

This letter is to show my support for SB 160 and the proposed DNR GCP.

When I first started guiding there was a guide area system that worked effectively by distributing the guide effort and limiting the amount of pressure on the resource. At that time I decided to try and make a career in guiding and followed the rules and got into the business as an apprentice to a registered guide. No one owed me a guide area just because I was able to pass the test. I worked hard and worked my way up and got my registered license in the mid-80s and started operating in the guide areas that I was trained in.

The guide area system was then thrown out in court and has been chaotic ever since, with the exception of private land and federal land. The federal land managers saw the need for an area system way back then and implemented one of their own to preserve the resources and the quality of experience for the guests visiting federal lands.

We now have an opportunity within our grasp to make important changes to our current system on State lands with SB 160. By having a program on State land that puts a limit on the number of guides that can operate in a particular hunting area, it is a huge benefit to the Alaskan resident hunter helping to control overcrowding hunting areas. The GCP will also stem the tides of more and more animals being put on a drawing system by the BOG. Imagine if Alaskans had to draw to go sheep hunting! That is what is at stake!

Of course with a Guide Concession Program, the resource itself will be managed in a more responsible way through a guide's operating plan that will greatly reduce over harvest effectively leaving more game in the field for a healthy population and resident hunters. The overall health of the industry for the long term will also benefit by creating stability for the future. The guiding industry in Alaska has been a big part of the State's economy for many years and this bill will help to keep that going far into the future. Thank you in advance for your support of the DNR GCP with SB 160.

Sincerely

Michael Litzen

Master Guide #129