

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
STAFF COMMENTS FOR PROPOSALS 59-62
SOUTHEAST REGION REGULATIONS PROPOSALS
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING
WRANGELL, ALASKA
JANUARY 23-27, 2026



The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, January 23-27, 2026 in Wrangell, Alaska, and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

PROPOSAL 59 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Limit nonresidents to up to 10% of the total permits available for DE318, when 10 permits or more are issued.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of the DE318 elk archery drawing hunt to up to 10% of the available permits. If less than 10 total permits are issued no permits would be issued to nonresidents.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 3, that portion bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Stikine Strait and Clarence Strait, running southeast following the midline of Clarence Strait, down to its intersection with Earnest Sound, then northeast following the midline of Earnest Sound, excluding the Niblack Islands, to its intersection with Zimovia Strait, then northwest following the western shoreline of Zimovia Strait to its intersection with Chichagof Passage, then west along the midline of Chichagof Passage to its intersection with Stikine Strait, then west and south along the midline of Stikine Strait, back to the point of beginning.		
1 bull by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow only; up to 50 permits will be issued; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 250 permits will be issued; or	Oct. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1–Oct. 31
1 bull by registration permit only	Nov. 15–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Nov. 15–Nov. 30
Unit 3, Zarembo Island 1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits will be issued	Oct. 1–Oct. 31	Oct. 1–Oct. 31
Unit 3, Bushy and Shrubby Islands, and the Kashevarof Islands	No open season	No open season
Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3	No open season	No open season

There is a negative customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for elk in Unit 3.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? A limit of up to 10% of the permits available for the DE318 elk drawing hunt would be allocated to nonresidents. No DE318 permits would be available to nonresidents if less than 10 total permits are issued. Adoption of this proposal to restrict nonresident elk hunting opportunities in Southeast Alaska is not necessary for conservation or management.

BACKGROUND: In 1985 the Alaska Legislature passed a law that required the introduction of 50 elk to Etolin Island. In spring of 1987, 33 Roosevelt elk (*Cervus elaphus roosevelti*) and 17 Rocky Mountain elk (*C. e. nelsoni*) were translocated to Southeast Alaska. Roosevelt elk were released at Dewey Anchorage on the southwest side of Etolin Island, and Rocky Mountain elk were released just north of Johnson Cove on the northwest shore of Etolin Island. The department's initial plan was to manage the Etolin Island elk population with the goal of allowing a limited elk hunt when the population reached 250 elk and could sustain a harvest of 20 bulls. Because estimating elk abundance is difficult in the densely forested habitats found in Unit 3, the department has designed a hunt strategy that restricts harvest mainly through a limited drawing permit structure.

The state presently offers 3 drawing elk hunts for Etolin Island (DE318, DE321, DE323) and issues a total of 125 drawing permits annually (Fig. 1). A late season state registration hunt is also offered for Etolin Island (RE325), with an average of 51 permits issued annually over the last 10 seasons. Between 2015 and 2024 an average of 177 elk permits were issued for Unit 3 Etolin Island elk. Of the permitted hunters during this period an average of 40% reported that they had hunted, ranging from 31% in 2015 to 47% in 2019.

Both resident and nonresident hunters are eligible to obtain drawing, and registration permits for Unit 3 elk. However, of the 86 total elk permits issued to nonresident hunters between 2015 and 2024, only 26 reported hunting and only three were successful.

