main driver for the deer population decreasing, it is the wolf. He also thinks there is a poaching problem on POW and would like to see more enforcement, especially in November.

Old Business:

Proposal 19: Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Is in Unit 3

Ross: Dept is opposed to this prop b/c changing the methods and means might increase the harvest. 125 permits are currently given out and this prop will drop that number to 90 permits. 43 cows and 2 calves were observed in one of their recent surveys but he acknowledged, the habitat makes it very difficult to get a current pop estimate. He shared an elk harvest graph that showed there are currently about 5 animals harvested per year. The total permits are around 150-196, total permits hunted are 60-80 and success rate is around 8-10%. Most are taken during the draw and only about 1-2 animals taken every year during the registration hunt.

Matt Beck: What is the survival rate of elk on Etolin?

Ross Dorendorf: Great question, wasn't sure.

Beau Dale: The harvest statistics for the Etolin Island elk hunt show a consistent low harvest. Lower than what is sustainable. Nearly all of the harvest during the month long archery season has occurred during the first two weeks. Shortening the length of the hunt would have no effect on the average number of elk taken during the history of this hunt. The current number of DE321 tags issued creates crowding in the field. It is not uncommon to hear stories of multiple groups of hunters to be hunting the same area and even the same animal during this hunt. This diminishes the general aesthetics of the hunt, reduces productivity and creates a real concern of a potential cross-fire situation when hunters pursue the same bull unaware of each others presence. By the second half of October, short days and inclement Wx deter hunters from accessing the most productive hunting areas. Also as the alpine forage degrades the elk move to lower elevations where they are extremely difficult to locate. It is not uncommon for zero elk to be harvested during this hunt. I believe that eliminating DE323 and adding DE319 as a described in this proposal would result in a small net increase in total harvest and would provide a better quality hunt while giving ADFG the opportunity to compile harvest data if a registration hunt can occur that year beginning the 1st of November. Starting the registration hunt Nov. 1 would provide a better opportunity for people to simultaneously hunt elk and deer. Lengthening the duration of this hunt would make up for the net reduction in the number of draw tags this proposal creates. Allowing this additional opportunity later in the year during the period of historically low productivity mitigates any biological concern related to potential over harvest and provides the best possible opportunity to participate in elk hunting in this state.

Kurt Whitehead: Has heard about the crowding issues on Etolin every year. Thinks there are ways to improve the hunting experience.

Will Pattison: Has hunted it and is very familiar with the low success rates, crowding issues and in years past there were a lot of elk on it and the hunting experience was much better. Currently the hunting experience is poor, crowded, difficult and thinks it should be improved.

Moved and seconded to support by Kurt and Will.

Perry Olson: Asked Ross if the current hunt structure is meant to limit the harvest?

Ross Dorendorf: The current structure is built to allow opportunity but limit harvest.

John Ryan: Is ADFG going to put hairboards on the island to get a better count of elk.

Ross Dorendorf: No, hairboards are a poor way to estimate populations in ungulates.

Kurt Whitehead: Asked how many archery hunters actually hunt the last 2 weeks in Sept. & What is ADFG's answer to the crowding issue and the low success rates.

Ross Dorendorf: Good points that should be brought up at the BOG. Quality of the hunt and tag numbers issued.

Doug Rhodes: Supports the resident only part of the prop and doesn't know how many non-res actually want to go there.

Beau Dale: Last year, a NR guy killed an elk with a bow, made a YouTube video about his successful hunt and there were currently 1.5 million viewers of the video and suggests this will create a rush for that hunt.

John Ryan: Is in favor of shortening the bow hunt and remove the last hunt. Asked Beau: Why do you propose to close the season the last 2 weeks? Also said there is definitely a crowding issue. Having a longer registration hunt will allow many other hunts.

Beau Dale: What if we shortened the registration season to an earlier time?



