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PRESS RELEASE

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Doe season to close early in Prince William Sound

(Cordova)- The season for doe deer in Prince William Sound will close at 11:59, October 31. The season for buck deer remains unchanged and will close December 31. Extraordinary snowfall during the 2011-12 winter resulted in estimated winter mortality in excess of 50% in eastern Prince William Sound (PWS) and 70% in western PWS. Deer pellet counts from 2012 and 2013 support these estimates.

Heavy snowfall often occurs in early winter and concentrates deer on and near beaches in PWS, where they are vulnerable to heavy harvest by boat-based hunters. Reducing the harvest to bucks during this time will allow for the retention of more breeding females and help the population recover faster.

The chairs and members of Advisory Committees in Prince William Sound and many stakeholders have been consulted regarding this closure and there is widespread support for this action. The federal season will close concurrently to allow for reduced regulatory complexity and consistency regardless of land status. The season and bag limit for buck deer remains unchanged and will close December 31. Hunters are reminded to leave evidence of sex naturally attached to all harvested deer.

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