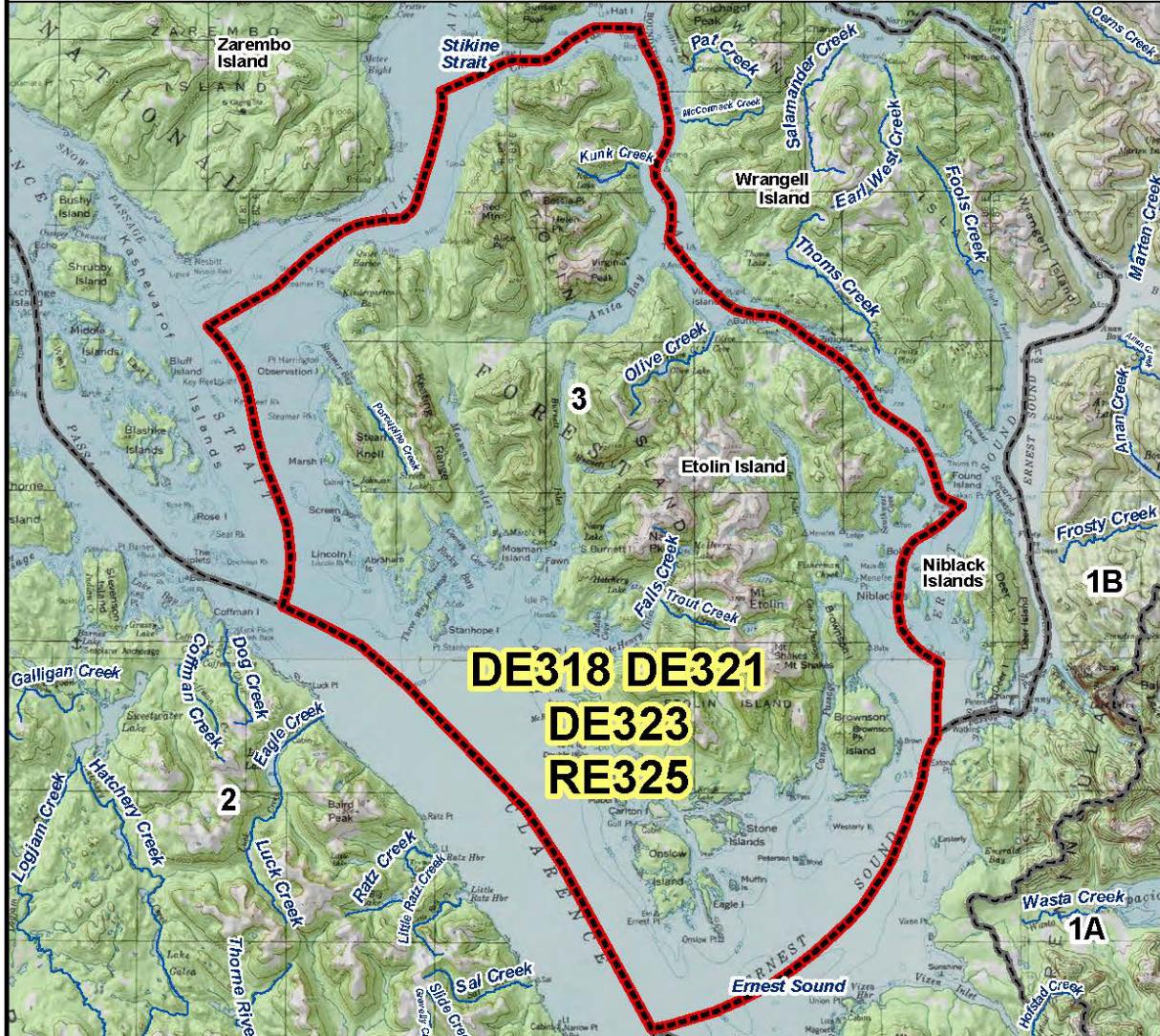
The DE318 is an archery only hunt with a season of September 1– 30 and a total of 25 permits issued. Since the creation of the DE318 drawing hunt in 2003 nonresidents have been awarded 30 or 6% of the 531 permits issued and have harvested 2 elk or 9% of the total DE318 harvest. Over the last 10 seasons (2015–2024) nonresidents have been awarded 19 or 8% of the 250 DE318 permits issued (Table 1).

DE318 DE321 DE323 RE325

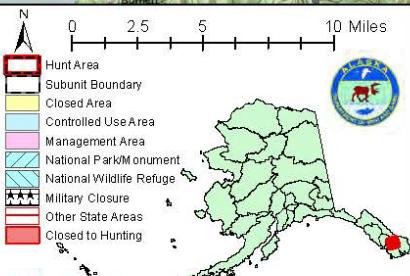
Elk

Drawing & Registration Permit Hunt

This map is intended for hunt planning use, not for determining legal property or regulatory boundaries. Content is compiled from various sources and is subject to change without notice. See current hunting regulations for written descriptions of boundaries. Hunters are responsible for knowing the land ownership and regulations of the areas they intend to hunt.



AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 3, Etolin Island area bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Stikine Strait and Clarence Strait, running southeast following the midline of Clarence Strait, down to its intersection with Ernest Sound, then northeast following the midline of Ernest Sound, excluding Niblack Islands, to its intersection with Zimovia Strait, then northwest following the western shoreline of Zimovia Strait to its intersection with Chichagof Passage, then west along the midline of Chichagof Passage to its intersection with Stikine Strait, then southwest along the midline of Stikine Strait back to the point of beginning.



