

Southeast Alaska Overview

Alaska Board of Game
January 21-27, 2026
Wrangell



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Background



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General Overview

- Map of Region
- Southeast Economy
- Regional Staffing
- Federal Subsistence
- Regional Programs
- Overview of Species Proposals

Brian Staurseth



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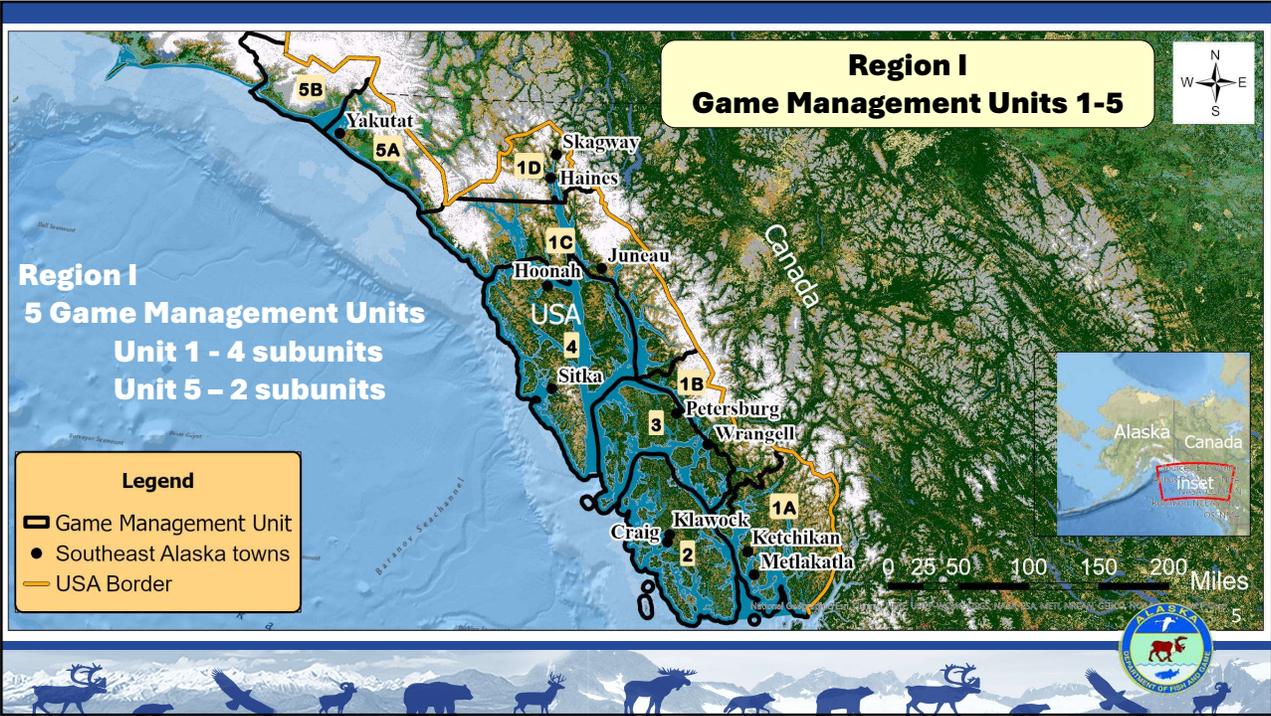
Old-growth Rainforest



