

INTERAGENCY STAFF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Oppose WSA25-02

The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) submitted WSA25-02 as a preemptive measure against the possibility of increased doe harvest by Ketchikan hunters if Ketchikan is designated rural. The Council acknowledged that people living in some Prince of Wales Island (POW) communities regularly harvest does to meet their subsistence needs for deer. Overall, however, the Council agreed that they were willing to temporarily stop harvesting does to protect the long-term conservation of the deer population on POW.

If a conservation concern for the local deer population occurs, a closure to doe harvest for all users is a first course of action that wildlife managers should consider. By not harvesting female deer, higher rates of reproduction and subsequent recruitment into the population are likely. Implementation of a short-term moratorium on doe hunting to all users may result in an increase in the overall deer population size and benefit to all users. However, under current high harvest limits and no imminent conservation concern for the deer POW population, the ISC does not recommend eliminating the Federal doe hunt in Unit 2 for the 2025/2026 season. If a problem becomes apparent during the 2025 hunting season, i.e., excessive deer harvest, then the Board or in-season manager can adjust hunt opportunities under an emergency special action.