Kurt Whitehead: Agrees with the prop other than the last part of the registration hunt being there at all and/or being so long. This prop will alleviate some of the crowding, improve the hunting experience and the safety of the hunt. ADFG can control the hunt permits but also allowing a registration hunt at the end of the season doesn't sit well with him considering the lack of data on the island.

John Ryan: Motion to amend the prior motion with " We support the new hunt DE319

Vote:

11-0 to amend the proposal and SUPPORT the proposal, by supporting the earlier rifle season and asking the board to decide on whether to shorten the registration season to two weeks (Nov. 1-15) or eliminate it completely.

Perry Olson: Read Jim Beards email:

I support sending a letter to FWS asking to NOT list the AA wolf as threatened or endangered. I have some concerns regarding draft letters:

1. Main argument seems to be cheap meat source (deer) vs wolves.
2. Not sure we should talk for tribes (Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian people).
3. Keep focus on wolf management. Don't talk about sea otters with this letter.

Perry Olson: Read Glen Holts letter:

Wolves, deer and forest management on Prince of Wales Island

By Glen Holt, forester & wildlife biologist: Retired AK State Forestry 24yrs, ADFG 2 yrs

Small Business Owner: Alaska Forestry and Habitat Services (2023) Consulting Forester.

Formerly on the ADFG Matanuska and Fairbanks Advisory Committees

Dec. 17, 2022

Letter to the Commissioner of ADFG, the Forest Supervisor Tongass National Forest, the USFW Alaska Region, the East POW AC and Governor Dunleavy, regarding the above.

Who am I: I've lived on Prince of Wales Island full time since August 2018 and have lived in Alaska 40+ years. Venison is an important food for my household. This year is the first year I haven't seen a buck while hunting. Deer seems to be declining on POW Island. Other islands around POW have had lots more clear cutting on them and have more abundant deer and more successful wolf trapping on them for their size compared to POW Island. I've been a homesteader, an Alaskan big game hunting guide #1019; owned and operated Alaskan Woodsmen Hunting Adventures LLC. I earned two bachelor of science degrees in Wildlife Biology (Natural History Option 1981) and Forestry (Forestry Management Option 1982) from Michigan State University. I moved to Alaska in 1982. I've lived in Anchorage, Willow, Skwentna, Big Lake, Meadow Lakes, Fairbanks and currently live in Thorne Bay. I continue to work as a forestry consultant and am employed part-time by the UAF Cooperative Extension. I am a member of the Society of American Foresters.

It is my opinion that: Sitka black-tailed deer are in decline largely due to wolf predation, deep snow events and habitat that continues to decline in old clear cuts that have regrown to exclude sunlight and forage for deer. Furthermore, there is no increase in forage which is only created by a much more active forest management program. The US Forest Service should enhance deer habitat and numbers by encouraging and promoting an economically feasible second-growth commercial timber sale program. This program would regenerate new deer forage & habitat, forest diversity and enhance local and regional economic health. Existing large tree old growth stands in previously harvested drainages could be reserved for deep snow deer habitat. Previously un-accessed large tree old growth stands could be accessed to provide local timber in smaller units, spread out more than previously and at a smaller scale. Large tree old growth stands on federal land should be managed for ecosystem diversity and not just timber. Second growth timber sales should be spread out throughout the landscape. Timber sale units should be large enough to accommodate economic feasibility for the timber industry currently in place. Using grant funded deer habitat enhancement programs may be commendable and useful for research but are generally too restrictive at a scale too small to meaningfully improve deer habitat for subsistence. Ways and means to promote commercial timber sales in our POW second growth should be found.

I believe wolves and other predators are currently the limiting factors regarding the POW deer population.

The existing deer habitat could support more deer. Fewer wolves would in no way endanger or threaten the POW wolf population. Listing wolves on POW as "threatened or endangered" is an inappropriate ploy to do away with forest management here. Listing the wolf is a corrupted method of doing away with sustainable forest management and our viable and renewable means of local and regional economic sustainability.



