

Submitted by: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Community of Residence: Juneau, Alaska

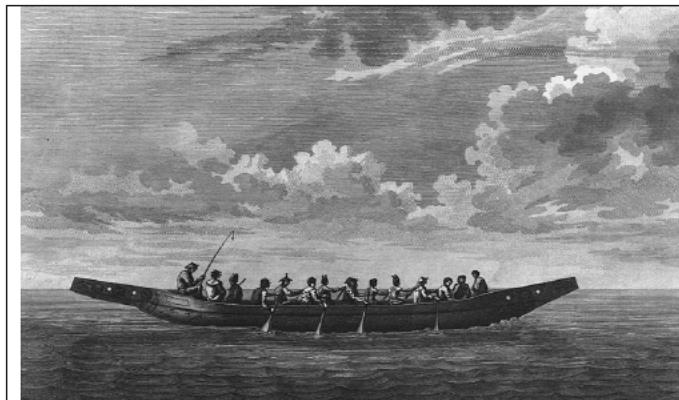
Comment:

Attached letter.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 1: Oppose	Proposal 10: Support	Proposal 21: Support	Proposal 51: Oppose
Proposal 2: Oppose	Proposal 11: Support	Proposal 42: Support	Proposal 52: Oppose
Proposal 5: Support	Proposal 12: Oppose	Proposal 45: Oppose	Proposal 53: Oppose
Proposal 6: Support	Proposal 13: Oppose	Proposal 47: Oppose	Proposal 54: Oppose
Proposal 7: Support	Proposal 14: Oppose	Proposal 48: Oppose	
Proposal 8: Support	Proposal 16: Support	Proposal 49: Oppose	
Proposal 9: Support	Proposal 17: Support	Proposal 50: Oppose	

See attachment on the following page.



***Southeast Alaska
Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council***

**Don Hernandez, Chairman
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

**In Reply Refer To:
RAC.SE.22130.DP**

JAN 2 2022

Jerry Burnett, Chair
ATTN: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Burnett,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to provide comments on proposals coming before the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) during their Southeast Region meeting scheduled for January 20-24, 2023, in Ketchikan.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in southeastern Alaska. It was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establishes the Council's authority to initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region. The Council also reviews resource management actions occurring outside their regions that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities served by the Council. The Council provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

The Council held a public meeting during in October 2022. Among other topics, the Council discussed the following BOG proposals that would affect subsistence users and resources in the Southeast Alaska Region and formulated their positions and comments on these proposals. The Council requests that the BOG considers these comments in its deliberations.

*Regionwide and Multiple Units:*

Proposal 1: OPPOSE. The Council opposes this proposal to require a certified safety education course to hunt in Units 1 – 5, because, although this may be a great idea, it would be too burdensome for hunters to comply. There are challenges in offering this to remote communities, such as internet connectivity, which creates an extra hurdle for remote residents as well as making it hard to offer the education consistently. The Council could possibly support this proposal, if hunter safety education was voluntary; however, the Council opposes any proposal that would make hunter safety education a requirement to obtain a State hunting license.

Proposal 2: OPPOSE. The Council opposes this proposal to require hunter orientation for hunting goat in Southeast Region units. Similar to its opposition to Proposal #1, the Council feels that it would be too burdensome on hunters; there are issues such as internet connectivity and the challenge to offer this to remote communities consistently.

Proposal 5: SUPPORT. The Council supports this proposal to change the waterfowl season in Units 1 through 4 by creating a split season. It would create more opportunity and afford more flexibility.

Proposal 6 - 9: SUPPORT. The Council supports Proposals 6 through 9, which request lengthening the trapping seasons. The State and the Federal trapping regulations for the species listed in these proposals are currently aligned. These proposals provide additional harvesting opportunities for subsistence users.

Sitka Area – Unit 4

Proposal 10 - 11: SUPPORT. The Council supports both of these proposals to decrease the bag limit to four deer in Unit 4 remainder. The Council felt that the State harvest limit was previously arbitrarily changed from four to six deer and, as a result, there is now more localized competition. It could be beneficial to subsistence users, and the Council supports the return of the stricter bag limit for non-subsistence users on State lands.

Proposal 12: OPPOSE. The Council opposes this proposal to open the Mitchell Bay closed area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting. The Council heard public testimony at their meeting from the Mayor of Angoon regarding this type of harvest, and the Council member from Angoon shared comments he has received from community members. It is believed that the area was closed originally because bears who were wounded by non-resident trophy hunters would make their way into town and become the responsibility of the community to ensure safety. The personal safety of people going up into the bay is also a concern based on tidal currents experienced in that area. The Council believes this area is too close to Angoon and hunting should not occur in the area for community safety reasons.

Proposal 13 - 14: OPPOSE. The Council opposes the proposals to make changes to RB088, regarding the hunt boundaries in Unit 4 and the increase to the allowable harvest for brown bear.



Any of the brown bear hunts that overlap with usership will exacerbate the competition issue between user groups.

Petersburg and Wrangell Area – Units B and 3

Proposal 16: SUPPORT. The Council supports this proposal to lengthen the deer seasons in Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the Petersburg Management Area. Lengthening the season is beneficial to Federally qualified subsistence users, and it provides additional harvest opportunities.

Proposal 17: SUPPORT. The Council supports this proposal to establish a fall drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3. There is competition between elk and deer for habitat, and this proposal would decrease competition with deer. This hunt would create additional opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest elk.

Ketchikan Area and Prince of Wales Island – Units 1A & 2

Proposal 42: SUPPORT. The Council supports this proposal, which extends the deer season to December 31st in Unit 1A remainder. This extension would provide more opportunities for people in Ketchikan to take advantage of the additional opportunity to hunt locally and may reduce hunting pressure on Prince of Wales Island.

