

WP16-01

**Craig Tribal Association**

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March 18, 2015

Federal Subsistence Board
Office of Subsistence Management
C/o Theo Matuskowitz
1011 E. Tudor Road, MS-121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

RE: Unit 2 Deer Harvest Limit Proposal

Dear Mr. Matuskowitz,

The Craig Tribal Association (CTA) is submitting a proposal with support documentation to the Federal Subsistence Board for consideration on the Unit 2 deer harvest limit.

Current Unit 2 Harvest Limits:

5 deer, no more than one may be female deer. Female deer may be taken only during the period Oct.15- Dec 31. The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns.

Federal Public Lands on Prince of Wales Island, excluding the Southeast portion (land south of West Arm of Cholmondeley Sound draining into Cholmondeley Sound or draining eastward into Clarence Strait) are closed to hunting of deer from August 1-August 15, except by Federal qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Proposed Unit 2 Harvest Limits:

5 deer, no more than one may be female deer. Female Deer may be taken only during the period Oct.15- Dec.31. The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns.

Federal Public Lands on Prince of Wales Island, excluding the Southeast portion (land south of West Arm of Cholmondeley Sound drainage into Cholmondeley Sound or drainage eastward into Clarence Strait) are closed to hunting of deer from August 1-August 15, except by Federal qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Federal Public Lands on Prince of Wales Island will be limited to 2 deer except by Federal qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations. Extend Deer Season to January 31 for Federal qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

Statement of Necessary:

Title VIII of ANILCA and the ability of the Rural Federal Subsistence Users of Prince of Wales Island ability to get their needs fulfilled hunting under these regulations. This would also assist in the conservation concerns that the Rural Federal Subsistence Users of Prince of Wales Island have and sustain this resource.

Submitted By:

Craig Tribal Association
C/o Edward K. Thomas, Jr. (Sam)
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WP16-02

Organization: Monte Mitchell

Address: 9 Old Buoy Road, PO Box 74, Gustavus, AK 99826

Phone: 907-321-7700

E-mail: mossy_hollow@hotmail.com

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

§242.26 Subsistence taking of wildlife (n) Unit regulations (1) Unit 1 (vii) Unit-specific regulations:

Deer: Unit 1C – 4 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Sept. 15-Dec. 31. Aug. 1-Dec 31.

2: How would the new regulation read?

§242.26 Subsistence taking of wildlife (n) Unit regulations (1) Unit 1 (vii) Unit-specific regulations:

Deer: Unit 1C – 4 deer; however, female deer may be taken only from Sept. 15-Dec. 31. Aug. 1-~~Dec 31~~
Jan 31.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

There are many people in northern SE Alaska that could make use of the deer in their vicinity and because of weather cannot get the full season benefit of harvesting their deer on bordering open units.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

There might be four less mainland deer in 2015/16

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This will increase available federal lands for use as the intent and spirit of subsistence.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

This will not impede or change any of the above mentioned uses except for the extension of federal deer season for hunters.

WP16-03

Organization: Monte Mitchell

Address: 9 Old Buoy Road, PO Box 74, Gustavus, AK 99826

Phone: 907-321-7700

E-mail: mossy_hollow@hotmail.com

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

§242.25 (e) *Hunting by designated harvest permit.* If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user (recipient), you may designate another Federally qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose, and caribou, and in Units 1-5, goats, on your behalf unless you are a member of a community operating under a community harvest system or unless unit-specific regulations in §242.26 preclude or modify the use of the designated hunter system or allow the harvest of additional species by a designated hunter. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time except for goats, where designated hunters may have no more than one harvest limit in possession at any one time, and unless otherwise specified in unit-specific regulations in §242.26.

2: How would the new regulation read?

§242.25 (e) *Hunting by designated harvest permit.* If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user (recipient), you may designate another Federally qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose, and caribou, and in Units 1-5, goats, on your behalf unless you are a member of a community operating under a community harvest system or unless unit-specific regulations in §242.26 preclude or modify the use of the designated hunter system or allow the harvest of additional species by a designated hunter. The designated hunter must obtain a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients but may have no more than two harvest limits in his/her possession at any one time except for goats, where designated hunters may have no more than **one three mountain goats harvest-limit** in possession at any one time, and unless otherwise specified in unit-specific regulations in §242.26.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

Subsistence hunting is affected in a negative way here by requiring the delivery of a fellow goat to the tag holder before any other goats are taken by the designated hunter. The problem is when the goats are available to the federal hunter it is key to the success of the hunter to be able to fill the available tags. There should not be the one goat at a time requirement to deliver before continuing the harvest. Time distance and expense for this can make this hunt prohibitive to the subsistence hunter.