I urge the East Prince of Wales Advisory Council, the USFWS, the USFS, the ADF&G and the Governor of the State of Alaska to oppose listing wolves on POW island as threatened or endangered, because they are not.

1st Wolf Letter as supplied to AC via email and hardcopy at the meeting:

The Wolves of Southeast Alaska should NOT be listed under the Endangered Species Act

On July 15, 2020, the Center for Biological Diversity, Alaska Rainforest Defenders and Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the Secretary of Interior/US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to list the Alexander Archipelago Wolf in Southeast Alaska as Threatened or Endangered Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Petitioners also requested that critical habitat be designated for the wolves in SE Alaska concurrently with the species being listed. The USFW has jurisdiction over this petition. The 111 page document can be found online at www.biologicaldiversity.org and www.doi.gov. The thorough response from the State of Alaska/Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) has been filed but is not public info yet. USFW will make their decision between July and September of 2023.

If the wolf is listed under the Endangered Species Act, the Federal Government will takeover management from the state. This will end the legal taking of wolves and will severely curtail the hunting of deer, the preferred food for the wolves. There will be far reaching negative impacts on the residents of Prince of Wales Island (POW). This petition threatens our way of life, our ability to secure food, our hunting activities and lifestyle, the economic development on the island and negatively affects the shared culture of our people.

The wolf population on POW dramatically increased after 2012 due to the change in wolf management by ADFG which was driven by the second petition to list the wolves filed in 2011. The first petition to list the wolves was in 1993 and now the third petition was filed in 2020. This continual black cloud petitioning process hanging over our island has negatively affected every resident of POW.

POW is home to 3500 residents that reside in 12 different communities ranging in size from 35 in Point Baker to over 1000 in Craig. POW is the third largest island in the US. The residents rely largely on a subsistence way of life.

Nearly half of the residents of POW are Alaska Natives, generally of Haida, Tlingit or Tsimshian heritage. Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering are a very important part of their indigenous identity. Beyond the Native population, most of the other residents on the island practice subsistence activities as well, in order to feed themselves and their families. Without being able to obtain food that nature gives us, many could not afford to live here.

Deer hunting is vitally important to all Southeast Alaska residents and our subsistence lifestyle. We have relied on Sitka black-tailed deer for sustenance for thousands of years. The deer, salmon, crabs, shrimp and clams are basic elements of life on this remote island. Our family and friend relationships, mental and physical health and economic well-being all benefit from deer hunting. Our freezers are fuller and our lives are enriched when we can harvest deer. It does not matter ones heritage on the island, deer are a very important protein.

Groceries are expensive on the island. They are shipped up on a barge from Seattle to Ketchikan, then put on another barge to Thorne Bay where they are distributed by truck to the various stores. The cost to move the food is currently \$0.43/lb and \$0.82/lb if chilled or frozen. Currently, a gallon of milk is \$6.49, a dozen eggs are \$5.19, ground beef is \$5.99/lb. On top of the high cost of food, gas is expensive, currently \$5.87/gallon and \$6.23/gallon for diesel. The bottom line is that food and fuel costs are a larger percentage of the family budget than in most places around the country.

POW has four grocery stores and the residents of the northern end of the island have to travel long distances over difficult roads to reach the grocery stores or fuel. Those in Coffman Cove drive over 50 miles to the store. Those in Whale Pass drive over 60 miles and it takes over two hours on dry roads. Those in Port Protection or Point Baker are on the road for over four hours one way. In the winter, some of the communities are cut off from the road system.

Other Southeast Alaska communities of Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg travel to POW to deer hunt but since 2017, fewer and fewer off island hunters are coming to POW because the deer population has very obviously declined in the past ten years. Hunters have had to spend more time trying to harvest a deer.

