
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Special meeting to propose delaying implementation for regulations regarding Unit 8 deer and Unit 19C sheep

Web Conference | May 25, 2023

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Submitted by: Chuck Adams

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cody, Wyoming

Comment:

Gentlemen,

Thank you for considering the postponement of Proposal 73. When I became aware of this Proposal, I had already booked non-refundable airline tickets to Kodiak, sent a deposit to my air taxi operator, shipped more than 150 pounds of camping and hunting equipment to Kodiak, and cleared my schedule for my customary one-month August bowhunt on the Island. I always plan far ahead.

If the one-buck Proposal holds for 2023, I will be forced to cancel my AK plans at a financial loss and arrange to have all that gear shipped back to my home for a substantial fee. There is simply no way to justify the high expense of traveling north for one deer, or spending a whole month of vacation time for one critter. It is too late for me to make other summer hunting arrangements if the Proposal is not postponed, creating a recreational and monetary hardship.

I also write articles full-time for hunting magazines, and I would have to cancel seven assignments I already have for this August's hunt. I could not recover that income.

I have been backpacking for deer on Kodiak Island since the 1980's, and it is the single most enjoyable thing I do. Thank you again for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Chuck Adams

Dear Board Of Game Members,

I have already submitted a comment about my support for delay of Proposal 73, but I would like to add my perspective as a long-time and avid deer hunter on Kodiak. I am not a resident, but nobody loves hunting the Island more than I do.

Several of my Alaska resident friends have told me they are concerned about increased nonresident Kodiak deer hunting pressure in the fall, particularly from commercially operated charter boats in October and November. They acknowledge that Proposal 73 is about people management, not deer management, and I respect their viewpoint. Everyone agrees the only thing that manages deer numbers on Kodiak is winter weather.

Many more Kodiak deer are near the ocean during autumn months, making them easy targets in some locations. But there is never such pressure in August and September because most deer are concentrated in high, remote places. That is when my multi-buck hunting acquaintances and I visit Kodiak for serious backpack fun. We do not see other hunters, do not interfere with residents, and certainly do not deplete deer populations.

It seems reasonable to allow multiple nonresident buck harvest in August and September, and to reduce the bag limit beginning October 1 if the Board deems this necessary. Deer are too difficult to reach in the summer for there ever to be hunter congestion or competition with residents. Deer hunting from charter boats, aircraft, and other forms of ocean access simply is not practical during summertime on Kodiak.

I realize that changing the rules is not the purpose of the Special Board Meeting on May 25. But please consider a split season with split bag limit as a possible future solution to everyone's concerns. I see no downside and plenty of upside to such a change in the regulations.

Respectfully

Chuck Adams



PC02

Submitted by: Justin Adams

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer Ak

Comment:

There is no scientific research to show that unit 8 deer for non residents needs to be drop to 1 deer. Just because people can get them on the road system doesn't mean the rest of the unit is struggling. By doing this you will be taking alot of money out of Alaska, out of the city of kodiak and the hands of Alaskans.



PC03

Submitted by: Zac Jones

Organization Name: Alaska Guide Creations

Community of Residence: Price, UT

Comment:

Dear AK Board of Game,

I am writing this email in regards to the tag limit changes on Kodiak Island Sitka Deer for nonresidents. Please consider reversing this change back to the original 3 tag limit or at least a compromise of 2. This is one of the very few hunts left that the average hunter can afford to go on in Alaska and the upside of being able to potentially harvest 1, 2, or 3 bucks increases the appeal. Speaking for myself and my nonresident friends that love to go to Kodiak and hunt these deer, the change of the bag limit down to 1 would greatly reduce the appeal and cause us to reconsider future trips. I do not think that we are alone in our thinking which has a good chance at reducing overall revenues including, but not limited to, tag sales, charter services, air services, and local sales from hotels, restaurants, and stores.

Kodiak is an incredible place to hunt Sitka Deer and the ability to have multiple tags makes the ever increasing cost of the trip worth it.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider my view.



PC04

Submitted by: Austin Atkinson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cedar City, Utah

Comment:

I strongly urge the board to reconsider the implementation of the proposal that limits the hunters deer bag limit for Unit 8, Remainder (Kodiak Island). I strongly believe that the primary reason an annual bag limit should be reduced would be for the health and sustainability of the resource (deer herd). Secondly, I believe that Alaska local populations should have access to sustainable populations of game for traditional harvest and game meat supplies. Third, I feel that Alaska residents should have priority when setting hunting seasons and restrictions before opportunities are allowed for non-resident sportsmen.

I feel that this restriction and accepted proposal was inconsistent with biological reports from the ADF&G and those most familiar with the resource. The Kodiak Archipelago provides a great opportunity for all hunters to pursue this non-native species which has flourished on the island. Not allowing multiple harvest for non-resident hunters unjustifiably targets those hunters coming to Alaska to pursue deer that are considered, in my mind, excess by hunters that fund local guides, transporters, businesses, and the ADF&G Department. We know the harsh effect winters can have on the deer herd as a bad winter can take 10x the amount of deer that sport hunting can take in a season.

If the concern is that non-residents are over-harvesting deer, please consider restricting non-residents to bucks only, instead of the current "any deer" regulation.

I have similar comments concerning the management of Dall sheep. The sustainability of the resource is the priority. Removing the non-resident hunt out of the 19C subunit for 5 years does three things; it shows distrust the Board of Game has in full-curl harvest management, it places distrust in the commercial services (registered guides) in managing their own customers' hunts, and it shows favoritism to those Alaska resident hunters that will now have their own "sanctuary" to hunt sheep with no guides or non-residents in the area. This is wrong and alternative options must be considered.



PC05

Submitted by: Drake Atwood

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Rexburg, Idaho

Comment:

Hi,

I am firmly opposed to cutting deer tags from three tags to one. It makes what is normally a prized adventure to one that cannot be financially justified. And when you've already booked your flights and already submitted deposits for charters for this year, like many of us have, it is quite aggravating! For someone like me, who has waited years to be able to hunt Blacktail on Kodiak, it is very disheartening to not get my money's worth.

I can only imagine the number of nonresident hunters who will allocate their hunting dollars to other opportunities, not able to justify the cost of travel to and throughout Alaska for just one deer. Please, please reverse the tag quotas back to 3 tags in unit 8 and restore what many regard as a hunt of a lifetime.

Kindest regards,

Drake Atwood



PC06

Submitted by: Shaun Ayers

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Davis, CA

Comment:

Board of Game members,

Unless there is a strong concern for the health of the herd, please consider reversing the one deer limit or keep the limit at 2 for nonresidents in Unit 8.

Myself and a friend have an archery hunt planned for August this year. Our entire trip including amount of time, number of people, location, etc. were planned around being able to hunt more than one deer. We would have made different choices or reconsidered the trip entirely if the limit was one. My hunting partner in particular is a young man working as a wildland firefighter so the financial burden of the trip is significant.

This will be my fourth trip to Kodiak. I will say the 3 deer limit is too much. My first two trips were with Alaska residents that rifle killed limits, 15 bucks on one trip and 18 on another. I honestly felt like this had a big impact on the local deer, overloaded our planes, and made for logistical difficulties getting back home.

I do agree hunts on Kodiak are becoming very popular and the impact on the deer is high, but putting the entire burden of reduced limits on nonresidents seems unfair and overly impactful to the businesses on Kodiak that the nonresident hunters support. Please consider more nuanced ways of reducing the impact, for example archery vs rifle limits, seasonal time limits to reduce rut harvest, harvest distance from ocean limits, etc.

Kodiak hunting is an incredible experience and although as an archery hunter I won't often kill two deer, the ability to trophy hunt after harvesting one deer makes it worth the significant time and financial investment of the trip.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Shaun Ayers, Product Director, KUIU Ultralight Hunting



PC07

Submitted by: bryan Bailey

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Onalaska, Wa

Comment:

The reduction in deer harvest to NON- residents only has no biological data to support. Winter kill is the main & biggest factor in deer numbers.

I put a group of 8 hunters to come and hunt Kodiak in 2023 and the main factor was the opportunity to harvest more than 1 animal. After hearing about reduction in NON-

resident tags several in the group are not wanting to go. That would be a loss to lots of different businesses in Alaska & Kodiak directly.

Please rethink the proposal 73 decision.

Thank you,

Bryan Bailey



PC08

Submitted by: Elijah Bair

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Carson, WA

Comment:

Please reconsider from lowering your bag limit for unit 8 deer. I hunted that unit for deer in November 2022 and i walked away literally thinking you guys would be raising the limit in the future because i saw so many deer. So from a nonresident point of a view i am very confused why you are lowering the bag limit, i saw more deer on kodiak in that 7 days hunting then i would sometimes see during a fall in Washington state. From what i understand the winters are the biggest killers of sitka blacktail, i think even if you lower the limit, the same amount of deer will still die due to the harsh winter, competition with other deer and predators. Also the state, guides, transporters, and the economy on the town of kodiak will take a big hit due to you lowering the bag limit, alot of money you are throwing away and screwing alot of businesses also. Maybe i am completely missing something and dont understand being a non resident nor a biologist, and i

am sorry in advance if i missed some facts but from what I experienced in November of 2022 i just dont understand why you would lower the bag limit, it just doesn't make sense to me. Maybe meet in the middle and lower it to 2? Try that and see how it works for everyone, just 1 deer seems pretty crazy for the amount of deer i saw and the negative economic impacts to people and businesses. Thank you very much for taking your time to read this and i hope you reconsider lowering the bag limit. - Eli Bair



PC09

Submitted by: Becky Bean

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak AK

Comment:

Off island transport operations have completely taken over. We used to rely on deer meat for subsistence but Its been getting harder and harder to get deer meat for the winter. Our family and many others have been buying more and more store bought meat with is very expensive here.

Nonresident deer hunters provide very little economic boost for the community. Lots of the big transport operations fly their hunters strait from anchorage to either the boat of lodge completey bypassing the town of Kodiak



PC10

Submitted by: Joseph Birkmeyer

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

Due to the amount of nonresident hunters coming to Kodiak for deer season, it has been difficult for the local residents of Kodiak to maintain subsistence throughout the winter season. This is due to both nonresident hunters and Alaskan residence NOT residing in Kodiak come to hunt our deer using charters and transporters.



PC11

Submitted by: Keith Bliss

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Spring city

Comment:

Hello

I booked a hunt for sitka Blacktails in zone #8 over a year ago. I recently was made aware that you are considering changing the quota limits on the deer from 3 to 1, this is very disappointing for us non residents who put out a lot of money and effort to plan a hunt which may be a hunt of a lifetime, I'm 67 will be 68 when my hunt will take place. I will never have another opportunity like this again. I wish you would reconsider this new proposal, and leave it at a 3 limit. This would give a person a chance to judge the quality of a animal and not shoot the first deer that pops up. This would be a better way on managing the deer quality. It seems like the nonresident is being handicapped. We are trying to help the economy.

Please reconsider the new quota limit

Thank You

Keith Bliss



PC12

Submitted by: Randy Blondin

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

My name is Randy Blondin I was born and raised in Kodiak Alaska and I shot my first Sitka Blacktail deer in Kodiak 60 years ago and have hunted them every year since, therefore I consider myself an expert on the subject. I believe this regulation that passed the board to reduce one deer on Kodiak Island to non-residents is ridiculous and accomplishes nothing. I can give plenty of reasons why it only hurts a lot of people: 1) the winter conditions is what regulates the deer numbers on Kodiak Island and the hunting pressure has very little impact, and right now the numbers are good. 2) Most nonresidents don't even hunt the same area's as local residents and the stats show that a nonresident only shoots 1.2 deer a year anyway. 3) Even though nonresidents usually only take one deer a year they usually purchase 2 or 3 tags which at \$300.00 each generates a lot of money towards the resource. 4) While the state loses a lot of money so are the transporters and guides, as our family operation has had to return and is in the process of returning a lot of money because hunters are interpreting this as a signal that the deer numbers are way down, therefore they now want to cancel their trip. In ending I can simply sum it up like this, If you look at the stats and information it is clear that this rule will have almost zero impact other than the state, transporters and outfitters losing a lot of money for nothing. My biggest complaint is the short notice, there are plenty of hunting operations like ours that have clients that have come for numerous years and some have booked several years out to now be told on a very short notice that there is a major change. Even though I think this proposal should be overturned I am asking the State of Alaska and or the Board of game to please at least postpone it for a year to give everyone a chance to prepare the public to a major change like this. Fish and Game agrees with my

assessment that there is no biological reason for this. So my last word is what is the big rush. Thank you for your consideration



PC13

Submitted by: Jeffrey Bloomquist

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Ridgefield, wa

Comment:

As a nonresident hunter who has hunted Kodiak a few times and plans to go back in 2024, please consider reversing the proposed tag cut from 3 to 1 on Kodiak Island. Trim it back to two if you need to but to fly all the way up there for one deer tag does not make it worth it. This will have a impact on the local economy as nonresidents decide to hunt other places. Perhaps if there are certain areas that there is a conflict with residents, the numbers could be lowered in that area but kept the same in other areas? Please consider other alternatives besides dropping the limit to one for the entire island.

Thanks for your consideration,



PC14

Submitted by: Charles Bongard

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin

Comment:

I am writing to state my opposition to proposal 73 limiting non-resident hunters to one deer on Kodiak Island. I understand establishing limits to protect species based on scientific guidelines. It is my understanding that Alaska Fish and Game has stated that there is no scientific basis for this proposed limit on deer. We booked our hunt for 2023 a year in advance with an understanding that we may be able to purchase a second tag to extend our hunt. This proposal will result in lost revenue to the State. Again, if there is a biological reason to do this fine, otherwise if it's not broke, don't fix it.. thank you.



Submitted by: Jess Bradley

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Brevard, NC

Comment:

I would ask that you delay implementation for these regulations. Alaska is a special place and offers opportunities to nonresidents found no where else in the United States. However, due to Alaska's location and the expenses associated with it, nonresident hunters generally have to plan years in advance to make a trip. One of the downsides to planning an Alaska trip is that nonresidents must pay for accommodations, plane tickets, transporter fees, and a host of other expenses before policy changes are even discussed for the first time. With a year of notice, people can change plans, but when changes are made just a few short months before season, most things have already been paid for. If there is concrete reasoning based on real biologic factors, I can support a policy change at any point in time. In this instance, the reasoning behind the regulations for Unit 8 deer do not seem based on biology, and are not pressing enough to warrant immediate implementation. So once again, I would ask that you please delay implementation of these regulations. At the very least it will allow nonresidents time to adjust without causing a negative impact on wildlife.

Thank you



Submitted by: Alton Brown

Organization Name: High Country Alaska

Community of Residence: Palmer, AK

Comment:

My full comment is attached. The Board of Game is setting a dangerous, un-American, and anti-hunting precedent with the closure of a nonresident season without any change to the resident season. The closure was never backed by ADF&G or the local biologists.



Alaska Board of Game,

Part of what makes the United States of America the greatest country in the world is the ease of access for our citizens to hunt. Domestic and International groups threaten our rights at an alarmingly increasing rate every single day. These threats have spilled over to Alaska as we are currently fighting the FSB and their overreach and many other groups . In Unit 19, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the local biologists do not support the closure of the sheep season. The closure of the nonresident sheep season without any change to the resident season shows that The Board of Game made this a political issue and not a biological decision.

The argument is that nonresident hunters make up 60% of the hunter population in the Unit and harvest 85% of the sheep with higher success rates. These harvest statistics do not include all the Outfitters, Guides, Packers, and Air charter companies that play a significant role in the success of the hunt. If these people are included in the nonresident success rate the rates would be very similar to resident success. The outfitters and guides are also in the area 2-6 months of the year and know their respective areas like they know their own backyards. This also plays a significant role in nonresident success.

The Board of Game has set a very dangerous precedent in dangerous times with this ruling. Closing the season to nonresidents without having any change to the resident season is un-American at its core. I urge the Board to think of the consequences for hunting in our great State and how the decision affects the lives of the residents who depend on nonresident hunters for a significant portion of their livelihood.

Sincerely,
Alton Joe Brown



Submitted by: Cole Bures

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Filley Nebraska

Comment:

Hello, as a non-resident to Alaska I will state that I oppose the ruling to drop the zone 8 deer tags from 3 to 1 for non-resident hunters. As with many hunts in alaska the fee to get into many of the remote areas is quite expensive so getting the most out of every hunt is important. I had planned on doing a hunt on kodiak this fall as there was a chance to get 3 deer, when I saw that the permits were being limited to only 1 deer I had to question wether it was worth the price of the flights now for only one tag. I had since opted to not do the hunt because of that, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. The loss in hunting opportunities will provide less income to private chartering businesses and other local businesses in the areas. Not to mention the state will lose the sale of more non-resident tags as most everyone would be buying more than one deer tag if they're going.

Unless the state fish and game can justify the drop in tags because of damage to the health of the deer herd, I do not feel there should be any change to the tags allotted.

I really hope this gets postponed or changed as I would really love to go hunting for blacktail on kodiak.

Thanks



Date: May 17, 2023

From: Bryan Burkhardt

To: Alaska Board of Game

Subject: Request to Delay Implementation of Proposal 73

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

I am requesting that you support delaying the implementation of proposal 73. I have bowhunted Kodiak for blacktail deer several times. In fact, I am already booked to bowhunt Sitka blacktail on Kodiak this year and next year. I bowhunt Kodiak because I enjoy adventure and I love to bring home the excellent meat from a blacktail deer to share with family and friends.

As a non-resident, there is considerable expense, time and travel to hunt Kodiak. Spending thousands of dollars to hunt one buck is not something many non-residents will be willing to do. I have several friends telling me that they won't be going to Kodiak if proposal 73 gets implemented. Please consider the economic impact of not having non-residents coming up to hunt Sitka blacktail deer on Kodiak.

If the issue is low deer populations on Kodiak, then I'm all for reducing bag limits until the population recovers. However, it seems that it would be more appropriate and effective, to limit all hunters to two bucks (maybe an exception for local Kodiak Island residents). **Please support delaying the implementation of proposal 73.**

Sincerely,

Bryan Burkhardt

[REDACTED]

Clarkston, MI [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



PC19

Submitted by: James Campbell

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, Alaska

Comment:

All,

I vehemently oppose the delay of closure in GMU 19C for non-resident hunters. This can, has been kicked down the road for far too long. Do not bow to the pressure of Guides and outfitters. Close 19C to non-resident hunters immediately!



PC20

Submitted by: Derrick Campbell

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

I think the passing of proposal 73 should be carefully considered. With Alaska fish and game being opposed to the regulation change, I fear the deer will bounce back fast and areas will become overpopulated before regulations can be adjusted to meet the rise in population. This could lead to easily transmitted diseases and competition for habitat causing higher winter mortality. Overpopulation also affects brown bear habitat.