Please refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for bag type, seasons, and additional regulations concerning this hunt.

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Source map: USGS 1:250,000

Figure 1. Game Management Unit 3 Etolin Island elk drawing and registration hunt area, Southeast Alaska.

Table 1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE318. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Hunt	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	DE318	193	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
2018	DE318	259	16	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
2019	DE318	248	23	9	0	0	2	10	0	0	21
2020	DE318	285	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
2021	DE318	305	23	8	0	0	2	9	0	0	22
2022	DE318	350	27	8	0	0	4	17	0	0	24
2023	DE318	391	32	8	0	0	2	8	0	0	25
2024	DE318	322	35	11	0	0	3	12	0	0	25
2025	DE318	321	33	10	0	0	2	9	0	0	22

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative between resident and nonresident user groups. If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available, if more than 10 permits are advertised. Allocation of other drawing permits hunts are found in 5 AAC 92.057 – 5 AAC 92.069 and are done by unit, not individual hunt area. The board will also deliberate Proposals 60-61, which addresses the two later hunts in the same area, at the January 2026 board meeting.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 60 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Limit nonresidents to up to 10% of the total permits available for DE321, when 10 permits or more are issued.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of the DE321 elk drawing hunt to up to 10% of the available permits. If less than 10 total permits are issued no permits would be issued to nonresidents.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) Unit 3, that portion bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Stikine Strait and Clarence Strait, running southeast following the midline of Clarence Strait, down to its intersection with Earnest Sound, then northeast following the midline of Earnest Sound, excluding the Niblack Islands, to its intersection with Zimovia Strait, then northwest following the western shoreline of Zimovia Strait to its intersection with Chichagof Passage, then west along the midline of Chichagof Passage to its intersection with Stikine Strait, then west and south along the midline of Stikine Strait, back to the point of beginning.		
1 bull by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow only; up to 50 permits will be issued; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 250 permits will be issued; or	Oct. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1–Oct. 31
1 bull by registration permit only	Nov. 15–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Nov. 15–Nov. 30
Unit 3, Zarembo Island 1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits will be issued	Oct. 1–Oct. 31	Oct. 1–Oct. 31

Unit 3, Bushy and Shrubby Islands, and the Kashevarof Islands	No open season	No open season
Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3	No open season	No open season

There is a negative customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for elk in unit 3.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? A limit of up to 10% of the permits available for the DE321 elk drawing hunt would be allocated to nonresidents. No DE321 permits would be available to nonresidents if less than 10 total permits are issued. Adoption of this proposal to restrict nonresident elk hunting opportunities in Southeast Alaska is not necessary for conservation or management.

BACKGROUND: In 1985 the Alaska Legislature passed a law that required the introduction of 50 elk to Etolin Island. In spring of 1987, 33 Roosevelt elk (*Cervus elaphus roosevelti*) and 17 Rocky Mountain elk (*C. e. nelsoni*) were translocated to Southeast Alaska. Roosevelt elk were released at Dewey Anchorage on the southwest side of Etolin Island, and Rocky Mountain elk were released just north of Johnson Cove on the northwest shore of Etolin Island. The department's initial plan was to manage the Etolin Island elk population with the goal of allowing a limited elk hunt when the population reached 250 elk and could sustain a harvest of 20 bulls. Because estimating elk abundance is difficult in the densely forested habitats found in Unit 3, the department has designed a hunt strategy that restricts harvest mainly through a limited drawing permit structure.