At the same time, some of the subsistence foods that come from the sea are no longer available to users because of uncontrolled sea otters. Users without larger boats are generally unable to safely get to deeper waters to harvest

Dungeness crabs because of depredation by sea otters in shallower waters. Sea urchins are almost gone in shallower water and clams are also heavily impacted.

POW has three big game animals: black bear, Sitka black-tailed deer and wolf and is the only area in the state with just one good eating big game animal. POW does not have caribou, moose, elk, sheep, bison, mountain goat, or muskox.

Everyone agrees that wolves are an important part of POW and we enjoy seeing them, hearing them or just knowing that they exist here. Locals have documented wolves swimming between POW and Zarembo Island and almost every other island in and around POW. Wolves are very resilient and like any other population of animals, reasonable population management is important so that they may still be taken for their traditional uses, but also maintain their place in the food chain. ADFG has been very cautious and conservative in management of the wolves and the population has responded by growing to levels many see as too high. Certainly they are not in need of further protection.

Trying to accurately assess the population of wolves in a temperate rainforest has always been difficult. Recent harvests of wolves have shown that the past estimates were much lower than the numbers actually present. As ADFG continues to refine the methodologies used to estimate populations and balance the populations with carrying capacity, the wolf population will continue to remain viable and healthy.

ADFG has provided thorough and exhaustive data and science proving the Alexander Archipelago Wolf should NOT be listed under the ESA.

The following organizations, businesses and people agree that the Alexander Archipelago Wolf should NOT be listed under the ESA.

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Kurt Whitehead & Trina Nation Treasure Hunter Lodge Klawock, AK | Alaska Outdoor Council Anchorage, AK | Clinton Cook Sr. Tribal President Craig Tribal Association Craig, AK | Scott Van Valin Heidi Van Valin Island Air Express El Capitan Lodge |
| David & Cynthia Egelston Alaska Rainforest Adventures Thorne Bay, AK | Josh & Chace Anderson Fireweed Lodge Klawock, AK | David and Jen Creighton Shelter Cove Lodge Rainforest Auto Rentals Craig, AK | Chuck & Jeanette Haydu Kingfisher Lodge & Charters Craig, AK |
| DJ & Anne Hansen DJ's Alaska Adventure Rentals Klawock, AK | Ray & Elizabeth Douville F/V Faith Faith Fisheries Craig, AK | Ellen Hannan & Brian Castle F/V Renegade Craig, AK | Kirk & Katie Agnitsch Sure Strike Lodge Craig, AK |
| Mark & Beth Farrar Eagles Wings Wilderness Lodge Klawock, AK | James Heppe Jr. Heppe & Sons Construction Klawock, AK | Grace Heppe Heppe's Indoor Edition Klawock, AK | Rosey & Lisa Roseland The Salt Shack Thorne Bay, Alaska |
| Sam & Michelle Peters Slammin' Sam's Charters POW Electric & Repair Klawock, AK | Tim O'Conner F/V Virginia Rose Craig, AK | LeRoy & Tanya Johns F/V Chelsea Dawn Klawock, AK | Spencer & Hannah Richter F/V Resolution Craig, AK |
| Vaughn & Carrie Skinna F/V Annalyn Klawock, AK | Phillip & Danel Winrod F/V Aurie G Thorne Bay, AK | Shawn & Jill Kato-Yates F/V Nauti Lady Klawock, AK | Jason Clowar/Luther Jenson Adventure AK Southeast Thorne Bay, AK |
| Brad McMillan TTP Director Klawock Cooperative Assoc. Klawock, AK | Rob & Val Steward Changing Tides Inn Klawock, AK | Sean Tomkinson Passages Alaska Adventure Therapy, Klawock, AK | Don & Teresa Busse Trophy Inn Klawock, AK |



| | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Ann Williams Klawock, AK | Jon & Debbie Winrod Webster Point, AK | Enoch & Elizabeth Winrod Ketchikan, AK | Sam Sawyer Thorne Bay, AK |
| Brian Ringeisen Anglers-Adventures Ketchikan, AK | Mike & Jan Bush B-3 Contractors Inc.e Klawock, AKe | John & Sheri Wylie Klawock, AK | Matt & Pam Beck Whale Pass, AK |
| Chris Guggenbickler Wrangell, AK | Nichole Pope Naukati, AK | Kyle Berg & Courtney Nase Ketchikan, AK | Sharon Toman Whale Pass, AK |
| Clay Bezenek Ketchikan,AK | | | |