PC21

Submitted by: Nick Carrico

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Butte Valley, CA

Comment:

To whom it concerns,

I am reaching out urging you to reverse the proposed decrease in non resident deer tags on Kodiak Island Alaska. This change would severely disrupt the value of making the trip to Alaska. I am a part of a group of eight that will be hunting Kodiak Island this fall. we purchased this trip with the understanding we could harvest mor than one deer. The money I

spend in the local economy benefits many of the Alaskan residents by utilizing their services and would hate to see them missing out on the opportunity to showcase what a great place Kodiak is to visit and hunt.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nick Carrico



Dear Alaska Game and Fish,

I am writing to respectfully request permission to harvest up to three blacktail deer as a non-resident hunter in the state of Alaska. As an avid hunter and conservationist, I have a deep appreciation for the importance of responsible wildlife management and the need to maintain healthy populations of game species.

I understand that recently the board voted to reduce the number of bucks from 3 to 1 that non-residents are able to harvest. I believe that allowing non-residents to harvest up to three deer would provide a number of benefits to both hunters and the state's wildlife management efforts.

First and foremost, allowing non-residents to harvest more than one deer would help to promote responsible hunting practices and ensure that only healthy animals are taken. By limiting non-residents to a single deer, there is a greater temptation to take the first animal encountered, even if it is not an ideal specimen. Allowing for the harvest of up to three deer would give hunters the opportunity to be more selective, choosing only the healthiest animals and leaving weaker specimens to contribute to the overall population.

In addition, allowing non-residents to take more than one deer would provide a greater incentive for hunters to visit Alaska and contribute to the state's economy. Hunting is an important source of revenue for many communities in the state, and increasing the number of deer that non-residents can harvest could attract more hunters and provide a boost to local businesses.

Finally, I believe that increasing the number of deer that non-residents can harvest would have little impact on the overall health of the blacktail deer population in Alaska. The state's wildlife management experts have demonstrated their ability to carefully manage populations of game species, and I trust that they would not allow non-residents to harvest more than is sustainable.

In closing, I respectfully request that you consider my request to allow non-residents to harvest up to three blacktail deer per hunting season. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carl Carter

[REDACTED]

Lansing, MI [REDACTED]



PC23

Submitted by: Jay Cherok

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

I agree that non resident hunters should be limited on the amount of animals that they should be allowed to harvest. These animals are the resources of the people that live here. It is not for the non residents to decimate the population. Guides will still have plenty of opportunity to make their money. They need to be regulated so the next generation of guides can also have a future. And the cost for a non resident license should be increased as well to allow more funding for research and management of these resources.



PC24

Submitted by: Jeremiah Clark

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Pleasant Plains Arkansas

Comment:

I hunted using a boat in November of 2021, I never seen another hunter in the 7 days, I seen at least 100 deer a day. Please don't lower the tags in areas that have high numbers of deer. I'm going back this November to hunt, it's sad that jealous residents that don't hunt the remote areas have pressed this on nonresidents. I do understand areas with low numbers reduced but areas with high numbers of deer shouldn't be done this way.

Sincerely Jeremiah Clark



PC25

Submitted by: Scott Collins

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, Alaska

Comment:

I strongly urge the BOG to not delay implementation of non-resident and youth sheep hunting restrictions in 19C. Please have those restrictions take effect in fall 2023 as you have already decided to do.

I am a life long Alaska resident and have been sheep hunting in Alaska for more than 30 years, including hunting sheep in 19C since 2005 and as recently as 2021. I am grateful for the sheep hunting opportunities that Alaska has provided me and am passionate about protecting sheep hunting opportunity in the years to come. My first hand observation and

experience are that the sheep population in 19C is down substantially during the last several years. I believe the primary cause is hard winters, but regardless, the population is down. During the last 17 years, I've also witnessed guided non-resident sheep hunters begin to account for a vast majority of the harvest, in part due to unlimited guided non-resident pressure on state land.

I support the decision made by the BOG to eliminate non-resident and youth sheep hunting in 19C for 5 years, effective during the fall of 2023. In 2022 non-residents harvested 90% of the sheep taken in 19C. To offset recent hard winters and given the current low sheep population, it is prudent to restrict non-resident sheep hunting in 19C. Delaying implementation of that restriction will delay recovery of the sheep population. A delay in implementation would be particularly harmful because guides will know that this is the last year that they can harvest sheep for 5 years. That will incentivize them to take as many hunters as possible in 2023 (there are no limits on the number of hunters they can take) and kill as many sheep as possible (likely resulting in more marginal or sub-legal rams being killed).

Thank you,

Scott Collins

Anchorage, Alaska



PC26

Submitted by: Todd Compston

Organization Name: Non resident hunter

Community of Residence: Elko, Nevada

Comment:

Good morning, my name is Todd Compston a non resident hunter from Nevada, I strongly oppose the implementation proposal of reducing the non resident bag limit for deer in unit 8 from three to one Buck. I scheduled my deer hunt on Kodiak Island back in 2021 for this year the 2023 season. When we booked our hunt you could harvest 3 deer. I totally understand to lower the limit due to a winter kill, but since there wasn't a bad winter there is no Biological reason to do this. Non residents slightly average over one deer per hunter. This measure would have minimal effect on the deer harvest. Please consider putting the non resident limit at a minimal back to two deer. Thank you for your time. Todd compston, Elko Nevada.



PC27

Submitted by: Dennis Coppock

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Monument, Colorado

Comment:

Good morning,

I've been saving money for 3 years to go on a Sitka Unit 8 guided hunt on Kodiak Island in 2025 for my 50th birthday but if you change the limit from 3 bucks to 1 buck there is no way I'm spending that kind of money for this hunt. From

what I have found from my own research this drop in limit numbers is against sound deer biologist information and is only for the benefit of local hunters.

How much money will the state and local economies loose by instituting a 1 buck limit for non-resident hunters? I'm not sure of that answer but I do know you will be loosing my money.

Sincerely,

Dennis Coppock



PC28

Submitted by: Kyle Crow

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Port Lions, Alaska

Comment:

Concerning Special Meeting – Delay implementation for regulations re: Unit 8 deer and 19C Sheep: I support the new regulation as it stands and oppose delaying or amending it in any way. Port Lions has been experiencing a massive influx of ATV deer hunters that arrive by ferry from the mainland every fall. They arrive in large groups and this is not only decimating our local deer population, that our local residents depend on for food security, but also tears up and litters our trails and backcountry hunting areas. Our community is being especially hit hard because of its easy access by ferry. Some of these large groups of non-local hunters arrive with proxy tags and take large numbers of deer. One group, waiting to board the ferry back to the mainland, were overheard saying they had harvested 50 deer. Local hunters have found campsites littered with discarded plastic tarps and refuse. If you look at the trails using the Kodiak Borough GIS lands viewer you will see they have become severely torn up, with numerous muddy rutted side trails spread across meadows. We have had two recent severe winters that have reduced the local deer population, and the pressure from mainland ATV groups is having a significant negative impact on our local residents food security.



Anna Deal
Palmer, Alaska

Opposition to the Proposal to Delay Implementation of Amended Prop 204

I am writing to ask that the Board of Game **reject any proposal to delay implementation of Unit 19C sheep hunting closure for non-resident hunters for five years** that they passed at the March meeting in Soldotna after rigorous public testimony.

I fully support the Board decision at the March Meeting to amend Proposition 204 to restrict non-resident sheep hunting in unit 19C, while leaving it open to resident hunting.

Closure of 19C to non-resident hunting is long past due.

We are in this position today because of the failure to place ANY limits on non-resident hunters. Restrictions must be placed on the group taking 90% of the sheep: non-resident hunters, not on Alaska residents. Non-residents should have been limited to a drawing-only permit system long ago. Now, the Board argues, there are too few sheep to justify even a drawing allotment for non-resident guided hunts.

There is no benefit to delaying a closure to commercial sheep hunting in unit 19C. A delay will only incentivize a "get them while you can" attitude.

Until forced to change, guides will continue to sell hunts to non-resident hunters and to take as many rams as they can because "if they don't, someone else will". While closure is understandably painful, it will be just as uncomfortable in the future as it is now while continuing to put damaging pressure on a declining sheep population. Guides have enjoyed the luxury and financial benefit of no restrictions and it is long past time to manage their impact. Immediate closure of 19C to non-resident hunting is now urgently warranted.

Guides have made no serious attempt to adjust their business plan based on the declining sheep population or passage of proposal 204. This indicates that they feel confident that they can persuade the Board to accommodate their wants. If successful, the chance of commercial guiding interests resorting to the same tactic again year after year is very high.

This call for a special meeting to delay implementation of proposal 204 is clearly the result of pressure from commercial guiding interests and is the direct result of having massively disproportionate representation by guides on the Board: 5 commercial guides and 1 retired guide on a 7 member board.

It subverts the public process, favors minority special interests, rewards stubbornness, and fails to do the job that the Board is tasked to do, which is to manage the sheep population for the benefit of Alaskans.

Decisions were made during an open public process. Changing those decisions now through a process that won't allow for the same public input is undermines the legitimacy of the Board.

If a sound-minded resolution and strategy to restore the sheep population to historic numbers for the benefit of Alaskans is abandoned as a result of bending to pressure from guides and out of state hunting interests, then the Board needs to be restructured to better represent Alaska residents and manage wildlife resources.



At the risk of repeating myself, I have included my Public Comment to the Board of Game March 2023 meeting explaining the rationale for limiting non-resident hunting in unit 19C below:

Anna Deal – Palmer Alaska

Proposal 204 – Oppose as Written (March 17th, 2023)

My name is Anna Deal. My husband, 4 children and I have a family hunting camp in unit 19C. I have grown up hunting there, and we have recently lived there year-round working remotely and homeschooling our children. We are highly vested in the area and resident sheep population.

I oppose proposal 204 as written, with a full closure of unit 19C to all sheep hunting. To go from no limits to full closure is rash, unnecessary, and unfairly penalizes resident hunters.

However, I do support action that would place limits on non-resident hunting.

In my opinion, we are in the position we are today because of the failure to place a limit on non-resident hunters. Restrictions should be placed on the group taking 90% of the sheep: non-resident hunters, not on Alaska residents. Non-residents should have been limited to a drawing-only permit system long ago.

I would support a limited permit or drawing system for non-residents while keeping it open to resident hunters, and especially resident youth hunters for the following reasons:

1. **Allowing for unlimited harvest of full curl rams is not a sustainable management practice.** **Mature rams have value to the group beyond their breeding ability.** Anyone who has ever watched a group of rams knows how much the young ones rely on the experience of the older rams for guidance. A group of 3-5 rams moves as an infantry with a forward and rear flank. When they rest, rams set up so that all vulnerable approaches to their position are covered. When the only older ram is taken or a group of rams is reduced to less than 2-3 individuals, they can not offer each other as much protection and the remaining young rams are much more vulnerable to predation. They're downright lost, dumb, and senseless without the older ram. Rams in 19C can live for several more years by the time they reach full curl. The rams we have taken (beyond full curl), all but one still had good dentition, all were fat and healthy.
2. **The current unlimited system incentivizes guides to take every legal ram that they can find for as many non-resident hunters as possible.** At \$25k per hunt, a non-resident hunter expects to get a sheep. From the guide's perspective, if they don't take it, another guide and client will. They are not wrong. There is no incentive to leave a healthy full-curl ram to reach trophy size or to "self-regulate" when the population declines. We have watched the non-resident guided hunting pressure increase year after year. More permits for non-permanent structures, more remote landing strips, more air traffic, more non-resident hunters, and fewer sheep every year. Guided hunters are extremely effective at taking sheep: 90% of sheep killed last year being taken by non-resident guided hunters.
3. **Resident hunters are driven by different priorities and are much more likely to "self-regulate".** Resident hunters are much more likely not to take sheep when the sheep population declines. We see the trends and self-regulate to let the population rebound because we want the sheep to be there for our kids. We are not motivated by getting a sheep as much as getting out to hunt with our family and to foster an appreciation for hunting and the resident sheep population we



have come to know in the next generation. We want to be able to hunt with our family year after year, but not necessarily take a sheep every year.

- I can't tell you how disheartening it is to watch my daughter hike her tail off with me for a week, then decide to pass on a ram that is legal, but healthy and young enough to live another year so that it can get really big or continue to be the mentor for the younger rams, only to have a non-resident hunter fly in, land on a mountain top, and take it within days.
- I have grown up hunting sheep in 19C with my 1st hunt at 12 years old with the agreement with my dad that we would not shoot anything. I went on several hunts, but did not kill a sheep until I was 35.
- In the last 20 years, my family and I have hunted sheep almost every season in 19C, but we have only taken 4 sheep between us. We have passed on far more nice legal rams than we have taken.
- As a youth hunter, my daughter passed on 3 beautiful rams before she was twelve.
- Our son went on 5 hunts before getting a nice ram at 11 years old.

4. **Resident youth hunting grows the next generation of Alaska sportsmen/women and should be left open.** The youth hunt has become a "right of passage" for our kids. Our 9 year old and 5 year old daughters are looking forward to their 10th birthdays when they will be eligible to be the hunter for the youth hunt. They know that they will likely only take one nice ram in their lifetime, so there is no rush to take the first legal ram that they see. Sheep hunting with kids is an incredible experience and extremely difficult to be successful. I suspect there would be very few rams taken per year if left open, but would allow Alaskan youth to continue to hunt and to be vested in the sheep of 19C.
5. **An honest discussion must acknowledge that there are many factors at play in the declining sheep population:** hard winters, a rebounding wolf population, black and grizzly bear predation, golden eagle predation on lambs, as well as resident and non-resident hunting pressure. Full closure to all hunting may not have as much impact on the sheep population as we hope given the magnitude of the other factors. **With non-resident hunters taking 90% of the sheep, closure to resident hunting is likely to have the least impact of all.**
6. **A very limited permit-system rather than full closure to non-residents would allow resident guides to continue to maintain their livelihoods.** Non-resident hunting in 19C has without a doubt gotten out of hand, but full closure would be very painful. Limiting non-residents to a few sheep per season would increase the value of each hunt & allow guides to continue to operate.

I strongly urge the board to reject proposal 204 as written, to place reasonable limits on non-resident hunters with a drawing permit system, and to allow resident and resident youth hunting to continue. If, in the next few seasons, resident hunters abuse that system, then I would also support a once in a decade limit on sheep for resident hunters.

If the Board votes to approve proposal 204 with closure to hunting for all parties, then upon re-opening, non-resident hunters must be capped with a drawing permit system. A full closure to everyone for 5 years, followed by full opening to non-residents would put us right back where we started.

Respectfully,
Anna Deal



PC30

Submitted by: Doug Dorner

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, AK

Comment:

Hi, I strongly oppose delaying the implementation of Proposal 73. This was already adopted by the board with public input and testimony. Implementing this does prevent anyone from being able to hunt in the 2023 regulatory year, it just sets a limit.

Thank you

Doug Dorner



PC31

Submitted by: Ben Dubbe

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

This comment is in response to the possible generation of board of game proposals to change the implementation of proposal 204 affecting the sheep season in 19c.

I am strongly opposed to changing the implementation of proposal 204. Especially because it would require the unethical step of requiring a board generated proposal.

This is not how the board of game is designed to work. It sets a horrible precedent for the board of game to cave into political pressure after the public process has run its course. It is not the job of the board of game to one-sidedly decide they know best and play the role of dictator. A board of game proposal has its place, but this is not it.

The facts about the sheep numbers and harvest in 19c are nothing new and no surprise. There is no new information available that was not available before the public board of game process ran its course.

Nonresident hunters have been harvesting the overwhelming majority of sheep in 19c for a very long time. They have been over-harvesting for a very long time. Because of outsized influence from the outfitting sector and a variety of factors, internal and external, ADF&G and the board of game has done nothing about it.

The issue of declining sheep population finally came to a head and a hard decision was made during the regulatory process.

The ban on nonresident hunters in 19c during the year their hunts were already booked is not a good situation. However, although I feel for the hunters and the outfitters who are losing out, it was necessary and long overdue. When you kick the can down the road for so long, you are not left with good options.

Thank you for your consideration



PC32

Submitted by: Lee Duet

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Bogue Chitto Mississippi

Comment:

I know of multiple hunters including myself that were planning on going to Kodiak in next year or so and now with the 1 deer limit for NR we are not gonna end up going. Hard to justify the cost, travel logistics etc to go for 1 deer. Doesn't need to be 3 but if limits were 2 it would make all the difference in world. Thanks Lee



PC33

Submitted by: Daniel Ender

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cayucos, CA

Comment:

Dear Alaska Dept of Fish and Game,

I oppose the implementation of Prop 73 as it does not have any biological reason to it. The implementation of the proposition is not grounded in science. This will hurt the revenue of the state and tourism industry. Additionally, a bag limit of at least two deer allows a hunter to continue hunting after harvesting a deer early in their trip, even if they don't intend to harvest another animal.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts.

Best,

Danny Ender



PC34

Submitted by: Matthew Ericksen

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Waddell, Arizona

Comment:

I Appose proposal 73

There is no scientific basis to limit the Buck harvest for non-residents since, non residents average just a little over 1 Buck per hunter, I planned my hunt over 2 years ago due to the wait to hunt on Kodiak and would not have scheduled it if I was only allowed one buck. Alaska Game and Fish will loose a lot of Non resident income on un used tags



PC35

Submitted by: Tim Evert

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: North Freedom WI

Comment:

Dear Sirs, Please consider delaying the one buck per non-resident for unit 8-deer.

The deer population is very good from what I understand. I will be hunting in that unit this fall, when I booked the hunt I was in the understanding I would have the ability to take 2 buck if I chose to, this was a main factor on why I booked the hunt as I am unable to do an out of state hunt (Wisconsin) very often. Thank you for considering! Tim



PC36

Submitted by: Jarrett Finley

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Palmer, Alaska

Comment:

My comment is in regards to Unit 8 deer.

I'm unapologetically an Alaskan resident who wants to put Alaskans first over non-residents. The opportunity for non-residents to hunt Kodiak is still there with a 1 deer limit but hopefully this limit will reduce the number of non-resident boat based hunters. I have hunted late season Kodiak for over 20 years and the past several years I have seen a huge increase in transporters dropping off non-residents hunters (I talk with them!) on the beaches. Often times close to camps already set up in the area. These transporters are getting guys out wherever they can, to shoot everything they can, to get lots of pictures of their boats covered in deer, foxes and ducks.

