

Federal Wildlife Proposal - Angoon

Southeast Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Close a portion of Admiralty Island to deer hunting by non-Federally qualified users from Nov. 1-15. The specific closure areas include Wildlife Analysis Areas (WAAs) 4042, 4055, and 4041.

Existing Federal Regulation

Unit 4 - Deer

Unit 4 — 6 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Sept. 15 – Jan. 31. *Aug. 1 – Jan. 31*

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 4 - Deer

Unit 4 — 6 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Sept. 15 – Jan. 31. *Aug. 1 – Jan. 31*

Federal public lands of Admiralty Island draining into Chatham Strait south of the Thayer Creek drainage but excluding the Hasselborg Lake and Hasselborg Creek drainages are closed to deer hunting Nov. 1-15, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Why Should this regulation be changed?

This restriction on nonsubsistence uses is necessary for the continuation of subsistence uses of deer. Angoon residents depend on deer and are experiencing difficulty meeting their subsistence needs for several reasons, including competition and user conflicts with non-Federally qualified users. Non-federally qualified users anchor boats in small bays, which inhibits access to traditional hunting areas by subsistence users. Non-federally qualified users may also decrease the success of subsistence users if they shoot deer and miss, causing the deer to be more skittish and wary.

High fuel costs, depressed economies, small boats, and inclement weather also affect the ability of Angoon residents to meet their subsistence needs. They cannot afford to have many unsuccessful hunts or to travel far from their community to hunt deer because of these safety and economic concerns. Non-federally qualified users exacerbate these concerns by obstructing access, competing for deer, and potentially altering deer behavior, all of which decrease chances of successful subsistence hunts and hinder the continuation of subsistence uses.

Subsistence hunting focuses on efficiency. The proposed two-week closure window in early November is the most efficient time for subsistence deer hunting in Unit 4 for several reasons. First, the deer are still fat, providing the highest quality and amount of meat. Second, the deer are in rut, making them more susceptible to harvest. Third, weather conditions are favorable for proper meat care and processing.

This two-week closure would allow for the continuation of subsistence uses, enhancing opportunity for subsistence users and helping them meet their subsistence needs by eliminating competition and improving access to hunting areas during the most efficient hunting period. Additionally, the proposed closure area is limited in scope, but represents the area most hunted by Angoon residents.

The Council also acknowledges that while tidelands are State managed lands unaffected by any Federal closures, that should not decrease the effectiveness or necessity of this proposed closure. Deer are primarily pushed to beaches by heavy snowfalls, which usually occur after the requested closure period in early November. Additionally, much of the proposed closure area is extremely steep and does not contain many beaches. Lastly, when deer are on beaches, they are usually feeding above the mean high tide line, which is under Federal jurisdiction.

Federal Wildlife Proposal - Hoonah

Southeast Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Close the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area (NECCUA) to deer hunting by non-Federally qualified users from Nov. 1-15.

Existing Federal Regulation

Unit 4 - Deer

Unit 4 — 6 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Sept. 15 – Jan. 31. *Aug. 1 – Jan. 31*

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 4 - Deer

Unit 4 — 6 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Sept. 15 – Jan. 31. *Aug. 1 – Jan. 31*

Federal public lands of the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area are closed to deer hunting Nov. 1-15, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Why Should this regulation be changed?

This restriction on nonsubsistence uses is necessary for public safety and the continuation of subsistence uses of deer. Hoonah residents depend on deer and are experiencing difficulty meeting their subsistence needs for several reasons, including competition and user conflicts with non-Federally qualified users. Non-federally qualified users flock to Hoonah on the ferry and clog the roads with their large campers, trailers, tents, and sheer number of hunters. This creates over-crowding and hunting safety concerns as well as inhibits access to hunting areas by subsistence users who cannot find a place to park and substantially increases competition for deer. Whitestone Bay is an example of an area where these issues occur. Non-federally qualified users may also decrease the success of subsistence users if they shoot deer and miss, causing the deer to be more skittish and wary. Both subsistence and nonsubsistence users prefer hunting the road system around Hoonah because it is safer than hunting by boat.

~~High fuel costs, depressed economies, and inclement weather also affect the ability of Hoonah residents to meet their subsistence needs. They cannot afford to have many unsuccessful hunts or to travel far from their community to hunt deer because of these safety and economic concerns. Non-federally qualified users exacerbate these concerns by obstructing access, competing for deer, and potentially altering deer behavior, all of which decrease chances of successful subsistence hunts and hinder the continuation of subsistence uses.~~

Subsistence hunting focuses on efficiency. The proposed two-week closure window in early November is the most efficient time for subsistence deer hunting in Unit 4 for several reasons. First, the deer are still fat, providing the highest quality and amount of meat. Second, the deer are in rut, making them more susceptible to harvest. Third, weather conditions are favorable for proper meat care and processing.