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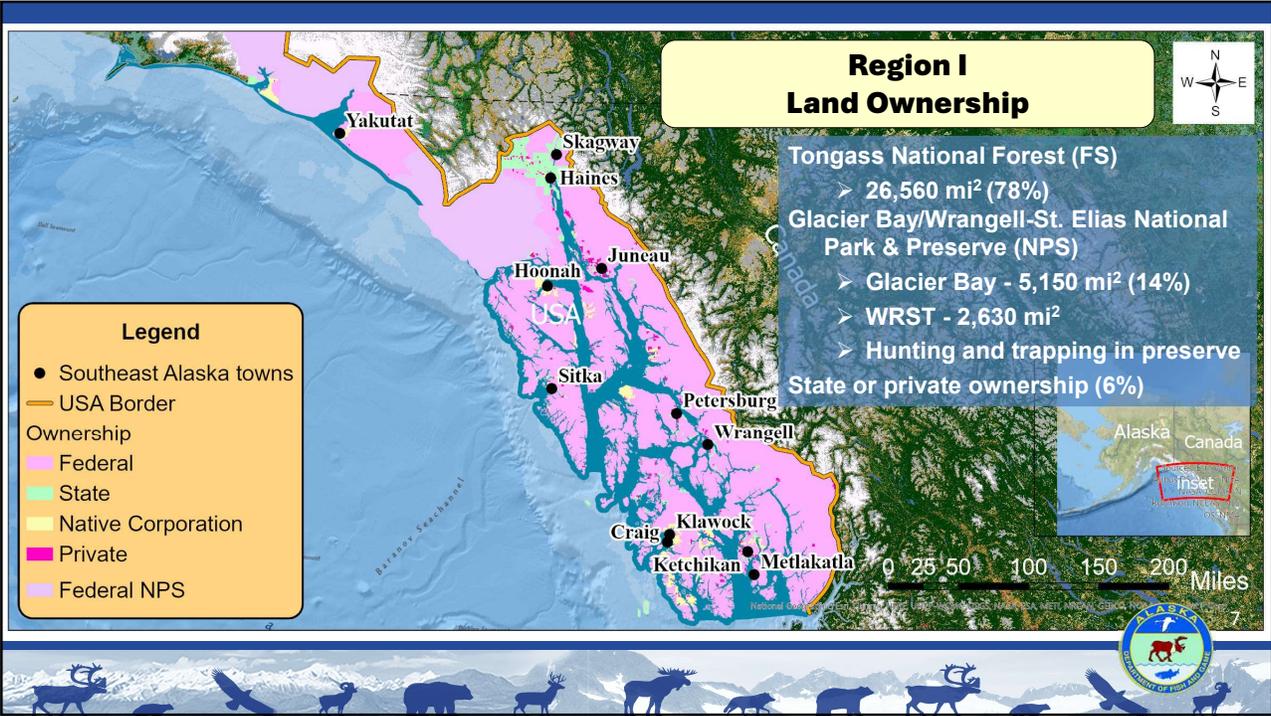
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Area Management Biologists



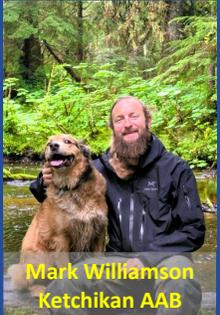
Carl Koch
Douglas AB



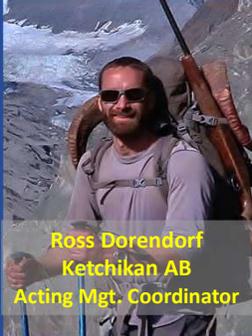
Steve Bethune
Sitka AB



Frank Robbins
Petersburg AB



Mark Williamson
Ketchikan AAB



Ross Dorendorf
Ketchikan AB
Acting Mgt. Coordinator



Hannah Manninen
Douglas AAB



Vacant
Mgt. Coordinator



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Research Staff



Stephanie Sell
Bear Biologist



Gretchen Roffler
Predator/ Prey Biologist



Jason Waite
Biometrician



Michael Kampnich
Technician



Jen Wissman
Wildlife Biologist



Tessa Hasbrouck
Deer Biologist



Susannah Woodruff
Research Coordinator



Dave Gregovich
Research Analyst



Sydney Lamb
Ungulate Biologist



Alli Tuttle
Technician



Seth Bartusek
Wildlife Biologist



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Administrative and Frontline Staff



Paul Converse
Project Assistant



Kelly Gohl
Admin Officer



Lisa Ward
Acct. Technician



Hilary Wood
Program Technician



Chris Watt
Program Technician



Ann Schmid
Program Technician



Zach Jacobson
Program Technician

Craig - Vacant
Program Technician

Ketchikan - Vacant
Program Technician



Division of Subsistence



Lauren Sill
Southern Program Manager



Emily Doll
Subsistence Resource Specialist

The mission of the Division of Subsistence is to scientifically gather, quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. (AS 16.05.094)



Regional Programs

Management

- Survey & Inventory
 - Population Monitoring
 - Moose, Deer, Mtn Goat
- Hunt management
- Public service
- Nuisance wildlife