I sincerely hope non-residents will always have the opportunity to hunt Kodiak but not at the expense of the Alaskan residents experience. Other states prioritize residents over non-residents, why can't ALASKA prioritize ALASKANS? I hope the board does NOT reverse their decision.



PC37

Submitted by: Jordan Fogle

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

Greetings,

My name is Jordan Fogle and I was born and raised here in Kodiak. In addition to growing up here, I've hunted and fished on this beautiful island my entire life. I support the limit change in Kodiak because I believe it's fair and gives the deer a chance to thrive with the recent harsh winters we've been having and the increased amounts of hunting pressure (primarily the non resident and transport hunters).

As someone that grew up here, I've seen Kodiak change a lot over the years and one of the biggest changes I've seen is the deer populations. When I was in my teens, it was rare for myself and the people in my hunting party to encounter another group of hunters. Now a days, when my hunting party and I go hunting off the road system we see transport hunters EVERYWHERE. Locations that used to have high populations of deer now are a shadow of what it used to be with the increased amounts of pressure the transporters have brought to Kodiak. If this continues Kodiak will become a washed-up land unless we take action and I believe reducing the limit for non residents to one deer is a good step in the right direction. To conclude this matter, I want to say thank you for everything you do for this great state. Take care!

- Jordan



Submitted by: Paul Forward

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Girdwood, AK

Comment:

see attached



The purpose of this comment is to strongly OPPOSE any reversal of the passing of **Proposal 204**. To clarify, I am in favor of maintaining the closure for non-resident hunters.

Alternatively, I would also be strongly in favor of modifying the proposal to make 19c Full Curl by **Bow and Arrow Only** for both resident and non-resident hunters as a compromise that would allow everyone to hunt but still decrease harvest significantly.

Furthermore, this process of reversing decisions made through the public process (on both unit 8 and 19c) does not seem consistent with the Proposal process as it is intended.

Context:

I have been an avid hunter in Alaska since 1991 and, particularly over the past 5-10 years have paid careful attention to the status of sheep populations and sheep hunting in Alaska. I have spent many hours in the offices of and on the phone with sheep biologists and have even taken part in several podcasts and other discussions about the current state of our sheep populations and the causes thereof. Similarly, I recently attended the Wild Sheep Foundation Sheep Show and was both in attendance and contributed to the conversation during the Alaska Dall Sheep Strategy Meeting on January 12. The overwhelming conclusion from all of the biologists and other scientific experts with whom I've spoken and whose papers I've read is that the decline we're seeing in 19c and elsewhere is strongly related to (anthropogenic) climate change. According to every major scientific organization including IUCN (of which the Wild Sheep Foundation is a member) is that process will not stop and that we can only expect worsening in the future. This is, therefore, very different than previous weather-related sheep population declines.

With that in mind, there is concern that even harvesting Full Curl only rams may not be an adequate strategy. According to data from British Columbia, eliminating old, experienced breeding rams is correlated with decreased mating attempts by the remaining younger rams. On top of that, many units in Alaska, including 19c have seen an alarming trend toward younger rams being harvested as well as the mature ones. ADFG statistics from 2020 and 2021 showed average age of harvest at well under 8 years old and many of the young rams harvested are killed by guided hunters. With success rates in the 50-80% range for non-resident hunters and non-resident hunters accounting for 90% of the unit 19c harvest overall, it's apparent that a significant reduction in overall ram harvest would likely be a step in the right direction toward conserving what sheep we have left, especially with climate change that will only worsen in the future.

We must act now to conserve Alaska's sheep population and creating a moratorium on non-resident sheep harvest seems a very good place to start.

Archery:

As discussed by one of the board members at the March meeting in Soldotna, one very reasonable alternative that would provide all of the benefits of the moratorium without the financial detriment to outfitters would simply be to change 19c to **Archery Only** for all sheep hunters. Archery hunts have been used very effectively as management tools throughout the lower 48 and Canada including for sheep (Alberta and BC have archery only areas that have proven popular and effective and are very well received).

As noted above, the success rate for non-resident hunting in these areas has been as high as 80% over the past 5 years and is consistently over 40% for resident hunters. These are



extremely high success rates, higher than those for many other species in many parts of the state. Transitioning this area to archery hunting would allow for true fair chase hunting with decreased success rates but will maintain opportunity for *anyone* who wants to hunt it (they would just use a bow now). Skilled hunters who know how to pursue and stalk sheep will still kill rams but the overall take will be reduced due the increased difficulty. **This is the best possible strategy to MAINTAIN OPPORTUNITY for all while DECREASING HARVEST significantly and would beautifully accomplish the goal of the moratorium while still allowing outfitters to remain financially viable and non-resident hunters to enjoy their hunts.**

***Regarding opportunity: In the past there has been some resistance to transitioning existing rifle hunts into archery hunts because of the perception of some that this somehow decreases opportunity. It is, however, well established throughout the United States and in Alaska that all hunters are capable of taking advantage of archery hunts by the simple means of purchasing and learning to shoot a bow. Those who wish to sheep hunt in 19c who are not already among the thousands of Alaskans who enjoy bowhunting, can easily obtain equipment and proficiency. Currently it's possible to buy an effective hunting bow for less than the cost of most rifles and to learn to shoot accurately in a matter of weeks. **This change will not adversely affect any hunters opportunity, it will just make the hunt a little more challenging and thereby decrease total harvest.**

***Of note, in the past there has been some resistance to transitioning existing rifle hunts into archery hunts because of the perception of some that this somehow decreases opportunity. It is, however, well established throughout the United States and in Alaska that all hunters are capable of taking advantage of archery hunts by the simple means of purchasing and layering to shoot a bow. Currently it's possible to buy an effective hunting bow for less than the cost of most rifles and to learn to shoot accurately in a matter of weeks. **Implementing this now, in May, would give non-resident hunters who don't already hunt with archery equipment but who have booked hunts, more than ample time to purchase a bow and learn to effectively shoot it.** With modern archery equipment requisite shooting proficiency can easily be accomplished in this timeframe.

***Precedent: There are examples, both in and outside Alaska of the success of archery only sheep areas. In In Alaska, DS140/141 and DS240/241, which are bowhunting only draw hunts for any ram in an easily accessible area, the success rate over a ten-year period was about 2 – 3 rams per year for almost 70 tags awarded each year, and only a small fraction of the rams that were killed in these hunts would be considered legal in a full curl only area. Specifically, in the Eklutna area, where almost 70 hunters per year are allowed to bow hunt *for any*



ram in an easily accessible area, there is still a steady population of mature rams despite all the hunting pressure. This is an example of how archery hunting allows for tremendous amounts of hunting opportunity with minimal impact on the animal population.

Similarly, there are very popular and well accepted hunts in Canada including the Canmore "Bow Zone" and the Todagin Mountain area of British Columbia. Both are over the counter archery sheep hunts that have proven popular with hunters and very affective in expanding hunter opportunity while having minimal harvest affect.

Language for a possible archery solution:

The current regulation for August 10-September 20 readsL

R: One ram with full-curl horn or larger

NR: One ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years

The proposal here would change that language to:

R: One ram with full-curl horn or larger *by bow and arrow only*.

NR: One ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years *by bow and arrow only*.



PC39

Submitted by: Gavin Frese

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Quincy, IL

Comment:

Reversal of the proposed reduced bag limit for Non-residents of Sitka deer on Kodiak Island should be strongly considered from various perspectives.

Most importantly, biologically. Biologists concur that deer populations vary significantly from year to year and are primarily based on the previous year's harshness of winter. Reducing the bag limit by 2 tags would not have as great of an effect on the population as the conditions the deer are susceptible to.

Secondly, the financial aspect of reducing the bag limit for Sitka deer would affect Alaskan wildlife and tourism as well as the Non-resident consumer. Reducing the bag limit would cause monetary-induced cancellations of planned excursions to the state. For many, the deer tag is the most economical of the big game fees making it an attractive species to hunt for. Reduction of the bag limit would make taking a trip to Alaska less worthwhile although money is wanting to be spent in the state.

For these reasons, suspending the Non-resident reduction may be worth considering. Monitoring the population in relation to the winter conditions while keeping the bag limit at 3 may be a worthwhile plan until the populations show demise from hunting efforts.

Your efforts in wildlife preservation are applauded by all including those from the lower 48.

Thank you



PC40

Submitted by: Ben Genz

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Onalaska, WI

Comment:

I am writing you today to ask you to reconsider the recent decision to reduce NR deer tags from 3 to 1. I have a hunting trip booked with 3 other NR hunters from Wisconsin. From what I have been able to find, this reduction is not being done for biological reasons. If the scientific data shows this reduction is necessary then I would begrudgingly support the reduction. However, this has caused some of the others in my group to reconsider the trip as the cost is difficult to justify for 1 deer. Obviously this would be a negative for the individuals and businesses who benefit from NR hunters coming to the island.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Ben Genz



PC41

Submitted by: Craig Germond

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cheyenne WY

Comment:

I'm a nonresident hunter and have enjoyed hunting AK on many occasions. I'm a Bowhunter. I've hunted Sitka deer twice on Kodiak. I feel with the expense making this trip a nonresident hunter should be allowed two tags minimum. I feel this isn't being greedy on the deer tags. I'm aware that the state of Alaska doesn't need to guarantee a tag, but the revenue nonresidents bring to the table is beneficial the state and local businesses. I'm not really sure the basis for the proposal. Your reconsideration on this proposal would be greatly appreciated.



PC42

Submitted by: Josh Good

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

As a resident of Kodiak, I and my family depend upon the access to Kodiak Sitka Blacktail deer. The Alaska state constitution guarantees the residence of our state access to the resources of our state. This should take precedence over access to our resources from outside interests and non-residents. If hunting access for non-residence continues to increase like it has over the last several years, paired with a population, damaging winter, or other event in nature, the deer populations will not be of the magnitude where residents of Kodiak can depend upon them as a resource for a winters supply of wild meat. Please support the limiting of non-residents to the take of a single deer per year in unit eight



PC43

Submitted by: Karen Gordon

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Fairbanks, AK

Comment:

To Board of Game Members:

Please delay any action or implementation of the 19C mistake-laden decision in your May 25 meeting. The Board must follow the Constitution and statutes and consider data from the Department in making its decisions. It has failed to do so and must reconsider its action on 19C until it has met those mandated requirements.



“Board-generated” Proposal

Proposal 204 should never have been created as it was based on fabrication, not facts. There was no conservation concern to address, only created fears.

Emotionally-driven Proposal

Without supporting documentation or data, the Board chose to close nonresident hunting in GMU 19C with no justification other than a tearful plea by a Board Member. The Board has no directive to make decisions based on emotion.

Economic Impact Ignored

The Board failed to consider the economic impact of precluding nonresident hunting in GMU 19C. Attached is a spreadsheet of five years’ data I compiled before the weather event of last year and before COVID when populations and hunter efforts were “normal” that show the difference between the contribution to the Fish and Game Fund of residents versus nonresidents. Residents purchase a hunting license for \$45 while nonresidents pay \$1100 for that same right to hunt. A nonresident pays 24 times what a resident pays for the same opportunity to hunt sheep in 19C. In average years sheep hunting residents with the Pittman/Robertson match contribute \$18,000 per year while nonresidents contribute \$367,000 per year. Given what nonresident sheep hunters contribute to the Fish and Game Fund, it would take over 2400 more Alaska residents paying \$45 each just in 19C to compensate for the loss of nonresident hunter revenue caused by the Board’s arbitrary closure.

The Board Ignored the Expert Scientists in Making Its Decision

The Board asked the Department about the state of sheep last fall which was provided publicly and to the Board last October by [REDACTED]. They reported there was no conservation concern regarding sheep because low numbers are due to weather events and populations will likely rebound as they have in the past. The biologists’ report was ignored by the Board twice solely in favor of an emotional plea to save the sheep that totally ignored the Constitution, the statutes, and the opinion of professional biologists. In fact, the situation in Units 7 and 15 with sheep is more concerning, but the Board was inconsistent by leaving full curl hunting there but in 19C where the perceived problem was not nearly as bad, the Board decided to close all nonresident hunting. Why? There was NO basis to justify this decision. The Board should just maintain the status quo on hunting in 19C with the protective full curl management regime which is self-protecting to the population and not limit any hunting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Karen Gordon

Fairbanks



Average GMU 19C Sheep Harvest Data 2015-2019						
Status	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total Hunters	
Resident	38	36%	61	73%	100	
Non Res	68	66%	23	27%	91	
Total	106				190	

Average Annual 19C Sheep Nonresident Contribution	
Hunting License	\$ 160.00
Harvest Tag	\$ 850.00
Total	\$ 1,010.00
91 x \$1010= \$ 91,910.00	
With P/R Match	\$ 367,640.00

Average Annual 19C Sheep Resident Fiscal Contribution	
Hunting License	\$ 45.00
Total	\$ 45.00
100 x \$45= \$ 4,500.00	
With P/R Match	\$ 18,000.00

Total Contributions Resident and Nonresident	
Resident %	5%
Nonresident %	95%
Total Contributions Resident and Nonresident	\$ 385,640.00

GMU 19 Sheep Harvest Data						
Year	Status	Successful	%	Unsuccessful	%	Total Hunters
2015	Resident	34	35%	69	73%	103
	Non Res	63	66%	25	27%	88
	Total	97		94		191
2016	Resident	34	35%	51	66%	85
	Non Res	62	66%	26	34%	88
	Total	96		77		173
2017	Resident	46	43%	60	78%	106
	Non Res	61	66%	17	22%	78
	Total	107		77		184
2018	Resident	39	33%	68	71%	107
	Non Res	79	66%	28	29%	107
	Total	118		96		214
2019	Resident	39	34%	58	76%	97
	Non Res	75	66%	18	24%	93
	Total	114		76		190

Note: For calculation purposes I have selected the annual hunting license fee for resident and nonresident, and for the nonresident I did not include any alien fees, so these figures underreport the actual nonresident contribution.



PC44

Submitted by: James Goss

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Middleburg, PA

Comment:

I regularly hunt Kodiak and have not notice any decline in deer numbers. I think the reduction in tags in not warranted. It is political and not based on deer numbers at all!



PC45

Submitted by: Adam Grenda

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: King Salmon, AK

Comment:

I do not think we should be allowing non resident hunters in 19c for the next five years to hunt sheep. They have been taking the majority of the rams out of that unit for many years. We need to let the sheep population rebound some and then reassess in 5 years. With a declining herd there needs to be a change made. I feel as a resident of the state and due to Article 8 of our states constitution that my family who lives here year round should get a preference to hunt those animals over the non residents.

Thank you



PC46

Submitted by: Aric Groshong

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Roseburg, OR

Comment:

Dear Board members,

I have recently learned that there is a proposal to decrease the bag limit for nonresidents hunting sitka blacktail on Kodiak island from 3 to 1. I booked my trip with Homer Ocean Charters over a year ago with the game management rule in place that I would be allowed to harvest 3 deer, so finding out that this has been decreased after investing a significant amount of money is at the very least disappointing. In addition to not being as attractive of a hunting option, the proposed changes decrease revenue generated by tag sales, float/bush plane and boat charter fees, as well as other monies hunters invest in

the communities they visit. I encourage you to reconsider this proposal, and at the very least, do not invoke the rule until all currently booked trips have passed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aric Groshong



PC47

Submitted by: Kyle Hampton

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, AK

Comment:

I'm concerned about the motivation and intention of this measure. I understand that the residents of Kodiak feel a sense of ownership for the animals and hunting habits of the island; this price on the land is what makes it so unique and wild. To balance, we need to make sure the limits and regulations are biologically driven, not emotionally driven. If the biological indicators for the population on Kodiak suggest overharvest or the threat of it, that should determine deer limits; I want to see the data and supporting evidence for deer populations. I would like to, and do, hunt in places beyond where I immediately live; I also want to hunt in places that are sustainably managed, not on the verge of collapse.

Allowing the public to hunt these remote destinations and appreciate their beauty fosters support and protection. Without the broad public's support for these wild places, the pristine places could be impacted by much more than just a few more hunters coming to the island than some folks want. I'm worried this sets a dangerous precedent for regulation based on emotional drivers, not biological drivers.



PC48

Submitted by: Nathan Hannah

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wasilla

Comment:

In regards to the proposals it is sad to see that when there is finally action from the Board that benefits Alaskan wildlife (sheep in particular) that the process is circumvented to bend a knee to outside interest. It is high time the BOG gets it right and protects ALASKAN resources for ALASKANS and uses the power within their means accordingly. Simple math here, Non-res are harvesting the majority so they must be restricted regardless of the cause for the population decline (most likely climate change). This step must be enacted before further restricting residents of the state. For non-res guides and hunters alike I have one piece of advice, pay your dues and become a resident where you actually contribute to our community or go hunt Canada or better yet your home state.



PC49

Submitted by: Kyle Hanson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Iowa City, Iowa

Comment:

Good afternoon,

I am writing you here today because I am opposed to the change in bag limit of Blacktail Deer in Unit 8 of Alaska for Non-resident Hunters.

Kodiak Island has a sustainable population of Deer for Non-residents such as myself, to hunt. By changing the bag limit from 3 to 1, it unnecessary punishes those who value the resource and bring income & revenue to the State of Alaska.

The change was very sudden and a surprise to many hunters such as myself. The change seems to be driven by social conflict not due to deer numbers being concerned. If there was scientific or biological justification to reduce the harvest then I would support the change. Thats just not the case here.

I humbly ask, please reconsider this decision. Please reverse the action taken or at least consider a more reasonable compromise so we all can still utilize the resource within reason.

Thank you very much for your consideration and reading my comments.



PC50

Submitted by: Westly Hart

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cody, WY

Comment:

Dear Board Of Game Members,

I strongly support the delay of Proposal 73. I had planned on booking my first outfitted Sitka deer hunt on Kodiak Island a few weeks before I heard about this proposal, and I have been looking forward to harvesting multiple bucks during my adventure in September 2023.

If I am limited to only one deer tag, I will not book my hunt. It would be too expensive to fly to Alaska from Wyoming for only one buck. For me, the main appeal of hunting deer in Alaska is the chance to bag two or three bucks. I can obtain one deer tag in many places a lot closer to home.

I am grateful the board is considering a delay of the one-buck rule on Kodiak. This will let me realize my dream of hunting deer in your great state.

Sincerely,

Westly Hart



PC51

Submitted by: Drew Hatter

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, AK

Comment:

Please do not change alter or delay the implementation of the 19C closure to nonresident sheep hunters or the 1 buck nonresident limit for deer on Kodiak. I supported the board's decision on these matters previously and I still support the changes. Give the sheep in 19C a chance to recover and consider the overcrowding that Kodiak has been experiencing. Thank you.