This two-week closure would allow for the continuation of subsistence uses, enhancing opportunity for subsistence users and helping them meet their subsistence needs by eliminating competition and improving access to hunting areas during the most efficient hunting period. Additionally, the proposed closure area is limited in scope, but represents the area most hunted by Hoonah residents.

~~The Council also acknowledges that while tidelands are State managed lands unaffected by any Federal closures, that should not decrease the effectiveness or necessity of this proposed closure. Deer are primarily pushed to beaches by heavy snowfalls, which usually occur after the requested closure period in early November. Additionally, much of the proposed closure area is extremely steep and does not contain many beaches. Lastly, when deer are on beaches, they are usually feeding above the mean high tide line, which is under Federal jurisdiction.~~

DRAFT

Federal Wildlife Proposal - Pelican Southeast Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Close a portion of Chichagof Island around Pelican to deer hunting by non-Federally qualified users from Nov. 1-15. The specific closure area includes Federal public lands within drainages flowing into Lisianski Inlet, Lisianski Strait, and Stag Bay south of a line connecting Soapstone and Column points and north of a line connecting Point Theodore and Point Uray.

Existing Federal Regulation

Unit 4 - Deer

*Unit 4 — 6 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Aug. 1 – Jan. 31
Sept. 15 – Jan. 31.*

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 4 - Deer

*Unit 4 — 6 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Aug. 1 – Jan. 31
Sept. 15 – Jan. 31.*

Federal public lands within drainages flowing into Lisianski Inlet, Lisianski Strait, and Stag Bay south of a line connecting Soapstone and Column points and north of a line connecting Point Theodore and Point Uray are closed to deer hunting Nov. 1-15, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Why Should this regulation be changed?

This restriction on nonsubsistence uses is necessary for the continuation of subsistence uses of deer. Pelican residents depend on deer and are experiencing difficulty meeting their subsistence needs for several reasons, including competition and user conflicts with non-Federally qualified users. Non-federally qualified users **anchor boats in small bays, which inhibits** access to traditional hunting areas by subsistence users. Non-federally qualified users may also decrease the success of subsistence users if they shoot deer and miss, causing the deer to be more skittish and wary.

High fuel costs, depressed economies, **small boats**, and inclement weather also affect the ability of Pelican residents to meet their subsistence needs. They cannot afford to have many unsuccessful hunts or to travel far from their community to hunt deer because of these safety and economic concerns. Non-federally qualified users exacerbate these concerns by obstructing access, competing for deer, and potentially altering deer behavior, all of which decrease chances of successful subsistence hunts and hinder the continuation of subsistence uses.

Subsistence hunting focuses on efficiency. The proposed two-week closure window in early November is the most efficient time for subsistence deer hunting in Unit 4 for several reasons. First, the deer are still fat, providing the highest quality and amount of meat. Second, the deer are in rut, making them more vulnerable to harvest. Third, weather conditions are favorable for proper meat care and processing.

This two-week closure would allow for the continuation of subsistence uses, enhancing opportunity for subsistence users and helping them meet their subsistence needs by eliminating competition and improving access to hunting areas during the most efficient hunting period. Additionally, the proposed closure area is limited in scope, but represents the area most hunted by Pelican residents.

The Council also acknowledges that while tidelands are State managed lands unaffected by any Federal closures, that should not decrease the effectiveness or necessity of this proposed closure. Deer are primarily pushed to beaches by heavy snowfalls, which usually occur after the requested closure period in early November. Additionally, much of the proposed closure area is extremely steep and does not contain many beaches. Lastly, when deer are on beaches, they are usually feeding above the mean high tide line, which is under Federal jurisdiction.

DRAFT

Federal Wildlife Proposal – Unit 1C, goat Southeast Regional Advisory Council

Issue:

Close a portion of Unit 1C, remainder (RG015 permit area) to goat hunting by non-Federally qualified users from Aug. 1-31.

Existing Federal Regulation

Unit 1C - Goat

Unit 1C, remainder - 1 goat by State registration permit only Aug. 1-Nov. 30.

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 1C - Goat

Unit 1C, remainder - 1 goat by State registration permit only Aug. 1-Nov. 30.

Federal public lands within the drainages of the Chilkat Range south of the south bank of the Endicott River are closed to goat hunting Aug. 1-31, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Why Should this regulation be changed?

At their January 2023 meeting, the Alaska Board of Game adopted Proposal 31 to extend the resident goat season in the southern end of the Chilkat range in Unit 1C from Sept. 1-Nov. 30 to Aug. 1-Nov. 30, effectively eliminating the federal subsistence priority. Previously, federally qualified subsistence users had the month of August to hunt goats in this area without competition from non-Federally qualified users.

... why is this restriction NECESSARY for the continuation of subsistence uses or for conservation of the goat population???