

Alaska Board of Game
2002-137-BOG
Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area Findings

The Board of Game (Board) took public and advisory committee testimony on Douglas Island (Unit 1C) wolves, received biological information from the Department of Fish and Game, and deliberated a proposal (Proposal 3) dealing with management of wolves and deer on the island. As a result, the Board finds the following:

1. There have been occasional sightings of wolves and wolf tracks on Douglas Island over the past 20 years, and especially over the past 3-4 years. The only confirmed records of wolves being harvested on Douglas Island are seven (7) animals taken in January 2002. A single juvenile wolf was found dead near Eagle Crest ski area in September 2001.
2. The pack removed in January 2002 likely represented all the wolves present at that time.
3. Wolves may re-colonize the island but when this will occur is unpredictable.
4. Douglas Island and its wildlife are in close proximity to the third largest human population center in Alaska, and many residents have an interest in viewing, hunting, and otherwise experiencing wildlife, including wolves, on the island.
5. Sitka black-tailed deer occur on the island and provide a large fraction of the deer harvest in Unit 1C. In recent years (1995-2001) deer harvests have ranged between about 200 and 350 annually.
6. Under 5 AAC 92.106 (the intensive management regulation) the deer population in Unit 1C is identified as being important for high levels of human consumption. The harvest objective is 450 deer per year.
7. If wolves re-colonize Douglas Island and increase to high densities, there is potential for wolf predation on deer to decrease deer numbers and deer harvests.
8. It is likely that low to moderate numbers of wolves on Douglas Island can coexist with a deer population that can continue to provide a reasonable number of deer for human consumption.
9. In order to provide for sustained numbers of both wolves and deer on Douglas Island after wolves re-colonize, a management area (the Douglas Island Management Area) shall be created. This area will consist of Douglas Island in its entirety.
10. Within the management area, hunting and trapping of wolves is prohibited until at least seven (7) wolves are present. Subsequently, annual harvests may not exceed 30 percent of fall wolf numbers.

11. When wolves are present, if the island deer harvest declines more than 35 percent below the average harvest over the preceding 10 years (with approximately equal hunting effort), wolf hunting and trapping will be reopened as necessary to maintain both wolf and deer populations.
12. In order to more closely monitor the harvest, trappers shall register with the department and receive a permit prior to entering the field. Specific conditions of the permit will include attending a trapper orientation course, obtaining a trapper registration number, and providing information on trapping locations. Restrictions on methods and means and registration requirements, and other aspects shall occur as needed.
13. By this action, the Board's intent is to provide desired sustained opportunities for a broad diversity of user groups concerned with wolves and deer on Douglas Island. This is compatible with the desires of virtually all those who expressed their views to the Board.

Vote: _____
November 7, 2002
Juneau, Alaska

Ben Grussendorf, Chair
Alaska Board of Game