PC52

Submitted by: Mark Hayes

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Onalaska, WI

Comment:

I oppose the implementation of prop 73 because many of these deer hunts are scheduled 1 - 3 years in advance taking into account the regulations at the time. While all hunters understand a bag limit reduction if a population is depressed, it is unfair to reduce bag limits when there is no biological need. I am hunting this fall on Kodiak. Had I known they are dropping the bag limit to 1 deer, I would have reconsidered booking the hunt. It will definitely affect my decision to ever return after this year too.



PC53

Submitted by: Tony Heil

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wausau Wi

Comment:

Kodiak Island has a lot of deer die from Winter Kill. Letting non resident purchase multiple deer tags gives your department extra funds instead of deer going to waste



Submitted by: Wayne Heimer

Organization Name: self

Community of Residence: Fairbanks

Comment:

I urge the Board to accept its own, Board-generated proposal to delay implementation of Board actions to eliminate nonresident harvest of mature rams in GMU 19C pending establishment of a more complete administrative record. In my view, the Board deliberations regarding its recent GMU 19C action did not adequately address all the factors to be considered in such a decision.

Sheep populations seem to be depressed by weather, not harvest of mature rams regardless of where the harvester resides. Consequently, I do not expect a reduction in harvest of high-mortality class rams will aid restoration of the sheep population.

However, that doesn't seem to be the issue for the May 25 meeting. I gather the Board has been advised that it did not compile an administrative record that accounted for the economic impact of the Board's action. It is proper and imperative that Board consider this aspect of any decision. I reason this is essential because the Board exists "...for the purposes of conservation and development ..." of Alaska's game resources.

I think consideration of "development" logically calls for a record that the economic impacts of Board function be thoroughly documented. I understand this documentation could be considered at the Interior Region meeting this coming March.

I argue delaying implementation is necessary to create a satisfactory administrative record about the total economic impact of this regulations. The economics of Dall ram hunting are among the more extensively documented records of species harvest in Alaska. These data should not be overlooked.

I urge the Board to accept its own, Board-generated proposal to delay implementation of Board action eliminating nonresident harvest of mature rams in GMU 19C. Based on my experience with Dall sheep, I anticipate no adverse biological or conservation effects pending establishment of a more complete administrative record. In my view, the Board deliberations regarding its recent GMU 19C action did not adequately address all the factors to be considered in such a decision.

Sheep populations seem to be depressed by weather, not harvest of mature rams regardless of where the harvester resides. Consequently, I do not expect a reduction in the regulated harvest of high-mortality class rams will aid restoration of the sheep population.

However, that doesn't seem to be the issue for the May 25 meeting. I gather the Board has been advised that it did not compile an adequate administrative record accounting for the economic impacts of the Board's action. It is proper and imperative that Board consider this aspect of any decision. I reason this is essential because the Board exists "...for the purposes of conservation and development ..." of Alaska's game resources.

I think consideration of "development" logically calls for a record that the economic impacts of Board function be thoroughly documented. I understand this documentation could be considered at the Interior Region meeting this coming March.

I argue delaying implementation is necessary to create a satisfactory administrative record about the total economic impact of this regulations. The economics of Dall ram hunting are among the more extensively documented records for species harvest in Alaska. These data should not be overlooked.



PC55

Submitted by: Nicholas Hoffman

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak AK

Comment:

I am a resident of Kodiak and hunt deer in the fall to put in the freezer to feed my family. Recently it's been harder to find deer and I have to travel farther and hike longer to find any deer and the ones I do are smaller. Reducing the number of deer taken by non-Alaska residents to 1 deer would help Alaska residents fill their freezers easier. Non-residents can still hunt and enjoy the Alaska wilderness but will now just have to go home with 1 trophy antlers instead of multiples. The new rule was correct please don't change or delay it. I am strongly opposed to any action being taken to delay or change the new rule that has already passed.



PC56

Submitted by: Sterling Holbrook

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Fairbanks, ak

Comment:

I am opposed to changing the closure of sheep in unit 19c as proposed in 204. The Board of Game should be concerned over managing our resources wisely not concerned with the business end of guides over resources. It is ridiculous to leave it open to non-residents even one more season.



PC57

Submitted by: Krista Holbrook

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Fairbanks

Comment:

Please do not delay closure of Unit 19C to non resident sheep hunters. The sheep population is in peril and this closure is well past due. It is time to put the welfare of wildlife above that of financial gain



PC58

Submitted by: Roark Brown

Organization Name: Homer Ocean Charters

Community of Residence: Homer, AK

Comment:

Proposal 73 should be delayed and amended to a minimum deer bag limit of two deer. There is no biological reason for the reduction. The measure would very minimally affect the total harvest. Fish and Game opposed the proposal. It is detrimental to the Kodiak economy and businesses operating on the archipelago. I urge the delay of implementation until the rule can be amended to a higher bag limit.

Thank you for bringing this back up.



PC59

Submitted by: Devin Hurley

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

As a local resident and subsistence hunter, I would like for this new rule to be put in place. The amount of pressure that the areas that I have hunted growing up is seeing these days from guided out of state hunters is unprecedented. It would be nice to be able to harvest the amount of deer that we used to without having to fight for a spot to get on the beach or hill, not to mention the constant barrage of bad shots taken and wounded animals created by untrained tourist hunters.



PC60

Submitted by: Cory Ioos

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Homer , Alaska

Comment:

All The proposals to reduce deer limits on Kodiak came from one individual attacking the user group's benefiting from the current large deer population on Kodiak. None of it had any biological reason behind it to reduce harvest. All commercial activity for the non resident hunters coming to the island is done on non native land.

It's a public land resource offered to residents and non residents and shouldn't be effected by a single individual attacking a user group. Leave the deer numbers status quo or consider raising limits due to large populations across state land.



PC61

Submitted by: Brandon Jensen

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak

Comment:

The unit 8 proposal is a welcome and necessary step so why delay? The numbers previously indicated in discussion were that most non resident hunters didn't kill 3 deer anyway and most killed one. I think there are many worried about their bottom line but the health of the herd and the rights of residents should always be more important than non resident hunting rights especially for transporters that contribute little to the local economy



PC62

Submitted by: Garth Jensen

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cedar City, Utah

Comment:

I am concerned with the Boards decision to limit nonresident tags in unit 8 for deer.

Point 1 - Nonresidents harvest fewer deer in unit 8 than residents already and the vast majority harvested are bucks already. So "if" there was a problem with the deer population as the individual expressed in unit 8, the best course of action would be to put limitations on the hunters that are responsible for the elevated harvest of does.

Point 2 - All the research I have done on the deer populations on Kodiak points to winter mortality being the driving factor for population spikes and declines. The statement that this change would somehow help the deer population numbers is not science based what so ever.

Point 3 - I have been on 3 boat based transported hunts on this island. I have never seen or been in an area where residents where hunting. The areas that residents are hunting in general are not areas that are being affected from nonresident transported hunters.

Point 4 - "If" the population is of concern then wouldn't it make the most sense to limit all animals taken from unit 8 buck only? Buck only hunting can bring a struggling population back if that was the issue. This is similar to my 1st point but I feel like this recommendation is based off of personal gain and resident social impact way more than biological management.

I am afraid that if this management is put into place it will set it up for failure because the population has more to do with winter severity. The average deer harvested in unit 8 is just over 1 deer per hunter right now with a 3 deer limit and if nonresidents are limited to 1 deer the state will be missing out on revenue of more deer tags being purchased that may or may not get filled. Statistically speaking it would go unfilled.

I feel that if the board had to make a change in fear of social outrage from residents then a compromise of 2 bucks allowed for nonresident would be a better course of action and still give incentive for nonresidents to come hunt Alaska.

Thanks for taking the time to read and consider my thoughts on this ruling.



PC63

Submitted by: Dan Jirak

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wasilla,ak

Comment:

I am writing in support of leaving 19C closed to nonresidents. Do not change your votes the sheep need a break in pressure



PC64

Submitted by: Isaiah Joner

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cedar City

Comment:

UNIT * DEER. I feel like anytime changes like this are made, there is no middle ground. I have hunted Kodiak several times as a nonresident and have never felt like there has been a shortage of deer. However, I do believe in protecting the resource for the future. Currently, stats show that of all hunters on Kodiak the average deer harvested is 1.2. Therefore, science already proves that they are not being over hunted. I think a good compromise would be to allow non-resident hunters to harvest up to TWO BUCKS per year. Do not allow nonresidents to harvest does and reduce the number from

three tags to two. I think it would be a good compromise that would be more appealing to nonresidents while limiting them.



PC65

Submitted by: Jeff Jones

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Roseburg, OR

Comment:

I am hoping you will consider reversing your position on prop 73. While you have every right to limit your non-resident hunting opportunities, to do so after people have booked hunts and all the ancillary services that requires would (and will) have a negative effect on your local economies.

Happy to expand on my comments any time [REDACTED]

Jeff Jones, Roseburg OR



PC66

Submitted by: Dylan Kavanaugh

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

Hello. I am in support of the unit 8 non resident deer change from three bucks to just one. I am a life long Kodiak resident. Over the past several years the amount of non residential hunters coming into our town has increased each year. These hunters do not spend much time or money in the city, just uses it as a pass thru to get to their hunts. The only locals that benefit from these hunters are a few guides and lodge owners. The amount of deer these hunters take every year has made our subsistence lifestyle more difficult. Our traditional hunting areas are being over run by these charter "transporter" boats. So many families in our community depend on harvesting deer to have meat for the year.

Thank you for your time



Submitted by: Andrew Kelso

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Graham

Comment:

I oppose the reduction of Kodiak deer tags for the following reasons.

1. ADF&G opposes the change as there is no biological reason for it.
 2. Winter kill is the controlling factor for the deer population, not non resident harvest.
 3. Non resident hunters average slightly over one deer per hunter, this measure would have minimal effect on the deer harvest.
 4. Non resident hunters bring a substantial contribution to the Kodiak economy is what was historically a slower time of year. Beneficiaries include air taxis, hotels, grocery stores, sporting goods, taxis, etc.
 5. The State loses license and tag revenue.
 6. Many of these hunts are scheduled 1 - 3 years in advance taking into account the regulations at the time. While all hunters understand a bag limit reduction if a population is depressed, it is unfair to reduce bag limits when there is no biological need.
 7. A bag limit of at least two allows a hunter to continue hunting after harvesting a deer early in their trip, even if they don't intend to harvest another animal.
 8. This will put additional pressure on other species i.e. caribou, fox, ducks, fish.
-



Submitted by: Ryan Kitka

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

To whom it may concern:

As a life long Alaskan, and 19 year kodiak resident, I would appreciate non resident hunters to only be able to harvest one deer. Residents need multiple deer for the ability to afford to eat healthy meat, non residents do not need local resources for that purpose

Ryan Kitka

██████████



PC69

Submitted by: Richard Klem

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage

Comment:

I believe the non resident deer harvest reduction for Kodiak should be delayed at least a year or two. Many non residents have to plan, book and pay for their trip well in advance of the season. It is expensive to hunt Kodiak for non residents regardless of the means of access. To pay for a trip and then have your max harvest limit reduced this significantly is not fair. If this decision was purely based on population numbers, it should reduce resident harvest numbers as well.



PC70

Submitted by: Jay Hicks

Organization Name: Owner at Kodiak Anglers LLC

Community of Residence: Kodiak Alaska

Comment:

Good day and thanks for the opportunity to comment on delaying this proposal. Given the steep increase in transporter type businesses who bring non-resident hunters directly to areas around the island to harvest and then leave without any addition to the Kodiak region economy, I am strongly against the delay of this proposal. Non resident hunters do play an important part in making a diverse revenue stream when they come to Kodiak, stay overnight, are assisted by guides, and are transported by Kodiak based businesses. The scales are much more level when there are resources put into the economy and resources taken out. When transporters come in and anchor and then just take resources out, there is only loss to the region with no other source of balance. It is important to take into consideration how many Kodiak region residents actually use the Sitka deer population as a part of their family's subsistence lifestyle. Deer are much more than an exciting hunt on a remote island. Deer are a foundational food source for locals. I applaud you for taking the steps to limit the deer harvest to one for non-residents. I appreciate your forward thinking and your care of those who live in the Kodiak Region. I urge you to follow through and place the limit as soon as possible.



Submitted by: Ben Kondro

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak

Comment:

In the last few years Kodiak has seen a drastic increase in hunting pressure. I believe that prop 73 is in the best interests of Kodiak and its deer population.

Places that I've personally hunted the last 10-15 years are not what they once were. Most years you could hunt without seeing another boat, hunting party, or transporter. Things have changed.

Last year i spent 4 days hunting Kiluda bay (eastside Kodiak). My daughter and i saw 6 deer in our hunt and we covered some ground by boat (glassing) and hiking. This was in early December in traditionally quality areas.

I think that reducing non-resident tags to one deer will help ease some of the pressure on the Kodiak deer population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Submitted by: GRANT KOPPLIN

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: PALMER

Comment:

Hello, my name is Grant Kopplin and I ask that you please do not reconsider, or delay implementation of proposal 73 or 204. These were important changes and two of the more substantial and positive changes taken by the board of game in several years and I ask that you follow through with them, especially since they just passed in march.

Kodiak deer hunting has gotten very popular with non resident hunters and with the growing popularity of boat based hunting outfits, proposal 74 was a needed change. the Kodiak AC was in favor of this change and you would be doing them and other Alaska residents a disservice if you did not follow through on it. Unit 19c sheep numbers are obviously very low right now and limiting non resident hunters is the right thing to do. last year non residents killed more sheep than residents and since there is no concession areas on state land and unlimited guiding over there, it will continue to happen. yes there is still a few rams to be had over there but not enough to support unlimited non resident hunting. I feel bad for the guides that will loose out on business but that's the way the world works sometimes. maybe they can focus their efforts on predator hunts in those area instead now. I understand its an inconvenience to the non residents with trips planned already, but honestly most of them would probably be relived if they knew how bad the sheep population was in the area so they can direct those funds to hunting in an area that has more sheep and can actually support non resident hunting right now.

finally I want to speak on how this emergency/out of cycle meeting to discuss delaying these changes that were just passed, seems unethical and an abuse of power by the board. I understand that its compliant with the statues and within your power to do so, but all the ACs are on break and this isn't how the public process was designed to work. these proposals went through the appropriate channels to get this point and passed. this feels like an attempt from a few board

members to push their personal agenda. there was months leading up to these proposals and they were voted to be adopted by the board (which I think was great) and now it feels like an attempt for a do over. please do the right thing and do not delay implementation of proposal 74/204. delaying implementation on proposals that just passed a couple months ago would look very bad on the board and would be a slap in the face to the public process that is our game management system,



PC73

Submitted by: Patricia Kozak

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

Although I understand that this boils down to money into the pockets of local guides, lodges, hotels, air taxis, etc. I don't feel that non-residents value the position of so many resident hunters-we hunt deer not for the horns but for the quality meat they provide. I strongly feel the bag limit for non-residents should be limited to one deer per person per year. Thank you.



PC74

Submitted by: Jacob Lamphier

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Willow, AK

Comment:

Firstly, I'd like to thank the board for their time in service to our state and wild resources. The work that is put in by the board is often overlooked, although it is integral to the management of our big games species.

I have concerns regarding the boards approval of the dall sheep closure to non-resident hunters for the upcoming sheep season. Although I do support the decreasing of hunting pressure in 19C, specifically for dall sheep, my concern lies in the abruptness of implementation. The declining ram harvest in 19C has been an ongoing concern for the last 5 years, however to completely cancel a season a mere 4 months prior to opening day is a slap in the face to the outfitters in the area. These men and women rely on the booking of sheep hunts, and to eliminate a 6 figure revenue source on such short notice is a draconian measure. To add salt to the wound, you all maintained resident hunting opportunities, in spite of the declining populations. Even though the ADFG biologists stated that this population decline is not hunter induced, the singling out of the guide industry is very apparent. I wholeheartedly believe that resident hunters should have a priority over non-residents, but in this specific case, where we anecdotally know the population is hurting, why not shut it down to everyone.

My suggestion would be to table this decision until 2024 when the BOG meets next and were already planning to discuss issues and proposals for 19C. This is an obviously hotly contested hunting issue, one that needs a creative solution. All of us that love sheep hunting and the places they live, want to see our sheep populations grow and allow for ample opportunity for all. According to ADFG biologists, Full Curl Management is working, the winters are rougher and

the predation continues to grow. Lets make predator hunting more incentive, shape regulations that deter hunters from taking squeaker rams and give our sheep the best chance of winter survival.



PC75

Submitted by: Athenia Large

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, AK

Comment:

Good day and thanks for the opportunity to comment on delaying this proposal. Given the steep increase in transporter type businesses who bring non-resident hunters directly to areas around the island to harvest and then leave without any addition to the Kodiak region economy, I am strongly against the delay of this proposal. Non resident hunters do play an important part in making a diverse revenue stream when they come to Kodiak, stay overnight, are assisted by guides, and are transported by Kodiak based businesses. The scales are much more level when there are resources put into the economy and resources taken out. When transporters come in and anchor and then just take resources out, there is only loss to the region with no other source of balance. It is important to take into consideration how many Kodiak region residents actually use the Sitka deer population as a part of their family's subsistence lifestyle. Deer are much more than a exciting hunt on a remote island. Deer are a foundational food source for locals. I applaud you for taking the steps to limit the deer harvest to one for non-residents. I appreciate your forward thinking and your care of those who live in the Kodiak Region. I urge you to follow through and and place the limit as soon as possible.



Public Comment for Special Meeting – Delay implementation for regulations re: Unit 8 deer and 19C Sheep – May 25, 2023

Name: Mike Carlson

Organization: Larsen Bay Lodge

My name is Victor “Mike” Carlson and I own Larsen Bay Lodge on the west side of Kodiak Island. The Lodge was started by my father in 1979 and I began transporting deer hunters when I was 16 years old. I am a shareholder in the Koniag Native Corporation and have lived in Larsen Bay, Alaska, for nearly 50 years.

I respectfully request the Board reconsider the decision to lower the non-resident deer bag limit from 3 to 1 and instead lower it from 3 to 2. Alternatively, I request the implementation of the change be delayed because 2023 hunters have already booked their trips and paid their deposits under the 3 deer bag limit. They have booked plane tickets, purchased tags, and expended other travel funds. Alternatively, I request the implementation of the change be delayed until a population study can be conducted and more information obtained about the reasons for the change.

