

June 22, 2025

Dear Federal Subsistence Board,

This is regarding the federal subsistence proposals for Prince of Wales Island. I was born and raised in Ketchikan and have owned a home on POW for 25 years. I have enjoyed hunting and fishing while I am there (at least half the year) but my mailing address is Ketchikan. Yeah, I could change my mailing address and fall under the subsistence rules but that's not the point I want to make.

I would just like to comment on some the proposals being set forth to keep Ketchikan from hunting on POW. First of all we did not ask for KIC to make changes to the "non-rural" status for Ketchikan. It was fine the way it was. I believe here has actually been a decrease in Ketchikan hunters since the subsistence board changed the limit to two deer. That amount is fine for our family as we've been under that limit every year even before they changed it.

WP26-02 - I totally agree with using this language "between civil sunset and sunrise" as I've witnessed many hunters out after dusk. There's many deer taken illegally that way.

WP26-03 - I do not believe you can legally close any federal public land to users, and if you did it would be a discriminatory act to single out one region. That means Sitka, Wrangell, Petersburg, Kake, Hoonah, etc can come to POW and hunt, but not Ketchikan residents? They've already placed a two deer limit on Ketchikan people (which I think is illegal too). All these meeting that take place are always in Klawock and so who is going to go to speak up? People from that area, so of course the majority of the attendees are going to vote for themselves so it will pass. And just a reminder that the roads on POW are funded with Federal funds paid for by the tax payers. That's all of us! The majority of hunters like the roads on POW as there are no places to hunt in Ketchikan unless you have a boat.

WP26-04 - It states in this proposal that there is no data to back up these actions to close POW to Ketchikan hunters. How can you make a proposal without the statistics? The deer population in my opinion is healthier that it's been in a long time. I've seen more deer this spring than the last several years, over 100 between Hollis and Coffman Cove. I also have seen more wolves so maybe up the wolf season to get them under control. The wolves and bears eat many fawns and does, along with other predators.

WP26-05 - This proposal allows for out of state hunters to get one deer each, while Ketchikan (Alaska residents) cannot get any? This is also discriminatory. How can you keep Alaska residents from hunting but allow out of state hunters to take one buck? I do agree that out of staters should be limited but not if state people can't even get one buck? That's ridiculous!

WP26-06 - Eliminate doe season and make it so POW residents can get 5 bucks? It states that the deer population is declining which is a downright lie but they want to get more bucks? The hunting infractions are caused mostly by the residents of POW. If you check with ADF&G and USFS Law Enforcement, they will give you the statistics of how many tickets were issued to residents vs non-residents.

WP26-01 - I believe the proposal needs to be rescinded as it does not make any sense to only disqualify Ketchikan when the two buck limit has been working and the deer population is good.

In closing I will say that Prince of Wales Island is **FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS**, and therefore you cannot single out any one segment of the population from hunting on it. Also to do that would be financially hurting people on POW who own lodges, grocery stores, the IFA, and ADFG for hunting licenses, the local stores and others. It seems there is more going on here than just keeping Ketchikan out. I've spoke to many KIC members and they say they don't even hunt so I don't know what's going on but it could lead to bad blood between communities and we just don't want that to happen. This could also open the door to other communities doing this very thing and keeping other Alaska residents out.

Thank you for listening,

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