The previous concern from ADF&G that the harvest would be not controllable for their point system management standpoint should not impede the subsistence hunters' ability to fulfil their harvest. The points should be based on animals left available after subsistence priority.

4: What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?

Typically a DH is an experienced hunter and is extensively knowledgeable in His/her hunting craft tactics and ethics. An experienced DH is in a prime position know what local subsistence use the animal population can withstand. Most DH's are experienced in viewing, identifying, and taking of game that is

gender restricted and are aware of the impacts of their actions. Being aware of the fact that harvesting billies have a substantially lower impact on the overall goat population than the taking of nannies. The subsistence DH will be able to assess whether the local herd can withstand the culling of young billies or older dry nannies. Because the DH has the opportunity to hunt and take multiple goats in one season He /she can often identify the Billies from the Nannies in short order. By just a single look at the head.

As opposed to the general season state hunters who many times mistakenly harvest the wrong animal and have no idea how the taking of nannies impact the local game populations. This is why there are points assigned to subunits for management. The DH can be a good management tool because they will typically be in the field considerably more than the average state/non res hunter and often have a better grasp on the heard status than the biologists .The DH or state hunter who spends the most time pursuing and viewing the game will have the most real time information about the status of the local goat population .The impact from less hunters filling the quota could be beneficial to the heard by not taking of the wrong animals from the heard and by disrupting the heard far less than having hunters push and pursue them repeatedly while the breeding season is in progress. By having less human impact, and more nannies to successfully breed the heard numbers will increase to a more natural sustainable population. More goats means more animals can be harvested in future.

5: How will this change affect subsistence uses?

This change will allow the designated hunter to make use of timing and location when the goats are within accessible and reasonable range. Thus being able to fulfill the intention of the designated hunter federal program. This change will remove the impeding statute that is contrary to the spirit and intent of subsistence.

6: How will this change affect other uses, such as sport/recreational and commercial?

This will not prevent other recreational/commercial and sport hunters from pursuing their animals within the quota and season. This could undoubtedly increase the numbers and availability. With less hunting pressure the goats will frequent the lower grounds more .thus recreational viewing and photographing opportunities will increase as will quality hunting in accessible grounds .This is important for the less able bodied hunters like children and older folks .

WP16-04

Name: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
 Address: Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833
 Phone: 907-772-5930 Fax: 907-772-5995
 Email: robertlarsen@fs.fed.us

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Remove the term “antlered” from the moose harvest regulations in 5B, and 1C remainder.

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 1

Moose:	
Unit 1C—remainder, excluding drainages of Berners Bay—1 antlered bull by State registration permit only	Sept. 15-Oct. 15.

Unit 5

Moose:	
Unit 5B—1 antlered bull by State registration permit only. The season will be closed when 25 antlered bulls have been taken from the entirety of Unit 5B	Sept. 1-Dec. 15.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

The term antlered bull is not effective since Federal regulation requires a hunter to obtain a State registration permit and the State regulations allows any bull (less restrictive) to be taken. With this regulatory change, State and Federal regulations would be consistent.

4: Other Information?

This regulatory change would have no effect on the moose population because the hunt is already managed as any-bull.

WP16-05

Name: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
 Address: Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833
 Phone: 907-772-5930 Fax: 907-772-5995
 Email: robertlarsen@fs.fed.us

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Remove from regulation, in the Unit 2 deer section, the following: “The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns.”

2: How would the new regulation read?

For Unit 2.

Harvest limits	Open season
Hunting	
Deer:	
<p>5 deer; however, no more than one may be a female deer. Female deer may be taken only during the period Oct. 15-Dec. 31. The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns</p> <p>The Federal public lands on Prince of Wales Island, excluding the southeastern portion (lands south of the West Arm of Cholmondeley Sound draining into Cholmondeley Sound or draining eastward into Clarence Strait), are closed to hunting of deer from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15, except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.</p>	July 24-Dec. 31.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

This regulation was implemented prior to the in season managers receiving delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board. This regulation is no longer needed to manage deer in-season.

4: Other Information?

WP16-06

Organization: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Address: Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833

Phone: 907-772-5930

E-mail: robertlarsen@fs.fed.us

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

Add a definition of “Nunatak Bench” to the Unit 5 regulations.

2: How would the new regulation read?