If this were a population issue or an issue that affected the health of the deer on Kodiak Island, I would be fully supportive of the reduction. My father was a guide here, my son is guiding too, and we want this area healthy and productive for generations to come. However, the deer population in my area, Larsen Bay/Uyak Bay, is high and healthy. There were 42 deer in my yard last week. **Winter conditions affect the deer population far far more than hunters.** We have had mild enough winters, without sheets of ice that block deer food sources, and the population is thriving in my area. I understand the Kodiak Department of Fish & Game agreed with this assessment of a healthy population and therefore opposed this change because they found no biological reason for it.

For 2023, I already have my transporting season fully booked with hunters that booked a trip with a 3 deer bag limit. Few harvest 3, but I have appreciated the bag limit of 3 for advertising purposes. It tells hunters that the population on Kodiak is high and that they will have a great hunt. **Accordingly, this change will not have a measurable impact on the number of deer harvested but will have a significant impact on my business and others in this industry.** Once I notify clients of this change, I anticipate 50-60% will cancel for two reasons. First, they will be left with the impression that the deer population in Larsen Bay has declined. That is not the case. Second, they have booked 4-6 day trips and now are at risk of tagging out on day 1. With a limit of 2, they would spend the rest of the trip looking for a larger buck and enjoying the area. The possibility of a buck larger than their 1st is what keeps them out in the field and paying a daily rate, whether they harvest one or not.

If 60% of our clients cancel we will likely have to cancel the entire season because an occupancy of 40% cannot sustain the overhead of crew and supplies required to keep



the lodge open for the season. Great hunts book out 1-3 years in advance, which means that not only will our clients lose money on plane tickets, tags, and other travel arrangements, but they will not likely be able to rebook a 2023 hunt of equal quality.

Going forward, this could put my Transporter company out of business. A Kodiak deer hunt is a great expense, especially travel costs, and I do not think many hunters will book knowing their hunt could be over on day 1. A 2 deer limit will help me and other transporters, lodges, air taxis and outfitters stay in business. Kodiak hotels, restaurants, shops and sporting goods stores too.

Another consideration is that Larsen Bay Lodge has donated hundreds of pounds of deer meat over the years to the Anchorage Native Medical Center's Native Foods Program to "warm the hearts, souls, and nourishment of [their] patients who prefer the traditional food sources." We would not be able to continue these donations without our Transporter business. I have attached a letter from their Administrator. Also attached are a few emails from our clients to the Board of Game regarding this issue.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do, or more information I can provide, to facilitate a reconsideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,
Mike Carlson





From: Lewy Leathers

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2023 8:28 AM

To: Jerry.burnette@alaska.gov; Stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov; Allen.barrette@alaska.gov; Lynn.keogh@alaska.gov

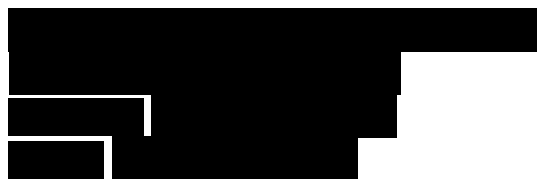
Cc: Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov; James.Cooney@alaska.gov; Ruth.Cusack@alaska.gov

Subject: Kodiak deer hunting

Hello, I am writing to you to let you know that we had a deer hunting trip booked for 6 people, 7 days 8 nights, out of Larsen Bay and have decided to cancel due to the change in the deer limit. If we were able to hunt 2 deer we would rebook. I understand that this proposal has nothing to do with population objectives and is not science based. I have been dreaming of a Kodiak deer hunt since reading Outdoor Life articles about it when I was in grade school. I'm 50 now and have been saving for this trip for some time, but part of the draw is the liberal deer limits and being able to bring back meat for my family, as well as being able to hunt longer. I know that it doesn't pencil out financially but it's a big part of hunting for myself and my hunting partners. Our group is from Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Missouri.

Sincerely,

Lewis Leathers

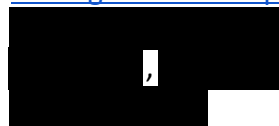




To whom it may concern

I am a little disappointed and upset at the same time. I have waited two and half years due to Covid epidemic to enjoy the great outdoors of the Alaska landscape and wildlife. I have already purchased three tags for the current 2023 year. Tag numbers 2301245, 2301246 and 2301247 along with my hunting licenses # 23163423. I have also purchased a non-refundable airline ticket from Alaska Air. The reason why I purchased three deer tags which I have done in the past as well it is not because I must kill three deer but because Alaska Fish and Game department had given us that option in the past and as well for this 2023 year. I feel like had I known that prior to purchasing and spending all this money in advance I would have had the option either to hunt in Kodiak for the deer or perhaps somewhere else. At this point I think it is unfair to me not to be able to pursue what I have booked this hunt for. I could understand if you limited the deer tag for 2024 but then again, I think it's totally unfair for these rules to apply to this year.

Sincerely,
Emilio LoCascio
President
Gemini Development Corp
www.geminidevelopmentcorp.com





----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Michael Deming** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, May 1, 2023 at 3:24 PM
Subject: Objection to rapid changes in bag limits for deer on Kodiak Island
To: <Ruth.Cusack@alaska.gov>, <James.Cooney@alaska.gov>,
<Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov>, <Lynn.keogh@alaska.gov>,
<Allen.barrette@alaska.gov>, <Stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov>,
<Jerry.burnett@alaska.gov>

Dear Alaska Board Members,

I wanted to reach out to all of you in regards to the recent changes in the bag limits for the 2023 hunting season for nonresidents from 3 down to 1 on Kodiak Island.

A short background of who I am and what I'm about. I've been in the outdoor industry for nearly twenty-five years now. I was the owner and publisher of the Sportsman's News "Official Publication of Sportsman's Warehouse" for 18 years. I've also owned a booking agency for the past 20 years. I've sat in on thousands of calls and meetings with state fish and wildlife organizations as well as non profit organizations that work in conjunction with these organizations. So, I'm versed on the decision making process of how they are made.

My biggest concern with this rapid decision to reduce the number of tags from 3 down to 1 is that it affects me and a good number of my clients this year. When you book trips with a quality outfitter in good economic times, they are usually booked several years in advance. I have a group of 12 clients that I was scheduled to hunt with and personally host for a deer/duck/fishing trip with Larsen Bay Lodge in November of 2023. I had sold this hunt to my clients as a hunt for multiple deer and ducks as the primary trip. I sell this as an opportunity to shoot the first good buck you see and then spend the rest of your trip trying to find a serious trophy. This way, hunters can stay in the woods and possibly harvest a trophy of a lifetime. This is how this trip was sold when it was booked and with the rapid change to one deer, this poses an issue for myself and my clients. If massive winter die off or overharvest was an issue, a decision of this magnitude could be justified as we are seeing things like this in states like Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, and Utah. We as sportsmen are very open to this being the case because we value wildlife more than anyone else. We spend more days in the field than most people making these changes and we want a good experience. My trips to Kodiak in the past and specifically in the Larsen Bay area have been fantastic. It isn't like hunting the roaded area around the city of Kodiak where excessive pressure and overharvest could be a justifiable reason to reduce the tag numbers. I seldom ever see another hunter in this remote area and even on years when there was significant winter kill, we still saw healthy numbers of deer and our group seldom ever harvests more than two animals.

I would request that the current plan of reducing the bag limit to one be raised to at least two for nonresidents who have had these trips booked for an extended amount of



time. This would provide them the ability to at least hunt what was sold to them. As of right now over 50% of this group is going to cancel if it isn't raised to at least two. If the total of one is what the board of Alaska is wanting for nonresidents to be able to hunt, we will likely spend our dollars elsewhere as the cost of getting to Alaska and more importantly all the way to Larsen Bay Lodge is exuberant.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

--

Michael Deming
President/CEO Pro Membership Sweepstakes
Owner/Outdoor Concierge Booking Service





----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristin yardley** [REDACTED] >

Date: Tue, May 2, 2023 at 5:10 PM

Subject: Deer hunt limits

To: <Allen.barrette@alaska.gov>, <Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov>, <James.Cooney@alaska.gov>, <Jerry.burnett@alaska.gov>, <Lynn.keogh@alaska.gov>, <Ruth.Cusack@alaska.gov>, <Stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov>

Dear Board of Game,

I am writing to express my concerns about the upcoming hunting season in Kodiak. As much as I was looking forward to traveling to Kodiak for a deer hunt, I have decided to cancel if the bag limit is reduced to one for the 2023 season. The cost and time involved in traveling to Kodiak for just one deer outweigh the benefits for me. While I love Kodiak and Alaska, hunting, and the wilderness, I believe that the possibility of a second deer is what ensures my hunt will last days instead of minutes since the deer population is so high and accessible. I am surprised the Board would implement such a drastic change with such short notice. My trip has been booked for nearly a year and I have already purchased plane tickets. I am very disappointed.

I also want to express my support for wildlife conservation efforts. If the deer limit needed to be reduced due to population issues, I would fully support such a measure, with little to zero notice. However, as far as I am aware, this is not currently an issue in Kodiak, and at least a year's notice would be appropriate.

I understand the importance of responsible hunting and conservation efforts and appreciate the work that the Board of Game does to protect Alaska's wildlife. I hope that in the future, I will be able to participate in hunting in Kodiak again.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kristin Yardley



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Paul Blanchette** [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, May 3, 2023 at 10:53 AM
Subject: up coming hunt to kodiak
To: Jerry.burnett@alaska.gov <Jerry.burnett@alaska.gov>
Cc: Larsen Bay Lodge [REDACTED]

TO who it may concern i have fished and hunted kodiak island 7 differnt times we are from n.h and we come as a group sometimes as many as 12 of us we were planning a deer hunt for 6 of us in dec all of us eat game so with 3 deer limit thats why we were coming i understand if you have a large winter kill to cut back but from what i am hearing this cut back is not related to the true population of the deer herd if this cut back happens we probably wont come to hunt kodiak this year or next year thank you for listening paul blanchette



Hello all,

It has always been a dream of mine to come to Alaska (I currently live in Arkansas) and hunt Sitka Black-Tailed deer on Kodiak Island. Over the past few years I have saved and budgeted and was finally able to book my trip of lifetime for fall of 2023 out of Larsen Bay. Then in March I received word that the bag limit for nonresidents on deer in this area was reduced from 3 to 1, and from the research I have done, it appears this decision was made without any science backing and the deer population is thriving and as healthy as ever. My family and I love to eat venison and I had planned on harvesting two deer to get the full experience of the trip, have enough meat to justify the expense, and share with my family. My hunting partner (from Texas) and I are now considering cancelling the trip, but if the limit was increased to at least 2 deer, we would keep the scheduled trip and I'm sure have a once in a lifetime trip. I urge the Board to please reconsider their decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. Ethan Rogers

Ethan Rogers





From: Nathan Adair [REDACTED]

Subject: Concerns about the recent decision to limit deer bag count for non-Alaska-residents

Date: May 4, 2023 at 8:30:18 AM AKDT

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Dear Board of Game members,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent decision to limit the deer bag count for non-Alaska-residents to only one buck, as opposed to the previous limit of three. I understand that this decision was taken due to concerns from a couple of native villages on the island, who felt that nonresidents were harvesting all of their deer, particularly in Port Lions, which is easily accessible by hunters with ATV's. However, I would like to express that this is a "user conflict" issue and not a population issue, and the deer population in Alaska is still high and healthy.

As a non-Alaska-resident who has enjoyed hunting in Alaska in the past, I am disappointed by this decision. My hunting trips to Alaska involve a significant investment of both time and money, and the opportunity to harvest multiple deer is an essential part of the experience. A one deer limit would greatly impact my decision to travel to Alaska for hunting, as it would not be worth the time and effort if my hunt could be over in one day.

Additionally, I would like to express how unfair it is to implement such a significant change with such short notice. Many deer hunters, myself included, have already made arrangements for 2023 based on a three deer limit, even if we only planned to harvest one or two. Changing the limit to one deer now would create unnecessary hardships and inconvenience for those who have already made plans.

I urge you to reconsider this decision and to restore the previous deer bag limit for non-Alaska-residents. Doing so would ensure that the hunting experience in Alaska remains attractive and accessible to non-Alaska-resident hunters, who contribute significantly to the local economy and conservation efforts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathan Adair



Dear Board of Game,

I am greatly concerned about the Preliminary Action to limit the deer bag count from 3 to 1 for non-Alaska-residents and bucks-only. Personally, I have no issue with buck-only. However, the drastic reduction in the deer limit from 3 deer to 1 brings my travel plans to a screeching halt. I live in North Carolina and it takes me two days to get to Larsen Bay Lodge, where I hunt. It is too far to go for one deer. I have hunted at Larsen Bay Lodge for deer before and they are a delicious and unique trophy. The Larsen Bay area is a beautiful and magnificent ecosystem. The views after a hard climb from the beach up into the mountains to deer hunt are stunning. When my friends and I come, we usually harvest the first decent buck we see as an insurance policy due to the difficulty of the hunt and the unpredictable nature of the weather in Kodiak. After we have one down, then we trophy hunt. If the Board of Game goes through with reducing the bag limit, then we will be canceling our plans for 2023. This hurts us and it hurts the local economy in Kodiak and particularly Larsen Bay. I would therefore request that the Board of Game not go through with this Preliminary Action to reduce the bag limit.

Sincerely,

Tom Harrison

[REDACTED]

Plymouth, NC 27962

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Date: May 16, 2023 at 4:40:55 AM EDT
To: Jerry.burnett@alaska.gov, Stosh.hoffman@alaska.gov, Allen.barrette@alaska.gov, Lynn.keogh@alaska.gov, Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov, James.Cooney@alaska.gov, Ruth.Cusack@alaska.gov
Subject: Kodiak Non-resident Deer Tags

Dear Alaska Fish and Game Board of Directors,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed change to the non-resident deer tag allocation for the 2023-24 season which would reduce the non-resident tag limit from 3 to 1 on Kodiak Island. At this point, we have booked and paid for a November hunting trip to Kodiak Island, including the purchase of our plane tickets from Pennsylvania to Kodiak Island.

The trip is a culmination of years of planning. I have been reading about hunting Sitka blacktails on Kodiak Island since I was in middle school almost 30 years ago. The three deer tag limit was a big part of our decision to book the trip and fly from Pennsylvania to Kodiak Island. My family and the families of my hunting partners enjoy eating wild game meat throughout the year. The ability to take more than one deer was a big draw as it would afford more time in the field and, potentially, more meat to bring home if we were successful. I hope you will reconsider the proposed change to the hunting season that begins in only a few short months.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Respectfully-

Garrett Boop



February 7, 2022

Larsen Bay Lodge
P.O. Box 92
Larsen Bay, AK 999624

To whom it may concern:

The Traditional Native Foods program at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) is a program that serves a variety of traditional foods for our patients who are inpatient at our hospital. Inpatients can order a variety of dishes with deer, caribou, moose, salmon, beach asparagus, herring eggs and fish pies to name a few. Sixty percent of ANMC's inpatient menu includes traditional food items.

This could not be possible without generous support of donations from individuals and businesses such as Larsen Bay Lodge. Mike Carlson and the Larsen Bay Lodge have donated hundreds of pounds of deer meat over the years to our traditional foods program. Our patients arrive from all parts of our State of Alaska to receive care and often come without the comforts of home with the exception of the traditional foods available for them during their inpatient stay. Recently one patient commented, "They have it flavored just like you'd be cooking it at home." The meat donations received from Larsen Bay Lodge has allowed us to prepare a variety of inpatient meals that our Alaska Native people are accustomed to eating as it brings the comforts of home right to their inpatient room.

Our program is a one of a kind program and we believe the only hospital that has taken advantage of "The Traditional Foods Nourishment Act of 2013" allowing through legislative authority at the national level to serve traditional foods in a hospital setting where our patients benefit from their healing and comforting effects. Recently, an article about our program was featured in the New York Times in addition the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation podcast "Unreserved" to illustrate and recognize the role traditional foods have in healing and recovery while in a hospital setting.

Our continued success of our program relies heavily on the support that Mike Carlson and his team at Larsen Bay Lodge have contributed over the years and this generosity has helped to warm the hearts, souls, and nourishment of our inpatients who prefer the traditional food choices we offer here at ANMC.

Sincerely

Dr. Robert Onders, ANMC Administrator

Alaska Native Medical Center
4315 Diplomacy Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
907.563.2662
toll free 855 482 4382
www.anmc.org



PC77

Submitted by: Philip Latteier

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Eagle River, AK

Comment:

Do not delay! Non-Resident Sheep hunters have gone too far! They take an unfair portion of the limited resource. If anything they should be limited STATE WIDE!

Also deer on Kodiak has had an undue pressure from Non Residents. keep the limit to 1 for NR



PC78

Submitted by: Kevin Lee

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: San Luis Obispo Ca.

Comment:

I am a deer hunter coming to hunt, Sitka deer, Kodiak island, 2023.

This hunting trip has been planned for two years, with the idea of taking more than one deer, to change the rules this close to the hunt I feel is not fair please consider the hunters who've already booked hunts based on current regulations
Thank You

Kevin Lee



PC79

Submitted by: Erin Lester

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Girdwood, AK

Comment:

Hello, I am a nearly lifelong Alaskan and avid hunter who has hunted in 19c for sheep over the years. I am alarmed at the numbers of sheep there and have paid enough attention to the local biologists to understand that this is related to man-made climate change that will not be abating in the coming year. I am also concerned that then BOG would consider reversing course on the decision made at the Soldotna meeting earlier this year. Please MAINTAIN the decision made on Proposal 204 and continue the 5 year moratorium on non-resident sheep hunting as enacted.

The alternative that I'd be even more in favor of would be to transition the entire unit 19c sheep season to ARCHERY ONLY which would maintain opportunity for all hunters, resident and non-resident, while still greatly

reducing the harvest. I have only recently started archery this year but I love the idea of being able to pursue sheep with my bow. I have always rifle hunted but I look forward to the challenge of getting closer to game animals.

Please maintain the decisions made on units 8 and 19c during the BOG meeting.



PC80

Submitted by: Ron Linder

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wasilla, Ak

Comment:

I hope the board considers the the Alaska resident. The declining sheep numbers in the state of alaska are alarming wether over harvest is the issue or recent years hard winters. Every sheep that can be on the mountain is important right now. For there to be non resident hunter and non resident guides taking away from this number is not right. I would have less issue with non resident hunters if there was a requirement that the guide has to be an alaska resident. This way the money made off our animals actually stays in the state.



