

Executive Summary/ Key Takeaways

1. These results are just a snapshot and should not be considered statistically robust. However, they are a fair snapshot of community perception of concerns, opinions on competition, and index of whether subsistence need is being met. Our sample size is probably more statistically robust in Gustavus and Pelican where the number of hunters is less and less robust in Hoonah where there are more hunters.
2. The issue of competition, where it occurs, and the perception of who/what is causing it varies by community. Wolves were the highest reported source of competition in Gustavus, while the perception of non-local competition was the highest reported in Hoonah.
3. These results do not include the community of Angoon – we were unable to find someone to hire there to complete the surveys
4. The results of this work were provided back to a representative of each community without identifying information.
5. The results of this work were provided to OSM prior to analysis of the current deer proposals without identifying information.
6. These results are the beginning of 5 years of community work and engagement around the topics of deer management.
7. The results of this work are still preliminary. This report provides the basics of background, methods, and results. Interpretation of the results has not been provided and should be done in consultation with communities perhaps through the stakeholder meeting process.

Brief Survey Background

The USFS through the Southeast Alaska Sustainable Strategy investments funded the Hoonah Indian Association to support deer-related research in Hoonah to support decision making in response to the proposed changes to deer hunting for non-federally qualified users by the SE Subsistence RAC. In the Winter 2022/Spring 2023 we hired local residents in Gustavus, Pelican, and Hoonah to conduct surveys in their communities. Goals of this work were to collect new information on deer harvest, competition with hunters, and effort by local hunters. The survey was designed in coordination with the State of Alaska Subsistence Department.

The goal of this survey is four fold.

1. Quantify competition and its effects in Hoonah. These questions will help us identify if you are experiencing competition
2. Account fully for the effort required to harvest a deer. These questions will quantify the amount of effort required to harvest a deer and look at if effort has changed over time.
3. Confirm a record of harvest over 2019-2020. These data will provide a secondary dataset to the harvest ticket reporting data from the same years.
4. Help us identify your primary issues and possible solutions to issues around deer harvest and hunting in Hoonah.

In association with the social data, we are coordinating a stake holder engagement group and biological deer monitoring in the Hoonah area using trail cameras following the State of Alaska Fish and Game's protocols for camera deployment and data analysis.

It is our goal to conduct surveys each year from 2022-2027 to look at long term trends. Each year, these data are being collected by local members of Hoonah, Angoon, Gustavus and Pelican and will be provided back to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the federal Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Committee to help make management decisions. The results will also be provided to each community and the local advisory committees in Hoonah, Pelican, Gustavus, and Angoon so they can support community goals.

Survey Methods- Brief

Local members of Hoonah, Pelican, and Gustavus were hired to complete a survey with deer hunters in their communities. Surveys were structured as an interview one-on-one and the person being interviewed could opt out at any time. Interviews took place in winter 2022 and spring 2023.

Analysis Methods – Brief

Results were compiled and analyzed in Excel. Basic statistics and graphs were generated from data relevant to the research objective. No statistical methods beyond averages were applied to the data and no data transformations or confidence around the results are shown. The results of this work should be interpreted as a community snapshot with that provide insight into trends in the community.

Results Across Communities

The results are broken down into four sections. Results common to all communities are under “results across communities” and results specific to a community are included in their own community section below.

Table 1 : Table showing the total number of survey respondents in each community.

Community	Number of respondents
Gustavus	14
Hoonah	19
Pelican	14
Grand Total	47

Table 2 : Question results from survey question "did you get enough deer in 2021?". Percent No was calculated as the total number of "No" responses divided by the sum of the number of No responses and Yes responses.

Community	-No Response	Don't Recall	No	Yes	Percent No
Gustavus	4	1	5	4	50%
Hoonah	1		8	10	44%
Pelican		1	3	9	23%

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 Prepared by Ian Johnson, Hoonah Indian Association, 10/24/23, ian.johnson@hiatribe.org

Table 3 : Question results from survey question "did you experience competition hunting by the road?". Percent No was calculated as the total number of "No" responses divided by the sum of the number of No responses and Yes responses.

Community	-No Response	No	Yes	Percent Yes
Gustavus	7	6	1	14%
Hoonah	2	3	14	82%
Pelican	14			

Table 4 : Response to survey question of perception of where competition was coming from.