Kurt Whitehead: Read a 2nd version of the wolf letter and thinks we should separate the co-signers/supporters into a stand alone petition and the East PoW AC should draft their own letter. He will present more options at our next meeting.

2nd Letter: The Klawock, AK Fish and Game Advisory Council is grateful for this opportunity to participate in the public process about resource management in our state.

On July 15, 2020, the Center for Biological Diversity, Alaska Rainforest Defenders and Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the Secretary of Interior/US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to list the Alexander Archipelago (AA) Wolf in Southeast Alaska as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The first petition to list the AA wolf was filed in 1993. The second was filed in 2011. The third and current one was filed in 2020 also requests that critical habitat be designated for AA wolves in Southeast Alaska. The document can be found at www.biologicaldiversity.org and www.doi.gov. We would like to state that the recurring petition process takes time away from resource managers studying wolf populations and other important issues and is disruptive for certain residents. The signatories of this document believe that the AA wolf should not be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Prince of Wales Island, the third largest island in the United States, is home to approximately 3500 residents that reside in twelve rural communities, ranging from 35 in remote Point Baker to over 1000 in Craig. Many residents rely largely on a subsistence way of life. Subsistence in rural Alaska means legally that residents can fish and hunt under bag limits that allow us to fill our freezers and pantries because we do not have access to goods and services that people who live in urban areas have. Traditional subsistence lifestyles have been and still are practiced by the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people who have lived here since time immemorial. Prince of Wales area census data from 2021 shows 41.6% Alaska Native residents, almost half the population in POW's communities.(1) Subsistence is a very important part of Alaska Native culture, tradition and heritage.(2) Deer hunting, as a major part of the subsistence lifestyle, is vitally important on POW. Our relationships, mental and physical health and food security are all improved by deer hunting. Deer hunting on POW is more important because this is the only populated area in the region with just one ungulate game animal; POW does not have caribou, moose, elk, sheep, bison, mountain goat or muskox.

Today, subsistence on POW is critical in terms of food security, as soaring inflation nation-wide has increased the cost of all goods and services. Shipping chilled or frozen food here costs \$0.82/lb. In Klawock this week, a gallon of milk is \$6.49, a dozen eggs are \$5.19, and ground beef is \$5.99 per pound. Additionally, gas is currently \$5.87/gal and \$6.23/gal diesel. The bottom line is that food and fuel costs are a much larger percentage of the family budget that average.

Information presented by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and other agencies at the 2022 Deer Summit on POW (October 13-15, 2022) show that the deer population has obviously declined in the past ten years. In 2012, hunters in Unit 2 averaged about 3.5 days of hunting effort per deer harvested; in 2022, hunters spent an average of 4.9 days trying to harvest a deer, according to hunt report survey data from 2012-2021.(3)

We acknowledge that the deer population is affected by numerous factors, including habitat loss from fifty years of industrial scale old-growth logging on POW.(4) We have noticed that, while ADFG reports link POW old-growth forest to healthy deer populations and state that the POWA deer population is in trouble, (5) Division of Forestry staff continue to describe the old-growth stands they cut here as low value and minimize their importance to deer and to



hunters. (6) That doesn't agree with what we heard at the 2022 Deer Summit. We also acknowledge there is work to be done in terms of considering changing deer bag limits or seasons in response to population concerns.