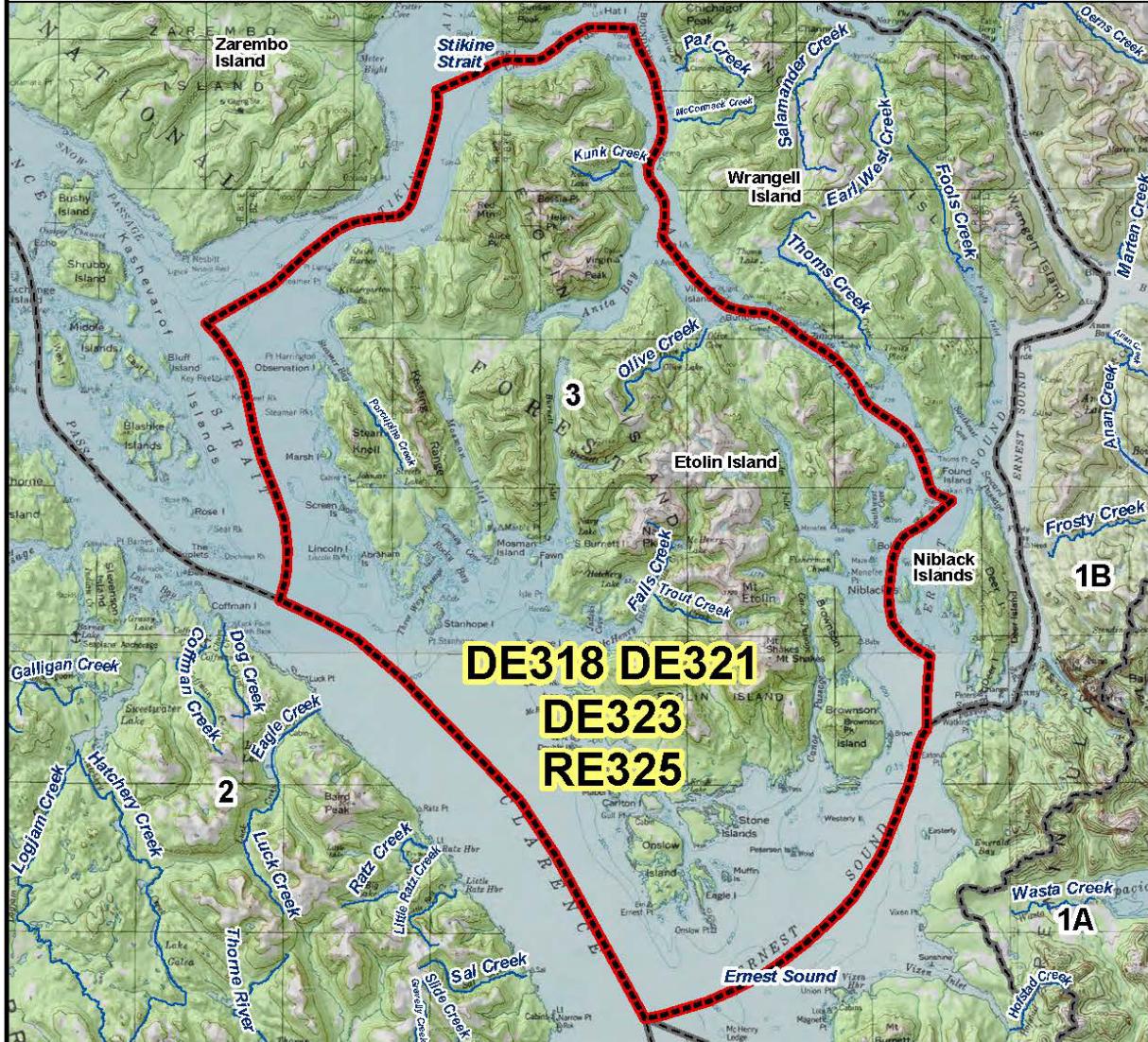
The state presently offers 3 drawing elk hunts for Etolin Island (DE318, DE321, DE323) and issues a total of 125 drawing permits annually (Fig. 1). A late season state registration hunt is also offered for Etolin Island (RE325), with an average of 51 permits issued annually over the last 10 seasons. Between 2015 and 2024 an average of 177 elk permits were issued for Unit 3 Etolin Island elk. Of the permitted hunters during this period an average of 40% reported that they had hunted, ranging from 31% in 2015 to 47% in 2019.

Both resident and nonresident hunters are eligible to obtain drawing, and registration permits for Unit 3 elk. However, of the 86 total elk permits issued to nonresident hunters between 2015 and 2024 only 26 reported hunting and only three were successful.

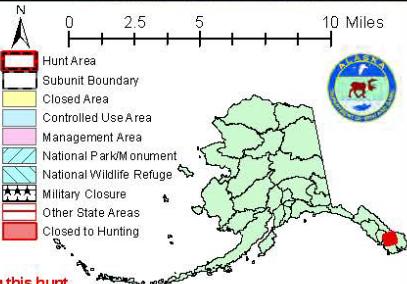
The DE321 is an unrestricted weapon hunt with a season of October 1–15 and a total of 50 permits are currently issued. Since the creation of the DE321 drawing hunt in 2005 nonresidents have been awarded 53 or 5% of the 1,049 permits issued and have harvested 1 elk or 2% of the total DE321 harvest. Over the last 10 seasons (2015–2024) nonresidents have been awarded 40 or 8% of the 499 DE321 permits issued (Table 1).