Row Labels	-	Local	Local, Non-Local	Non-Local	Wolves	Grand Total	%non local	%wolves
Gustavus	8			1	5	14	17%	83%
Hoonah		1	1	17		19	89%	0%
Pelican		1		11		12	92%	0%
Grand Total	8	2	1	29	5	45	78%	14%

Table 5 : average days hunted by survey respondents over three years 2021 - 2019

Row Labels	Avg Days Hunted 2021	Avg Days Hunted 2020	Avg Days Hunted 2019
Gustavus	6.6	6.1	8.6
Hoonah	21.3	23.8	23.9
Pelican	12.6	14.4	13.6
(blank)			
Grand Total	15.4	16.6	16.3

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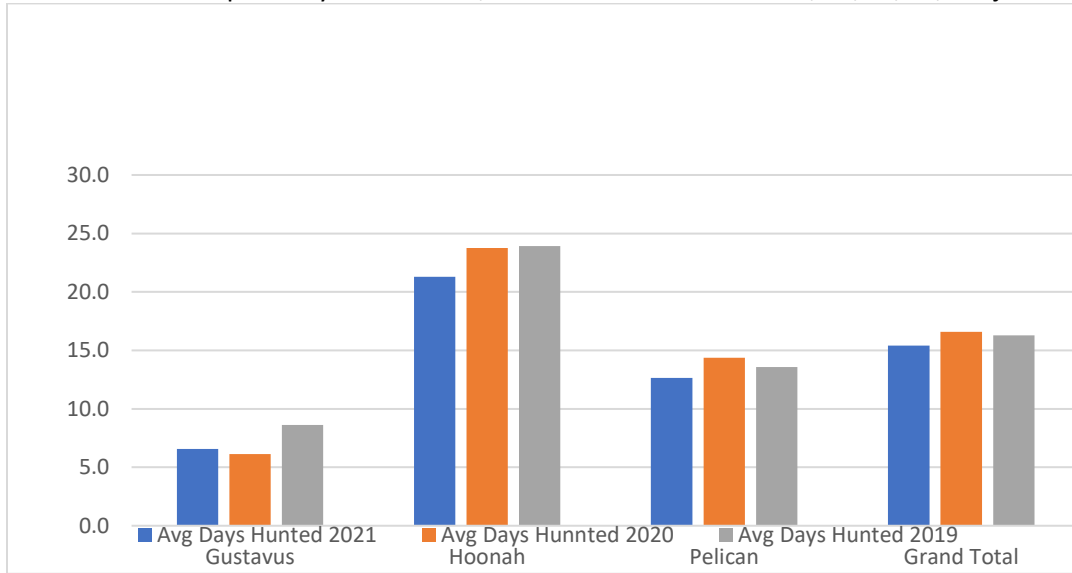


Figure 1 : Graphic representation of Table 5 - Average days hunted as reported by respondents in each community over 3 years

Gustavus

Table 6 : Survey response to quest of primary concern in their community. Respondents were asked to choose up to three responses that were their primary concerns.

Concern	No	Yes	No Reponse	% Yes
Abundance	9	4	1	31%
Habitat Quality	12	1	1	8%
Deer Visiblity From Road	13		1	0%
Expense To Go Hunting	10	3	1	23%
Time Available for Hunting	7	6	1	46%
Time to Harvest a Deer	9	4	1	31%
Fewer Youth Hunting	12	1	1	8%
Competition	11	3		21%