Proposal 45: OPPOSE. The Council opposes this proposal to raise the population objective from 150-200 wolves to 250-350 wolves in Unit 2 and to raise the threshold for closing the season from 100 to 200 wolves. This Council has worked collaboratively with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) for several years to come up with a better management strategy than by harvest quota. The Council wants to continue to support ADF&G's management strategy. The Council and ADF&G have heard testimony and traditional ecological knowledge over the years that the population of wolves is actually higher on Prince of Wales Island than data suggests. The Council believes the strategy is working and remains confident that the current management strategy will prove to be the successful, given time. The new strategy has only been in place for a few years and should remain in effect to gather sufficient data to show how managing to a population objective is better than managing to a harvest quota.

Proposal 47: OPPOSE. The Council opposes this proposal to require wolf harvest information be reported within 48 hours of recovery and sealing within 14 days in Unit 2, especially if implemented in a shortened wolf season. Based on recent management decisions, the Council anticipates shorter wolf harvest seasons in the future and feels that this proposal would provide limited value for the population model and that the benefit would not outweigh the burden placed on subsistence users. The Council, in the past, relayed their support for a sealing requirement of seven days after the end of the season. Of concern to the Council was the limited number of sealers in Unit 2, which would result in a hardship on trappers, struggling to find a sealer. Also, for those trappers working out of a boat, access and safety may be an issue in bad weather. This could affect a trapper's ability to harvest while meeting sealing requirements. The Council has previously suggested that ADF&G encourage trappers to seal sooner on a voluntary basis and refrain from requiring a regulation change.



Proposal 48 - 54: OPPOSE. The Council opposes proposals 48 through 54. As mentioned before, this Council agrees with the current management strategy. To adopt these proposals would be to negate all the hard work that the Council and ADF&G staff have done in moving from the recommendation to manage wolves from a harvest quota to a population objective. The Council and ADF&G have spent significant time and effort in exploring a better way of managing wolves in Unit 2. This included several meetings with the local residents, hearing and applying traditional ecological knowledge. A lot of thought and effort went into these regulations that are currently in place and the following only outlines the efforts made in most recent years:

- At the Winter 2018 meeting, the Council voted to submit a proposal to the BOG to allow a harvest guideline of up to 30% for wolves in Unit 2 (Proposal #42). Subsequent to that meeting, Council members worked with ADF&G to develop a proposal suggesting a specific management objection (Proposal #43)
- At its Fall 2018 meeting, the Council voted to withdraw its Proposal #42 and support ADF&G's Proposal #43, which called for eliminating the 20% harvest guideline level (HGL) that was currently in the codified regulations and establishing a management objective for wolves in Unit 2. Support was based on discussions between the Council Unit 2 wolf working group and ADF&G, and Council discussion on the record.
- The Council supported this new management strategy for the following reasons:
 - Current State regulation unnecessarily restricts management of wolves and subsistence harvests of wolves in Unit 2 by specifying a 20% HGL. This guideline limits management flexibility and unnecessarily restricts subsistence harvests in times of abundance. Unit 2 guideline limits are much more restrictive than wolf harvest regulations for other management units in Alaska.
 - Council found that setting a joint State and Federal harvest quota for wolves has not been working because:
 - The HGL for wolves had been set according to wolf population estimates based on DNA sampling. While this methodology may come up with a good defensible population estimate for wolves, the estimate is always out of date, requiring managers to set a harvest guideline based on one-year old data.
 - In times of abundance, the HGL was below what the Unit 2 wolf population could sustain.
 - The HGL has required closing the season by emergency order for five years, creating uncertainty and hardship for subsistence harvests.
 - Subsistence harvest of wolves in Unit 2 is a harvest activity protected by ANILCA and should not be unduly restricted. The Council supported Proposal #43 in 2018 to allow for the continuation of subsistence harvests and the transmission of knowledge to new trappers.
 - This new management approach incorporates the principals of adaptive wildlife management.
 - ADF&G worked effectively with the Council and assured the Council that it will incorporate tribal and community information on wolf population management in Unit 2. ADF&G indicated that it would also incorporate reports from hunters and



trappers on the size of the wolf population based on their experience in the field. It is the Council's understanding that ADF&G would continue to undertake DNA-based population estimates every 2-4 years. ADF&G indicated that it would use other methods of wolf population estimation, including traditional ecological knowledge, hunter/trapper reports, tribal and community reports, as well as den checks and examination of the age of harvested wolves.

- The Council agreed that an appropriate population management objective for Unit 2 wolves is 150 wolves. The Council would support reductions in harvest opportunity if the population dropped below that point. This management objective was supported by extensive public testimony and ADF&G analysis.

For all these reasons and because the Council believes that ADF&G is doing better with their assessments in the last couple of years, the Council feels strongly that the change in management, which took years of collaborative development, deserves time to work. Therefore, the Council strongly opposes Proposals #48 through #54.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to convey its recommendations on and concerns about these proposals. These comments also were transmitted via email at <http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov>. If you have any questions regarding this letter, they can be addressed through our Council Coordinator DeAnna Perry at 907-209-7817 or dlperry@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donald Hernandez".

Donald Hernandez
Chair Regional Advisory Council
Southeast Alaska Region

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Members
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Benjamin Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Administrative Record



Submitted by: Paul Southland

Community of Residence: Wrangell

Comment:

Proposal 17 Comment in favor.

Expanding elk population may be detrimental to deer survival. A drawing hunt of elk could mitigate issue and supply needed meat for local communities.

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Proposal 17: Support



Submitted by: Randy Steverson

Community of Residence: New Orleans, LA

Comment:

Thank you for the opportunity to take the survey and submit my responses. I'm a lifelong bowhunter and will be hunting Alaska in November.

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Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support



Submitted by: Geoffrey Stokes

Community of Residence: Wrangell, Alaska

Comment:

To whom this may concern. I am Geoffrey Stokes a 30+ year resident of Wrangell, Subsistence Hunter Gatherer in support of proposal 17 opening elk hunting on Zerambo Island . If we don't get to hunt elk what purpose do they serve. This should not be looked at as a trophy hunt it should be looked and guided as a subsistence meat hunt first then worry about the trophy quality of things after we have a subsistence meat hunt established that is sustainable for the subsistence users in these rural communities.