DE318 DE321 DE323 RE325 Elk Drawing & Registration Permit Hunt

This map is intended for hunt planning use, not for determining legal property or regulatory boundaries. Content is compiled from various sources and is subject to change without notice. See current hunting regulations for written descriptions or boundaries. Hunters are responsible for knowing the land ownership and regulations of the areas they intend to hunt.



AREA DESCRIPTION: Unit 3, Etolin Island area bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Stikine Strait and Clarence Strait, running southeast following the midline of Clarence Strait, down to its intersection with Ernest Sound, then northeast following the midline of Ernest Sound, excluding Niblack Islands, to its intersection with Zimovia Strait, then northwest following the western shoreline of Zimovia Strait to its intersection with Chichagof Passage, then west along the midline of Chichagof Passage to its intersection with Stikine Strait, then southwest along the midline of Stikine Strait back to the point of beginning.



Please refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for bag type, seasons, and additional regulations concerning this hunt.

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Source map: USGS 1:250,000

Figure 1. Unit 3 Etolin Island elk drawing and registration hunt area, Southeast Alaska.

Table 1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE321. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Hunt	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	DE321	692	36	5	0	0	1	2	0	0	47
2018	DE321	782	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
2019	DE321	976	42	4	0	0	4	9	0	0	47
2020	DE321	1105	65	6	0	0	5	10	0	0	48
2021	DE321	1285	68	5	0	0	3	7	0	0	44
2022	DE321	1201	137	11	0	0	9	18	0	0	49
2023	DE321	1190	75	6	0	0	2	4	0	0	47
2024	DE321	1213	128	11	0	0	5	11	0	0	45
2025	DE321	1047	120	11	0	0	5	11	0	0	46

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative between resident and nonresident hunters. This is an allocative issue between user groups. If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available, if more than 10 permits are advertised. Allocation of other drawing permits hunts are found in 5 AAC 92.057 – 5 AAC 92.069 and are done by unit, not individual hunt area. The board will also deliberate Proposals 59 and 61, which addresses the earlier and later hunts in the same area, at the January 2026 board meeting.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 61 – 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Limit nonresidents to up to 10% of the total permits available for DE323, when 10 permits or more are issued.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of the DE323 elk drawing hunt to up to 10% of the available permits. If less than 10 total permits are issued no permits would be issued to nonresidents.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) Unit 3, that portion bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Stikine Strait and Clarence Strait, running southeast following the midline of Clarence Strait, down to its intersection with Earnest Sound, then northeast following the midline of Earnest Sound, excluding the Niblack Islands, to its intersection with Zimovia Strait, then northwest following the western shoreline of Zimovia Strait to its intersection with Chichagof Passage, then west along the midline of Chichagof Passage to its intersection with Stikine Strait, then west and south along the midline of Stikine Strait, back to the point of beginning.		
1 bull by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow only; up to 50 permits will be issued; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 250 permits will be issued; or	Oct. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1–Oct. 31
1 bull by registration permit only	Nov. 15–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Nov. 15–Nov. 30
Unit 3, Zarembo Island 1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits will be issued	Oct. 1–Oct. 31	Oct. 1–Oct. 31

Unit 3, Bushy and Shrubby Islands, and the Kashevarof Islands	No open season	No open season
Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3	No open season	No open season

There is a negative customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for elk in Unit 3.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? A limit of up to 10% of the permits available for the DE323 elk drawing hunt would be allocated to nonresidents. No DE323 permits would be available to nonresidents if less than 10 total permits are issued. Adoption of this proposal to restrict nonresident elk hunting opportunities in Southeast Alaska is not necessary for conservation or management.

BACKGROUND: In 1985 the Alaska Legislature passed a law that required the introduction of 50 elk to Etolin Island. In spring of 1987, 33 Roosevelt elk (*Cervus elaphus roosevelti*) and 17 Rocky Mountain elk (*C. e. nelsoni*) were translocated to Southeast Alaska. Roosevelt elk were released at Dewey Anchorage on the southwest side of Etolin Island, and Rocky Mountain elk were released just north of Johnson Cove on the northwest shore of Etolin Island. The department's initial plan was to manage the Etolin Island elk population with the goal of allowing a limited elk hunt when the population reached 250 elk and could sustain a harvest of 20 bulls. Because estimating elk abundance is difficult in the densely forested habitats found in Game Management Unit (GMU) 3, the department has designed a hunt strategy that restricts harvest mainly through a limited drawing permit structure.