Regional Programs

Research

- Wolves (Units 1, 2, 3)
- Deer (Unit 3)
- Brown bear (Unit 4)
- Moose (Units 1C, 1D)
- Mountain goats



Challenges

Population Assessment

- Forest canopy
 - bears, deer, elk, moose, wolves and furbearers difficult to observe
- Aerial surveys
 - Aircraft availability
 - Weather-related limitations
 - Cost of flight time
- Ground-based surveys
 - DNA mark recapture
 - bears, deer, and wolves

Habitat modification



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Federal Subsistence

Southeast RAC deliberate in pursuing rural harvest priority for ungulates

- Ketchikan designated federal rural status
- GMU 2 deer – proposed doe season closure
- Berners Bay moose – claimed 25% of draw permits, 2024&25 season was closed for conservation
- Elk – GMUs 1-4 year-round season outside Etolin & Zarembo
- GMU 3 moose – Any-bull proposal withdrawn; remains under state antler restrictions
- GMU 4 deer - Federal land closures (Nov 1-10) to NFQUs (Juneau) in specific areas to provide a harvest priority for rural residents

Ben Mulligan
Deputy Commissioner

Aaron Poetter
Federal Subsistence Liaison



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Regional Programs

- Education & Outreach
- Special Areas
- Juneau Hunter Ed Shooting Complex
- Hunter Access Projects





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Doug Larsen

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Education & Outreach

- Touching on a few highlights.....





Publication Newsletters



**Abby McAllister
Education Associate**



**Brown Bear:
Identifying males and females in the field**



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME 1st Edition



**Becoming an
Outdoors Woman**


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Special Areas

- Pack Creek – Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary
- Mendenhall Wetlands – State Game Refuge
- Dude Creek – Critical Habitat Area
- Chilkat River – Critical Habitat Area



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Pack Creek

- Partnership with USFS
 - started in late 1980s
- May – Sept - 24 visitors/day
- Viewership stable
 - ~ 1,258 permitted visitors
- Revenue increased to \$84,000
- 15 permitted operators
 - 60% (748 guided visitors)



A. Crupi



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Hunter Access Projects

Hank Harmon Public Range



CBJ



DNR

Oliver Inlet Tramway



Treadwell Ditch Trail

Natalie Buttner / Juneau Independent



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Hunter Education

- Staff involved in teaching courses
- 304 students certified in SEAK this year through 31 classes
 - Craig, Gustavus, Haines, Hoonah, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Klukwan, Metlakatla, Petersburg, Sitka, Yakutat
- All 6th graders in Juneau
- Juneau Shooting Sports & Juneau Archery Club active



Yakutat Hunter Ed



Metlakatla Hunter Ed

Mike Kelly
Southeast Coordinator

Daniel Palinka
Range Manager



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Southeast Region Proposals

Species	# Proposals
Beaver	1
Black Bear	1
Brown Bear	9
Deer	11
Elk	7
Fisher	2
Mountain Goat	6
Moose	3
Mountain Lion	2
Grouse & Ptarmigan	4
Wolf	8
Trapping	6



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Species Status

- Black bear
- Brown Bears
- Deer
- Furbearers
- Elk
- Moose
- Mountain Goats
- Wolves



Dave Peterson



ADF&G



Neil Barten



ADF&G



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Bear Density and Harvest

Density

- Black bears on islands:
 - Up to 3.4 bears/mi²
- Brown bears on islands:
 - 1.0 bear/mi²
- Brown bears on mainland
 - 0.25 bears/mi²

Harvest (during past 5 years)

- 192 brown bears / year (65% nonresident)
- 566 black bears / year (60% nonresident)

A photograph showing a large brown bear standing in a grassy field with two smaller cubs. One cub is in the foreground, and another is to the right. The background shows a rocky area and more greenery. The photo is credited to Phil Mooney.