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Proposal 17: Support



Submitted by: Mark Stopha

Community of Residence: Juneau, AK

Comment:

I'm opposed to proposal 36 to reduce the bag limits for grouse, as there's biological justification for it. I've hunted hooters on Douglas and Admiralty for many years. Some years there's lots of birds and some years there are fewer birds. I've not noticed any steady decline that would justify a lower bag limit. Not that many hunters get 5 every time they go out. But people aren't hunting for sport, but for food. It's not like fishing where you can "let them go". I do not want to see food gathering reduced for no biological reason because it could set a precedent. ADFG staff in Douglas have not been averse to reducing bag limits when necessary, as they have recently done with deer. Juneau residents are already seeing reduced hunting limits for deer on Prince of Wales Island on federal lands where no conservation concern, and limited to having a chance at a Berners Bay moose permit because distant rural residents are given the permits. We don't need reduced hunting limits in our backyard where no conservation concern exists.

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Proposal 36: Oppose



Submitted by: Michael Stainbrook

Community of Residence: Petersburg, Alaska

Comment:

I do not support proposal 24 or proposal 25. I do not support black bear hunting in the Petersburg Creek drainage.

If the Petersburg Creek Drainage is opened for black bear hunting it will open the potential for conflict with other user groups.

The long history of maintaining this drainage closed to black bear hunting should be continued.

Besides being the only portion of unit 3 closed to black bear hunting it's proximity to Petersburg allows both locals and tourists (young and old) accessible opportunities for exceptional black bear viewing. This should not change.

I do not support proposal 24 or 25 .

Thank you. Mike Stainbrook

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Proposal 24: Oppose

Proposal 25: Oppose



Submitted by: Adrienne Swan

Community of Residence: Juneau, AK

Comment:

Unit 3 moose regulations need changing. In my attached proposal, I give potential "solutions" and the reasoning behind.

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Proposal 4: Support
Proposal 6: Support
Proposal 7: Support
Proposal 8: Support

Proposal 9: Support
Proposal 22: Oppose
Proposal 23: Oppose
Proposal 24: Support

Proposal 25: Support
Proposal 28: Support
Proposal 29: Support
Proposal 32: Oppose

Proposal 33: Oppose
Proposal 34: Support

See attachment on the following page.



Game & Fish Unit 3 Moose Regulations Proposal

This past fall, two friends and I hunted moose on Kupreanof Island. We spent 26 days on the island and had incredible hunting nearly the entire time. However, out of nearly 30 bulls we called in, only two were confirmed legal. We hunted with archery equipment, so the bulls we called in, we called in close. Getting good looks at their antlers was not an issue. All of the non-legal bulls were mature bulls (we didn't call in a single spike or fork) that had 1x1 or 1x2 brow tines. Most, if not all, of which will probably never grow more, keeping them illegal their whole life and passing on those genes to future calves. Of the two legal bulls we did find, our party shot one of them. The only reason his bull was legal though was because his left side was goofy. It was much smaller than the right, and had a single brow tine with a roughly 14-inch ladled palm with no points, thus making him a fork. His right side was a full paddle and single brow tine, much like the others we called in.

We met and talked with many other hunters while on the island, and some of them did not see one single legal bull during their entire hunt. We also talked to a couple Game & Fish biologists who said that bulls of all ages are being shot, so the antler restrictions meant to protect the prime breeding class, are not working. This year, too, less moose were harvested in Unit 3 than in previous years. One of our party members did this same hunt in 2019, and from what he could tell, the moose numbers had definitely not decreased. If anything, they had increased, which we think could be a sign of more illegal bulls.

We have brainstormed multiple potential solutions to this problem in Unit 3. Obviously, it cannot become an any-bull hunt, because that would draw too many hunters to the island. Doing an any-bull draw would also not be ideal, because it's a meat hunt for people on the island and close surrounding areas, and that would take away much of their opportunity. So, we propose that a draw for a set amount of Any-Bull permits is added. We think this could help in the long run, in that Any-Bull hunters might take some of the 1x1 and 1x2-browed bulls out of the gene pool. Another potential solution could be reducing the 50-inch and over width down to 40 inches and over. Not one bull we saw was over 50 inches, and we doubt very many bulls ever get that large. We did see three huge bulls that were close to 50 inches though, and would definitely have been over 40.

Please consider our proposals, or another one that may help the problem. We strongly believe that regulations need to change in Unit 3, both to reverse this trend of genetic selection for bad brow tines and so that hunters in the unit have a population of moose that are legal to harvest.



Submitted by: Brenton Taft

Community of Residence: Sandia Park, New Mexico

Comment:

Proposal 16 - SUPPORT

Proposal 16 asks to lengthen an already existing archery only hunt by two months with the bag limit (2 bucks) to remain the same. This would allow more opportunity for pursuing early season deer in the alpine. This proposal would benefit all bowhunters who choose to utilize this hunt but would be of most benefit to local residents of the hunt area. This area is already limited to bow and arrow only with a bag limit of two buck deer and the only change this proposal would bring is added days of season to hunt.

Proposal 19 - OPPOSE

Proposal 19 calls for cutting the Etolin Island archery elk season IN HALF. The proposal also would add a new any weapon season with an additional 25 elk permits that would take place in what is currently the last 2 weeks of the archery season and the peak of the elk rut. In a nutshell, this proposal would cause the number of drawing permits for the month of September to go from 25 to 50 with half of that number being available to rifle hunters during the peak of the rut. There are already 2 existing any weapon drawing permit elk hunts on Etolin during the month of October. Harvest Data shows that currently, the any weapon hunts yield over 50% more harvest than the additional archery hunt. The beauty of the current regulation is that it allows a longer season with more hunting opportunity in September due to the low impact of archery equipment. This proposal would take away from that opportunity while also potentially having a negative affect on the elk herd on the Island.

Proposal 24 - SUPPORT

Proposal 24 advocates for opening a registration archery only hunt for black bear in the Petersburg Creek drainages of Kupreanof Island. There would only be up to 10 permits available for this hunt which would only be available in person at the Petersburg ADF&G office. This permit would only be available to residents of Alaska and would have a bag limit of one bear per regulatory year. The season for this hunt would be from April 15th – June 30th and these dates were purposely chosen by the proposer in order to be the least likely time for any user conflicts in the area. Proposal 24 would afford residents of the Petersburg area a great opportunity to pursue black bear locally with archery equipment.