PC81

Submitted by: Nicholas Mangini

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

I write this I. Support if the reduced bag limit for non residents in unit 8. As we have seen in places like southeast salmon (I'm from Sitka), the exploitation of our resources in the form

of wild game or fish is the detrimental to Alaskans traditional ways of life. The transporters that do business in kodiak spend little to no money in our community, stack

Up in all of the Best hunting g areas and have little regard our island. They have no problem dropping hunters right on top of you and frankly are severely hurting our population. The math is simple say there are 15 transporters with 6 hunters a week. That's 18 deer per boat or 270 deer per week. Take the 8 week transporter season and you've just removed almost 2200 deer from our local population from hunters that spend almost none of the 40k per week it costs to gill up a boat. It's not good for our deer population, it's not good for economy, it's good for a very small specialized group of entrepreneurs with no little to no ethics in the field in my opinion. They rarely are not picking areas for their hunters they drive beaches and build up in spots locals have hunted for years making outbids options more expensive.

Options, second to kin expand rights. Moratorium on transporters through a drawing I'd hope this would be 5-6 maximum. Remove the transporter option all together. Make sure the transporters live in the region they are hunting(almost all of Kodiak's are from Homer.)

The latter is the best option as they will all move camp to prince william sound.

It's your duty to protect this states access to wild game l. It's why many of us live here. Please think about your residents needs not the almighty dollar.



PC82

Submitted by: Anthony Marchini

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wasilla, Alaska

Comment:

Members of the board thank you for the work that you do that often isn't recognized and thanked. I would also like to thank the members of the board that called for this meeting to be held concerning the nonresident & subsistence Dall sheep closure.

Initially this proposal was written as a biological resource management proposal, it was then changed to an allocation proposal during deliberations. Which ended up hurting the subsistence as well as the nonresident sheep hunters in unit 19C. ADF&G with professional biologist are opposed to this proposal citing full curl management as the best plan. A similar closure proposal for a different unit was defeated 6-1 in March's meeting citing full curl management as the most viable option.

This proposal and its passing a mere 4 months before a season was to take place is going to cause egregious harm to many Alaskan's livelihood that provide commercial services to nonresident hunters.

Full curl, 8 year old or double broken management strategies have proven to work since established in 1992. As a lifelong Alaskan that grew up in a rural setting I urge the board to reconsider the implementation of this proposal until after the 2024 interior Board of Game meeting that is already scheduled to specifically speak on unit 19. This will allow additional time for research on all aspects of this issue to be made well before a season is to take place, and perhaps have a management group establish to help make a long term statewide plan to move forward concerning Dall Sheep.



PC83

Submitted by: Cindi Martin

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wasilla, AK

Comment:

Please do not delay closure of 19C sheep hunt for non-resident hunters for 2023. The declining sheet population cannot take another delay.



Submitted by: Joseph Mauer

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, AK

Comment:

It is a privilege as a non-resident to hunt another state and this includes Alaska. Please re-read the first line of this letter. There are few states where non-residents receive the same benefits and limits as residents, so why should Alaska be different when it is impacting a resident's ability to harvest deer. I support the deer limit reduction for many reasons. First, the board of game and ADFG must protect resources for resident hunters and subsistence users above all other user groups. Adding on to the first point, the board voted to approve this measure and push back from non-resident interests should not be the determining factor to overturn it. Alaska is a beautiful place and I want other hunters to experience it however it is not their resource to manage, nor do I believe their input should hold as much weight. Second, an increased number of hunters and boat based transporters will have a direct impact on the deer population. People often state only the winters will determine the population. That cannot be the only factor when the number of deer harvested by non-residents is increasing exponentially. It may not decimate the population immediately but it will take its toll and will ruin certain areas of the island. It has already made hunting remote parts of the island less remote in the sense that I have run into multiple groups of people from these transporters. Thirdly, people coming to hunt Kodiak are not spending 6000 dollars to bring home 150lbs (generous for 3 deer depending on size) of meat, they are hunting for the experience. There is no obligation of the state to help make their experience "worth it". There is however obligation to make sure the resources are managed appropriately for resident and subsistence groups. Furthermore, the real issue is with the lack of regulation of boat based transporting businesses. The majority of these outfits are not operated by a guide however I would argue they are doing just that by how they operate. The majority of them will anchor up in a bay and have clients flown out to the boat from Kodiak where they will then proceed to hunt in that specific bay, sometimes the whole season. Is choosing the area the clients are being flown to not guiding? My understanding of transporting is that the client must choose where to hunt and if they choose the bay what else are they choosing for them. The bit about transporter is really an issue for another day but felt it was necessary to add in.

Please uphold you're original decision. If the board was not for the decision they should have not voted it through in the first place. Overturning the decision, especially after non-resident input will show the boards true colors and the blatant disrespect for resident/subsistence user groups. Kodiak's deer need a break from the absolute abuse they are receiving from non-residents and transport operations. I believe the reduced limit will help this issue.

Dr. Joseph Mauer

Kodiak, AK



PC85

Submitted by: Joseph Mauer, Sr

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Ak

Comment:

I support the reduction of remainder unit 8 to one buck for nonresidents. The board has a duty and obligation to protect game resources for the subsistence, traditional and sport hunters. Deer were originally relocated as a food source for local residents, not for trophy hunters or nonresident hunters. Most states have regulations that ensure residents get first access or preference for big game hunting. Very few states allow nonresident to take multiple bucks on their license and a lot of states require drawing a permit to take a buck at all. I don't think the reduction is unreasonable. Reducing the limit of nonresident hunters to one buck, I believe could help protect the buck populations for especially sport hunters. The ratio of bucks to does tends to be too many does and not enough bucks to breed them all. Most deer management, especially to produce more mature bucks for trophy hunting involves ratios of one to one. This ensures the does get bred and the bucks are not overtaxed during the breeding season and can survive the winter and actually survive to reach maturity. Nonresident hunting focuses mainly on shooting bucks, trying for a trophy. A lot of residents are using the resource for food as well as traditional hunting lifestyle and they deserve some consideration. The board approved a proposal and they should abide by the rules and the proposal can be rescinded later if it is deemed ineffective. Thank you



PC86

Submitted by: Alexandra Meyer

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak

Comment:

I support board proposal 73, to reduce the bag limit of deer in the remainder of Unit 8 for residents and non-residents. The reduction of the bag limit will not greatly impact residents harvesting deer for food and it will protect deer populations from over hunting.



PC87

Submitted by: Adam Millburn

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Trenton, MO

Comment:

I understand the goal of trying to reduce traffic during the deer hunts, but this change is too aggressive. Additionally it is drastically adverse and biased towards nonresidents. I believe a limit of two would be a good first step and have the desired effect.



PC88

Submitted by: Tollef Monson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak

Comment:

I am writing as a concerned resident of the remote west side of Kodiak. I live yr round here and have seen a drastic change in the last few yrs of transporter type boats in my bay. There are 4-5 boats present during the peak of hunting each with many many hunters and it's terrible for us the locals trying to get our meat. I filled my tags in 2022 with only small deer due to the hunting pressure of these outside trophy hunters. They can go home to the lower 48 and their stores and buy all the meat they want. If the non resident hunter are coming for a trophy animal then they only need one tag. Kodiak doesn't see much income from these Homer/mainland boats to boot. This is only a good for few in the Alaska hunting industry, my first hand experience over the last 20 yrs of living here is dwindling amount of mature big bodied bucks. And yet I can only get 3 smaller animals that aren't enough pounds of finished weight and the grocery store is 60 miles by boat, and then groceries are only available if the barge has even made it into port. Our food security lays with the land on the hoof and in the sea when seasonally available. Non resident hunters can still get their trip of a life time by hunting hard for one special animal, otherwise they look like a locast plague crawling across every mountain and valley with dubious hunting ethics because they are in "the wild" and no one is "watching". Only a few profit from these non resident hunters, Kodiak and Alaskan residents lose in end to this type of resource extraction.



Submitted by: Jacob Morris

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Tigard, oregon

Comment:

I've been coming to Alaska for the past 5 years and have watched the non resident opportunities slowly slip away. This is happening to some states in the lower 48 and was hoping it wouldn't come to this in Alaska. I've planned a trip out years in advance and spend thousands of dollars with Alaska based on current regulations. It's very frustrating to find out that board and game can make a spur of the moment decision that affects thousands of non resident hunters. The prior bag limit was 3 and dropping it to 1 seems very dramatic. As much as I don't think there should be compromise, a two bag limit is easier to accept. To have a transporter it costs roughly 7k all expenses. Very hard to justify 7k to harvest 1 deer.



Alaska Board of Fish and Game members,

Today, I wanted to take just a minute to comment on one of the topics that is going to be discussed at the May 25 meeting.

The topic I would like to comment on is the reduction of non-resident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 Remainder from three to one buck (Proposal 73).

I am part of a group of 6 hunters that have been planning our trip for the first week of November. Most of our party had already purchased locking tags for the hunt prior to the March meeting decision. I believe that there are several things that may or may not have been thought through during the decision making process that led to the bag limit change.

1. Implementing such a change as swiftly as it was carried out put undue strain on the non-resident hunters that have already paid nonrefundable deposits with guides and outfitters.
2. There are non-resident hunters that had already paid for up to 3 locking tags to only be told that they will be limited to one buck in Unit 8.
3. Most of the meat harvested will be donated to a couple of local people in the city of Kodiak. This will provide some much needed nutrition that these families might not otherwise be able to obtain. Two of our party members did this same trip 2 years ago and that 3-person group provided 4 deer for a single mother in Kodiak that was very grateful for the gift of the meat.
4. I believe that increasing the number of deer that non-residents can harvest would have little impact on the overall health of the blacktail deer population in Unit 8. The state's wildlife management experts have demonstrated their ability to carefully manage populations of game species, and I trust that they would not allow non-residents to harvest more than is sustainable.

In closing, I respectfully request that you reconsider allowing non-residents to harvest up to three blacktail deer per hunting season in Unit 8 once again.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anthony Motz

[REDACTED]

Gaylord, MI [REDACTED]



PC91

Submitted by: Britta Mullan

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

The proposed action to reduce the number of deer for non-Kodiak Island residents should be put into action. Since the bag limit for the non-resident hunter has been 3 deer, transporters have been bring boat load of people over to hunt the deer, decimating the population of deer on the island and making it exceedingly hard for locals to hunt for deer on their island to support their subsistence lifestyle.

The proposed action to reduce the number of deer for non-Kodiak Island residents should be put into action. Since the bag limit for the non-resident hunter has been 3 deer, transporters have been bring boat load of people over to hunt the deer, decimating the population of deer on the island and making it exceedingly hard for locals to hunt for deer on their island to support their subsistence lifestyle.



PC92

Submitted by: Derek Nelson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Sparta, Wisconsin

Comment:

I currently have a hunt booked for this coming fall on Kodiak Island for blacktail. I booked this hunt with seven other friends who have long been planning to come on this awesome hunt. One of the most appealing things about this hunt is the ability to hunt for a full week, knowing we likely won't ever fill all of our tags.

Nonresidents average barely over 1 deer per hunter when taking a trip like this, and the added pressure with multiple tags being issued is negligible when it comes to the impact on population. Nonresident pressure is among the lowest impact on the health of the deer herd, and limiting tags so heavily will only negatively impact tourism dollars that are brought to the area from these hunts. Nonresident hunters bring a lot of stimulus to the economy in Alaska.

I and many other hunters who are booked for this coming fall would be extremely disappointed that the hunt we originally signed up for would be altered in a big way.

Although I disagree with limiting tags at all, I at least would ask that hunters that had a hunt booked prior to this decision still be allowed to purchase three harvest tags as originally understood. I feel like I booked (and payed for) a week long vacation but now am being told that I have to stay in my room after the second day. This is unfair to nonresidents who have been planning this hunt for years and are getting the rug pulled out from under them.



PC93

Submitted by: Parry Nelson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak Alaska

Comment:

I have lived and hunted in Kodiak for 36 years. I strongly support dropping the nonresident deer limit to 1 buck. Over the years of hunting in the same areas I've seen more and more people in the field. Most of the pressure comes from out of town transporter operations that have 6+ mostly nonresident hunters at a time. Along with increased pressure comes more litter, poor ethics, want and waste and problem bears getting used to gut piles. It is definitely time to solve this issue and dropping the nonresident limit is a start. Some hunters might be upset but they will soon realize they will have a much higher quality hunt. thanks Parry Nelson



PC94

Submitted by: James Nelson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Ak

Comment:

Theres no better time to lower the Nonresident deer limit to 1. We had one of the coldest springs in recent history and there was a pretty significant winter kill. the majority of last years fawns didn't make it so there is a whole age class that is missing. This combined with increased hunting pressure will make it hard for populations to rebound. Thanks



PC95

Submitted by: Philip Nuechterlein

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Eagle River, AK

Comment:

I am concerned that this meeting has been called as a result of pressure from commercial hunting interests. These wild animals are a public asset. Please do not take hunting opportunities away from resident hunters that have limited resources in favor of the commercial hunting interests.



Submitted by: Jacob Ohms

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Girdwood

Comment:

Please follow the science and not the self interest of groups.

There is not enough sheep in 19C to continue to have a large non resident harvest. It is doubtful that there will be a large influx of resident hunters, due to access issues and the interest in Alaska residents to see sheep continue to be on the mountain.

Please, keep it closed and see what happens with sheep numbers.

Kodiak has grown increasingly popular as a hunting destination for blacktail. Please keep it at one deer per non resident hunter and help the population rebound.

I'm born and raised Alaskan. I want to see the opportunity's that we have to hunt in Alaska continue. If changes are not made, then we won't have the opportunity's any longer.

Please, follow science, please listen to the concerns of people that aren't involved in this issue for the money.

I doubt any person would say there is an over abundance of sheep in 19C or deer in unit 8.

Alaska is an amazing place to live and hunt. Without sacrifices by both residents and non residents the opportunity's with cease to exist.

Respectfully,

Jacob Ohms



Submitted by: Kyle Hanson

Organization Name: Outdoors International

Community of Residence: Iowa City, IA

Comment:

Good afternoon,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to you here today because of the recent proposal to change the non-resident bag limit for Sitka Blacktail Deer in Unit 8 from 3 Deer to 1 Deer starting this year.

I would like to humbly express that I would disagree with that decision, and again very politely state that.

Personally I am planning to come to Kodiak Island, AK for my 3rd year in a row to do a Blacktail Deer hunt with my friends & clients. We were all shocked to hear of this change that is supposed to be effective this year. From what I have gathered speaking with Residents of Alaska, Alaskan Outfitters, Kodiak Residents specifically, and Biologists this decision is not being made due to a biological reason but from more of a social standpoint. Residents not wanting Non-Residents to be able to harvest as many Deer essentially being the source of it.

I currently work in the Outdoors Industry as a Hunting Consultant for a company called Outdoors International based in Idaho. This is the world that I live and breathe year in and year out. I assist between 300-400 clients a year personally planning their adventures for them with Outfitting partners all over the North American Continent and the world. Alaska however is my personal favorite place to hunt and I wholeheartedly value and appreciate the opportunity to be able to hunt there every year. It is because of that value and appreciation that I would support a bag limit reduction if it were for biological or scientific reasons, not social-political reasons or differences in opinions.

I feel that we are all reasonable human beings and appreciate the resources on Kodiak. To my understanding it is not a resource in short supply and after hunting there myself and working with those that have "boots on the ground" there right now as you are reading this, the Blacktail are NOT in short supply. I see them by the hundreds when I go there.

In conclusion, I would humbly ask for you to please consider reversing the proposal to limit the bag limit to Non-Residents on Kodiak Island for Deer. I feel this punishes those like myself that value the resource, and doing so unnecessarily. Not only that but also reduces Income for Alaska & Kodiak. Reduced gross dollars spent every year between tags, licenses, and goods/services purchased by hunters while in Alaska. I personally purchase 2 deer tags every time I go and am very selective of taking mature animals. The meat is valued in my household as well as the memories.

Again, I state my opinion respectfully and hope that I am well received by you. If there is anything that I personally can do on behalf of Non-Residents I am all ears and willing to donate my time to do so. Thank you in advance,



Board of Game Members:

Thank you for bringing the closure of nonresident sheep hunting in 19C (proposal 204) back to the table.

My name is Spencer Pape, I'm a resident of Wasilla, and have been a big game guide/outfitter (#1302) in unit 19 for 20 years. I am disappointed with the way proposal 204 morphed from a Dall sheep resource issue into an allocation proposal and am strongly opposed as to the outcome. Through guiding big game hunters, outdoor recreating, and working for Brice Environmental on the remediation of the abandoned Farewell airbase, I spend roughly 70 days afield in 19C alone. While I am concerned about the Dall sheep population in the area, as well as statewide, I'm also concerned with the loss of another hunting opportunity. The passage of amended proposal 204 severely impacted the subsistence hunting opportunity for the rural residents who rely on the winter hunt season, and took away the youth and nonresident sheep hunting opportunity entirely.

Dall sheep populations have shown a cyclical pattern since record keeping began in the 1920s. Per the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) website, "Sheep numbers typically fluctuate irregularly in response to a number of environmental factors. Sheep populations tend to increase during periods of mild weather. Then, sudden population declines may occur as a result of unusually deep snow, summer drought, or other severe weather events. Low birth rates, predation (primarily by wolves, coyotes, and golden eagles) and a difficult environment tend to keep Dall sheep population growth rates lower than many other big game species. However, their adaptation to the alpine environment seems to serve them well."

My firsthand observations show that three out of the last five winters have been hard on Dall sheep populations. Due to the inclement winter seasons, coupled with the rise in predator populations, the sheep haven't had it easy. Yes, the population is down, however I observed a huntable and harvestable population of rams on the mountain in the 2022 fall season. The department estimated 40 harvestable Dall sheep rams within 19C for the 2022 season. While for my outfit the 2022 season didn't end with every sheep tag being punched, our experience did inspire optimism for the near future. Self-regulation became evident after the 2020 season. ADF&G records show that when a particular game population is low, less hunters will go to the field for that species. Since 2018, the number of Dall sheep hunters going to the field in 19C has decreased some 15-25% per year. The 2018 season saw a record number of hunters at 212. The 2022 season saw 81 hunters go to the field. This decrease is a combination of hunters staying home, choosing to hunt in another unit, and 19C guides taking less clients. A quick search on the ADF&G website shows that other mountain ranges have seen an increase in sheep hunters since 2018. By closing the youth season, the winter hunt, and nonresident sheep hunting in 19C, other Game Management Units will see a significant rise in sheep hunters, putting more pressure on those Dall sheep populations, thus creating a snowball effect that will ultimately lead to more Dall sheep closure and/or limiting proposals. With the full curl regulation that is in place, I have no doubt that the numbers will come back in 15 to 20 years as shown in the Game Management Unit 20A population data that has been collected after the 1990s decline.