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Black Bear

- 1 Proposal
- Proposal 47



- Eliminate meat salvage requirement in May for GMU2 residents



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Brown Bear

- 9 Proposals
Proposal 5, 19, 20-22, 31-33, 66
- Harvest
150 – 279 per year (avg. 180)



Brian Staurseth

- Change 1 bear every 4 years to 1 bear / year
- Extend the season length
- Change hunt boundaries



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Sitka Black-tailed Deer

- 11 Proposals
Proposal 24, 27-29, 37-43
- Harvest
7,000 – 10,000 per year (avg. 9,900)



- Reduce bag limits
residents - non-residents
- Increase bag limit & season
- Change bag limit to bucks only
- Implement antler restrictions
- Change hunt boundaries



Elk

Occur in Unit 3 mainly on Etolin and Zarembo Islands

- 1987 Introduction to Etolin Island
 - 50 animals transplanted
 - Roosevelt (33) & Rocky Mtn (17)
- Collared Elk 2008–2014
 - RMEF funding
 - 16 GPS collars
 - Home range ~14mi²
- Monitoring difficult



Elk

- Harvest
3–9 per year (avg. 6)
- 7 Proposals
Proposal 57–63
- Antler restrictions – 3pts
- Zarembo unlimited
Registration hunt
- Limit NR in Drawing hunts
- Reduce archery season in
favor of 2 week Drawing
hunt with no weapon
restrictions



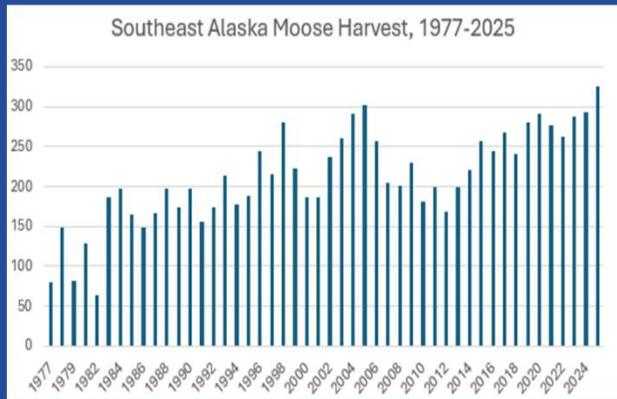
Rich Lowell



Moose

- Units 1, 3, and 5**
- Increasing harvest trend
 - Record harvest in 2025

- Management**
- Registration, Tier II, and Drawing
 - Antler configurations
 - Any bull, spike/fork/50



Moose

➤ 3 Proposals

Proposal 30, 64, 65

➤ Harvest

240–290 per year (avg. 270)



➤ Create hunt for disabled hunters

➤ Eliminate broken, damaged, altered from spike-fork definition

➤ Eliminate antler restrictions and replace with 2 week any bull



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Mountain Goat

Goats in Units 1, 4, and 5

➤ SE population: 10,000 – 15,000

➤ Stable

➤ Transplants

➤ Baranof Island (Unit 4) in 1923 (18)

➤ Revillagigedo Island (Unit 1A)

➤ 1983 Swan Lake (17)

➤ 1991 Deer Mtn (15)

➤ Harvest ~ 155/year (2015 – 2024)

➤ 66% Resident harvest

➤ Female harvest discouraged:
point system (male = 1; female = 2)



Phil Mooney



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Mountain Goat

- 6 Proposals
Proposal 3, 4, 26, 44-46
- Harvest
129 –170 /year (avg. 155)
- Allow same-day airborne
- Bag limit reached if wounded
- Nanny penalties
- Limit NR permits in draw hunts



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Mountain Lion

- 2 Proposals
Proposal 8, 9
- Create open hunting season
Aug 1 – June 15
- Create year-round open
hunting and trapping
season



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Grouse and Ptarmigan



- 4 Proposals
Proposal 17, 18, 36, 69
- Change bag limit for grouse
- Extend the season for grouse
- Shift the season for ptarmigan



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Wolves

Occur in Units 1, 2, 3, and 5

- Highest densities historically in Units 2 & 3

Harvest

- Avg. harvest (2015 – 2024) 189
- Unit 2 – Adaptive Management
Season Length – Population Objective
- Sustainable across Region

Challenges

- ESA listing petitions
- Population assessment



- 8 Proposals
Proposal 6,7,48-53



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Furbearers

Region-wide Average Annual Harvest (2015–2024)

- Beaver: ~ 229
- Lynx: ~ 9
- River otter: ~ 266
- Wolf: ~189
- Wolverines: ~ 22
- Marten: ~ 2020
- Fisher: 2–3



Trapping Proposals: 11–13, 54–56
 Fisher Proposals: 14, 15



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Southeast Region Overview



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