Proposal 29 - SUPPORT

Proposal 29 would expand the hunt area of the RG014 archery goat hunt in Unit 1C. This would afford more hunting opportunity to bowhunters and would not cause any population concerns according to ADFG.

Proposal 30 - SUPPORT

Proposal 30 would open a fall archery goat hunt in Unit 1C, the southern end of the Chilkat Peninsula from August 1st – September 1st. If adopted, this hunt would afford more hunting opportunity while also having a low impact due to the limitations of archery equipment.

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Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support

Submitted by: Jerry Taton

Community of Residence: Juneau Ak

Comment:

I have hunted Douglas Island for 26 years now the wolf population is getting way out of hand the deer population has dropped dramatically on Douglas Island. and there are a number of us who count on Douglas for our deer if something is not done, and soon there will be no deer population on Douglas Island.

Submitted by: John Taylor

Community of Residence: Wrangell

Comment:

I fully support opening elk hunting on Zarembo Island

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Proposal 17: Support

Proposal 18: Support

Submitted by: Christopher Thalacker

Community of Residence: Hortonville, WI

Comment:

As an out of state bow hunter, I would oppose any such measure expanding the use of any weapon type season to overlap with any bow season. The significant advantage that other weapons brings will put archers at a large disadvantage during those season overlaps. I've experienced such overlap in the lower 48 and have had opportunities snatches out of my hands just for this reason and due to that, I will no longer hunt in those states that allow such and acute overlap of seasons. Thusly, as an out of state hunter, it will erode the pool of potential dollars that could be brought to the state through hunting opportunities for specific seasons which will impact businesses income beyond just hunting license sales. I would highly recommend keeping the seasons separate and without overlap.

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Proposal 16: Support

Proposal 24: Support

Proposal 30: Support

Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 29: Support



Submitted by: Steve Thomassen

Community of Residence: Wrangell Alaska

Comment:

17

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Proposal 17: Support



Submitted by: Donald Thompson

Community of Residence: Troy

Comment:

proposal 19 would have an impact on the elk herd with the success of alternative weapons over archery only. plus shortening the archery season limits its success. we would oppose such a change.

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Proposal 16: Support

Proposal 24: Support

Proposal 30: Support

Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 29: Support



Submitted by: Brad Thomsen

Community of Residence: Edmonds Washington

Comment:

Proposal 16 - SUPPORT

Proposal 16 asks to lengthen an already existing archery only hunt by two months with the bag limit (2 bucks) to remain the same. This would allow more opportunity for pursuing early season deer in the alpine. This proposal would benefit all bowhunters who choose to utilize this hunt but would be of most benefit to local residents of the hunt area. This area is already limited to bow and arrow only with a bag limit of two buck deer and the only change this proposal would bring is added days of season to hunt.

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Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support



Submitted by: Kris Thynes

Community of Residence: Petersburg, Alaska

Comment:

Proposal #22

I am one of the authors of this proposal, requesting that the special provisions "rule" banning the use of motorized vehicles to access hunting in area 1B , Thomas Bay road system. I firmly believe that this " rule" no longer serves any use in the management of the moose in this area. As a resident of this area, I have seen the change in habitat, the clear cuts have grown back. Seeing moose from the roadway is rare now. And as the habitat changed the moose are no longer as numerous as in the past.

I regret the waste of the boards time, as this is a local rule, and the local game officer could have repealed himself, as our local advisory board has voted twice this past year, that they believe it no longer serves any management purpose.board

Proposal #23

I am the author of this proposal, and I would prefer to drop this proposal and instead remove the " no drive rule" as stated in proposal #22. At which point, the use of E- bikes would be allowed.

Thank you for your time, Kris Thynes

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Proposal 22: Support

Proposal 23: Oppose

Proposal 33: Oppose



Submitted by: Tim Travis

Community of Residence: Juneau, ak

Comment:

I support the change to the age limit for waterfowl hunters on the mendenhall wetlands. I think the current verbiage is confusing and cuts out a lot of youth from hunting. My 8 year old spent the 2022 season following me around on the wetlands learning about hunting and he is currently in the process of taking the online portion of his hunter’s safety course so that he will be able to hunt next year when he is 9. The way it is currently stated I interpreted it as you can not hunt the mendenhall wetlands with out a wetlands permit which requires a hunters safety permit. I think kids under 13 or 14 should be able to hunt with a parental figure. I think it is paramount to getting the next generation into hunting that they get an early start on the experience.

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Proposal 30: Support
Proposal 31: Support

Proposal 32: Support
Proposal 34: Support
Proposal 35: Support
Proposal 36: Support
Proposal 37: Support

Proposal 38: Support
Proposal 39: Support
Proposal 40: Support
Proposal 41: Oppose



Submitted by: Charles Tripp

Community of Residence: Roswell, New Mexico

Comment:

I am in Opposition to proposal 19!

Cutting the length of time of an archery hunt increases pressure both on animals and on the hunters and makes the hunts No as enjoyable!

Adding a rifle hunt during the rut for elk is complete madness as it will almost guarantee 100% success for those rifle hunters, which will greatly reduce numbers!

There is already 2 other rifle hunts in place that the rifle tags could be spread across and zero need for cutting archery season short!

Alaska is known to be an adventure hunt for almost all bowhunters across America and to see a rut hunt for elk put up as a proposal to be rifle hunt destroys bowhunters desire to travel to Alaska to hunt!

With all trends when it comes to politics once one hunt is pushed to the side for another it’s hard to stop the momentum that is in motion so please do not move forward with Proposal 19!

I am a life member of Alaska Bowhunters Association, life member of Pope and Young Club, and a life member of Boone and Crocket Club! I cherish the opportunity to pursue wildlife with a stick and string!

