

1. Current population trend or estimate - and proximity to management objectives:

*Alaska's deer inhabit the coastal regions of the state, extending north from the southeast panhandle into Prince William Sound, and onto Kodiak, Afognak, and Raspberry Islands. The status and trend of populations fluctuate regularly and vary considerably from one area to another. It is impossible therefore, to generalize about current trends or their relationships with management objectives. In some areas deer numbers appear to be on the increase, in other areas they appear to be stable, and in still other areas they appear to be on the decline. Similarly, management objectives are currently being met in some areas and not in others. Where deemed appropriate and necessary, seasons and bag limits are adjusted in response to changes in deer numbers.*

2. 1992 Hunting season statistics:

Type/length of season: *Alaska has a general hunting season which allows deer to be harvested with centre-fire firearms, bows and arrows, or muzzleloaders. Seasons vary in length, but most extend from August 1 - December 31. Some parts of the state allow both antlered and antlerless deer to be harvested, and other areas allow only the taking of antlered deer.*

# of hunters afield: 13,500

# of hunter days: 68,240

% success: 62 %

Harvest: Antler: 14,847

Antlerless: 5,304

3. Method used to estimate harvest:

*ADF&G evaluates deer harvests using hunter questionnaires which are mailed to hunters who obtained deer harvest tickets during the season. All ticket holders residing in small communities are sent questionnaires, while 10% of the ticket holders residing in larger communities are randomly surveyed.*

4. Do you limit hunters to one season (rifle, archery or muzzleloader)?

*No.*

5. Do your deer seasons extend into the breeding season? If so, how far?

*Yes, deer seasons throughout Alaska extend into the breeding season. The extent varies slightly, however. For example, in most parts of the state the season runs from August 1 to December 31. However, in the Yakutat area, where deer numbers are low, the season runs only from November 1 to November 30. On parts of Kodiak Island the season runs from August 1 to October 31.*

6. How many deer can a hunter legally take per year?

*This Varies from area to area within the state; however, the maximum number of antlered deer which can be taken during a single season is 4. Similarly, up to 4 antlerless deer may be taken. However, the combination of antlered and antlerless deer may not exceed 4 in any part of the state.*

7. Do you use antler-point restriction regulations? If so, what is the purpose of this regulation and is the objective being met? How do you assess hunter compliance - illegal kill?

No.

8. Do you have regulations to limit or distribute hunters? What type of regulations and are they working?

*We have no specific regulations aimed at distributing hunters. However, because season lengths and bag limits tend to reflect deer abundance in specific areas, hunters often target those areas with the higher deer numbers and thereby distribute themselves into areas with higher deer densities.*

9. Do you use access (road) management to regulate hunter distribution? What is the hunting publics reaction? Who is responsible for enforcement of closures etc.?

*Not at this time. However, given the ever-increasing development of roads in some parts of the state, and the accompanying increase in access into once remote "refugia", this may become a management tool in the future.*

10. Do you use a system such as "preference points" to distribute the opportunity to draw big game permits? If yes, what has been your experience with such a system?

No.

11. In what ways do you believe hunting impacts your deer populations (ie. compensatory/additive mortality, total population size, genetics, behaviour, etc.)? What data do you have to support this?

*Impacts from hunting are considered negligible. This is demonstrated by the low estimated harvest relative to estimated population indices.*

12. What do you feel are the major factor(s) limiting the deer populations, and what evidence is this based on?

*The primary factor limiting most deer populations in Alaska has been bad winter weather. Wolf and bear predation (primarily wolf) also limit deer populations. Additionally, as logged areas grow and mature into closed-canopy second growth, we expect deer numbers to be substantially reduced because of the inability of second growth to provide sufficient food for deer. Carcasses found on beaches following deep snow winters attest to the role weather plays on populations. Wolf kills are often found in those areas where deer and wolves coexist. Studies of second growth plant communities have clearly identified the lack of forbs and shrubs in the understories.*

13. Do you make any attempts to model deer populations? If so, please describe the model. Identify any problems.

*No efforts have been made to model deer populations; however, the state together with the Forest Service has modelled habitat capability. These models, known as Habitat Suitability Index Models, calculate carrying capacity for deer in diverse habitats (ie., consideration is given to slope, aspect, and timber volume).*

14. What is your state or province's approach to manipulating habitat to benefit deer?

*We do not manipulate habitat for the benefit of deer in Alaska. However, the US Forest Service has implemented a few thinning projects in some second growth stands.*

15. Primary deer research efforts underway at this time (please list):

*A) Effects of timber management on deer habitat and deer populations.*