



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.

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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

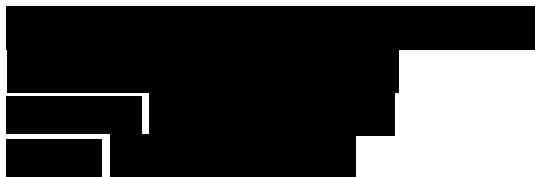
Cc: Jacob.fletcher@alaska.gov; James.Cooney@alaska.gov; Ruth.Cusack@alaska.gov
[v](#)

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

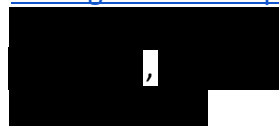




To whom it may concern

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