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Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support



Submitted by: Craig Vanarsdale

Community of Residence: Soldotna,AK

Comment:

Please see Proposal Survey

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Proposal 4: Oppose
Proposal 5: Support
Proposal 6: Oppose
Proposal 7: Oppose
Proposal 8: Support
Proposal 9: Oppose
Proposal 10: Oppose
Proposal 11: Oppose
Proposal 12: Oppose
Proposal 13: Oppose
Proposal 14: Oppose

Proposal 15: Support
Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 17: Oppose
Proposal 18: Oppose
Proposal 19: Oppose
Proposal 20: Oppose
Proposal 21: Oppose
Proposal 22: Oppose
Proposal 23: Oppose
Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 25: Oppose
Proposal 26: Support
Proposal 27: Oppose
Proposal 28: Support

Proposal 29: Support
Proposal 30: Support
Proposal 31: Support
Proposal 32: Support
Proposal 33: Oppose
Proposal 34: Support
Proposal 35: Support
Proposal 36: Oppose
Proposal 37: Oppose
Proposal 38: Support
Proposal 39: Support
Proposal 40: Oppose
Proposal 41: Support
Proposal 42: Support

Proposal 43: Oppose
Proposal 44: Oppose
Proposal 45: Oppose
Proposal 46: Support
Proposal 47: Oppose
Proposal 48: Oppose
Proposal 49: Oppose
Proposal 50: Oppose
Proposal 51: Oppose
Proposal 52: Oppose
Proposal 53: Oppose
Proposal 54: Oppose



To members of the Board of Game,

I am submitting this public comment in **SUPPORT** of **Proposal 5**, which would **establish a split season for waterfowl hunting in the Southeast Zone, Units 1-4**.

During the 2019 BOG meeting, the board encouraged the department to work through the federal process to secure a split season option for the Southeast Zone in order to accommodate the preferences of both early and late season hunters within the region. I appreciate the efforts by the department to complete those steps and to bring this proposal before the BOG. Following are my **four primary objectives** considered in proposing new season dates:

- **Restore the traditional September 1 hunting season start date**

The September 16 start date results in two weeks of lost opportunity for early migrating species that have moved through the area. A return to a September 1 opener will restore the historical start date, get hunters back in the field earlier and increase opportunities to pursue wigeon, green-winged teal and pintail which begin moving down the coast in late August. The first two weeks of September offer mild weather and the longest days of the season and as such, the best opportunity to take advantage of favorable tides for hunting.

- **Provide for uninterrupted hunting during the September and October migration periods**

September harvests are concentrated on the species highlighted previously. The month of October ushers in more unstable weather and with that comes the flights of mallards and geese from the north. This an exciting time to access these other species of waterfowl that are moving through the region throughout the month.

- **Minimize disruption to other traditional hunt periods that are important to hunters**

November brings on the blacktail deer rut along with established traditions of some hunters for combination deer and duck hunts during the early part of the month. The original dates I considered for the first portion of the split season ended November 10. While presenting my proposed season dates to the Sitka Advisory Committee last month, several others at the meeting spoke to the importance of having the waterfowl season open during the entire month of November, a period when they are already in the field hunting deer. One individual also spoke to the importance of the opportunity to hunt waterfowl on Thanksgiving Day. I felt it was prudent to acknowledge these other hunting traditions and have incorporated into my proposed dates their preference for hunting the entire month of November.

- **Maintain a late season hunting opportunity**

In 2008, the BOG delayed the waterfowl season to allow hunting to continue until the end of December. A split season continues to offer the option of hunting through the end of December or to set a later second split that could keep the season open into January, if that was the preference of late season hunters.

Based on the objectives considered, I offer the following dates to satisfy the wishes of early and late season hunters, while not displacing hunters from traditional hunt periods during the middle of the season. The proposed dates align with the 107-day season mandate and are based on the September - December time frame under which our current alternating seasons occur.

Proposed Dates:

Open September 1- November 30 (91 days)

Closed December 1- 15

Open December 16- December 31 (16 days)

Thanks for your consideration!

Mike Vaughn



Submitted by: Paul Vice

Community of Residence: Seymour, IN

Comment:

Paul Vice - bowhunter from Indiana ...having bowhunted Alaska multiple times and a current member of the Alaskan Bowhunters Association.

I am writing to oppose Proposal 19, which would cut the archery elk season on Etolin Island in half and replace those lost archery days with a new any weapon hunt. This proposal also cuts the number of archery tags available in half...which considering there are already two any weapon hunts on Etolin Island...is absolutely unfair to bowhunters. Lastly, I would oppose ANY proposal that adds rifle hunting during the peak of the elk rut. IMO, rifles during peak rut has the potential to create a serious negative affect the herd within just a few years. I've seen it happen before. Thanks for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Paul Vice

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support



Submitted by: Brian Watkins

Community of Residence: EAGLE RIVER

Comment:

Proposal 84; support; I want to comment on this and say that it doesn't adjust tags or add a new season. I am looking to modify the existing (ds141) season by splitting it into 3 separate hunts. Instead of one 24 tag season September 1-30, I think it would be a better experience to have three 8 tag seasons. Moving the seasons up to August would benefit the archery hunters as well. Adjacent rifle tags start in august where people access that tag through the DS141 unit.

Note: Respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment submission form. This information allows Board Support staff to develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 2: Support

Proposal 31: Support

Proposal 35: Support



Submitted by: William Webb

Community of Residence: Muscogee, Georgia

Comment:

Support Bowhunting!!!

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support



Submitted by: David Wellman

Community of Residence: Bark River

Comment:

Ser attachment Proposal 16 I like many archery hunters do not support proposals 16. I feel we the bowhunters do not need an extra 2 months to hunt. I will reference the affect of an extended season in my home state of Michigan. Michigan has a three month archery season for whitetail deer vs 15 days for rifle season. Archery technology as advance greatly the last 30 years resulting in a great increase of archery hunters. This increase has greatly affected the quality of the deer heard in respect of too many mature bucks taken before the breeding season has started leaving immature bucks doing more breeding. Our overall antler size and body size has dropped greatly over the yrs. By extending hunting seasons you could over time have the problems we see in Michigan. I feel all hunting seasons regardless of weapon used should all have the same time frame to hunt. Proposal 19,24,29 &30 I support. I do not live in Alaska but have relation that does and feel the same way.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 1: Oppose	Proposal 5: Support	Proposal 9: Support	Proposal 21: Support
Proposal 2: Support	Proposal 6: Support	Proposal 10: Support	
Proposal 3: Support	Proposal 7: Support	Proposal 11: Support	
Proposal 4: Support	Proposal 8: Support	Proposal 12: Support	



Submitted by: Jon Wendel

Community of Residence: Juneau, AK

Comment:

See attachment.