While we acknowledge that POW is not the only place where the AA wolf exists, we do know that effects of management actions are felt more sharply on our island; in part, because it is an island. We have seen more wolves more frequently over the past decade, so we have questions about whether this trend is occurring in other places within the AA wolf's range. ADFG has been cautious and conservative, but to accurately assess the population of wolves in a temperate rainforest has always been difficult. As ADFG continues to refine the methodologies used to estimate and balance populations with carrying capacity, we expect the wolf population will remain healthy. We know the AA wolf is a top predator of Sitka blacktail deer and is far from being endangered. Our personal observations and trends in ADFG data lead us to believe the wolf is thriving in our area. Recent harvests of wolves (7) have shown that past estimates were much lower than current numbers reflect.

If the AA wolf is listed under the Endangered Species Act, the federal government will assume authority over management, which will end legal trapping and hunting of wolves. If deer populations are decreasing, it doesn't make sense to list one of its top predators as endangered unless there is credible science and data that show good cause. ADFG has a growing list of data and science, including its own studies here on POW, proving the AA Wolf should not be listed under the Endangered Species Act.(8)

Everyone agrees that wolves are an important part of POW and we enjoy seeing them, hearing them or just knowing that they exist here. However, listing the AA wolf as endangered will not accomplish better management and will eliminate all legal take of the top non-human predator in an island ecosystem where Sitka blacktail deer is the only ungulate prey available.

We strongly oppose listing the AA wolf as endangered or threatened.

The Klawock ADFG Advisory Council

Matt Beck: Did ADFG conduct wolf studies in other areas besides POW?

Ross Dorendorf: There were other TEK interviews conducted by other agencies but there are no other areas in SE AK doing wolf studies.

Matt Beck: Asked if ADFG has the best methods/means possible?

Ross Dorendorf: The POW hairboard study is the largest in the world and they are in the beginning stages to also incorporate trail cameras into the POW wolf study as well.

Perry Olson: It sounds like ADFG has already replied to USFW, so what does that document say?

Ross: That the AA wolf species is not endangered. Most of the info we have is centered around POW. ADFG is strongly against the listing of ADFG.

Kurt Whitehead: Is the document ADFG gave to USFW as their answer, public info?

Ross Dorendorf: He is unsure but will ask his supervisor and get back to us.

Glen Holt: The 2nd letter just read includes forest harvest issues. If we harvest the 2nd growth more readily it will improve the deer habitat. I do not approve of the vegetation parts of the 2nd letter. If they list the wolf under the ESA, it will really limit the commercial timber harvest.

Motion to table the wolf letter agenda item until the next meeting.

Perry: We should emphasize science more in our letter

Other comments: Etolin elk discussion regarding poor survival compared to most of range. In addition there are brown bears that prey on elk.

Sea Otter discussion:

John Ryan: Why does ADFG say the sea otters are outside of their purview. Why doesn't the state address the sea otter issue, draft their own plan, create a regulation for it and have it ready to go when/if the feds allow sea otter management?



Ross Dorendorf: The only way I know to get it changed is to talk to your legislators.

Doug Rhodes: What John is saying is why don't we have something passed first so if the feds change the rules we are ready to implement a plan.

John Ryan: Yes, put something in the books to start it. Start a regulation and get it in the books first to start the conversation.

Ross Dorendorf: This is all good stuff to relay to the BOG.

Doug Rhodes: Can we discuss the BOF proposals?

Perry Olson: I don't think we can legally talk about the BOF issues since its not on our agenda but it will be for our next meeting.

Next meeting date: Feb. 11 @ 3pm at Thorne Bay

John Ryan: Will talk to Skip Esteban & Della Colburn and see if they want to be on the committee so we can have a representative from Kasaan.

Perry Olson: If Skip wants to join, then we need to know in advance so we can hold an election.

Moved and seconded to Adjourn.

Adjourned: 5:06pm

Minutes recorded by: Kurt Whitehead

Minutes approved by: Perry Olson

Date: 12.17.2022