The full curl regulation has been proven to be the best management tool for 30 years now and is the most conservative approach according to ADF&G. Department studies have shown that once a ram surpasses 8 years old, its chances of survival greatly diminish within the wild with very few rams surpassing 12 years of age. Full curl, 8+ year old, rams make up less than 5% of the overall sheep population. The harvest of this age class of rams has no effect on the overall sheep population.



Furthermore, harvesting these older rams gives the younger adults, which are in their prime, protection from injury during the rutting season.

The high take and sharp increase of sublegal harvest the past few seasons is alarming. Lack of education and entitlement are the two most prominent factors from my perspective. The creation of a mandatory online Dall sheep hunter orientation course, similar to the nonresident moose hunter orientation on the www.hunt.alaska.gov website, for every resident, nonresident, and guide would positively impact this problem. A very informative Full-Curl Identification Guide already exists on the ADF&G website. Turning this material into an orientation course would help educate even the most seasoned sheep hunter. At the same time, a meaningful penalty should be levied on the take of a sublegal ram and penalty should progress upon further offenses. For example, a monetary fine for the first offense, an increase in the fine and the loss of his/her sheep hunting rights for 1 year for the second offense, and a more significant fine and the loss of his/her sheep hunting rights for 5 years for the third offense, and so on. The online course, coupled with a mandatory penalty for the take of a sublegal ram, would help curb the illegal take and limit the entitlement mindset.

While I understand the purpose of the board, and its decisions, is to put the welfare of the state's game populations first, passionate sheep hunters would rather have the board trust in the departments research and the findings of empirical evidence from full curl management and act constructively to maintain Dall sheep hunting opportunities rather than destructively by closing sheep hunting opportunities. Consider other methods for Dall sheep regulations such as the harvest of one ram every four years for both residents and nonresidents, weapons restrictions for part of the general season, shortening of the general season, and intensive predator control management within the area. The creation of a Dall sheep working group to brainstorm such methods and means to come up with the best path forward to Dall sheep conservation would be extremely beneficial to the resource. Previous species-specific working groups, such as the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group, have been instrumental in the rehabilitation of moose, the conservation of moose and maintaining the hunting opportunity for moose.

I strongly urge the board to be mindful of the Dall sheep hunting opportunities that residents and nonresidents have left and trust in the department's recommendations.

Good day and thank you for your time and dedication to this board.

Respectfully,

Spencer Pape



PC99

Submitted by: Darren Paschke

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Roseburg, OR

Comment:

I am delighted to learn that you are convening to reassess the bag limits for Unit 8 on Kodiak. These proposed modifications would have a negative impact on individuals like myself who take pleasure in hunting Sitka deer, while offering no tangible benefits for wildlife management. Moreover, this adjustment would result in a decrease in revenue from tag sales, bush plane and/or charter boat fees, and other businesses that are typically frequented by out-of-state hunters.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that many of us have already made arrangements for this upcoming fall, assuming that we would be permitted to harvest multiple deer. Therefore, I kindly request that you consider deferring the implementation of these changes for a year or two, or leave the limits as they were.

As you are aware, Alaska is renowned for its exceptional deer hunting, and the availability of multiple tags enhances the experience for visitors. I sincerely appreciate your consideration of this matter.



PC100

Submitted by: Derek Patton

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Two Rivers, Alaska

Comment:

Dear Board Members,

As a longtime Alaskan resident and avid sheep hunter, I am writing to you to voice my support for the closure of nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19C beginning in the 2023 season. My ultimate goal is to protect the declining sheep populations. Ninety percent of harvests in the area were made by nonresidents in 2022. If the regulation is delayed, then the Board is essentially acknowledging there is a dire problem to sheep populations in the area but choosing to ignore the problem for the short-term gain of professional guides. The Board's job is to manage the game for Alaska residents, not bend to the pressure of outside interests. I urge you to not delay the already voted on regulation for closing nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19C beginning in 2023.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Derek Patton



PC101

Submitted by: Steven Pinedo

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Roseville, ca

Comment:

I oppose the implementation of prop73 limiting non resident hunters to one deer on Kodiak Island because ADF&G opposes the change as there is no biological reason for it and winter kill is the controlling factor for the deer population, not non resident harvest.



PC102

Submitted by: Vince Pokryfki

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wasilla

Comment:

I am for the immediate implementation of suspending non residents from hunting Sheep in Alaska until our populations are such that it can carry guided hunts without impact to sheep numbers in any GMU.



PC103

Submitted by: Zach Porter

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Nikiski, Ak.

Comment:

I am writing in disagreement to proposal 73. This proposal will be damaging to local businesses and, after watching comments made by the ADF&G, I believe it was made using incorrect information. From ADF&G testimony and my own 23 years of experience on Kodiak, the deer population has not been reduced significantly by recent winter kill or non-resident hunting. Thank you for your time and consideration.



PC104

Submitted by: Benjamin Potter

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: California

Comment:

I have had the privilege of hunting Kodiak for several years now and have always been amazed by the island and its incredible hunting opportunity. From this experience I have been able to share and turn on a few dozen other hunters to the deer hunting in Kodiak. Being from CA this venture up to the great island of Kodiak is no small task and with the recent proposed changes it is hard to justify the expense, especially in this economy, to fly all that way for one deer.

It's hard to understand this rule change for non-residents with the deer populations healthy and the negative impact this would have on the locals on Kodiak that depend on these hunting opportunities for their community and livelihood.

From my perspective and situation, it will be hard for me to and my fellow hunters continue to justify hunting deer in Kodiak if this was to move forward.

I ask that you would consider all the variables this deer harvest limit would affect inside the state and outside before moving forward.

Thank you for your time.



PC105

Submitted by: Jeffery Pralle

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wasilla, AK

Comment:

Members of the board,

I would like to applaud the members that called this meeting in order to address the nonresident Dall sheep season closure in 19 C.

The proposal for a closing for the season on dall sheep in 19 C was opposed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game as stated by our professional biologist.

The initial proposal was presented as a resource issue. With the proposal aimed at protecting the resource. During the course of deliberation it was changed to an allocation proposal. Which in the end did not even favor the local residents that live on the north and northwest side of the Alaska range.

This proposal if allowed to stand does grievous harm to many Alaskan's livelihood that provide commercial services to nonresident hunters.

It has been proven that full curl, 8 years of age or both horns broken regulations are sufficient for maintaining or sheep herd. As a nearly lifelong Alaskan first moving here in 1975 and spending a large portion of the year in 19 C over the last

30 years I oppose this proposal and would strongly urge that it be delayed. This will allow additional research before it is addressed during the 2024 interior Board of game meeting.

Sincerely,

Jeffory Pralle

Wasilla, Alaska

May 14, 2023



PC106

Submitted by: Vincent Ranieri

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: West Islip, New York

Comment:

Vincent Ranieri

Please do not change the deer hunting regulations in unit 8. Based on the research I have done the deer population is healthy and the current hunting regulations maintain the current population and there is no reason to change the regulations in place. I am a non resident hunter and would like to continue hunting in unit 8 under the current regulations.



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

PO Box 60095, Fairbanks, Alaska 99706 (907) 371-7436
email info@residenthuntersofalaska.org web www.residenthuntersofalaska.org

May 17, 2023

Comments to Alaska Board of Game

Special Non-Regulatory Meeting May 25, 2023

Dear Chairman Burnett and members of the board,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) strongly **opposes** a process and outcome whereby the board will potentially generate a proposal at a special non-regulatory meeting on May 25th that would then be heard at another special regulatory meeting that would change actions taken at the March Region II meeting in Soldotna and delay implementation of a nonresident sheep hunting closure for five years in Unit 19C

Process: Should the Board of Game get a "Do-Over"?

At the March 2023 Region II Board of Game meeting in Soldotna, the board voted on amended board-generated proposal 204 to close all nonresident sheep hunting in Unit 19C for five years, based on conservation concerns for a severely declining sheep population.

The board well understood the implications and negative effects this sheep hunting closure would have on guides and their clients who had already booked sheep hunts for 2023. Guides strongly expressed those very concerns during public testimony. The board then took those concerns into account during long and sometimes passionate deliberations and voted to take the action they did based on the majority sharing conservation concerns for a severely declining sheep population and the belief that we could not wait until 2024 to impose restrictions on nonresident sheep hunters who were taking nearly all the harvest.

Board members who voted for the 5-year nonresident sheep hunting closure in Unit 19C were lobbied after the vote to bring it back up at the end of the meeting for reconsideration and change their vote, but it was not brought up for reconsideration.



Now, two members of the board who may have disagreed with the outcome of amended proposal 204 have called a special non-regulatory meeting to introduce a board-generated proposal to delay implementation of the sheep hunting closure to nonresidents in Unit 19C. With the hopes we assume that at least one of the members who voted yes on amended proposal 204 in March will now change their mind.

Is this the future of our Board of Game, where the board makes an informed decision at a regulatory meeting, and then members who are later pressured or didn't agree with the vote want a do-over? Is this how the board and the public process should function?

Board-Generated Proposals are Supposed to be a Last Resort

Board-generated proposals are to be avoided by the board absent new and urgent information that requires the board to take the initiative. Board-generated proposal 204 is a perfect example of the board misusing the public process; RHAK and members of the public have been submitting proposals for every Region III cycle (as well as Agenda Change Requests) to limit nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 19C based on sheep conservation concerns, and guides have been proposing a complete sheep hunting closure for everyone. There was nothing new or urgent that has not already been addressed by the public that would cause the board to generate and submit proposal 204 to be heard out of cycle and out of region.

Another board-generated proposal for a do-over on a past vote that would delay implementation of a closure they felt in March was absolutely necessary is the same misuse of the public process. There is nothing new or urgent that has come about since the March meeting in Soldotna that would cause the board to generate their own proposal to change how they voted. The information they have now is the same information they had in March.

Public Process of Wildlife Management wil be Degraded

If yet another board-generated proposal isn't problematic enough, should the board vote to introduce a board-generated proposal to delay implementation of the nonresident sheep hunting closure in Unit 19C, that proposal would have to be public noticed for a regulatory meeting and be heard before the new regulations go into effect, leaving little opportunity for the public process to work the way it is supposed to. Advisory Committees are on break until fall and board support staff are on leave. The broader public has moved on to their long-awaited summer plans, and even if some



could change plans there will be no public testimony allowed at any future special regulatory meeting according to Board Support. Only written comments will be allowed.

There is also the issue of a new board appointee, Dave Lorrington, who will replace Lynn Keogh on July 1st. If a special regulatory meeting takes place after July 1, that puts Mr. Lorrington in a position to change the vote and outcome on something he was not a part of in March.

All of this is not how our praised public process of wildlife management is supposed to work.

Background on Proposal 204 – Subversion of Public Process

The board generated proposal 204 to completely close all sheep hunting for five years in Unit 19C during the Board of Game November 2022 Agenda Change Request (ACR) meeting. Prior to that, at that same meeting, the board declined to accept RHAK ACR 12¹, which asked for limits on nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 19C based on conservation concerns for the declining sheep population. The board voted unanimously not to accept RHAK ACR 12 to be heard at the 2023 Region II meeting in Soldotna based on the premise that there were no valid conservation concerns for the Unit 19C sheep population. RHAK ACR 12, according to all seven members of the board, did not identify a “biological concern for the population” and thus did not meet the criteria for acceptance.

Shortly after that vote, at the same ACR meeting, the board voted 6-1 in favor of what would become board-generated proposal 204 to completely close Unit 19C to all sheep hunting for five years based on the same conservation concerns for the sheep population that RHAK had brought up with ACR 12. Somehow, after saying there were no valid conservation concerns for Unit 19C sheep, six members of the board minutes later reversed themselves and identified the same biological concern for the sheep population that was supposed to require them to accept RHAK ACR 12 and have it before the public at the March 2023 Region II meeting.

What the board overtly did was subvert the public process and ensure that only one option would be on the table regarding sheep conservation and changes to sheep hunting in Unit 19C in 2023 – their preferred option for a complete sheep hunting closure for everyone for five years. And that sole option before the public led the board down a path that led to a complete

¹ <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/2022-2023/acr/acr12-2022.pdf>



sheep hunting closure for nonresidents for five years starting this 2023 season that is being widely opposed by guides and their clients to the point the board now wants a do-over via another board-generated proposal out of cycle.

**Is the Board Really Okay with Nonresidents
Taking 90% or more of the Sheep Harvest in 2023
from a Severely Declined Population?**

Again, the board took the action they did in March based on the premise that the sheep population in Unit 19C could not handle any more nonresident hunting. If the board gets a do-over and votes to delay implementation of the closure for nonresident sheep hunters, we will see the same (or more) impacts and harvests by nonresidents as we did in 2022.

In Closing

We strongly oppose the approval of any board-generated proposal to change the outcome of board actions taken at the Region II March 2023 meeting and delay implementation of the nonresident sheep hunting closure in Unit 19C.

Nothing has changed since the March meeting for the board to now want to reconsider how the board voted on amended proposal 204. Pushing for reconsideration to delay implementation via another board-generated proposal that will be heard out of cycle during the summer months only further subverts the public process and disenfranchises the public.

We urge the board to vote down another board-generated proposal to reverse the informed vote and outcome of amended proposal 204 at the March 2023 Region II meeting.

Respectfully,

Mark Richards

Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)



PC108

Submitted by: Ethan Rogers

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Arkansas

Comment:

It has always been a dream of mine to come to Alaska and hunt Sitka Black-Tailed deer on Kodiak Island. Over the past few years I have saved and budgeted and was finally able to book my trip of lifetime for fall of 2023 out of Larsen Bay. Then in March I received word that the bag limit for nonresidents on deer in this area was reduced from 3 to 1, and from the research I have done, it appears this decision was made without any scientific backing and the deer population is thriving and as healthy as ever. My family and I love to eat venison and I had planned on harvesting two deer to get the full experience of the trip, have enough meat to justify the expense, and share with my family. My hunting partner and I are now cancelling the trip, but if the limit was increased to at least 2 deer, we would keep the scheduled trip and I'm sure have a once in a lifetime trip. I urge the Board to please reconsider their decision. Thank you



PC109

Submitted by: Donald Ruhoff

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Willow,alaska

Comment:

So what's different from the March meeting. Did they find all the missing sheep. Do what's right. Listen to your biologist and protect the wildlife for the residents hunters of Alaska. Thanks.



PC110

Submitted by: Michael Schubach

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Mill Hall PA

Comment:

I understand that ADF&G is considering reducing the non-resident bag limit on deer from 3 to 1 in Unit 8 effective July 1. I am against this proposal. Non-residents are an important source of revenue for many businesses in the Alaska and Kodiak areas, including Alaska DF&G. There are plentiful deer in this area. I am asking you keep the bag limit unchanged for non-residents.



Submitted by: Sage Shepherd

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Coeur d'Alene

Comment:

Hello, I am a 20 year old resident of Idaho. Last year by some stroke of luck I was able to hunt on Kodiak island for blacktail deer. For me it was a life changing experience and one of the most epic things I have ever been able to be a part of. So when I got the opportunity to go again this year I jumped on it, booked my tickets and applied for my time off. Since then I have been counting down the days till my flight takes off and I get to relive that experience again. Until today when my buddy called me and informed me of the regulation change of one deer. Limiting hunters to one deer makes it very hard to justify the financial burden, as well as the time off it takes to make the journey and participate in the hunt worth while. This will drastically change our plans for this hunt and completely change the experience for both of us. Without any warning to the regulation change before we booked the trip we are stuck now with no other option except to ask you to reconsider your decision for the 2023 season so at least we will be able to have different expectations when we plan to book in the future.



Submitted by: Carl Sholl

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

I am writing in concern for the changing of the limit of non resident deer tags. I'm a lifelong Kodiak resident that was born and raised here. I've been witness to many seasons, coming and going many harsh winters. Growing up here being raised on an outdoor lifestyle where subsistence was a major part of life. I've spent many falls in the hills, chasing deer, elk, bear and goat. Over the years, I've seen plenty of non-resident and resident hunters like come to our beautiful island to share in the experience. In more recent years with the advent of social media and hunting becoming so popular again that number has spiked and with that number, spiking the number of outside transporters and other guide services having the gold rush affect has also spiked. In just the last five years, I've watched the number of transporters almost quadruple a few of them being my friends that run those boats and I get their business decisions, putting food on their families tables. That being said I have seen plenty of the game that has been taken off this island being given away or trying to find people to take the meat due to the hunters, just wanting to keep their trophies and not take care or pay for the freight to bring the meat home. With the influx of out of town transporters, the city of Kodiak doesn't see much of any of the revenue pulled in from the influx of hunters. Granted, due to weather, some of the hotels stay quite booked through a fair amount of the fall, but like most other families living around here and being a commercial fisherman when I get time away from the boat to go and do my hunting late in the fall early winter and the transporters are in full swing with 3 to 5 boats per bay and five guys on each boat. It makes things quite difficult when you come around the Cape and can start spotting rafts pulled up on almost every beach in a bay with guys on the hillside. And in all my years of hunting in Kodiak Island with last year being a semi-mild winter by the time I was able to start hunting in November, I have never seen the deer population so slim and in some of the best areas I've ever hunted and not only with the added pressure on the deer population, these hunters and transporters are also setting subsistence crab pots to get crab for dinners and shooting every

fox They see plus multiple species of ducks so there is added pressure on them as well. Even though the biologist have said, winters are the major effect on the deer population. It's only a matter of time before harsh winters and springs like we had this year with winter kill off and the hunting pressure combine takes it ultimate toll on our deer population. I believe the tag reduction from 3 to 1 was a good call by the board of game as preventative measures before a future collapse in our deer population and the reduction of tags for residences that ultimately depend on the meat. Thank you for your time.



PC113

Submitted by: Ben Simonds

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage,AK

Comment:

I believe that as a state our first responsibility is to its citizens. Often those coming from outside are swiftly moved from transportation hub and out to their location of hunting. I understand the income it provides for those guides. However, if we do not protect our population long term then even the residents are not going to be able to enjoy our resources. Many of which in this case put food on our table. I encourage you to support limiting hunting in these two units for the prescribed and discussed period of time.

Thank you.



PC114

Submitted by: Tucker Souther

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Brevard, NC

Comment:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed regulations concerning the nonresident deer bag limit in Unit 8. I will be traveling to Alaska to hunt in unit 8 this fall, part of the appeal for this particular hunt was the opportunity to take more than one deer as the members of my group all feed their families almost exclusively with wild game meat. We all plan on taking every scrap of meat that we harvest home with us, even though it is expensive to do so I feel that it is worth the expense for the quality of meat that we are able to acquire compared to buying commercially grown meat at the grocery store.