Also, Proposal 41 would have unintended consequences, I would support trapping of wolves on Douglas, but removing it from the management area would have impacts on other species, such as deer, and would then allow for only bucks to be harvested? I support the wolf trapping regulation for Douglas be amended to expand wolf trapping.

Also, there are a [redacted] of wolves on POW, so I strongly support 45, 46 and strongly oppose 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54. Alaska Wildlife Alliance, what a joke. I'm guessing none of the commenters even live on POW. I just want the better science for basing the wolf harvest on. Currently, I know there are too many to support local subsistence deer harvests, but there should be a reasonable cap too, so do your thing F&G and find that number.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 1: Oppose	Proposal 17: Support	Proposal 34: Support	Proposal 48: Oppose
Proposal 2: Support	Proposal 18: Support	Proposal 36: Support	Proposal 49: Oppose
Proposal 3: Support	Proposal 19: Support	Proposal 37: Support	Proposal 50: Oppose
Proposal 4: Support	Proposal 21: Oppose	Proposal 38: Support	Proposal 51: Oppose
Proposal 5: Support	Proposal 27: Support	Proposal 39: Support	Proposal 52: Oppose
Proposal 10: Oppose	Proposal 29: Support	Proposal 41: Oppose	Proposal 53: Oppose
Proposal 11: Oppose	Proposal 30: Support	Proposal 45: Support	Proposal 54: Oppose
Proposal 13: Support	Proposal 31: Support	Proposal 46: Support	
Proposal 14: Support	Proposal 32: Support	Proposal 47: Oppose	

See attachment on the following page.



ADF&G –

Please accept these comments as they relate to the 2022-2023 Proposal Book proposal 10, 11, 36, and 37.

Firstly – I would like to begin with an overarching comment that ADF&G is charged, in AS 16.05, with the responsibility of managing the resources of the state to the use by it's residents, specifically, among other things, [AS 16.05.050.19] "to promote fishing, hunting, and trapping and preserve the heritage of fishing, hunting, and trapping in the state." Regulatory decisions made by ADF&G are based in science, research, and deliberation. As such, frankly, ADF&G should grow a spine and deny these requests, as the proposals lack the scientific support to be implemented responsibly. Quite to the contrary, ADF&G has conducted their own research into deer populations and have determined that proposition 10/11, specifically, are incorrect. As a southeast hunter (primarily deer), I can say that the impacts Juneau hunters are having on areas outside our relatively small geographical range is likely not significant. Within my friend group of hunters, we do take a significant number of deer annually, but are not spending thousands of dollars to fly/charter to rural areas to ravage their deer populations. It just doesn't pencil out. The notion that Juneau hunters at having even a marginal impact on deer populations is likely not accurate. ADF&G would have access to this information from harvest reporting, but I generally tag out every year, or close to it, and have never traveled to a rural village to harvest deer. Additionally, my family relies on deer as a sustainable and responsible means of harvesting meat, and while we could go to the store and purchase beef, I have just as much claim to the deer walking around in the woods as any other resident of Alaska as a resource of the state. I hope I'm preaching to the choir, but please see my following comments regarding the proposals:

Proposal 10: This proposal does not include sufficient scientific or analytical information to support this proposal. The proposer claims that it would have 'minimal impact on the deer population or individual hunter harvests', if true, why change it? I can say that changing the bag limit from 6 to 4 would drastically impact me on a yearly basis. Also, the proposer claims that the reduction would benefit subsistence hunters. While I assume they mean rural subsistence hunters, people in urban areas can also participate in many forms of subsistence. Indeed, if you're shooting 6 deer a year, the likely sole purpose you're hunting is for subsistence purposes. Most 'recreational' hunters are not putting the time or effort into shooting even 4 deer. Reducing the number of tags from 6 to 4 would likely **only** impact subsistence hunters. Also, the proposer makes a series of claims which I doubt (such as "Very few individual non-federally qualified hunters harvest a six deer limit in Unit 4"). Just because you don't harvest 6 deer a year doesn't mean that you didn't intend on harvesting that number back in August. The proposers final comment cuts to the issue being skirted around, this proposal is primary targeted at residents of Juneau, who, as stated, likely do not contribute significantly to the harvesting of deer near rural communities and who's residents are participating in subsistence harvesting (even if not federal subsistence), who choose to attempt to harvest 4+ deer, this would negatively impact.

I strongly oppose this proposal and hope that ADF&G trust their own data to show it is misguided and targeted. Neither of which should be the basis for resource management decisions.



Proposal 11: Again, this proposal is not based on facts. The opening statement indicates that 'Unit 4 is special because of the **lack** of predators'. Admiralty Island has the highest density of brown bears in the world... and many other areas have significant numbers of bears/wolves, so I'm not really sure what this person is talking about. Most of the proposal is 'back in my day' type of information and, again, should not be the basis for resource management decisions. This is further enforced by the statement, "**I think** four deer per hunter is a good number when you factor in all the other animals we can harvest and the opportunities we have to use proxies for old-timers who can't hunt for themselves anymore." While proxy hunting is an awesome opportunity, and one that I have taken part in, this only further the idea that an individual should be able to shoot more than 4 deer (total of 8 if proxy hunting). With this number remaining at 6, that same individual could give deer 5 and 6 away if they waned and accomplish the same ends.

Again, I strongly oppose this proposal and hope that ADF&G trust their own data to show it is misguided and targeted. Neither of which should be the basis for resource management decisions.

Proposal 36: I don't know enough about grouse season to either oppose or support this proposal, but I can say that among my grouse friends, there has been a reduction in the number of birds they have seen/shot. Generally, I would agree that a reduction in the Juneau and Douglas road system would be appropriate, but again, I do not have the specific knowledge to support this. I can say that I, personally, can attest to the interest in grouse hunting in the spring. The doldrums of winter give way to spring in Juneau, and hunting is always on my mind, grouse just have the unfortunate misfortune of being my first opportunity to hunt after things start to melt.

