



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

For Immediate Release
August 30, 2011

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Under the Authority of:

36 CFR Part 242.10 and .19
50 CFR Part 100.10 and .19

SUBSISTENCE DOE CLOSURE ANNOUNCED FOR NORTHEAST CHICHAGOF ISLAND CONTROLLED USE AREA, UNIT 4

HOONAH, Alaska – In order to support deer population recovery and ensure strong populations for future subsistence hunts, the Hoonah and Sitka District Rangers, under their authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, will be closing the female deer (doe) season in the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area of Unit 4. The closure will be effective at 11:59 p.m., Wednesday, September 14, 2011 and will remain in effect until the end of Federal season on January 31, 2012. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has issued a similar closure in the area, effective September 15 through the end of the State season on December 31, 2011.

Despite mild winters the past two years, the deer population in the unit has not recovered from the 2006-2007 heavy snowfall and late snowmelt, which led to high mortality in the area. Although winters have been milder since then, late snowmelt has delayed the deer population's recovery. As a result, many does in the area are young and only just reaching breeding age. The closure this season will allow these does to successfully rear and raise their young and allow the population to recover sufficiently to allow for future subsistence hunts. Deer pellet surveys; winter mortality surveys; condition assessments; genetic analysis; and radio collar work have been conducted from 2007 through 2011, and will continue next year.

A map and description of the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area may be found on page 32 and 33 of the 2010- 2012 Federal Subsistence Hunting Regulation booklets, available at Forest Service offices. For additional information, contact Jack Lorrigan at (907-747-6671) or by e-mail, jlorrigan@fs.fed.us .

Information on Federal subsistence management special actions for the Tongass National Forest can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/newsroom/newsroom.shtml>. Information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>.