The state presently offers three drawing elk hunts for Etolin Island (DE318, DE321, DE323) and issues a total of 125 drawing permits annually (Fig. 1). A late season state registration hunt is also offered for Etolin Island (RE325), with an average of 51 permits issued annually over the last 10 seasons. Between 2015 and 2024 an average of 177 elk permits were issued for Unit 3 Etolin Island elk. Of the permitted hunters during this period an average of 40% reported that they had hunted, ranging from 31% in 2015 to 47% in 2019.

Both resident and nonresident hunters are eligible to obtain drawing, and registration permits for Unit 3 elk. However, of the 86 total elk permits issued to nonresident hunters between 2015 and 2024 only 26 reported hunting and only three were successful.

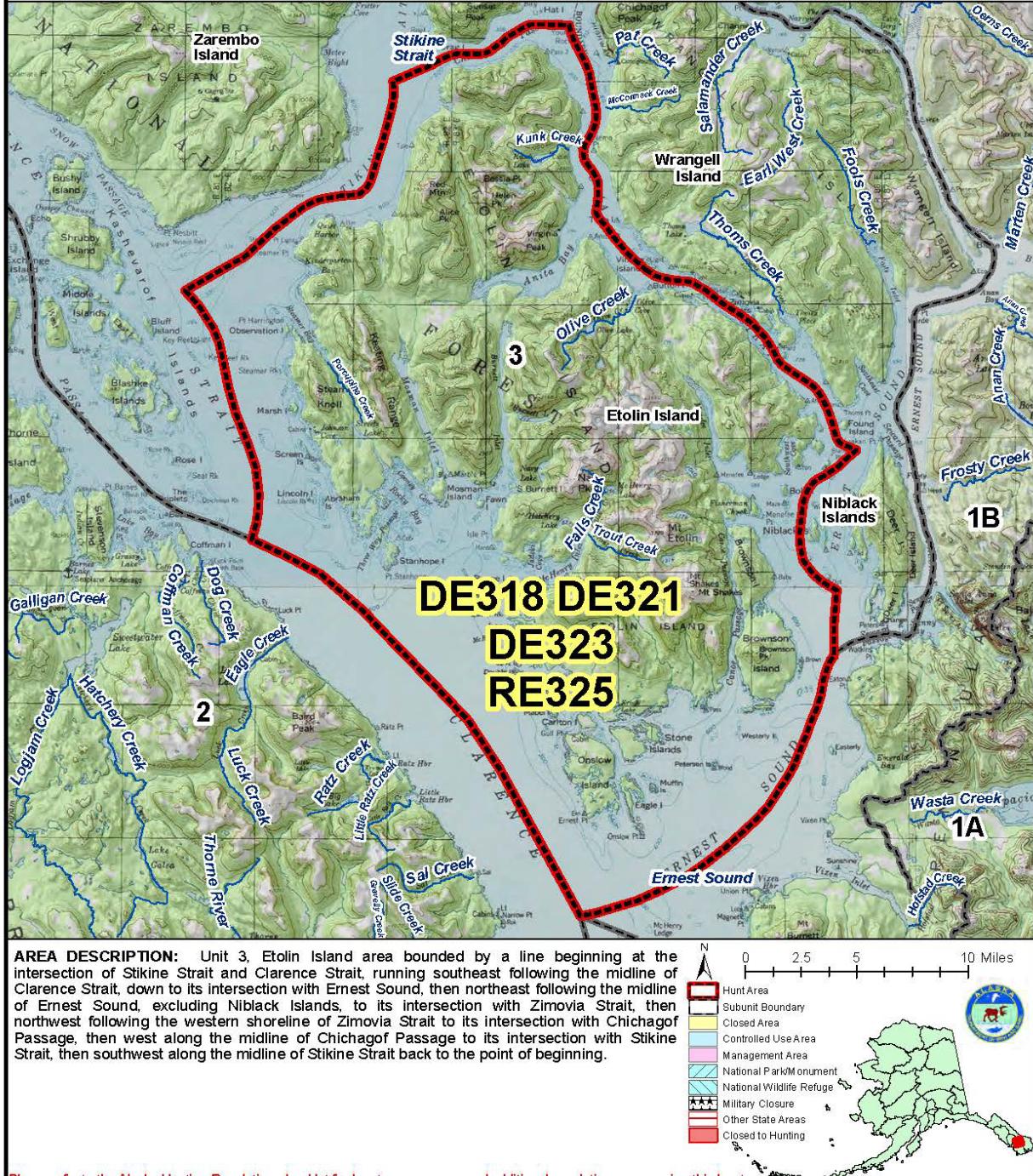
The DE323 is an unrestricted weapon hunt with a season of October 16–31 and a total of 50 permits are currently issued. Since the creation of the DE323 drawing hunt in 2005 nonresidents have been awarded 26 or 2% of the 1,050 permits issued. Over the last 10 seasons (2015–2024) nonresidents have been awarded 18 or 4% of the DE323 permits issued (Table 1).