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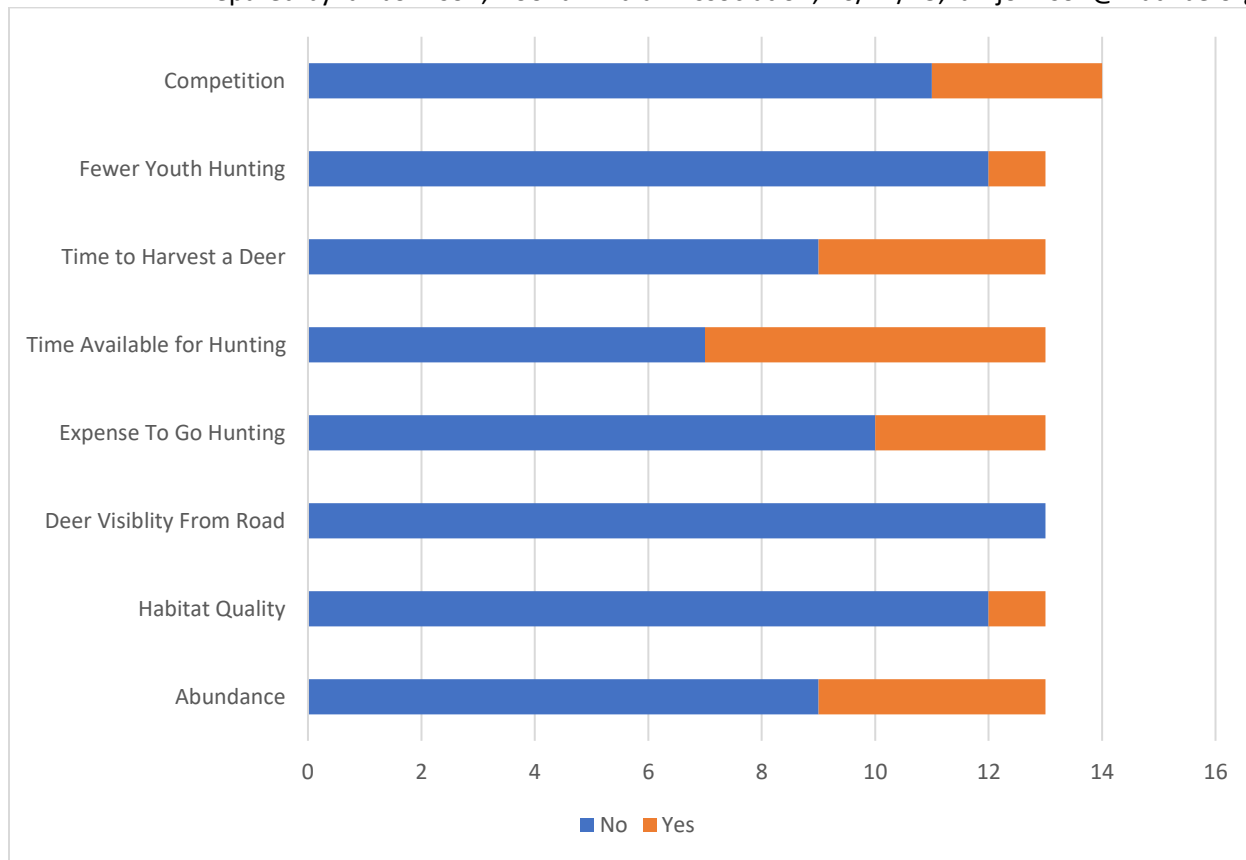


Figure 2 : Graphical representation of the primary concern rankings. Total number of “yes” responses are recorded in the orange bar for each category. In Gustavus, the time available to hunt was the primary concern.

Table 7 : If the respondent identified competition as a primary concern, they were asked to further define was competition was doing to their hunt. Each of the effects (top row) were ranked on scale of 1 to 5 with 1 having little effect, and 5 having a great effect. We tallied the number of each responses for each ranking value.

Ranking	Impacting Abundance	Scaring Deer Making Hunting More Difficult	Keeps from Hunting Preferred Area	Makes Me Feel Unsafe
1		2		4
2				1
3	1	1		
4	1		1	
5	4	2	5	
No Response	8	9	8	9

In the rankings in table 7, “keeps me from hunting in my preferred area” was had the most tallies of a score of 5. However, respondents noted that this was due to competition from wolves on Pleasant Island, not human competition.

Ideas for Solutions from Respondents

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1. Be less restrictive with wolf hunting and trapping
2. Continue the harvesting/hunting of voles in SE AK
3. I would like to see the wolves gone from Pleasant Island so the deer population can return to what it once as. This would make deer hunting more easily accessible for local and safer as well
4. I'd like fish and game to look into trying to help get ride of the hordes of wolves kill the deer
5. Keep wolves off ESA. Do no restrict hunting and trapping of wolves. Do not restrict sea otter hunting
6. No idea besides waiting for pleasant island wolves to starve
7. not much to do with wolves except allow hunters and trappers to harvest more wolves
8. Predation, Juneau Resident Competition
9. To remove the wolves from Pleasant Island and restock with deer so not having to go across to mud bay and hunt

Hoonah

Table 8: Survey response to quest of primary concern in their community. Respondents were asked to choose up to three responses that were their primary concerns.

