

ACR 1 – Increase the resident bag limit, lengthen the resident season, and open a nonresident season for deer in Unit 3 on the Lindenberg Peninsula and Mitkof Island.

SUBMITTED BY: David Benitz

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

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

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

Deer numbers have been increasing rapidly since 2014 on Mitkof Island and on the Lindenberg Peninsula of Kupreanof Island in Unit 3, but deer hunting continues to be restricted in these two areas and there is no opportunity for nonresident deer hunting on the Lindenberg Peninsula or alpine deer hunting on Mitkof Island or the Lindenberg Peninsula.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

Reopen season for nonresidents on Lindenberg Peninsula, reopen the August and September season on Lindenberg Peninsula and Mitkof Island, and raise the bag limit there to match the bag limit in the remainder of Unit 3. The proposed season and bag limit on the Lindenberg Peninsula and on Mitkof Island (outside the Petersburg Management Area) would be:

RESIDENTS: 1 August – 7 November, 2 bucks;

NONRESIDENTS: 1 August – 7 November, 1 buck.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.**
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**

Harvest objectives may not be met unless the season and bag limit are liberalized.

- 4) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?**

Increase in deer numbers to such high levels was not foreseen. Two new methods of determining deer trends and abundance have confirmed that deer have increased substantially on the Lindenberg Peninsula (aerial alpine deer surveys) and are abundant on Mitkof Island (cameras and DNA)

- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory**

action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?

The continued restrictive deer season and bag limit on Lindenberg Peninsula and Mitkof Island are no longer necessary. There has been a significant loss of hunting opportunity for both nonresidents and residents. The proposed regulation would expand hunting opportunity one year earlier than is possible with the current three-year board cycle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

Significant and unnecessary loss of opportunity to hunt deer will continue.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

It expands opportunity for all hunters.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

I live in Petersburg and my livelihood is based on guiding and commercial fishing. I used to enjoy alpine deer hunting on Lindenberg Peninsula and taking nonresidents hunting there. I have not been able to do either of those for many years. I have seen deer numbers increase to high levels and I have seen ADF&G survey and abundance data that support my observations.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.

It has not been considered before.