I would generally support this proposal, but would defer to ADF&G who likely have more analytical data to support/reject this proposal.

Proposal 37: I would generally support this proposal. The 20 a day bag limit is, honestly, a little insane and does make it seem like the hills are infested with them. Also, the proposal would only affect the Juneau/Douglas road system, so hunters and not investing significant resources to harvesting the birds. So, push come to shove, they could just go back out the next day and get more.



Submitted by: Kathleen Wendt

Community of Residence: Ketchikan, Alaska

Comment:

See attached

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 26: Support
Proposal 27: Support
Proposal 45: Support

Proposal 46: Oppose
Proposal 47: Support
Proposal 48: Support

Proposal 49: Support
Proposal 50: Support
Proposal 51: Support

Proposal 52: Support
Proposal 53: Support
Proposal 54: Support



Submitted by: Trygve Westergard

Community of Residence: Ketchikan, Ak

Comment:

I believe there should be more options to hunt elk on Etolin and Zarembo.

The elk were transplanted there for the people to hunt. Not as a sanctuary. The limited drawing hunts don't give locals enough opportunities to harvest this wonderful food supply.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 17: Support

Proposal 18: Support

Proposal 19: Support

Proposal 20: Support



Submitted by: Charles Whitwam

Community of Residence: Pacifica, ca

Comment:

I support proposals 16, 24, 29 and 30. opposing 19. thank you

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support

Submitted by: Gordon Williams

Community of Residence: Juneau, AK

Comment:

Gordon Williams

Comments on BOG Proposal 12: Opening the Mitchell Bay area to bear hunting

OPPOSE

I am writing in opposition to Proposal 12 which would repeal the closure of the Mitchell Bay area to the taking of brown bears. I have lived full time or part time in Angoon for 45 years. I was a long-time member of the Angoon Advisory Committee, serving as the Chair for about 10 years. I am a lifetime outdoorsman and hunter – my father was a hunting guide for many years.

In concert with the historical use of Mitchell Bay by the residents of Angoon and special designation of the area in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which includes cooperative management of corridor lands in the Mitchell Bay area by Kootznoowoo Inc., the village Native corporation, the community recognized that the taking of brown bear in the Mitchell Bay area was not in the best social or economic interests of the community. At the request of the community, the BOG closed Mitchell Bay to the taking of brown bears in 1991. In 1992, the City of Angoon selected Mitchell Bay as an Area Meriting Special Attention under the then in place Alaska Coastal Zone Management Program because it was deemed “indispensable to the continuation of the indigenous culture, including locations of traditional and customary use for hunting, fishing, and food gathering.” Mitchell Bay provides sheltered waters for these traditional activities by Angoon residents and others.

Angoon is an economically distressed community. As the community looks to develop economic opportunities, there is currently a renewed interest in culturally and environmentally compatible tourism. A very important element involves Mitchell Bay for wildlife viewing. Opportunities to view brown bears is an important component of those efforts.

There is no valid justification for the Board to change the designation of Mitchell Bay with regard to the taking of brown bear. With very limited exceptions, almost all of Admiralty Island, as well as adjacent Baranof and Chichagof islands, is open for bear hunting. Opening Mitchell Bay for bear hunting would result in conflicts with the community and land management entities, and negatively impact traditional uses and future economic development.

Submitted by: Mary Willson

Community of Residence: Juneau AK

Comment:

Prop. 40: There is a real risk that uneducated shooters will kill red-winged blackbirds and rusty blackbirds that can be in this area seasonally. It takes practice to tell the difference between blackbirds and starlings. (In any case, it is not clear that shooting starlings would make a significant difference in their population size. Trapping them might work better. Starlings don't really do much harm, anyway, except by competing for nest holes, and their population is pretty well localized e.g. near the dump)

Prop. 41. I object strongly to 'controlling' the wolf population in order to increase the numbers of deer on Douglas. Wolves and deer would reach a natural balance, if left alone. I think the human hunters have more effect on the numbers of deer that wolves do--that's a testable hypothesis! (although i dont expect that you will actually test it...)

Every time i wander around on Douglas, in the woods and muskegs, i see deer sign; there should be enough of them over there for both wolves and humans.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 40: Oppose

Proposal 41: Oppose



PC180

Submitted by: James Wondzell

Community of Residence: Wi Rapids, Wi. 54494

Comment:

I support resolutions 16,19,24,29 and 30. Neutral on all the other issues.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 16: Support

Proposal 24: Support

Proposal 30: Support

Proposal 19: Support

Proposal 29: Support



PC181

Submitted by: Kaden Wren

Community of Residence: Hays, Kansas

Comment:

I am a bow hunter from western Kansas with a strong passion in conservation for all of the United States in order for future generations of bow hunters to be able to enjoy the same resources we get to today.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 17: Support

Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 22: Support

Proposal 33: Support

Proposal 18: Support

Proposal 20: Support

Proposal 23: Support



PC182

Submitted by: Brenda Wright

Community of Residence: Juneau, AK

Comment:

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 92.520(a). Closures and restrictions in state game refuges.

Allow the take of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game

I am firmly against changing the regulations for expanding the season & including European starlings as year round prey. I especially am concerned about the use of any pellet gun. Although the proposal states a pellet gun

would not be used within 1/4 mile of a road, pellet guns have a very great range. No person walking on the wetlands would be safe from shooting at flying birds. It would be dangerous for all users. European starlings are an invasive species, but their population in Juneau has not skyrocketed. They are city birds & do not compete with the cavity nesting birds in Juneau. The mountain blue bird mentioned in this proposal does not nest in Juneau so there is no competition there. I have observed the rock doves (pigeons) and European starlings for many years as a birder in Juneau. I am aware of their nesting & feeding sites within the borough. Both have adapted to the plentitude of food available at low tide in Juneau. The reduction of invasive species is not a good reason to start using pellet guns at any time on the refuge.