	No	Yes	No Response	% Yes
Abundance	14	4	1	22%
Habitat Quality	16	2	1	11%
Deer Visibility From Road	14	4	1	22%
Expense To Go Hunting	12	6	1	33%
Time Available for Hunting	11	7	1	39%
Time to Harvest a Deer	15	3	1	17%
Fewer Youth Hunting	14	4	1	22%
Competition	3	15	1	83%

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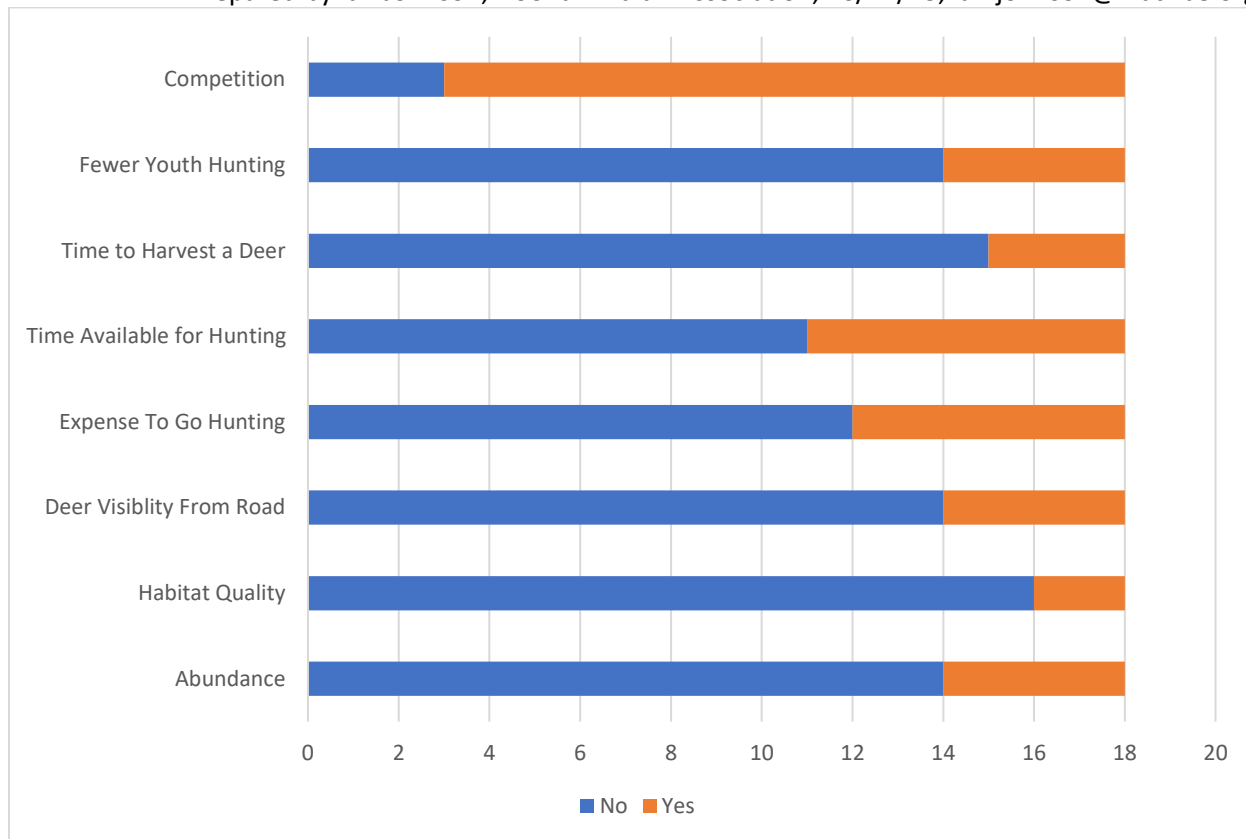


Figure 3 :Graphical representation of the primary concern rankings. Total number of “yes” responses are recorded in the orange bar for each category. In Hoonah, competition was the primary concern.