I would like to state that I fully support properly managing a population of game animals and if hunting is placing to great a strain on a population then by all means limit opportunity to help preserve the resource, however if I understand correctly this regulation change was not made to help a population of animals in decline. I strongly believe that the ultimate authority on wildlife regulations should be the biologists who have been educated and trained to determine the health of a population and implement a system that allows for sustainably harvesting surplus animals in a manner that will

not effect the population into the future. Until a biological need has been identified then I urge you to reconsider implementing these regulations at this time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tucker Souther



PC115

Submitted by: Elijah Stewart

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Crofton, Ky

Comment:

As some one who has hunted deer their whole and and hunted Unit 8 some, I think that such a drastic limit change from 3 down to 1 will not only deter non residents like myself from wanting to come back, but will also allow for places that do not see much human traffic to become over populated. Thus cutting back on the amount of revenue generated, as well as making the deer herd susceptible to disease and starvation. I am not in favor of the 1 deer bag limit.



PC116

Submitted by: Brian Stoltz

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Fairbanks, AK

Comment:

Should a closure be warranted, please limit non-resident interests via draw or restriction before you limit resident harvest.



PC117

Submitted by: Tyler Stortz

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage, AK

Comment:

Nonresident deer bag limits

Closure of 19C dall sheep hunting to nonresidents

I am in full support of both measures. It is about time that Alaska start making decisions based on sound biology as well as in favor of those of us that call Alaska our home. For to long the outfitters/transporters have ruled the high seas and the mountains exploiting Alaska's resources in the name of non resident money. Gone are the days of going to Kodiak and not seeing transporters in many of the bays for months on end taking massive amounts of deer. With antlers and hides going home and much of the meat never going with them.

As far as the sheep are concerned I truly believe more regulation is needed for nonresident hunters and outfitters. They act like they own the resource and they have the run of the place. Not to mention sub legal animals being taken by supposed "professionals".

In summary I support both measures!



PC118

Submitted by: Greg Svendsen

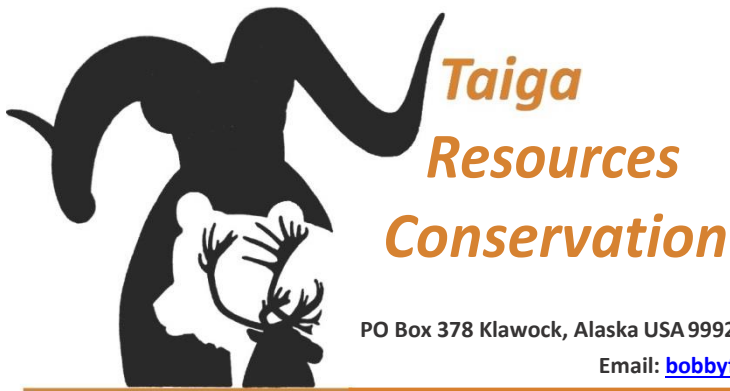
Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Anchorage AK.

Comment:

I don't think you should delay the sheep closure in 19C as the sheep numbers are down and the non-resident are taking 90% of the sheep. Other states give residents preference when game numbers are low. Why don't we do the same in this case.

As far as Kodiak deer these populations can change drastically each year so they aren't as likely to stay down for a long period of time like sheep.



a management and consulting firm specializing in conservation based natural resource industry support. We provide industry, governmental, regional, and community assistance in understanding, developing, and maintaining conservation based initiatives that will help sustain long term stewardship for important social/cultural atmospheres, fish, wildlife, land/water habitats, and industry developments within them.

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PC119

May 20, 2023

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Board of Game Objection and Action Request, Proposal 204, Closing Non-Resident Dall's Sheep Hunting in GMU 19C.

Dear Chairman Burnett and Board of Game (BOG) Members,

These comments are coming from a tenured professional guide and conservationist who has extensive knowledge of GMU 19C Dall's sheep.

It is my hope that these comments will help you decide to reinstate the GMU 19C nonresident hunting season for 2023 and look forward to a thorough addressment of Dall's sheep management strategy during the 2024 Interior Region BOG Meeting.

Relative to Proposal 204 as passed, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation staff provided the BOG solid data that Dall's sheep management by full curl guidelines works. The BOG chose to differ from known and proven science by eliminating nonresident allocation within GMU 19C.

Dall's sheep management in Alaska has been successfully conducted for several decades by utilizing the "Full Curl" concept of management which recognizes that harvest of the older age class of rams does not impact overall sheep population trends. This is a long time proven scientific basis.

By deviating from proven, scientific management guidelines, we have paved the way for utilization of non-science-based action to base similar hunter restriction or elimination efforts within both State and Federal wildlife management arenas.



Elimination of allocation without proven science and ignoring proven science to take away from peoples livelihoods generates unneeded disrespect for the BOG process. How can any professional guide service provider try to build viability and sustainability within a conservation based operating basis, not live in fear of these type of BOG actions. This type of action generates unneeded disrespect for the process.

The BOG is required to conduct a cost analysis of the impact of what passing a proposal may have on the public. There was no communication within that analysis for proposal 204 about the substantial financial impact on the professional guides who have hunts booked for 19C, or the local businesses who support them.

BOG decisions turning away from Dall's sheep full curl management may well lead to similar requests relative to moose management by antler restrictions.

If it is not broken, don't fix it. Do not open Pandora's Box of curses. Full curl management and antler restrictions work.

BOG action taking away nonresident hunter allocation, will not affect the Dall's sheep population trend within GMU 19C.

Please know that I have personally witnessed sheep populations within 19C go through the exact same population trend as we are experiencing today, and, watched them come back without severely restricted or elimination of hunting opportunity.

During the 1990's when we had several years of similar hard winters, our predator control had been lost due to recent ballot initiatives, the guide area system had been struck down by the courts, there was no license and control board, and we went from licensing 4-7 new guides per year to over 100. State of Alaska lands were the target for this large number of newly licensed guide and as an example, he small area which I guide within went from 3 guides to 14.

Still, the sheep came back, due directly to full curl management and not emotionally driven hunting elimination or restrictions.

If proposal 204 had not passed, professional guides would have a few hunters this fall according to viable opportunity, the dreams of their clients would be intact, local businesses would have continued to have revenue, resident hunters would have opportunity and all of us should have turned together in 2024 to focus on initiatives that would actually help our wild sheep.

As passed, the BOG will now have to address on a statewide basis, proposals utilizing this recent action as a basis and requesting elimination of one user group over another based on emotion and not science.

Proposal 204 was an out of cycle BOG proposal, generated through the Agenda Change Request process which required addressment prior to the scheduled spring 2024 Interior Region cycle. The 2024 Interior Region Meeting is where deliberation of the 19C Dall's sheep concern should occur. Please know that I have submitted proposals for that cycle relative to this concern.

Within that proper venue, we can all turn together to address initiative to help the Dall's sheep in GMU



19C and, can quite possibly design/generate a model to address similar concerns in other parts of the state.

It is important to the integrity of the BOG process that we turn together to address these types of concerns. As passed as an out of cycle proposal, complete elimination of non-resident opportunity and not even providing a respectful opportunity to discuss initiatives that could help the sheep population, 204 negatively impacted professional guide industry service providers who will now be less likely to respect or believe in the BOG process.

Please know that you will find no person who cares more for Alaska's wild sheep than I do. They represent an indelible treasure to our State as a whole and I have been very fortunate to have spent as many years as I have enjoying life while living with our Dall's sheep.

Several of us have hunts booked by clients who have long dreamed about their upcoming opportunity. We know the sheep population and harvest potential as well as anyone and restrict our bookings accordingly. Proposal 204 as passed took livelihood away from us and at the same time provided unlimited opportunity for resident hunters.

This is not right, it divides Alaska, and it needs respectful reconsideration.

By supporting reconsideration and maintaining the Dall's sheep season hunting season as it has been for many years, Alaskan's like myself who strive to be good stewards and who work hard to create and maintain conservation based economic viability for our state, know that we are respected instead of under attack.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert R. Fithian".

Robert R. Fithian



PC120

Submitted by: Dustin Tallman

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Wasilla, AK

Comment:

Please do not delay the implementation of these proposals.

Reduction of nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 Remainder from three to one buck (Proposal 73); and

Closure of the nonresident, sheep hunt in Unit 19C (Proposal 204).

Thanks,

Dustin Tallman



PC121

Submitted by: Chase Thomas

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Fresno, CA

Comment:

My name is Chase Thomas. In 2020, we had two groups of six people that went on a seven day Sitka deer hunt in Unit 8. It was such a great experience that we are planning on going again in 2024. The memories and time we are able to spend as a family is what makes the trip. What makes Alaska so appealing, besides being in Alaska, is that it's one of the only places you can get a big group and everyone has a tag / tags. But with the new tag limit change of one tag instead of 3 tags has put a halt on if we are going to go in 2024.

On our last trip each person spent on average \$8,000 in Alaska between the tags, charter boat fees, hotels, flights, bush plane, clothes, restaurants, alcohol. This could potentially be a big revenue loss for Alaska.

It is my understanding that AK biologists and department officials do not support this move. Cutting tags will also not have any impact on the herd populations. From what I have heard the herds are thriving right now and only the winter weather could hurt these herds.

I hope you reconsider changing the tag limits back to three deer and my family will have more great memories in 2024.

Thank you,

Chase Thomas



PC122

Submitted by: Alexandria Troxell

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

I was born and raised on Kodiak island, I am an Alutiiq from the village of Old Harbor. Every year my family hunts for deer near Old Harbor. In the past 10 years the amount of hunting pressure from outside outfitters has decimated the deer populations near my home village. Large charter type boats are docking in the village and rotating new clients weekly. 12 people per trip times 3 deer each adds up very quickly. It is heartbreaking to take my children out to fill out freezers only to find very few small deer remaining.

Please do something to help save this important resource.



PC123

Submitted by: Ben Truitt

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak alaska

Comment:

I don't think it would be a bad idea to try it for at least 2 years. There is alot of hunting pressure in remote areas all over the island making it harder for the people that live here for the freedom to hunt and subsist. Also most of these people don't practice hunter etiquette like locals do. If the economy is an issue losing one kodiak resident would be alot worse for the economy than losing 50 hunters. I think people will still come after thier big buck it'll just make them chose wisely before taking that shot. Meat is the #1 priority and alot of people don't bring it home because shipping it can be a pain.



PC124

Submitted by: Joseph von Benedikt

Organization Name: Outdoor Writer, Podcast Host

Community of Residence: Preston, Idaho

Comment:

To whom it may concern:

I write to formally request that you overturn the recent regulation limiting non-resident hunters to harvesting just one Sitka Blacktail deer on Kodiak Island.

Please allow at least two deer per hunter, and preferably the traditional three deer per hunter.

This is a time-honored destination hunt and species that blue-collar non-resident hunters can afford, and the "one deer" regulation significantly reduces the quality of the experience and the amount of meat such hunters can take home.

Thank you,

Joseph von Benedikt

Western Editor, Petersen's Hunting

Host, Backcountry Hunting Podcast



PC125

Submitted by: Robert Vorwaller

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Elko, Nevada

Comment:

I oppose the implementation of prop.

I booked a blacktail deer hunt for 2023 two years in advance. A big draw for this hunt is the option to harvest more than one deer if given the opportunity. If you harvest early it feels like your trip isn't over even if you do not harvest another animal. After doing some research and based on a previous hunt I only harvested one animal and many nonresident hunters only harvest one animal. Nonresident hunters have minimal impact on the deer population and I also understand there is no biological need for this measure.



PC126

Submitted by: Lawrence Walker

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Howard, pa.

Comment:

I have hunted unit 8 several times and have seen 40 to 60 deer a day don't think you need to change number of harvest. I think it would be very hard for an older gentleman like myself to pack out a deer with the meat still on the bone. I still love to climb the mountains and hike 2 or 3 miles back. The Alaska adventure wouldn't be same if a had to hunt next to the shore line.



PC127

Submitted by: Chris Wallstrum

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Willow

Comment:

Limiting nonresidents in unit 8 and 19c needs to be continued for the health of the limited resource base and animal population. Transporters and guides are putting so much pressure on these limited resources for the sake of money and the quality of hunts and the individual populations are declining. Let's restrict first and we err on the side of caution to see how the trend continues. Historically we wait until it is too late before action. Please keep the restrictions in place for the sake of the resource and the health of the state. Thank you.



PC128

Submitted by: Dusty Wheeler

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Mountain Home, AR

Comment:

I never seen another hunter in 7 days and seen over 100 deer a day, no need to cut tags in areas where the numbers are good, it was cut do to the residents complaining about nonresident killing all the deer witch it stupid, the residents kill all of the easy access deer and think that the nonresident are to blame



PC129

Submitted by: Matthew White

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Cedar City, Utah

Comment:

There is no biological evidence for this deer reduction.



PC130

Submitted by: Aimee Williams

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Kodiak, Alaska

Comment:

Good day and thanks for the opportunity to comment on delaying this proposal. Given the steep increase in transporter type businesses who bring non-resident hunters directly to areas around the island to harvest and then leave without any addition to the Kodiak region economy, I am strongly against the delay of this proposal. Non resident hunters do play an important part in making a diverse revenue stream when they come to Kodiak, stay overnight, are assisted by guides, and are transported by Kodiak based businesses. The scales are much more level when there are resources put into the economy and resources taken out. When transporters come in and anchor and then just take resources out, there is only loss to the region with no other source of balance. It is important to take into consideration how many Kodiak region residents actually use the Sitka deer population as a part of their family's subsistence lifestyle. Deer are much more than an exciting hunt on a remote island. Deer are a foundational food source for locals. I applaud you for taking the steps to limit the deer harvest to one for non-residents. I appreciate your forward thinking and your care of those who live in the Kodiak Region. I urge you to follow through and place the limit as soon as possible.



PC131

Submitted by: Catherine Williamson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Las Vegas, Nevada

Comment:

As a non resident hunter this has been very disappointing that we are now only allowed one deer tag a year. I have bought tags and my license every year for the past 3 years and this has been a ritual of mine to come to kodiak and shoot two three deer. We pay for each tag but now we are being told only one a year. I am very disappointed and this will only have a negative affect on business and other hunters that make their way to Alaska every year.



PC132

Submitted by: Joel Wilson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Arroyo grande, CA

Comment:

I am not in favor of the reduction in tags for the Kodiak nonresident deer season.

We will be hunting this upcoming season with my dad and brother.

Half the reason we are doing this hunt is because of the previous quota limits.

We booked this hunt a couple years ago to get the better season dates on our charter.

I will most likely not return if this limit stays to 1 deer.

Please reconsider

Thank you



PC133

Submitted by: Daniel Wilson

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Arroyo Grande, CA

Comment:

Hello,

Myself and seven of my close friends are traveling to Kodiak in November for a week long deer hunt, this is the second time we have made this trip and it has been booked for several years. On this hunt we had planned to target taking a maximum two deer per hunter which is a big attraction to such an expensive trip as it makes for a full week of hunting and because we value being able to take the game meet home to our families as much as any hunter, resident or non-resident.

During this trip we all contribute to the local economy and we all value such an experience. Limiting non-residents to only one deer will make such an expensive trip feel hard to justify. Given the limited biological evidence to support the change in harvest limit and the difference between resident vs non-resident I would ask you please either 1) reconsider this change, 2) delay the change so hunters who have non-refundable trips are not impacted, or 3) make both resident and non-resident the same harvest limit of two deer per person.

Thank you,

Daniel Wilson



PC134

Submitted by: Jake Y

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Helenville WI

Comment:

I don't think the bag limit should change for non res. We pay higher tag fees to hunt the same as residents as well as travel and staying in your state. I feel like if you limit the amount of tags for non res there will be less desired for non residents to travel up to hunt.



PC135

Submitted by: Stig Yngve

Organization Name: Alaskan Born and Raised

Community of Residence: Kodiak, AK

Comment:

Regarding a reduced bag limit in UNIT 8 for Sitka Blacktail is what I am addressing. I am the author of this proposal with the backing of the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee. There are transporters on our local Kodiak ADVISORY COMMITTEE and they supported this proposal unanimously. I had originally pushed for a reduced bag limit for RESIDENTS and NON-RESIDENTS alike on this proposal. That has failed to be mentioned in the progression of this proposal. I wanted a resident limit of 2 deer and 1 for nonresidents in UNIT 8. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and some hunters, nonresident and transporters especially, say there is no biological concern for a lack of deer. I beg to differ. There is such concentrated and localized harvest of deer around the coastal perimeter of Kodiak Island, there is no single part of the island within 2 miles of the coast that is not lacking in lifeforms, especially deer. It is a matter of biological concern, with 3 out of the last 4 winters being extremely harsh and knocking back the deer population. There are very few spikes and young does, a complete generation gap, and not very many deer over 3 years old, buck or doe. It has gotten to the point where it is difficult to obtain deer simply for consumption as a matter of local subsistence living for Kodiak Island residents in these areas. It can be chiefly attributed to Transporters running TOO MANY NONRESIDENT and RESIDENT hunters and harvesting too many deer in years following harsh winters. This is evidenced quite openly and blatantly by ADFG harvest statistics illustrating an upwarding and exponentially trending harvest of transporter and do it yourself nonresident deer harvest in recent years. Fish and Game and the USFWS DO NOT have adequate resources to truly see how few deer there are island wide, there is no true survey for deer every year. And some areas are much much worse than others. Non residents and transporters are crying the blues, but their track record of wanton waste and questionable harvest ethics undermines a desire for an increased bag limit. The only problem I see hear is a loss of bookings and cancellations for 2023 transporters because of a spur of the moment deer bag limit reduction in 2023 when folks already have a trip booked up. Tough. Tough for us and tough for nonresidents. Please don't backpedal on this issue. Stand firm in your decision Board of Game

I ask for no change whatsoever in the decision of the Board of Game.

Stig Yngve



Submitted by: Frank Zaldivar

Organization Name:

Community of Residence: Fairbanks Alaska

Comment:

I strongly agree with RHAK and the previous decision that unit 19C sheep either be closed for 5 years to everyone or 5 years for non residents. The money lost by nonresidents and the money lost by outfitters and guides doesn't outweigh the importance of keeping healthy sheep populations in Alaska for Alaskans. Also unit 8 deer. I believe it should be limited by non residents. Second I had emailed a popular transporter on Kodiak (unit 8) and asked about the 1 tag limit for non residents and he was pleased to inform me that Alaska fish and game had emailed him that there was going to be a meeting on may 25th and that they were going to postpone the 1 deer rule till 2024 because they had failed to look at the monetary effect it would have. Why is ak fish and game telling transporters this in email when it was already voted on and passed. Plus this meeting has no regulatory authority. I believe that the voice of residents and the voice of RHAK should be heard and should hold more weight than non resident guides or non resident hunters or non resident outfitters.
