



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



FOREST SERVICE

FWS/OSM XXXX.XX

Craig District Ranger
Tongass National Forest
P.O. Box 500
Craig, Alaska 99921

Dear Craig District Ranger:

This letter delegates specific regulatory authority from the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) to the Craig District Ranger to issue emergency or temporary special actions if necessary to ensure the conservation of a healthy wildlife population, to continue subsistence uses of wildlife, for reasons of public safety, or to assure the continued viability of the population. This delegation only applies to the Federal public lands subject to Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Title VIII jurisdiction within the Craig Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest for the management of deer and wolves on these lands.

It is the intent of the Board that actions related to the management of deer and wolves by Federal officials be coordinated, prior to implementation, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to the extent possible. Federal managers are expected to work with State managers, the Council Chair, and applicable Council members to minimize disruption to subsistence resource users and existing agency programs, consistent with the need for special action.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

1. Delegation: The Craig District Ranger is hereby delegated authority to issue emergency or temporary special actions affecting deer and wolves on Federal lands as outlined in the **Scope of Delegation** below. Any action greater than 60 days in length (temporary special action) requires a public hearing before implementation. Special actions are governed by Federal regulation at 36 CFR 242.19 and 50 CFR 100.19.

2. Authority: This delegation of authority is established pursuant to 36 CFR 242.10(d)(6) and 50 CFR 100.10(d)(6), which state: "The Board may delegate to agency field officials the

authority to set harvest and possession limits, define harvest areas, specify methods or means of harvest, specify permit requirements, and open or close specific fish or wildlife harvest seasons within frameworks established by the Board.”

3. Scope of Delegation: The regulatory authority hereby delegated is limited to the following authorities within the limits set by regulation at 36 CFR 242.26 and 50 CFR 100.26.

- You may set harvest quotas, and close, reopen or adjust Federal subsistence deer seasons and to adjust harvest and possession limits for that species. You may also close Federal Public lands to the take of this species to all users.
- ~~Unit 2 Wolf: To~~ You may close, reopen, or adjust the Federal hunting and trapping season ~~when the combined Federal State harvest quota is reached~~ for wolves.

This delegation also permits you to close and reopen Federal public lands to nonsubsistence hunting, but does not permit you to specify methods and means, permit requirements, or harvest and possession limits for State-managed hunts. This delegation may be exercised only when it is necessary to conserve deer and wolf populations, to continue subsistence uses, for reasons of public safety, or to assure the continued viability of the population.

All other proposed changes to codified regulations, such as customary and traditional use determinations or adjustments to methods and means of take, shall be directed to the Federal Subsistence Board.

The Federal lands subject to this delegated authority are those within the Craig Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest.

4. Effective Period: This delegation of authority is effective from the date of this letter and continues until superseded or rescinded.

5. Guidelines for Delegation: You will become familiar with the management history of the wildlife species relevant to this delegation in the region, with current State and Federal regulations and management plans, and be up-to-date on population and harvest status information. You will review special action requests or situations that may require a special action and all supporting information to determine: (1) consistency with 36 CFR 242.19, (2) if the request/situation falls within the scope of authority, (3) if significant conservation problems or subsistence harvest concerns are indicated, and (4) what the consequences of taking an action or no action may be on potentially affected subsistence users and non-Federally qualified users. Requests not within your delegated authority will be forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board for consideration. You will maintain a record of all special action requests and rationale for your decision. A copy of this record will be provided to the Administrative Records Specialist in the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) no later than sixty days after development of the document.

You will notify OSM and coordinate with local ADF&G managers and the Chair of the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council regarding special actions under

consideration. You will issue decisions in a timely manner. Before the effective date of any decision, reasonable efforts will be made to notify the public, OSM, affected State and Federal managers, law enforcement personnel, and Council representatives. If an action is to supersede a State action not yet in effect, the decision will be communicated to the public, OSM, affected State and Federal Managers, and the local Council representatives at least 24 hours before the State action would be effective. If a decision to take no action is made, you will notify the proponent of the request immediately. A summary of special action requests and your resultant actions must be provided to the coordinator of the appropriate Subsistence Regional Advisory Council(s) at the end of each calendar year for presentation to the Council(s).

You may defer a special action request, otherwise covered by this delegation of authority, to the Federal Subsistence Board in instances when the proposed management action will have a significant impact on a large number of Federal subsistence users or is particularly controversial. This option should be exercised judiciously and may be initiated only when sufficient time allows for it. Such deferrals should not be considered when immediate management actions are necessary for conservation purposes. The Federal Subsistence Board may determine that a special action request may best be handled by the Board, subsequently rescinding the delegated regulatory authority for the specific action only.

6. Support Services: Administrative support for regulatory actions will be provided by the Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Department of the Interior.

Sincerely,

Anthony Christianson
Chair, Federal Subsistence Board

cc: Chair, Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest
Special Agent in Charge, Law Enforcement and Investigations FS (Region 10)
Federal Subsistence Liaison Team Leader, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management
Federal Subsistence Board
Interagency Staff Committee
Administrative Record