Table 9 : Table 7 : If the respondent identified competition as a primary concern, they were asked to further define was competition was doing to their hunt. Each of the effects (top row) were ranked on scale of 1 to 5 with 1 having little effect, and 5 having

Rankin g	Impacting Abundance	Scaring Deer Making Hunting More Difficult	Keeps from Hunting Preferred Area	Makes Me Feel Unsafe
0		1	2	
1	1		3	2
2	1		1	7
3	5	3	3	5
4	3	8	4	2
5	9	7	6	3

Ideas for Solutions from Respondents

1. better of monitoring of wanton waste caused by non-locals
2. Bucks only 3 inch antler minimum
3. charging out of town hunters as they come off the ferry
4. Don't allow non-locals to take anterless deer

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5. don't really have any solutions
6. Keep this a designated hunting rural area
7. limit harvest for urban users
8. Limit doe harvest, limit season for does, limit non-local buck harvest
9. Limit non local to 2 deer on chichagof "hoonah" road system and please make it to where the hunters have to use their first two tags
10. Limit out of town hunters
11. Limit the deer you can take off the road system
12. limiting harvest by non-federally qualified users to four deer. State trooper presence at the ferry terminal
13. make hunting for non-locals non motorized only on road system (similar to bear hunting)
14. Not very concerned about competition. I was under the impression from fish and game studies that the harshness of winters is the main thing that controls her size
15. Reduce # of out of town hunters on road system
16. Reducing bag limits for non local hunters
17. set a special time for out of town hunters to come and so the ___ can avoid getting out during that time. Make it a smaller limit for them
18. size requirement for non local maybe change it to two deer
19. Would be nice to have a bucks only limit for non-subsistence users on the road system

20.

Pelican

Table 10: Survey response to quest of primary concern in their community. Respondents were asked to choose up to three responses that were their primary concerns.

Concern	No	Yes	No Reponse	% Yes
Abundance	5	9		64%
Habitat Quality	13	1		7%
Deer Visiblity From Road	14			0%
Expense To Go Hunting	6	8		57%
Time Available for Hunting	9	5		36%
Time to Harvest a Deer	12	2		14%
Fewer Youth Hunting	9	5		36%
Competition	7	7		50%