DE318 DE321 DE323 RE325

Elk

Drawing & Registration Permit Hunt

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Please refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for bag type, seasons, and additional regulations concerning this hunt.

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Figure 1. Unit 3 Etolin Island elk drawing and registration hunt area, Southeast Alaska.

Table 1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE323. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Hunt	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2017	DE323	425	13	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	49
2018	DE323	425	13	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	41
2019	DE323	477	16	3	0	0	2	4	0	0	47
2020	DE323	631	46	7	0	0	3	6	0	0	50
2021	DE323	672	25	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	48
2022	DE323	633	27	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	47
2023	DE323	632	33	5	0	0	3	7	0	0	45
2024	DE323	589	28	5	0	0	4	9	0	0	47
2025	DE323	483	29	6	0	0	3	7	0	0	44

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative between resident and nonresident hunters. This is an allocative issue between user groups. If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents.

If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available, if more than 5 permits are advertised. Allocation of other drawing permits hunts are found in 5 AAC 92.057 – 5 AAC 92.069 and are done by unit, not individual hunt area. The board will also deliberate Proposals 59 and 60, which addresses the earlier hunts in the same area, at the January 2026 board meeting.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 62– 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Limit nonresidents to up to 10% of the total permits available for DE324, when 10 permits or more are issued.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit the nonresident allocation of the DE324 elk drawing hunt to up to 10% of the available permits. If less than 10 total permits are issued no permits would be issued to nonresidents.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season	
(1) Unit 3, that portion bounded by a line beginning at the intersection of Stikine Strait and Clarence Strait, running southeast following the midline of Clarence Strait, down to its intersection with Earnest Sound, then northeast following the midline of Earnest Sound, excluding the Niblack Islands, to its intersection with Zimovia Strait, then northwest following the western shoreline of Zimovia Strait to its intersection with Chichagof Passage, then west along the midline of Chichagof Passage to its intersection with Stikine Strait, then west and south along the midline of Stikine Strait, back to the point of beginning.	1 bull by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow only; up to 50 permits will be issued; or 1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 250 permits will be issued; or 1 bull by registration permit only Unit 3, Zarembo Island 1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits will be issued	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Oct. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only) Nov. 15–Nov. 30 (General hunt only) Oct. 1–Oct. 31	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Oct. 1–Oct. 31 Nov. 15–Nov. 30 Oct. 1–Oct. 31

Unit 3, Bushy and Shrubby Islands, and the Kashevarof Islands	No open season	No open season
Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3	No open season	No open season

There is a negative customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for elk in unit 3.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Because less than 10 DE324 permits are issued, adoption of this proposal would eliminate opportunity for nonresidents to participate in the DE324 hunt (Figure 1).

BACKGROUND: In 1987 elk were translocated to Southeast Alaska and released on Etolin Island. Following initial losses, the population stabilized, eventually increased, and extended its range beyond Etolin Island. In time a small population colonized Zarembo Island.

In 1996 the Alaska Board of Game (board) established a bull only drawing hunt in Unit 3. In 2000 the board established boundaries for the Unit 3 drawing hunt area. The original drawing hunt area included both Etolin and Zarembo Islands. In 2005, prior to the start of the late-November RE325 elk registration hunt, an emergency order was issued closing the Zarembo Island portion of the hunt area. Based on a previous population estimate, a harvest quota of 10 bulls was established for Zarembo Island. Six bulls were harvested on Zarembo during the September and October drawing permit hunts and managers felt the 4 bulls remaining in the quota were insufficient to allow for an open registration permit hunt. Given such a small allowable harvest, opening the registration elk hunt in this area would have run the risk of overharvest, which would have been detrimental to the long-term stability of the population.