5 AAC 92.530(23). Management areas. Proposal 41

Eliminate the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C as follows:

Remove the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C from regulation.

I am firmly against this regulation to remove all limits on wolf harvest on Douglas Island.

Natural predators like wolves are seldom the single cause of population collapse. Not unusually deer populations are extremely affected by very cold and snowy winters. Leaving no limit on wolf hunting will not fix any major problems with the deer population on Douglas Island.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 40: Oppose

Proposal 41: Oppose



PC183

Submitted by: Jonathan Wunrow

Community of Residence: Angoon, Alaska

Comment:

This comment is submitted by Kootznoowoo, Inc, the Native Village Corporation for Angoon to address the following: PROPOSAL 12 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting. Open the Mitchell Bay Closed Area in Unit 4 to brown bear hunting as follows: It is proposed to open: "Mitchell Bay Area: Kootznahoo Inlet, Kanalku Bay, Favorite Bay and all land within 660 feet of mean high tide within that area; area open to the taking of brown bears".

Kootznoowoo, Inc. is opposed to opening these areas to brown bear hunting for the following reasons: It will increase conflicts with local subsistence hunters and gatherers, and increase the potential for human/bear conflict; bears on ABC islands are not major predators of deer; Kootznoowoo Inc. is developing tourism business opportunities in Mitchell Bay specifically because of the opportunity to see bears in a wild setting, and this bear viewing opportunity is supported through a SASS grant from the USFS; Introducing bear hunting would not resolve or reduce dump conflict, and rather, there are other measures that can be taken to stop bears from using the dump; through ANILA legislation, Kootznoowoo, Inc. has control over the 660 ft. shoreline lands within Mitchell Bay. These lands are co-managed with the U.S.Forest Service. Public access is "subject to regulation by the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure protection of the resources, and to protect the rights of quiet enjoyment of Kootznoowoo, Incorporated, granted by law, including subsistence uses (ANILCA 506 a sec 3 C ii)." And finally, the Proclamation establishing the Monument recognizes the importance of protecting the interests of Angoon and Alaska Native culture. Thank you. Jon Wunrow, President and CEO, Kootznoowoo, Inc.



Submitted by: Jason Yoder

Community of Residence: Hutchinson Kansas

Comment:

I want to Preserve and Protect Bowhunting in Alaska while doing whats best for the different animal species!

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support



Submitted by: Archie Young

Community of Residence: Sitka

Comment:

I support proposal 17 but would limit to 5-10 permits with 1 bull taken. I suspect the first couple years the harvest will happen quickly. I also support proposal 19. However I would reduce the october hunt permit numbers. Maybe less hunters will produce less conflict of hunters in the same drainage. My brothers new of 3 different groups this year in the same drainage. No ethics there and potential unnecessary conflict. I really like the later september rifle hunt. Maybe even fewer permits there as the elk will still be high and easier to find/spot.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 17: Support with
Amendment

Proposal 19: Support with
Amendment



Submitted by: Marvin Zieser

Community of Residence: Phoenix, AZ

Comment:

I would like to express my support for Proposals 16, 24, 29 and 30 because the increase the opportunities for more days of hunting by more people. I oppose Proposal 19 because it reduces opportunity for days of hunting afield while putting more pressure on the resource animals via firearms during a highly vulnerable period of the year. Thank you.

Note: respondents were allowed to participate in an optional survey to indicate support or opposition for proposals using the online comment portal. This information helps Board Support staff develop an index for the meeting and is included below as a courtesy:

Proposal 16: Support
Proposal 19: Oppose

Proposal 24: Support
Proposal 29: Support

Proposal 30: Support



PC187

Submitted by: Jason Lawrence

Community of Residence: Juneau

Comment:

ADFG should have full authority over this decision not some advisory committee that has done zero research.



PC188

Submitted by: John Doe

Community of Residence: Planet Earth

Comment:

Here is my opinion about wolves on POW. My family and me lived on POW for over two decades. I have watched the island slowly change and get bad. Beaches have been made into houses for snowbirds. The coasts are loaded with boats you can't find a place to fish without seeing a dozen boats sitting out there fishing too. Regulations don't protect POW's animals they try to bring local species they call invasive to extinction. Information always changes so people can make money. This is what's happening with sea otters because people always say they eat too much. This lets people wipe them out for money. Data on sea otters is not used for management but to support allowing natives to kill more of them. This is wrong.

In 2018 the State didn't have trapping regulations on Prince of Wales Island. People had no permits or limits. After the season Fish and Game realized they let people kill 90% of the wolves. No one seems to listen or care. There is no responsibility.

Some say wolves eat all the deer. This is not true. Logging and poaching are more harmful, but no one listens. Some towns want to get rid of wolves completely. "If the Alexander Archipelago wolf gets listed as endangered, it would be the worst thing for us" people from a community on south POW said publicly in 2022. Others say wolves threaten subsistence and recreation. These claims make no sense but having no one care about the wolves makes them seem true.

People here live close to animals and nature on POW people don't shoot the bears in town. If you take care of your trash and fish the bears will leave you alone if you are smart. POW has the highest density of black bears in the world without problems. People enjoy watching bears and hunting them for sport and there are no problems. Why are wolves not important?

There are problems when native species go extinct. Having no sea otters lets sea urchins eat all the kelp away. This gets rid of places for baby salmon. Everyone likes to call otters pests that are eating up all the food and then kill as many as possible. In Yellowstone when all the wolves were hunted the deer population went up then they ate all their food and they starved. You can't kill off a species without it effecting everything. We don't have to kill all the animals like they do in the Lower 48.

Alaska is special. We are lucky to live here. Killing all the wolves will not ruin the forest right away but it will hurt the environment. Prince of Wales needs wolves. It doesn't need over-logging and poaching. Wolves and people can live together in Southeast. We do not need to kill everything like people in the Lower 48 do. We are Alaskans we live close to nature and the animals! On Prince of Wales we can set an example of how to live on land with wolves just like how we share the land with bears.

There are many of us who are watching to see if the Southeast Board of Game will defend our wildlife. We hope you make good decisions for the future of Southeast.

-Anonymous