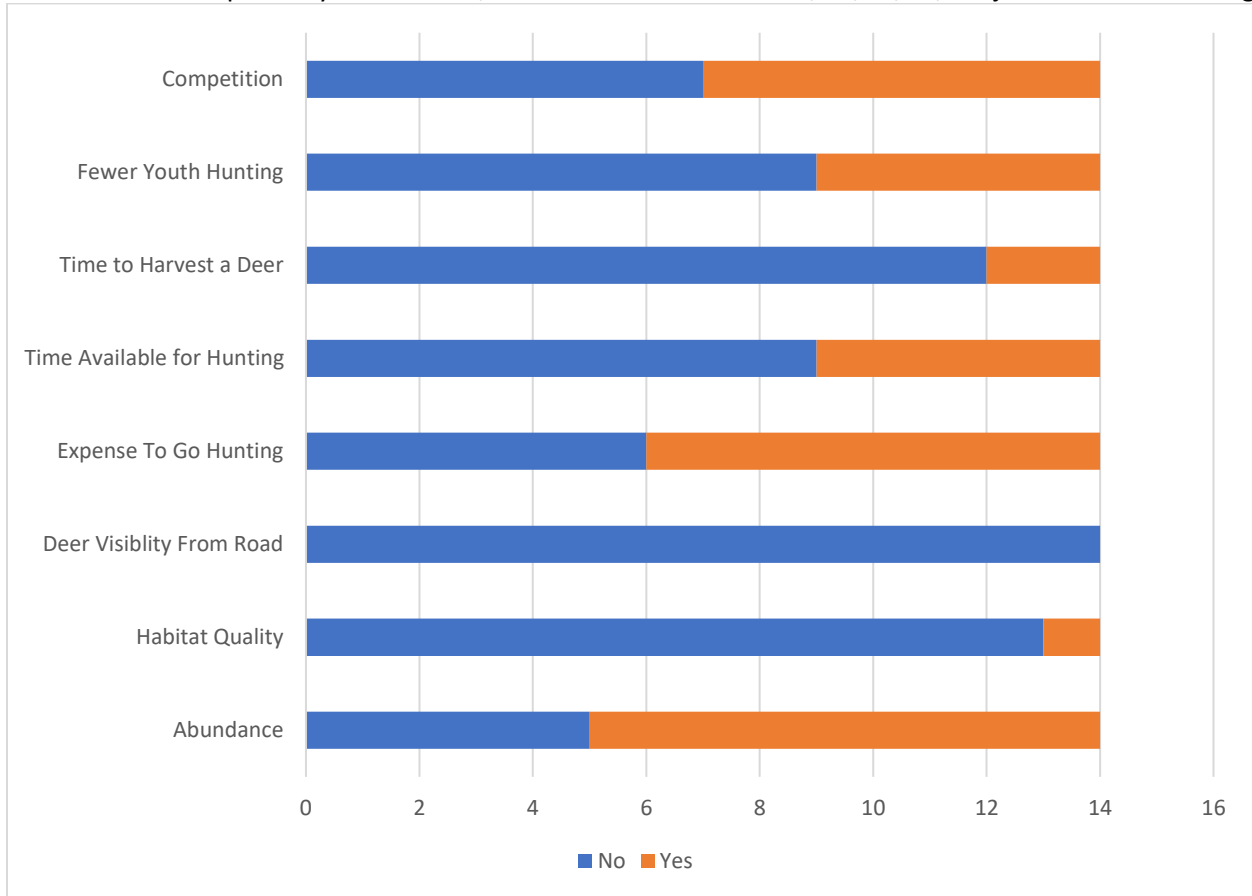


Figure 4 : Graphical representation of the primary concern rankings. Total number of “yes” responses are recorded in the orange bar for each category. In Pelican, abundance was the primary concern.

Table 11 : Table 7 : If the respondent identified competition as a primary concern, they were asked to further define was competition was doing to their hunt. Each of the effects (top row) were ranked on scale of 1 to 5 with 1 having little effect, and 5 having

Ranking	Impacting Abundance	Scaring Deer Making Hunting More Difficult	Keeps from Hunting Preferred Area	Makes Me Feel Unsafe
1	1	1	1	2
2				1
3	2	2	4	2
4	3	2	1	3
5	2	3	2	

Ideas for Solutions from Respondents

1. ** More enforcement on Hunting Laws and Regulations.
 - Hunting by boat laws and enforcement.

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- Less harvest to let the population rebound. Look at household sizes: 2 or 3 deer/person seems to be enough in my opinion on top of other subsistence foods and harvesting.
 - Limits on non-local hunters as well, people can hunt in their own areas. "
2. Access, working together, prioritize hunting as a community when it is time to!
 3. "Enforcement and closer monitoring of current regulations and laws- along with clarifying definitions and rules for people soon. MORE information to the people.
 4. Traditional ways of knowing/being aren't being passed on. We need more of our Traditional Tlingit Ways of being and knowing being taught to our community and youth.
 5. Non-Local//Non-Year Round Resident Limits-- prioritize locals who depend on the deer for Food Security. Folks need to think critically about what is going on in THEIR places to hunt and address those issues vs moving into our area to hunt.
 6. Keep doing surveys like this!
 7. Let the voices of the most vulnerable and impacted be the loudest. "
 8. "Harvest rules are good, we need to keep things more the of the same.
 9. Keep hunters in their own areas by where they live, so they don't come into our backyard and kill everything, effecting our Food Security as a community.
 10. Exceptions to the rules-- make sure everyone is fed and being taken care of. Also, every community is different and has different needs- so not all may fit into the boxes the rules put down.
 11. Management of access roads to Pelican- Don't build a road to Hoonah or anywhere else. We need to consider the consequences to building more access roads and if it's worth it. "
 12. "I don't view them as problems really, just the nature of the task I suppose.
 13. Fact of the matter is, most hunters equals more spooked deer, then having to relocate as a hunter and also dealing with a population of deer that are more weary. So hunting trips I take I usually go out farther than where most go to avoid these scenarios. "
 14. Insuring proper procedure. Prioritize locals (primary residence is Pelican). Paying attention to Food Security here in Pelican and how changing these hunting regulations will affect the locals here.
 15. "Look into the last Advisory Meetings attendance and minutes.
 16. Don't let other communities make decisions for our community, we know what we need.
 17. Localize preference to local hunters. "
 18. None right now.
 19. "Not sure what to do about climate change and the weather affecting the hunting season, we just have to adapt.
 20. My employment (haha) so i have more time to go hunting. Jokes, I do need to make more time to hunt though personally. "
 21. "Put a harvest limit on non-locals.
 22. Make sure the deer being harvested are adult deer/fully mature. This should be a requirement."
 23. "Try to find the balance between friends/out of town folks, and keeping Rural Residents taken care of and Food Secure.
 24. Two week closure for non-locals during the rut time of the season (Last week of Oct, first week of Nov).
 25. Ensuring Food Security for locals who depend on these resources in different ways."

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26. Well as far as safety goes, off the top of my head, just to start wearing hunter-orange with the more non-local hunters around.

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