Between 1997 and 2005, when Zarembo Island was included in the Unit 3 elk hunting area, an average of three elk were harvested annually, ranging from 1 to 6 elk (Figure 2). In the aftermath of the 2005 emergency closure of the elk season on Zarembo Island and prior to the start of the 2006 season a decision was made not to reopen the elk season on Zarembo Island until the population and bull:cow ratio increased. In 2013, following several consecutive years of emergency closures, the board took similar regulatory action, closing Zarembo Island to elk hunting. Elk hunting on Zarembo Island was closed for the next 18 years. There is no available data to suggest that the Zarembo Island elk population has increased since hunting was discontinued in 2005.

During the 2023 Southeast Region Board of Game meeting the board adopted a new drawing hunt (DE324) for elk on Zarembo Island. One permit was issued the inaugural season (2024). The 2024 DE324 permit was issued to an Alaska resident and 1 bull was harvested. After review of 2 years of trail camera data the number of DE324 permits was increased to 2.

DE324 Elk Drawing Permit Hunt

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Please refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for bag type, seasons, and additional regulations concerning this hunt.

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Figure 1. Game Management Unit 3 Zarembo Island DE324 elk drawing hunt area, Southeast Alaska.

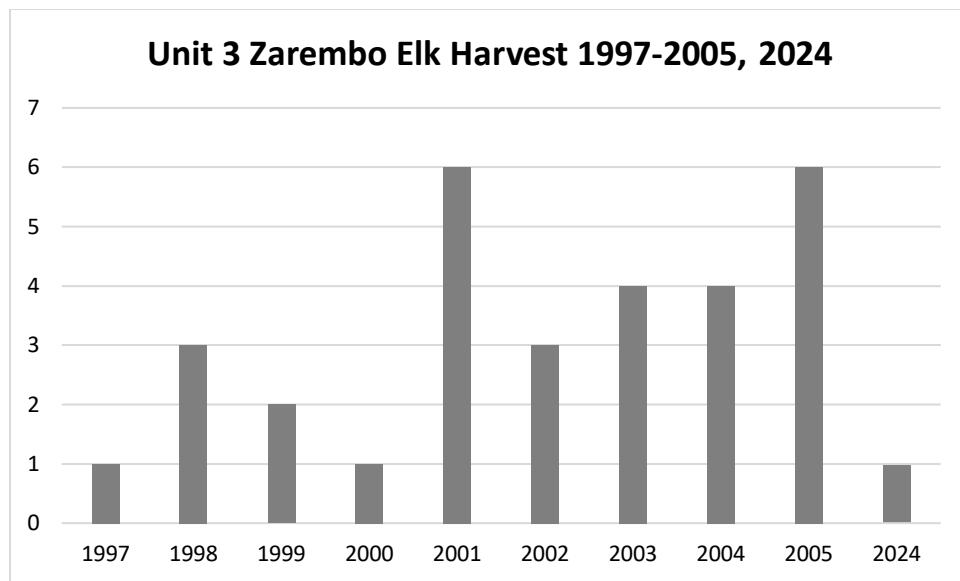


Figure 2. Unit 3 Zarembo Island elk harvest regulatory year 1997-2005, 2024. There was no open season between 2006 and 2023.

Table 1. Resident and nonresident permit application and allocation, DE324. NR = nonresident, NR-2DK = nonresidents applying under second degree kindred.

Reg. Year	Hunt	Total # Apps.	# NR Apps.	% NR Apps.	NR-2DK Apps.	% NR-2DK Apps.	# NR Winners	% NR Winners	# NR-2DK Winners	% NR-2DK Winners	# Permits Awarded
2024	DE324	2070	198	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2025	DE324	1556	177	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is allocative. Due to the small elk population, the number of permits is not likely to change significantly. If this proposal were adopted, it would ensure that no nonresidents could draw an elk permit for DE324 for the foreseeable future. If the board adopts this proposal, the hunts will be assigned individual hunt numbers for residents and nonresidents, which will result in nonresidents receiving 10% of the total permits available, if more than 10 permits are advertised.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.