Unit 5 specific regulations. Add the following:

In Unit 5A Nunatak bench is defined as that area east of the Hubbard Glacier, north of Nunatak Fiord, and north and east of the East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

There are two regulations in Unit 5 that refer to the Nunatak Bench but that area is not defined.

4: Other Information?

WP16-07

Organization: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Address: Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833

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E-mail: robertlarson@fs.fed.us

1: What Regulation do you wish to change?

This proposal would allow trappers to harvest beaver with a firearm in Units 1-5.

2: How would the new regulation read?

Add language for §__26 Subsistence taking of wildlife. (d) Unit regulations.

§ 100.26 (d)

(3) Taking beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare, except that you may use firearms in certain Units with established seasons as identified in Unit-specific regulations found in this subpart;

(i) If you have a trapping license, you may take beaver with a firearm in Units 1-5.

3: Why should this regulation change be made?

In January of 2015, the State Board of Game adopted a regulation to allow trappers to harvest beavers with a firearm in Units 1-5. Adopting the same in Federal regulation would provide consistency between State and Federal regulations. Taking beaver with a firearm under trapping license is allowed in other parts of the state. Beaver are often used for food. There are no are conservation issues with beaver in Units 1-5. Harvesting with a firearm by trappers is not likely to increase overall harvest substantially.

4: Other Information?

WP16-08

Name: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
 Address: Box 1328, Petersburg, AK 99833
 Phone: 907-772-5930 Fax: 907-772-5995
 Email: robertlarsen@fs.fed.us

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

Require the use of harvest ticket number five when harvesting a female deer in Unit 2. Harvest ticket number five must be used to record the harvest of a female deer but can be used to record the harvest of a male deer. Harvest tickets must be used in order except when recording a female deer on tag number five.

2. How should the new regulation read?

Substitute language for §.26 (n) (2). Unit 2 Deer:

Harvest limits	Open season
Hunting	
Deer:	
5 deer; however, no more than one may be a female deer. Female deer may be taken only during the period Oct. 15-Dec. 31. Harvest ticket number five must be used when recording the harvest of a female deer but may be used for recording the harvest of a male deer. Harvest tickets must be used in order except when recording a female deer on tag number five. The harvest limit may be reduced to 4 deer based on conservation concerns	July 24-Dec. 31.

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

There is concern in Unit 2 that hunters are not properly accounting for the harvest of female deer by failing to validate their harvest tickets.

4: Other Information?

WP16-09



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Southeast Region

802 3rd Street
P.O. Box 110024
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0024
Main: 907.465.4265
Fax: 907.465.4272

March 25, 2015

Southeast Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Subsistence Wildlife Proposal ([docket number-FWS-R7-SM-2014-0062](#))

- 1.) **What regulation do you wish to change?** This proposal would close the federal trapping season for marten on Kuiu Island in Game Management Unit (Unit) 3. The current subsistence trapping regulations for martens in Unit-3 (§.26(n)(3)(iii)) allow a December 1 to February 15th trapping season throughout Unit 3 (including Kuiu Island) with no harvest limit.
- 2.) **How should the new regulations read?** New regulation §.26(n)(3)(iii). Should read as follows: *Unit 3 (except Kuiu Island); Dec. 1-Feb. 15; No limit. Unit 3 (Kuiu Island); No open season.*
- 3.) **Why should this regulation change be made?** More than a decade of ADF&G research indicates that the Kuiu Island marten population has remained at chronically low levels since at least 2001. A recently completed 7-year study of Kuiu Island marten indicates that the island's marten population remains stagnant at low levels. The state marten trapping season on Kuiu Island was closed by emergency order in 2008 and has remained closed by regulation since 2009. The closure of the state trapping season was in direct response to chronically low marten abundance, low marten survival (particularly of juveniles), low prey (vole) abundance, and low recruitment of juvenile martens into the breeding population. Any additional mortality resulting from trapper harvest could be additive to already high natural mortality, further exacerbating the current conservation concerns for Kuiu marten.
- 4.) **What impact will this change have on wildlife populations?** This action is necessary to conserve the marten population on Kuiu Island.
- 5.) **How will this change affect subsistence uses?** The proposed closure of the federal marten trapping season would prevent the subsistence harvest of marten on Kuiu Island until the population increases.

6.) **How will this change affect other uses, i.e., sport/recreational and commercial?** This proposal would align the Federal and State marten trapping regulations on Kuiu Island.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, I can be reached by phone at (907) 465-4359 or email at ryan.scott@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Scott" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Scott
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Div. of Wildlife Conservation
Southeast Regional Supervisor