

# Sitka Area – Unit 4

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**PROPOSAL 8 - 5AAC 85.040 hunting seasons and bag limits for goats.** Establish a resident drawing hunt for goats in Unit 4, Sitka area as follows:

Unit 4: One goat by drawing permit, August 1-December 31; residents only.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I propose a drawing hunting season for goats in the immediate area behind Sitka. Unfortunately Sitka does not have a growing population of goat. There has been a decrease in number of goats in the last few years in the Sitka area. Currently, they only allow a few goats to be taken each year because of this. A drawing hunt for the area directly behind Sitka would not increase the harvest, but would increase the experience of the hunt by taking away the derby atmosphere we currently have. The drawing would give ADF&G better control of the harvest number of sheep by controlling the number of hunters in the unit. It is my understanding that this area has not been opened because of the potential for over-harvesting. A bow hunt would also be safer with the number of hiking trails in the area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael Ashton (EG-C14-238)  
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**PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Increase the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder to six deer, of which the last two must be bucks as follows:

Remainder of Unit 4: Six deer total, the last two of which must be bucks.

Retain the current regulations for harvest tickets to be validated in sequential order, and unused tickets must be carried when you hunt, and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the meat or antlers must remain naturally attached to the entire carcass, with or without viscera.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** For the Remainder of Unit 4 (that portion that is not Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet), the limit should be increased to six deer total, the last two of which must be bucks.

ADF&G literature states that deer population mortality in the ABC Islands (Admiralty-Baranof-Chichagof) is significantly influenced by how much snow the region receives. In contrast, hunters have very little impact on the population given the size and rugged terrain of the unit. As such, hunters should be allowed to harvest two more deer per hunter (though it is likely most hunters will not harvest these additional deer given the current deer harvest per person is ~2.2). Such a change would also bring this portion of the unit into alignment with federal subsistence regulations.

Additional harvest of bucks will not impact the population and will provide for increased

targeted harvest of bucks in years where heavy snow pushes deer to the beaches. This proposal would have no additional cost to implement due to hunters currently being issued six tags.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nicholas Orr (EG-C14-294)  
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**PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.** Change the "any deer" resident season to October 15-December 31 for portions of Unit 1C and all of Unit 4 as follows:

Change the start date for Unit 4 and parts of Unit 1C (open season) of killing "any deer." The "any deer" open season to run from October 15-December 31. The taking of a doe with fawns is not encouraged. If you do take a doe that has fawns it is encouraged that you take the fawn(s) also. Every other deer hunting area in the State of Alaska has a "bucks only" season or the any deer season starts later than September 15.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Stop the legal killing of fawns that still have spots. Hunters can legally kill a doe that has a fawn that still has spots (a very young deer). A fawn whose mother has been shot will not suffer as much. The deer populations will continue to be lower than they should be. It will help the populations of deer recover faster after a bad winter.

The law that makes it legal to shoot a fawn that still has spots is just morally wrong. I have pictures taken of fawns that still have their spots after the September 15 opening of the season. I have pictures and other information to back up what I have said here. I have lived remotely on Shelter Island for over ten years and have hunted deer in Southeast Alaska since the late 1960's.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jay Beedle (EG-C14-207)  
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**PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Establish separate brown bear registration hunts for nonresident relatives within second-degree of kindred in Unit 4 as follows:

In order to bring the second-degree of kindred hunts back into the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS) framework, establish separate registration hunts for second-degree of kindred nonresident brown bear hunters in Unit 4, as follows:

- Spring hunt inside drainages - 2 permits annually
- Spring hunt outside drainages - 2 permits annually
- Fall hunt - 3 permits annually

The total number of second-degree kindred, nonresident brown bear permits to be seven annually. Although the BBMS suggests four annually, no allowance was made for Chichagof Island in that analysis. Recommend three additional permits to take that island into account.

Recommend that permits be made available online so that individuals have equal opportunity.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Brown bears are managed in Unit 4 under the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS). The BBMS recommended four nonresidents within second-degree of kindred be allowed to hunt brown bears in Unit 4 each year.

Since 2006 the number of second-degree of kindred hunters registering for this type of hunt has increased significantly and ranged from 16 to 30 per year. Brown bear harvest from these hunters has ranged from four to 11 bears per year. Sealing records indicate a high percentage of females and small bears are harvested.

The number of second-degree of kindred hunters in Unit 4, although important to the success of the management system, is currently only a suggestion in the BBMS rather than a regulatory limit. Other nonresident hunters, i.e. those guided by licensed guides, are very strictly controlled. The second-degree of kindred component is the only nonresident group not currently controlled.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brad Dennison (EG-C14-211)  
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